

*Talking points
Basic Police Class
September 11, 2003*

(recognize Commissioner Huggins / Colonel Claiborne)

- I'm proud to be here today
 - Proud/ when you leave here/ return home to towns across the state
 - From Louin to Marks, from Columbus to Petal

- will return home a different person than you were when you left

- because you have completed the finest law enforcement training academy in the nation.

- skills learned here over the past two months will stay with you a lifetime.

- skills will protect you/protect property/ and protect **innocent** citizens.

- You are Mississippi's first line of defense

- profession you have chosen has taken on new dynamics over the past two years
 - role of a law enforcement officer in a small Mississippi town used to be different/than role in larger metropolitan areas
 - no longer true.

- Now, different threats/different scenarios.
 - be prepared for unimaginable events
 - unimaginable happened in New York and Washington two years ago today

- taken steps to make sure that every law enforcement agency is prepared
 - incident command system
 - ensure communications are seamless and quick
 - command structure to serve the people quickly and efficiently
 - brought together law enforcement, emergency management and the military to work toward the best protection possible.

- role you are taking on as graduates of the Basic Police Class and this academy
 - it's a role I know you take seriously, and I appreciate that.

- We do know that every man and woman who wears a badge and takes an oath “to serve and protect” has qualities that help them rise above the rest.

- You are Mississippi's heroes.

- You are the best in your world, and more than good enough for any other world.

- You are the people who keep us safe – and we thank you for it.

- Congratulations on your graduation today.
- May God bless you, your families, and those you serve and protect.