New Mexico Drug Recognition Expert Program

Date: July 26th, 2019   **Prepared By**: New Mexico D.R.E. Program

15 LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS GRADUATE DRUG RECOGNITION TRAINING PROGRAM

Los Lunas, N.M. - STATEWIDE— As of July 19th, 2019; 8 law enforcement agencies and 5 New Mexico State Police districts across the State of New Mexico gained an invaluable resource trained to identify and arrest drivers impaired by drugs. In conjunction with the New Mexico Department of Transportation; the New Mexico Drug Recognition Expert Program (NMDRE) is graduating 15 new Drug Recognition Experts (D.R.E.) from a rigorous three-week training program. The 2019 Drug Recognition Expert School included officers from 9 Police Departments, Sheriff Offices, and State Police throughout the state. The officers graduating from the program are:

- Deputy Anthony Sanchez, San Juan County Sheriffs Office
- Officer Chaz Troncoso, New Mexico State Police- Gallup
- Deputy Jesse Rogers, Dona Ana County Sheriffs Office
- Officer Miles Mead, Farmington Police Department
- Officer Brandon Mariano, Laguna Police Department
- Officer Sergio Corral, New Mexico State Police- Tucumcari
- Corporal William Anderson, Aztec Police Department
- Officer Darren McPherson, Clovis Police Department
- Officer Jesus Sarabia, Clovis Police Department
- Officer Gabriel Waters, New Mexico State Police- Albuquerque
- Officer Cierra Manus, Farmington Police Department
- Deputy Wacey Cotant, San Juan County Sheriffs Office
- Officer Israel Rodriguez, Carlsbad Police Department
- Senior Airman Andrew Hines, Kirtland Air Force Security Forces Squadron
- Officer Justin Burke, New Mexico State Police- Espanola

The Law Enforcement Officers selected to attend this class were hand picked by a panel of current Drug Recognition Experts and Drug Recognition Expert Instructors from around the State and were selcted based on their qualifications and geographic locations within New Mexico. Throughout the course of the Training, the Officers were constantly tested and evaluated, ensuring they met established standards for certification as 'Drug Recognition Experts'.

By successfully completing this course, these 15 Officers are now certified to determine a specific drug category (or categories) a suspected drug impaired driver is under the influence of.

"This program gives New Mexico Law Enforcement the necessary tools to identify and remove drug impaired drivers from our roadways and hold them accountable," said Charles Files, State Coordinator for the D.R.E. Program in New Mexico. "With drug impaired driving cases on the rise, D.R.E.s are a critical component in our goal to ENDWI."

The Drug Evaluation and Classification Program is used internationally and in all 50 States. New Mexico has participated in the D.R.E. program since 1992. The program trains peace officers to detect and articulate the signs, symptoms and indicia of drugs other than alcohol in subjects arrested for Driving While Impaired (DWI).

There are currently 81 D.R.E.s in New Mexico from 27 agencies and six State Police Districts. To become a New Mexico D.R.E. candidate, a New Mexico peace officer must have support from the agency's Chief or Sheriff to attend the entire training and must meet several prerequisites.

Questions regarding this release can be directed to:

Charlie Files
New Mexico State DRE Coordinator
cfiles@nmdre.org
505-980-2803
# # #