FBINAA Chapter Chat

Chapter Chat is your monthly roundup of news and updates from across our chapters and membership!

Help us celebrate and stay connected by sharing what's happening in your chapter and among your Session mates. We welcome submissions including Chapter News, Retrainers, Promotions, Retirements, Awards, Passings, and other noteworthy updates.

October 2026 By Our FBINAA Members

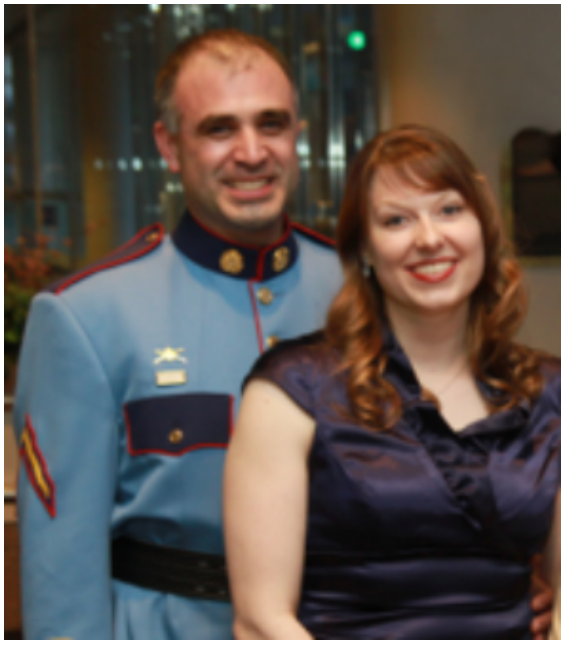
Alaska Chapter News

The Alaska Chapter Retrainer will be held December 9-11, 2026 (Best time of the year) at the Anchorage Police Department Headquarters in Anchorage, Alaska. This year's conference is focusing on Leadership, Health and Wellness and Financial security. Dr. Stone will anchor the conference with a presentation on Thursday and Friday. The membership meeting will be held on the 8th of December. More information will be available on the website.

Retirements

Joseph Gamache, **NA Session 272**, retired on December 31, 2025, as the Executive Director for the Alaska Police Standards Council. Joseph had over 31 years of law enforcement experience throughout Alaska. Recently elected as our FBINAA Alaska Chapter, South Central Vice-President, Joseph is responsible for coordinating training and instructors for the Executive Development Conference.

Joseph's career highlights include working for the North Slope Borough Police Department for over eight years, where he was a sergeant before returning to Anchorage to work for the Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport Police and Fire Department. While there, he was assigned to the DEA task force for over three years, interdicting large volumes of drugs coming into our state. Joseph rose through the ranks and was a commander when he was selected to attend the FBI National Academy Session 272 in 2018.



Ramin Dunford, NA Session 287

Ramin Dunford, **NA Session 287**, served with the Alaska State Troopers since August 2001. Over the course of his career, he has served in Patrol, Investigations, Specialized Enforcement, Technical Investigations, Command, and headquarters assignments throughout Alaska. He began his career as a Patrol Trooper at the Fairbanks Post, where he also served as the Domestic Violence Follow-up Trooper and later worked as an Investigator in the General Investigation Unit. While in Fairbanks, he served on the Fairbanks Special Weapons and Tactics Team and became a Less-lethal and Chemical Munitions Instructor. He also served as a Field Training Officer, and Domestic Violence Instructor. In November 2004, Captain Dunford transferred to the Bethel Post, transferring to the Palmer Post in 2008, where he was assigned to the Alaska Bureau of Investigation Major Crimes Unit. In July 2009, he transferred to the Technical Crime Unit in Anchorage, where he became certified as a Polygraph Operator, Computer Forensic Examiner and Crisis Negotiator. He also returned to SWAT, serving as an operator and as a technician for specialized equipment and robotics.

In January 2014, Captain Dunford was selected for the Alaska Bureau of Investigation's Special Crimes Investigation Unit, the state's first unit to focus on human trafficking and sex trafficking investigations. In August 2017, he was promoted to Sergeant, supervising the Technical Crime Unit. He promoted to Lieutenant in November 2019, serving as the C Detachment Deputy Commander. He later served as Deputy Commander of the Alaska Bureau of Investigation from 2021 to 2022 before transferring to headquarters, where he worked on statewide special projects and technology modernization efforts, which continued after his promotion to Captain in April 2023. Captain Dunford also served as the Statewide Polygraph Program Coordinator and has contributed to numerous statewide initiatives involving investigative technology, digital evidence, body-worn cameras, records systems, and public safety modernization.

Captain Dunford earned a bachelor's degree in Police Administration from American Military University and is a graduate of the Southern Police Institute, Session 140 and the FBI National Academy Session 287. Ramin expressed his heartfelt gratitude to his family, his wife Kelly of 28 years and their three beautiful children, Caden, Kira, and Maraya.

Arizona Chapter News



Chad Young-Mesa Police, Charles Hunt- Army-Ft Huachuca, Samuel Di Bianca- DEA, Carrie Gambee- Arizona State University Police, Luis Arreola-USMC-Yuma, Erden Jakupi- Tolleson, Christopher Watson-Scottsdale Police Department

We are excited that we had seven leaders from the state of Arizona graduate NA Session 299. Amazing how fast time flies. Welcome to the Arizona Chapter and we can't wait to meet you all soon at the next chapter event!

California Chapter News

Promotions



Richard "Ricky" J. Phelps, NA Session 268

The United States Navy promoted **Richard "Ricky" J. Phelps**, **NA Session 268**, to Master Chief Master-at-Arms.

Connecticut Chapter News



Save the Date for our Annual Holiday Business Meeting/Dinner on Thursday, December 3, 2026, at VUE24 Foxwoods Resort and Casino.

Also, the Regional Command College will be March 21 through 24, 2027, at the Mohegan Sun Casino, Uncasville, CT. Thank you to Stanley Black & Decker for sponsoring and hosting our September Member Breakfast.

Promotions



John Healy, NA Session 282

Congratulations to **John Healy**, **NA Session 282**, on his promotion to Chief of Police of the Yale University Police Department. Chief Healy joined the Yale University Police Department in 2023 as a Captain after serving with the City of New Haven Police Department for 19 years.

Passings

The Connecticut Chapter is sad to announce the passing of retired Greenwich Police Captain **Donald Merchant**, **NA Session 173**. Captain Merchant served with the Greenwich Police Department for 30 years.

Eastern Missouri Chapter News

Promotions



Judge Harmon swearing in Steven Harmon

Congratulations to **Steven L. Harmon, Esq.**, **NA Session 181**, on his recent appointment as Division 13 Judge in St. Louis County. Judge Harmon is a retired Commander with the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department and currently serves as Vice President of Affinia Healthcare. He is also a proud graduate of FBI National Academy Session 181. Congratulations on your appointment, Judge Harmon, and best wishes as you begin this new chapter of public service!



Judge Harmon with his father, Retired SLMPD Chief & Retired St. Louis Mayor Clarence Harmon

Passings



Keith Krumm, NA Session 218

Retired Des Peres Director of Public Safety **Keith Krumm**, **NA Session 218**, who served the city of Des Peres, Missouri, for over 40 years, died on Friday, Sept. 4. He was 74. Krumm began his law enforcement career with the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department in 1973, training in the largest police academy class assembled at the time. Krumm joined Des Peres' Department of Public Safety in 1978. He was promoted to lieutenant in 1984, to captain in 1988, and assistant director in 1997. He became the director of public safety in 2009, and led the department for nearly a decade before retiring in 2018. During his time with the Des Peres Department of Public Safety, Krumm helped move the department toward statewide certification. Under his leadership, the department became accredited through the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, an organization that prides itself as the "gold standard in public safety." Chief Krumm was a graduate of NA Session 218. Beyond his professional achievements, Krumm was a devoted husband, father and grandfather.

Eastern Pennsylvania Chapter News



Session 300 at the FBI Building in Philadelphia

On August 25, 2026, the chapter hosted a going away luncheon for members of Session 300 at the FBI Building in Philadelphia. The new students were briefed on what to expect while at the NA and we wished them well as they begin their NA experience.

Promotions



Ryan Sheehan, NA Session 286



Joseph Sokolofski, NA Session 264

On September 21, 2026, **Ryan Sheehan**, **NA Session 286**, was sworn in as the next chief of police for Upper Providence Township. Ryan is replacing Chief Mark Freeman, who is retiring and headed to Whitpain Township to become their next chief of police. Congrats Ryan and best of luck!

Congratulations to Chief **Joseph Sokolofski**, **NA Session 264**, who just recently accepted the position of Chief of Police for Emmaus Borough. Joe was the chief of police for West Pottsgrove Township for the last five years. Prior to that he spent thirty years with the Pennsylvania State Police.

Retirements



Lee Benson, NA Session 212

On July 10, 2026, Chief **Lee Benson, NA Session 212**, retired from the West Whiteland Township Police Department. Lee was in law enforcement for forty-two years with the last six as chief of police. Congratulations and good luck in retirement.



Ken Lawson, NA Session 243

Chief **Ken Lawson**, **NA Session 243**, retired from Whitpain Township Police Department after more than forty years of service with the last eleven years as chief of police. Congrats to Ken and best of luck in retirement.

Florida Chapter News



Session 299 Florida Attendees

Chief Cecil Smith continued a Florida Chapter tradition by visiting with the Florida attendees of Session 299 on Tuesday, August 26th. This ongoing initiative by the Florida Chapter Board ensures those at the FBI Academy feel the support of their home state.







The FBINAA Florida Chapter hosted a Summer Luncheon on September 4, 2026, at the Wyndham Deerfield Beach Resort, bringing together over 60 attendees for an afternoon of food, fellowship, and raffle prizes. The program featured key insights from law enforcement leadership, including FBI Special Agent in Charge (SAC) Brett Skiles, as well as an engaging presentation by guest speaker Don Silvestri from Debt.com.

To turn the luncheon into a full weekend retreat, over 30 families took advantage of an optional extended stay at the resort through September 6, enjoying discounted beachfront accommodations and time together. This successful gathering was made possible through the generous backing of our corporate partners, with primary sponsorship provided by Peregrine Technologies, alongside additional support from Lou's Police Distributors and Motorola.



The FBINAA Florida Chapter hosted the FEDS program, bringing together 67 participants from 54 state and local law enforcement agencies across three FBI territories for over 32 hours of specialized instruction, leadership lessons, and networking. Designed to strengthen relationships and build connectivity to better protect local communities, the event featured 20 expert presenters across four social events and a dedicated banquet.

Retirements



Tom Kauffman, NA Session 226

Tom Kauffman, **NA Session 226**, retired October 1, 2026, from the Leesburg Police Department after serving 5 years as a Criminal Investigator. He attended the FBI National Academy while employed with the Upper Allen Township Police Department in Mechanicsburg, PA where he retired from in 2018 after 30.5 years of service. He plans to enjoy more free time in Florida.

Kansas/Western Missouri Chapter News



Presient Mark Terman and Past President Buck Buchanan

Mark Terman was sworn in as the new President of the KS/Western Missouri FBINAA Chapter. We look forward to his leadership, experience, and networking abilities to continue serving our chapter. Congratulations Mark! We would also like to thank Chief Buck Buchanan for serving as President and doing an outstanding job.



2026 FBINAA Kansas/Western Missouri Board

The FBINAA Kansas/Western Missouri Board consists of Aly Abdelgawad, Past President Steve Cox, Past President Buck Buchanan, President Mark Terman, Todd Ackerman, Past President Kelli Bailiff, Bruce Jolliff, Sgt at Arms Dennis Shaw, and Historian Mikel T Golden.



Past President Kevin Freeman receiving the Clarence M Kelly Award

Past President Kevin Freeman received the Clarence M. Kelly Award for his outstanding achievements and for his remarkable leadership during the FBINAA National Conference in Kansas City in 2024.

Nebraska Chapter News



The Nebraska Chapter recently completed their Fall Retrainer, held in Kearney, NE. The Chapter welcomed the time to catch up, network, and learn from an excellent lineup of speakers.

Undersheriff **Steve Robson**, **NA Session 284**, Broward Sheriff's Office, presented a debrief on two critical incidents occurring in Broward County.

The Chapter proudly presented North Platte Police Chief **Steve Reeves**, **NA Session 248**, with the Robert Frock Centurion Award for his years of service in support of the FBI National Academy Associates and the Nebraska Chapter.



Centurion Award





Nebraska Chapter Members receiving recognition pins

Chapter members receiving service recognition pins include Holdrege Police Retired Chief **Dennis Damoude**, **NA Session 187**, 30-year pin; Norfolk Police Retired Capt. **Steve Hecker**, **NA Session 205**, 25-year pin; Nebraska Attorney General's Office, Investigator **Tim Lordino**, **NA Session 207**, 25-year pin; LaVista Retired Capt. **DJ Barcal**, **NA Session 226**, 20-year pin; Grand Island Police Division Chief **Dean Elliott**, **NA Session 225**, 20-year pin; Nebraska State Patrol Captain **Sean Caradori**, **NA Session 265**, 10-year pin.



YLP Recap

The Chapter also received a presentation from Lyra Williamson, the Nebraska Chapter YLP attendee from 2026 and daughter of proud dad, Captain **Keith Williamson**, **NA Session 276**, Omaha Police Department.

New York/Eastern Canada Chapter News



Larry Jay Memorial Golf Tournament

On September 3rd, the Larry Jay Memorial Golf Tournament was held at the Terry Hills Golf Course in Batavia. An incredible crowd gathered for a great day of golf and, more importantly, to remember a great friend and member, Larry Jay.

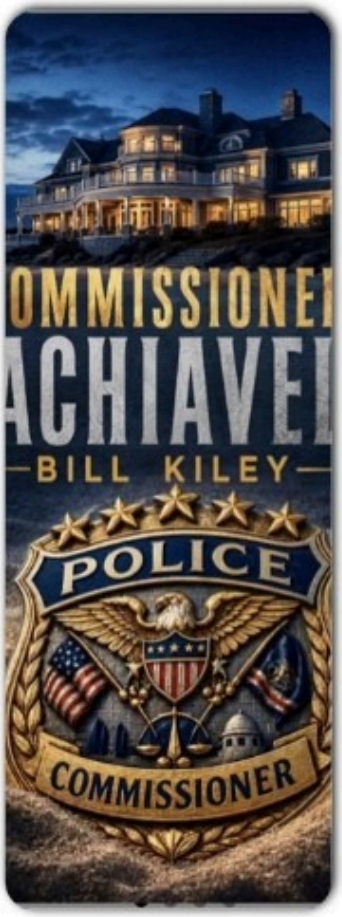


September 18th, chapter members and guests assembled at the Suffolk County Police Firearms Training Section for the annual Bart Hose Memorial Shoot. The day kicked off with breakfast supplied by the Suffolk County law enforcement labor unions.

Following breakfast, Suffolk County Police Deputy Commissioner Tom Galati spoke about his career with the NYPD and his transition to Suffolk County police just over a year ago. During his talk, Commissioner Galati described how the New York City Police Department stood up a robust intel command structure to combat terrorist threats against New York City, including the assignment of officers to various locations across the globe. In today's high-threat environment, this is paying off with significant dividends, preparing not just New York City, but municipalities across the globe with an enhanced layer of protection and intelligence. SCPD Chief of Operations **Milagros Soto**, **NA Session 254**, was awarded the prestigious Bart Hose Award. Following the shoot, the group traveled to Rogers Beach in Westhampton for a steak, lobster, and chili luncheon. Shown below are two lucky recipients of an autographed copy of **Bill Kiley**'s recently released book, **NA Session 146**, Commissioner Machavelli.









What do you do when **Paul Butler**, **NA Session 220**, visits Northern NY? You gather a bunch of members and spouses to connect. **Mark Gates**, **NA Session 232**, **Brian Gould**, **NA Session 250**, **Rick Santucci**, **NA Session 168**, and

FBI S/A Steve Halter had the pleasure of connecting with Paul when he was in town.

Northwest Chapter News

Retirements

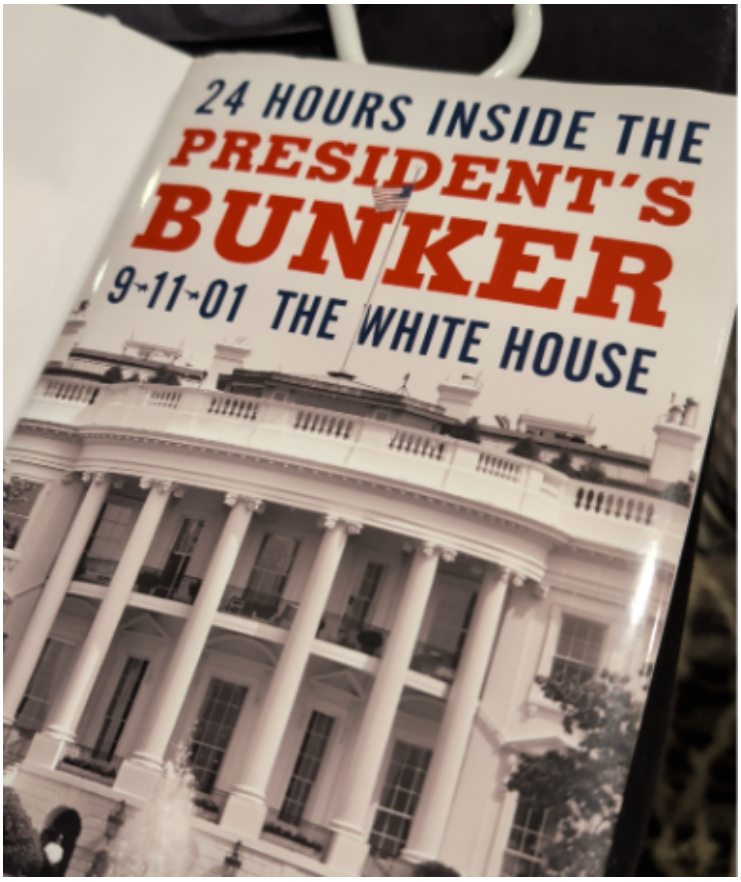


Dallas Carlson, NA Session 198

Dallas Carlson, **NA Session 198**, is retiring after nearly 50 years in law enforcement. Carlson began his law enforcement career in 1977 with the Ramsey County Sheriff's Office in North Dakota. He also worked for the Mandan (ND) and Devils Lake (ND) Police Departments, where he served as a Patrol Sergeant, Administrative Lieutenant, Deputy Chief, and Acting Chief with Devils Lake. In 1984, Carlson was presented with the "Governor's Heritage Award". Carlson began his career with the North Dakota Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) in September 1989. While serving as a Special Agent, Carlson was assigned to the Dickinson, Williston, and Minot offices, working both general and narcotic investigations. Carlson was promoted to Chief Agent in July 2000 and appointed to the BCI Director by the North Dakota Attorney General in January 2011.

Carlson was awarded the North Dakota Peace Officers Association "Lone Eagle Award" in 2008 and the North Dakota Bureau of Criminal Investigation "Distinguished Service Award" in 2017. In October of 2018, Carlson was appointed as the US Marshal for the District of North Dakota by President Donald J. Trump.

Ohio Chapter News



Lt. Robert Darling's book

The Ohio Chapter Fall Retrainer was held in the Heart of Amish Country, Berlin, Ohio. President Mike Werner presided over the business meeting and training agenda, which included featured speaker Lt. Robert Darling, USMC ret. He was in the White House bunker on 9/11, and his tale was a riveting one. Highly recommend this speaker for other state chapters.

Members and civilian FBI Cincinnati/Cleveland members Connie DeWeese and Phyliss Canfield were the recipients of the Member of the Year recognition. Both of these amazing ladies served with the FBI training sections and have been very active members since their retirements almost 20 years ago each.

The Ohio Chapter saw the swearing-in of the 2027 board: Past President Mike Werner, President Thomas Wells, 1st VP Robert Gillespie, 2nd VP Roger Davis, 3rd VP Jeff Bilicic, Secretary Scott Hughes and Historian Scott Rotolo.





Retirements



Eric Wolf, NA Session 262

Ohio BCI Enforcement Commander **Eric Wolf**, **NA Session 262**, retired from the bureau in September with 31 years of service to the Ohio Investigative Unit. Congratulations on your well deserved retirement, Eric.

Oregon Chapter News

The Oregon Chapter is pleased to announce that Portland Police Bureau Lieutenant Ty Engstrom, Redmond Police Department Lieutenant Eric Beckwith, and Gearhart Police Department Chief Joshua Gregory will represent the

State of Oregon at the 300th session of the National Academy. Please visit the Oregon Chapter website for up-to-date information!



Oregon Chapter Annual Conference

From September 8-11, 2026, the Oregon Chapter hosted its annual conference at the Runny Y Ranch in Klamath Falls, Oregon. It was a great week of training, networking, and socializing! Highlights of our conference were a presentation on the Kohberger/The University of Idaho Quadruple Homicide by Idaho State Police Lieutenant Gilbertson, a class on communications/PIO presented by Tigard PIO Kelsey Anderson and NA Instructors Gail Pennyback and Ken White, an ethical leadership presentation by Oregon Chapter Member **Jim deSully**, **NA Session 235**, a 4-hour consequential leadership presentation by retired Navy SEAL E. Nyheim, and a Swatting incident presented by Oregon Chapter 2nd Vice President **Todd Engstrom**, **NA Session 287**.

Medford Police Chief **Trevor Arnold**, **NA Session 289**, won our poker tournament, and Newberg Police Chief **Jeff Kosmicki**, **NA Session 221**, won our Glock 44 raffle. Several people participated in the golf tournament.



Jeff Granum, NA Session 229

This month's "Where Are They Now?" feature highlights retired Placer County Sheriff Captain **Jeff Granum**, **NA Session 229**. Captain Granum was born in San Francisco, California. He grew up in the San Jose/Santa Clara Area and graduated from Piedmont Hills High School in East San Jose in 1972. He went to San Jose College to study Administration of Justice. While at San Jose, he took a position as a dispatcher for the public safety department. He graduated with his Bachelor's degree in Administration of Justice in December 1975. He started his law enforcement career by coming a police and fire dispatcher for the City of San Jose a position he held from until 1979. In addition to being a dispatcher, he became a reserve officer with the San Jose Police Department.

Captain Granum also obtained his teachers certificate from UC Berkely and taught several law enforcement classes for police academies in the area. He continued teaching until 2013. In 1982, he was hired by the San Jose Police Department as an officer. He worked in the traffic division for 5 years and was assigned to the Airport Police Patrol for 3 years. He also served as an acting sergeant. In 1994, he left the San Jose Police Department and took a position as a corrections deputy with the Placer County Sheriff's Office. He quickly moved to investigations and then was promoted to patrol sergeant. He was soon assigned to as a detective sergeant. He was promoted to lieutenant and then to captain. He retired as a captain in 2010.

Captain Granum attended the 229th session of the FBI National Academy graduating in June 2007. He was very active in the California Chapter attending several functions each year. He and his wife Janet moved to Oregon in 2013, and he immediately joined the Oregon Chapter and has been an active member since. He attends Oregon Chapter functions and recently was present at our annual Pig Out Barbecue and our annual conference. Captain Granum and Janet have been married 45 years and have two grown sons, who both went into the private sector.

They have had several grandchildren as one of their sons is active in foster parenting kids with special needs. They spend a lot of their time helping their son with his foster children. When they have the time, both Janet and Captain Granum are ham radio operators. When they moved to Oregon, he took a position at a Ham Radio Store in Tigard, Oregon for about two years. Captain Granum is a British Automobile enthusiast and has own several in his lifetime.

They sometimes participate in car shows displaying their vehicles. Captain Granum and Janet have made their home in Redland, Oregon.

It was great seeing Captain Granum this year at Oregon Chapter functions!



Jeff Granum's Retirement



Oregon Executive Board

St. Helens Sergeant **Jose Castilleja**, **NA Session 294**, was elected as the Oregon Chapter Third Vice President, and retired Tigard Police Chief **Jamey McDonald**, **NA Session 266**, was elected as Secretary-Treasurer. Both will take office on January 1, 2027.

Rocky Mountain Chapter News

Promotions



George Dingfelder, NA Session 276

Congratulations to **George Dingfelder**, **NA Session 276**, who will become the next Police Chief for the City of Gillette, Wyoming. George has 37 years of law enforcement service and had been the Police Chief for the City of Alamosa, Colorado.

Retirements



Linda Haines, NA Session 270

Congratulations **Linda Haines**, **NA Session 270**, on your well-deserved retirement. After more than 27 years of dedicated service to the Broomfield Police Department and more than 36 years in law enforcement, Commander Linda Haines has officially retired!

Texas Chapter News

The Pasadena (TX) Police Department will host the Magnet Forensics Advanced Mobile Forensics Training course at its training academy from November 3–6, 2026. This expert-level, four-day course is designed for participants who are familiar with the principles of digital forensics and want to strengthen their mobile device investigations. The course focuses on Magnet AXIOM's advanced mobile analysis capabilities.

Students will use Magnet AXIOM Examine to analyze full file system extractions from iOS and Android devices. Topics include advanced media analysis, pattern-of-life artifacts such as Biomes, third-party applications, and social media platforms. Students will examine multiple file types, including system logs, plist files, and SQLite databases.

The Pasadena PD Training Academy is located at 4801 Spencer Hwy, Pasadena, TX.

The point of contact for AXIOM's digital training course is Officer Harrison Smith, with the department's Digital Intelligence Unit hsmith@pasadenatx.gov, (713) 475-4824

Washington Chapter News



NA Session 300 L to R: Robert Spingler (Bellevue PD), Gary Horejsi Jr. (Snoqualmie PD), Kevin Gill (Puyallup PD), Jesse Bollerud (Redmond PD)



L to R: Kyle Buchanan (Federal Way PD, NA Session 298), Peter Barrett (Arlington PD, NA Session 298), Robert Spingler (NA Session 300), Gary Horejsi Jr. (NA Session 300), Kevin Gill (NA Session 300), Jesse Bollerud (NA Session 300), Matt Graham (Tacoma PD, NA Session 298)



NA Session 300, 298, Executive Board, and FBI L to R: Cheol Kang (King County SO, Member at Large), Brett Yeadon (Everett PD, Member at Large), SA Armando Ramirez, Robert Spingler, Gary Horejsi Jr., Kevin Gill, Jesse Bollerud, Corey Darlington (Tacoma PD, Secretary), Tim Gately (Des Moines PD Ret., Chapter President)

The Chapter hosted a candidate luncheon on September 17, 2026 in Renton welcoming Session 300 and inviting back Session 298 to share their recent experiences at the NA. Attendees included Executive Board members and special guests from the FBI Seattle Office.

Want to share updates from your Chapter?
Submit chapter news on the Chapter Chat Submission Form by the 25th of every month to be in the next edition.

Unsubscribe

FBI Academy, Quantico, Virginia 22135