



Town of Vienna, Virginia Police Department Media Information Release

Town of Vienna Police Sergeant Tony Clingerman Graduates from West Point Leadership Course



On December 20, 2007 Sergeant Tony Clingerman of the Town of Vienna Police Department graduated from the West Point Leadership Course. The course is an intense 16 week course held at the Fairfax County Criminal Justice Academy in Chantilly, Virginia. It is taught by Retired Army Colonel John Halste. Colonel Halste taught the exact same course for the West Point United States Military Academy in New York for several years. Army officer recruits attending West Point receive this training prior to graduating as 2nd Lieutenants in the U.S. Army.

The course is designed to enhance a leader's skills in many areas. It gives the participant training in the ability to resolve issues before they become conflicts within their particular group or organization. It also provides the participant with a broad spectrum of

knowledge on basic behavioral traits and things that can affect a cohesive unit such as a squad of police officers. The participants then learn how to use that knowledge and apply it in practical situations to make their squad members desire to perform better and be better police officers.

Participating in the course required much extra effort on Sergeant Clingerman's part. He attended class once a week and spent many extra hours working on projects, speeches, and essays which were all requirements of the course. As Sergeant Clingerman states, "The course is not designed to MAKE police officers in to leaders. Leaders are born; and this course merely makes them BETTER leaders".

**Please contact MPO Bill Murray for further information at
703.255.6396 or wmurray@viennava.gov**