

NJ Office of Emergency Management



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**New Jersey State Police Sergeant First Class Earns Homeland Security MA from
Naval Postgraduate School**

West Trenton, NJ – Sergeant First Class Albert Ponenti of the New Jersey State Police recently received a Master of Arts Degree in Homeland Security Studies from the United States Department of Homeland Security’s prestigious Naval Post Graduate School at the Center of Homeland Defense and Security in Monterey, CA.

During the intense 18 month online and in-residence program, SFC Ponenti collaborated with homeland security officials from across the nation on current policy, strategy, and organizational design challenges. He also completed research papers and wrote a thesis on *The Application of a Risk Management/Government Framework for Homeland Security Decision Making*.

“This once in a lifetime educational journey was truly insightful. To be accepted into this esteemed program, represent the State and New Jersey State Police and ultimately research and learn alongside some of the best and brightest minds in the homeland security field throughout the nation has truly been honor,” said Ponenti.

According to school officials, since 2002, The Naval Postgraduate School’s Center for Homeland Defense and Security in partnership with The U.S. Department of Homeland Security National Preparedness Directorate, FEMA has conducted a wide range of programs. Through graduate and executive level coursework, seminars, and research, government and military leaders gain analytical skills and substantive expertise to prevent, deter and respond to terrorist attacks and to bridge gaps in interagency and civil-military cooperation. The Center’s master’s degree program graduates 90 senior officials every year. More than 178 alumni have conducted original research and written theses focused on solving homeland security policy and strategy issues across the nation. Several of these models have become best practices and are used as national models. The Mobile Education Team (MET) has conducted more than 95 seminars for governors and mayors and their homeland security teams. More than 2800 senior officials have participated in the MET program since its inception.

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“The knowledge acquired, experiences shared and the cutting edge lessons learned from this program are valuable tools that I feel privileged to have experienced and I’m eager to share with the great State of New Jersey,” added Ponenti

The mission of the Naval Postgraduate School is to provide relevant and unique advanced education and research programs in order to increase the combat effectiveness of the U.S. and Allied armed forces, and to enhance the security of the United States. NPS students come from all U.S. services and services of more than 60 countries.

For more information regarding the Center for Homeland Defense and Security and/or the Naval Postgraduate School please log on to www.chds.us and www.nps.edu .

A special thanks to the Center for Homeland Defense and Security for allowing NJOEM and NJSP to use their organization’s official information contained inside this release.

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