Written by Sean Green
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The North Louisiana Criminal Justice Academy in Plain Dealing will begin the next Peace Officers Standards Training (P.O.S.T.) class for law enforcement officers today.

Twenty-six recruits from 14 agencies across north Louisiana will commence nearly 12 weeks of training with NLCJA Class 009 that will certify them as law enforcement officers on Feb. 15.

The training, provided by the Bossier Parish Sheriff's Office, will include physical fitness, weapons qualifications, academic testing, officer survival skills, chemical weapons and a wide-range of law enforcement curriculum and training. The academy features a driving and shooting simulator, 30-station firing range, a defense tactics training facility, tiered classrooms with state-of-the-art technology and a five-story rappelling tower.

"We are pleased to host recruits from police departments, sheriff's offices, state police and university police from various agencies here in north Louisiana," said Bossier Sheriff Julian Whittington. "Ensuring the recruits are properly trained so they can become professional law enforcement officers and servants of their respective communities is our priority."

The 26 recruits for NLCJA Class 009 are from: Bastrop Police Department, Bienville Parish Sheriff's Office, Bossier City Police Department, Bossier Parish Sheriff's Office, Louisiana State Police, Grambling University Police Department, Haughton Police Department, Richland Parish Sheriff's Office, Richwood Police Department, Ruston Police Department, Springhill Police Department, Union Parish Sheriff's Office, Webster Parish Sheriff's Office, West Carroll Sheriff's Office

This will be the ninth POST Basic Academy for NLCJA; the first class graduated in May 2009. Nine law enforcement officers will part of the academy training as a refresher course.