

STATE CAPITOL POLICE  
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CONNECTICUT

STATE CAPITOL POLICE DEPARTMENT

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(Hartford, Connecticut)---Chief Michael J. Fallon announced in March that the State Capitol Police Department will join a statewide initiative to provide Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training to supervisors and officers to create patrol specialists at the State Capitol capable of responding to persons in crisis. The State Capitol Police Department CIT would be the first of its kind for a state law enforcement agency.

The CIT consists of specially trained police officers and mental health professionals working side by side to achieve the common goals of safety, understanding, and service to the persons in crisis, the mentally ill and their families. This statewide initiative is funded by the State Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services and the training is delivered by the Connecticut Alliance to Benefit Law Enforcement, Inc. (CABLE) and is endorsed by the Connecticut Chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI).

On Friday, May 18, 2007, the first SCPD CIT members graduated from the intensive one week training program that was held in Windsor, Connecticut. They were Sergeant Robert Arsenault, Officer Kevin Long and Officer Armando Segovia. The training explored and exposed officers to various mental disorders, grief, post incident traumatic stress, field interview/de-escalation techniques and resources that police officers can access to better serve persons in crisis. Chief Fallon commented, "These initial officers were chosen for the CIT based on their police experience and excellent people skills...the entire department will eventually attend the training."

The State Capitol Police Department is unique in that it is one of the first State agencies of its kind in the country to deploy Crisis Intervention Teams within the boundaries of a State Capitol's campus. Chief Fallon reiterated, "The CIT is an excellent addition to the State Capitol Police Department and I am confident that it will prove itself to be a valuable resource in dealing with persons in crisis and the mentally ill."

State Capitol Police CIT members will perform their regular duties on their assigned shifts. Should a situation at the Capitol present itself they will be able to respond at a heightened level to assist those who are involved and in need. The possibilities of utilizing this training are endless; death notifications, victim assistance of all types, or police personnel related traumas. Essentially the officers will be able to ask and say the right things and be able to access the appropriate resources. Louise Pyers of CABLE commented, "It is wonderful and reassuring to have the State Capitol Police Department participating in the CIT program."

Sergeant Arsenault a nineteen year veteran of the department stated, "In supporting the legislature we are in the business of helping people...this training will certainly enhance our ability to protect and serve." CIT officers will wear a "Pathfinder" pin and a special patch on their uniform. [end]