



## State of New Jersey

### STATE PAROLE BOARD

JON S. CORZINE, GOVERNOR

PETER J. BARNES JR., CHAIRMAN

Post Office Box 862

Trenton, New Jersey 08625

# Media Release

For Immediate Release:

10/29/2007

For more information contact:

**Neal Buccino**

**(609) 292-4031, office**

**(609) 468-9728, cell**

## First NJ Parole Officer to Attend FBI National Academy

### *Advanced Law Enforcement Training Will Support Governor's Anti-Crime Initiative*

Trenton, NJ – Chairman Peter J. Barnes Jr. today announced the New Jersey State Parole Board has been invited for the first time to send a parole officer for advanced law enforcement training at the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Virginia.

The State Parole Board is in the process of selecting a parole officer of the rank of Lieutenant or above to serve as the first New Jersey parole officer attending the FBI National Academy's 2008 class. The specialized training, funded completely by the Federal government, will directly support the State Parole Board's role in Governor Corzine's statewide anti-crime initiative.

"I can say from experience this will be a great honor and a real challenge for the parole officer we send," Barnes said. "The officer will come back with a deeper knowledge of behavioral science, forensics and law – not to mention the best law enforcement practices used across America."

The FBI National Academy (FBINA), established in 1935, is a professional course of study for U.S. and international law enforcement leaders. It is considered the world's most prestigious law enforcement academy. Its mission is to enhance law enforcement standards, knowledge and cooperation on the local level, and create partnerships that span state and national lines. Participation is by invitation only, through a nomination process. Participants are drawn from every state in the union, the U.S. territories, and over 150 foreign nations.

The State Parole Board's selection began with Barnes' outreach to Weysan Dun, Special Agent in Charge of the Newark Division of the FBI, to discuss ways the State Parole Board can enhance its intelligence-sharing partnerships with the FBI and other law enforcement partners statewide.

As a result of that discussion the State Parole Board's Street Gang Unit, which supervises about 850 parolees statewide who are identified as street gang members, is developing its partnership with the FBI's gang intelligence units in New Jersey. The State Parole Board's Street Gang Unit also conducts gang awareness training for municipal police departments, hospitals and other organizations, and Gang Resistance Education and Training (GREAT) education for elementary school students.

"Our parole officers have one of the toughest law enforcement jobs in the country," said Barnes, who is a 26-year veteran FBI Special Agent and former Director of the Edison and East Brunswick Township Police Departments. "The parole officers are responsible at all times for the conduct of offenders released from prison to their communities. Given the challenges of this assignment, they are doing an outstanding job."

*(more)*

The State Parole Board's staff of 405 sworn parole officers staff 17 operational units statewide. They supervise nearly 15,000 offenders across the state. In addition to their normal supervision duties, parole officers serve on the FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force, the US Marshals Service New York/New Jersey Regional Fugitive Task Force, and as partners in local and state investigations.

The New Jersey State Parole Board (SPB) is New Jersey's lead reentry agency, and works to ensure ex-prisoners return to society as law-abiding citizens. As required by law, appointed Parole Board Members and staff conduct more than 20,000 hearings per year, solicit input from victims and decide parole matters. SPB sworn parole officers supervise more than 15,000 offenders statewide. In addition, SPB is New Jersey's primary law enforcement agency responsible for sex offender supervision. SPB officers are also active partners with multiple Federal, State and local law enforcement agencies and task forces. Finally, SPB's Community Programs Unit partners with government, non-profit and private agencies to connect ex-prisoners with vocational, mental health and related services, targeted to break the cycle and risk of crime.

###