

Status

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later they just opened your door and turned on the light," he said.

The recruits would then shave, shower and put on their khaki uniforms. They would have to be in formation at 7 a.m. and go through a uniform inspection.

"They would look at you from top to bottom to see if you shined your shoes, if your khakis were pressed or ironed, that all buttons were buttoned, zippers zipped - and that there were no loose strings on your uniform," he said.

The recruits would go over their uniforms with lighters, scissors or toenail clippers, removing loose threads, which might otherwise earn them a demerit.

Each demerit resulted in 10 minutes of work, such as sweeping the floor, cleaning PT (physical training) mats, or mopping bathroom floors at the PT center.

After the inspection they would march to the chow hall, which was at the Crest Haven Nursing Home. They would march back and begin classes at 8:30 a.m., which ran until 12:30 p.m.

They would march back to Crest Haven for lunch, be back in class from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m., and then they prepared for PT from 4 to 5 p.m. Krissinger said the average PT score at the beginning was 88, and as of the last test it was 94.

After PT they would change back into their khakis and march to the chow hall for dinner.

The classes they took dealt with what were referred to as "12 functional areas." They studied professional development - or the history of law enforcement - use of force, the New Jersey Criminal Justice System, New Jersey Criminal Law and traffic law,

and community policing.

The officer recruits would also go to the range to fire their duty weapon, whichever was issued by their department. In the case of the Cape May Police Department it's a Glock 40 cal. automatic. There was some introduction to other weapons, but they only fired their duty weapon.

The driving portion of their training was done at the Coast Guard base, where they ran a daytime and a nighttime course, running with and without sirens. Again, they either used their department vehicles or county vehicles, which were donated from municipal police departments.

Krissinger said they were graded on their academics, range firing, driving and PT. Krissinger finished third in his class in academics.

Entering the academy for the Basic Course, Krissinger said he knew what to expect, having been through it before.

"I knew what I was getting into, as opposed to guys never been PO. It was a wake up call for them," he said.

Krissinger said there were some differences, however. The first time around he was 19 and weighed 160 pounds. This time he was 26 and 20 pounds heavier. But the most challenging part was not physical.

"Just being there all week long, being away from family and friends, no cell phones, disconnected from everything, no phone, no TV, just disconnected from life," he said.

Krissinger said from 7 to 10 p.m. they have free time, but that is used for studying, shining shoes and getting your uniform ready for the next day.

"They would let us call home Monday for 10 minutes just to let them know we were okay," he said.

At 10 p.m. it was lights out.

34th Basic Course for Police Officers Graduation Ceremony Performing Arts Center of Middle Township, 212 Bayberry Lane, Cape May Court House. Jan. 23, at 4 p.m.

During open house, demonstrations at the Police Academy between noon and 2:30 p.m., include ballistic demonstrations, SWAT team demonstration, firearms simulator demonstration.

Twenty-nine police officers from 12 departments in New Jersey will graduate after completing a 22-week training program at the Cape May County Police Academy. Cape May County Police Academy is the only residential based academy in the state of New Jersey for municipal recruit training. The recruits resided at the academy Monday through Friday while training.

The class final academic average was 92.55 percent. The class final firearm average was 92.9 percent.

The class started with an overall fitness rating of 66.4 percent and finished at 86.6 percent. The keynote speaker will be Chief Christopher Leusner of the Middle Township Police Department. Freeholder Leonard Desiderio will also address the class.

The class president is Recruit Daniel Benbrook of the Middletown Township Police Department, who was elected by members of the class.

The class motto is, "Failure to Train is Training to Fail."

Individual Awards are as follows:

High Academic Award: Officer Timothy Richvasky, Atlantic City Police Department, 97.48 percent.

Vehicle Operations Award: Officer Michael Garofalo, Atlantic City Police Department, 25.6 seconds.

Physical Fitness Award: Officer Michael Garofalo, Atlantic City Police Department, 99.6 percent.

Firearms Award: Officer Thomas Hughes, Middletown Township Police Department, 100 percent.

Directors Award - Overall Class Ranking # 1: Officer Michael Garofalo, Atlantic City Police Department.

Police Training Commission Merit Award: ANNOUNCED AT GRADUATION.

34th Basic Course for Police Class Members

Atlantic City: James P. Eckert, Michael J. Garofalo, Mohammed A. Kaiser, Ermino J. Marsini, Brian G. McDevitt, John R. Pyle Jr., Timothy C. Richvasky, Fitzroy E. Simpson.

Cape May: Scott Krissinger.

Hazlet Township: Joseph T. Fabian, Edward M. Schmidt.

Lower Township: John T. Armbruster Jr., Stephen E. Flitcroft, James P. McNulty.

Middle Township: Brian P. Murphy, Justin T. Vitola.

Middletown Township: Daniel E. Benbrook, Ricardo Cruz, Scott M. Davis. Thomas J. Hughes, Andrew D. Scilliano, Kent A. Thornton.

Millville: David D. Andrews, Joseph S. Dixon, Michael D. McLaughlin Jr.

Mount Laurel Township: Jinhathnan H. White.

Ocean City: David B. Ringkamp.

West Wildwood: John C. Baukus III.

Wildwood: Matthew B. Donnelly.

Asked if there was a part of the course he enjoyed, Krissinger said, "Maybe the defensive tactics. It was kind

of fun to beat up on each other a little bit."

He said about halfway through the course they were

able to go to go to gym after hours

"That was nice, rather than just being at the barracks," he

said. "The best part was the guys. We had a great class - they could make you laugh, and that made it more bearable."

Krissinger roomed with Matt Donnelly from the Wildwood Police Department. He said for the most part recruits don't learn each other's names. However, there were three recruits from Lower Township: John Armbruster, James McNulty and Steve Flitcroft.

Krissinger said some of the most fun he had in training was when he played the part of a bad guy, wearing a protective suit. The scenario was a municipal meeting and they were disgruntled public works employees. What happened in the scenario depended on how the recruits responded. Krissinger said he and instructor Sgt. John Bobik of the CMPD (instructors come from local police departments), acted like they were bad guys who jumped out of a car and began to run. As they did so Bobik threw away a handgun to see how the recruits responded. Neither of the two recruits being tested chose to go pick up the gun, and Krissinger was able to make it back to the handgun and shoot both of the recruits - simulated, of course.

Krissinger said after being a Class II for five years he could relate to a lot of the instruction he was given. He said it was nice to get a refresher. He also said he had never boxed before, which is now part of the Police Academy curriculum. He said they are also getting more first responder training.

Of the 29 who entered the 34th Basic Course for Police Officers, Krissinger said all of them are expected to finish. He said after five years as a Class II it will be a relief to be hired as a full time patrolman.

Fog

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"The winds have been light, so (the moist air) is not getting stirred or mixed very much," Kline said. "Over the last couple of days we've had a warm front sit off to the south, and that whole pattern, with light winds, has persisted for a two to three-day period. There's not been

much change at all and that's why the foggy conditions persisted."

Kline said by Monday a cold front would have started moving into the area and the foggy conditions moving out. However, we would be seeing higher winds and possibly some rain.

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thropic support and community involvement in support of Cape Regional Medical Center. To contact the Cape Regional Medical Center Foundation call (609) 463-4040. Cape Regional Medical Center is a 242-bed Medical Center located in the heart of Cape May County. For additional information on the Medical Center and its programs, please login to our web site at www.caperemc.com or contact Sue Staeger, Marketing and Public Relations Coordinator at (609) 463-2059.

'Imitation firearm' leads to aggravated assault charges

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY - Two individuals face aggravated assault charges after police were called to a fight at a New Year's Eve party.

Police responded reports of a fight at a Massachusetts Avenue residence around 1 a.m. on Jan. 1. As a result of their investigation, the Cape May Police arrested Eric J. Bednar, 22, of Cape May, and Michael J. Senger, 25, of Erma.

Bednar, who resides at the Massachusetts Avenue residence where the fight allegedly took place, was charged with three counts of aggravated assault. Senger was charged with one count of

aggravated assault.

According to a description of the assault given by witnesses and victims, Senger allegedly kicked a victim in the head while he was on the ground. Bednar allegedly struck a victim in the head with what was described as an "imitation firearm." Chief Ken Super of the Cape May County Prosecutor's Office said the arrest report indicated it was a BB gun.

Det. Anthony Marino of the CMPD said there are certain charges that accompany the use of a firearm, whether it is real or not, or whether it is used or not. Marino said the two suspects were arrested Wednesday. Following the arrest, a search warrant was executed on the Bednar resi-

dence by the county SWAT unit due to the alleged firearms incident.

Senger is charged with a second degree aggravated assault charge. Second degree crimes carry a penalty of 5 to 10 years in a state prison.

Bednar is charged with aggravated assault (second degree crime), for allegedly striking the victim in the head twice with a handgun, causing injury to the victim. Bednar is also charged with aggravated assault with weapon, a third degree crime, which can carry a penalty of 3 to 5 years in a state prison.

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Iconic Girl Scout cookie program begins in S. Jersey

What can a girl do? The 2013 theme from the Girl Scout Cookie Program reminds girls they have the power to do anything with the lifetime of skills and confidence they gain through Girl Scouting.

From train stations to grocery stores, Girl Scouts will be setting up cookie booths for their annual Cookie Program, the largest girl led business in the nation. Girls will be selling cookies in central and southern New Jersey from Jan. 17 through late February for \$4 a box.

The program teaches girls five essential business skills including goal setting, decision making, money management, people skills and business ethics. The purchase of a box of Thin Mints, Shortbreads, Caramel deL-

ites, Peanut Butter Patties, Lemonades, Thanks-A-Lots, Peanut Butter Sandwiches and the new Mango Crèmes with Nutrafusion will help girls reach their goals including travel opportunities, camping and more.

For the first time since 1999, all boxes of Girl Scout Cookies have a new look and a new purpose: to elevate the significance of the Girl Scout Cookie Program. The iconic Girl Scout Cookie package showcases the five financial literacy and entrepreneurship skills and encourages alumnae to share their success stories. In addition to the new packaging, customers will be able to enjoy the new Mango Crèmes, a tangy, refreshing tropical treat packed with great taste and vitamins. Crunchy vanilla and coconut cookies feature a mango-flavored crème filling

with all the nutrient benefits of eating cranberries, pomegranates, oranges, grapes and strawberries.

"From our Cookie College program, where girls set their goals and make their plans to cookie booths where they gain confidence, our cookie program is a great opportunity for girls to learn basic life skills as well as what it truly means to run a business," said Mary E. Connell, CEO. "Each year from our youngest Daisies to our experienced Ambassadors, our girls challenge themselves in news ways and develop skills that will help them for the rest of their lives."

Girls Scouts will also be sponsoring the Taste of Home Program, a service project for

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