

THE ASSOCIATE NEWSLETTER

PRESIDENT'S END-OF-YEAR MESSAGE BY TED WITKE SESSION #273

As my term as President of the FBI National Academy Associates, New Jersey Chapter comes to a close, I want to take a moment to reflect on what has been a truly rewarding year. Together, as an executive board and as a membership, we've accomplished a lot and continued to strengthen what makes this chapter one of the most active and respected in the world.

This year, we embraced technology and completely modernized the way we handle events. By introducing a new online payment and registration platform, we made it much easier for members to sign up and stay connected.

We also focused on improving how we communicate with our members. Through email updates, social media, the NJ Associate newsletter, and milestone recognition letters, we made sure to keep everyone informed and engaged. We even reached out personally to new applicants and recent graduates to welcome them and share what our chapter is all about.

Our efforts showed real results. We saw record-breaking attendance at both our Second Quarter Business Meeting at Martell's and our Annual Training Conference—a testament to the energy and enthusiasm of our membership. We also launched an extensive online NJ Chapter apparel store, giving members a great way to show their pride year-round.

One of the accomplishments I'm most proud of this year is the new half-price event discount for Life Members. It's a meaningful way to give back to those who have been such an important part of our Association's success and growth over the years.

I want to thank the entire Executive Board for their dedication and teamwork throughout the year. None of these accomplishments would have been possible without their hard work and commitment.

As I wrap up my presidency, I'm confident that incoming President Joe Murphy will continue to move the chapter forward with great leadership and enthusiasm in 2026.

December 2025



**FBI NATIONAL ACADEMY
ASSOCIATES**
WWW.FBINAANJ.COM



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END-OF-YEAR PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CONTINUED

BY TED WITTKÉ SESSION #273

Finally, to all of our members—thank you. Your continued involvement, support, and pride in this organization are what make our chapter so strong. It's been an honor and a privilege to serve as your President, and I'm proud of everything we've accomplished together.

Ted Wittke

Ted Wittke

President, FBI National Academy Associates
New Jersey Chapter



**“WISHING YOU
A WONDERFUL
HOLIDAY
SEASON
FILLED WITH
WARMTH, JOY,
AND TIME
WITH THE
PEOPLE WHO
MATTER
MOST.”**



2025 FBINAA NEW JERSEY CHAPTER EXECUTIVE BOARD

December 2025

OUR EXECUTIVE BOARD

PRESIDENT TED WITTKÉ, 273RD SESSION

HAZLET TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT | CHIEF (RET.)

1ST VICE PRESIDENT JOSEPH MURPHY, 259TH SESSION

WILDWOOD POLICE DEPARTMENT | CHIEF

2ND VICE PRESIDENT MARIO POZO, 279TH SESSION

GARFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT | CAPTAIN

3RD VICE PRESIDENT JOSEPH TOMAZIC , 282ND SESSION

MARLBORO TWP. POLICE DEPARTMENT | CAPTAIN

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS ROBERT LLOYD, 277TH SESSION

WILDWOOD CREST POLICE DEPARTMENT | CHIEF

IMMEDIATE PAST PRES. ANDREW CAGGIANO, 267TH SESSION

MONTVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT | CHIEF

PAST PRESIDENT JOHN FINE, 259TH SESSION

BURLINGTON CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT | CHIEF (RET.)

SECRETARY DARREN SUCOROWSKI, 234TH SESSION

GARFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT | CAPTAIN (RET.)

FINANCIAL SECRETARY JAY PRETTYMAN, 237TH SESSION

OCEAN CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT | CHIEF (RET.)

HISTORIAN STEVE DEMBOWSKI, 178TH SESSION

BERGEN COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE | CAPTAIN (RET.)

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE LORI ANDREWS, 262ND SESSION

NJSP | CAPTAIN (RET.)

TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE JEFF ANGERMEYER, 283RD

SESSION BERGEN COUNTY PROS. OFFICE | DEPUTY CHIEF



“Our NJ Chapter Executive Board continues to work tirelessly behind the scenes — planning meaningful quarterly meetings, building an outstanding training conference, and creating opportunities that bring our members, applicants, and supporters together. Everything we do is focused on strengthening the FBINAA network and advancing the mission of leadership and connection in law enforcement.”

**— TED WITTKÉ,
PRESIDENT, FBINAA
NEW JERSEY
CHAPTER**



ABOVE: 2025 EXECUTIVE BOARD AT THE 2025 CONFERENCE

PROMOTIONS

December 2025

- ON NOVEMBER 3, 2025, **JEFFREY ACKERSON** (SESSION 289) WAS SWORN IN AS CHIEF OF THE HOLMDEL TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT. WE WISH HIM THE VERY BEST AND KNOW THAT HE WILL DO GREAT THINGS!
- ON NOVEMBER 17, 2025, **CHRIS PETONAK**, SESSION 295, WAS PROMOTED TO CHIEF OF THE TOWN OF BOONTON POLICE DEPARTMENT. CHIEF PETONAK WAS SWORN IN BY MORRIS COUNTY SHERIFF JAMES GANNON, OF THE 169TH SESSION.
- ON DECEMBER 3, 2025, **CASEY LONG** OF SESSION 291, WAS PROMOTED TO CHIEF OF DETECTIVES OF THE OCEAN COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE.



ABOVE: SWEARING IN OF CHIEF ACKERSON WITH MEMBERS OF THE FBINAA NJ

ABOVE LEFT: CHIEF POTONAK SWEARING IN

LEFT: SWEARING IN OF CHIEF OF DETECTIVES CASEY LONG

RETIREMENTS

- WE WOULD LIKE TO CONGRATULATE GLOUCESTER TOWNSHIP POLICE CHIEF **DAVID HARKINS** (247TH SESSION) ON HIS RETIREMENT NOVEMBER 1, 2025. WE WISH HIM ALL THE BEST IN HIS FUTURE ENDEAVORS.
- WE WOULD LIKE TO CONGRATULATE CHIEF **ARTHUR WATERMAN**, 262ND SESSION, RETIRED FROM MEDFORD PD ON AUGUST 7, 2025.

WE WISH THESE MEMBERS THE VERY BEST IN THEIR FUTURE ENDEAVORS!

Happy Retirement!



ABOVE (TOP): CHIEF DAVID HARKINS

LEFT: RETIRED CHIEF ARTHUR WATERMAN

UPDATES

In Memoriam

We are deeply saddened to announce the passing of Captain (Ret.) Gary C. Smith #14, Lacey Township Police Department, of the 107th NA Session. He passed on September 3, 2025 at the age of 87. Captain Smith retired from the Lacey Police Department in 1996.



LEFT CAPTAIN (RET.) GARY C. SMITH, 107TH SESSION

UPDATES

December 2025

In Memoriam

We are deeply saddened to announce Deputy Chief (Ret.) Bonnie Lea Blume, 144th Session, passed away on September 28, 2025.

Bonnie dedicated her life to public service through a distinguished career in law enforcement. She proudly retired as the first female Deputy Chief for the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office. Following her tenure there, she continued her commitment to community safety, working with the Dover Township Police Department and the Mayor's Office, where she played a key role in earning accreditation for both offices.



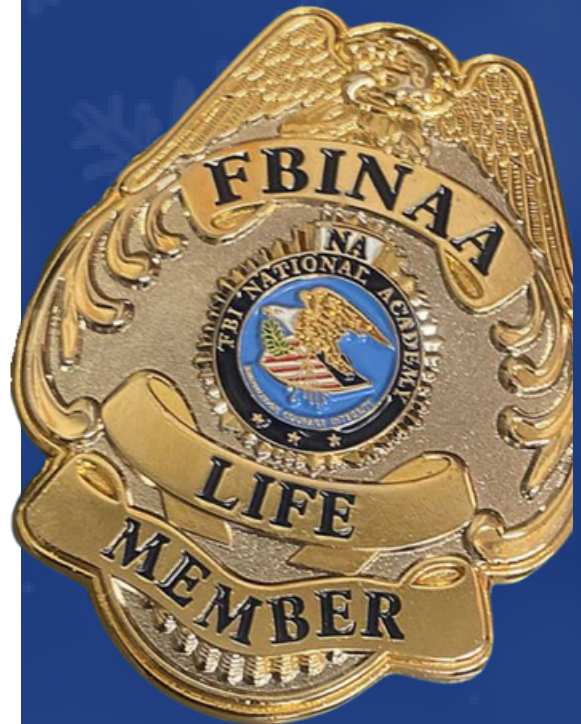
LEFT: DEPUTY CHIEF (RET.)
BONNIE LEA BLUME, 144TH
SESSION

UPDATES

December 2025

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

In our upcoming newsletters, we're excited to introduce a new feature spotlighting the life members of the FBI National Academy Associates New Jersey Chapter. These distinguished members continue to inspire through their personal and professional journeys, and we're proud to share where they are now and what they've been up to. Their dedication and achievements remain an integral part of our chapter's legacy, reminding us all of the standard we strive to uphold. This series has been thoughtfully compiled by our Chapter Historian, Steve Dembowski of the 178th Session, and we look forward to celebrating the remarkable individuals who helped shape our organization.



******"As a proud graduate of the FBI National Academy Session 178, a past New Jersey Chapter President, and now the Historian of this great chapter, I'm honored to introduce a new segment in the NJ Chapter Associate Newsletter titled 'Where Are They Now?'"

This feature highlights graduates from our New Jersey Chapter—some still serving locally, others making an impact across the country. I reached out to each of them for an update and to extend greetings on behalf of our chapter. Many of you may recognize these names.

I hope you enjoy reconnecting with our colleagues and learning where their journeys have taken them."******

— **CHAPTER HISTORIAN, STEVE DEMBOWSKI, 178TH SESSION**

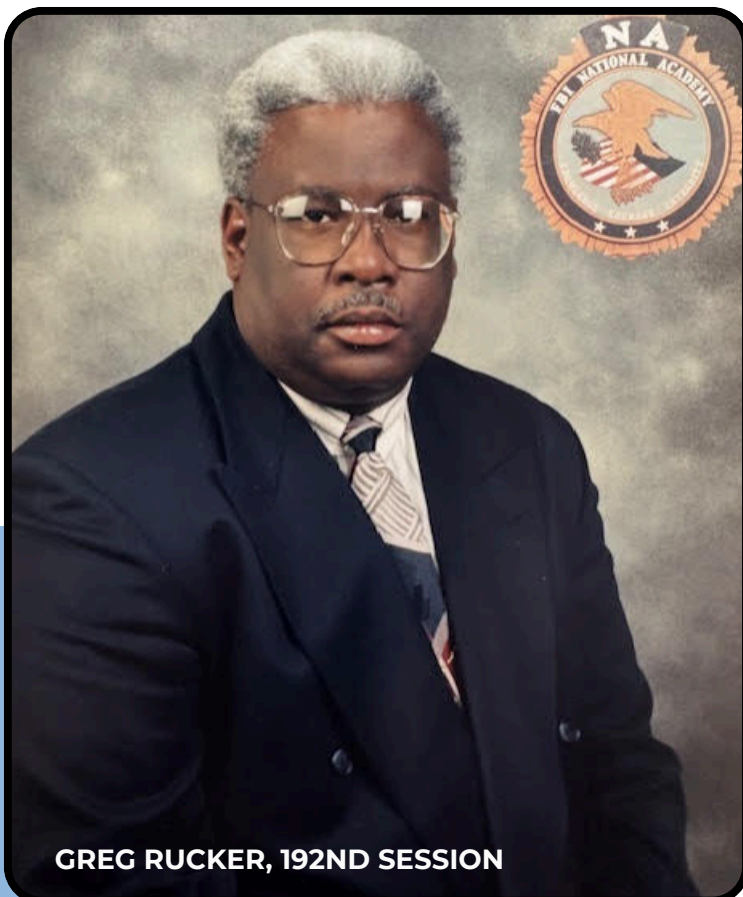
UPDATES

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Charles Krueser is a retired member of the West Caldwell, NJ Police Department. He retired in April 1986. After retirement he took a position with Chubb Group of Insurance Companies in their Special Investigations Unit and completed a 25 year career with Chubb retiring in April 2011. He also completed 10 years of being a substitute teacher in the Caldwell/West Caldwell school district. During his career he had the pleasure of attending the 99th Session of the FBI National Academy. The session graduated December 5, 1974. His favorite memory of the NA was meeting Major Spooner at his Globe and Laurel Restaurant in the town of Quantico. Charles is a life member of the NA, NJ Chapter.!



CHARLES KRUESER, 99TH SESSION



GREG RUCKER, 192ND SESSION

December 2025

Greg Rucker is a proud graduate of Session 192. This Willingboro Police Department veteran retired on April 1, 2019, and has continued to live life to the fullest. Now in his 22nd year with the National Football League, he enjoys the unique opportunity to blend passion and profession. Away from work, he treasures time spent with his family—especially his four wonderful grandchildren, who keep life joyful and busy. Reflecting on his days at Quantico, he recalls the incredible experience of meeting so many talented police officers from around the world. As a lifetime member, he remains deeply connected to the FBINA community.

UPDATES

December 2025

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?



Michael Kohut had the honor of attending the 178th session of the FBI National Academy beginning in July 1994. His career with the Perth Amboy Police Department began on September 11, 1978. After 31 years with the department, he retired as Police Chief/Director.

Immediately after retiring he was hired by Public Service Enterprise Group (PSEG) as Executive Protection Specialist for the CEO. On May 2, 2025, He retired from the Executive Protection Specialist position.

On June 26th He Moved from Edison, NJ after 38 years and now lives on a lake in Sparta, NJ.

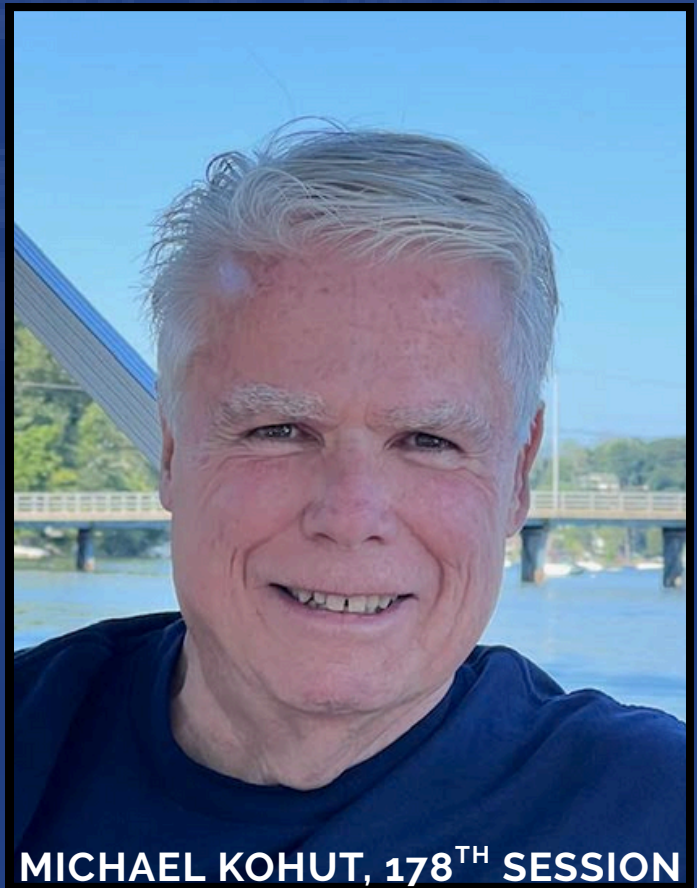
He is proud to be a lifetime member of the FBI National Academy and now that he has some free time, he plans on attending the New Jersey chapters quarterly meetings.

“When I look back on my experience at the National Academy one memory that has lasted through the years was my time in my Public Speaking course. Our instructor Special Agent Larry Levine, left an indelible impression on me. Not only did he provide the tools for my future public speaking but he also helped me understand my position as a father.

Larry recited the lyrics to “Cats in a Cradle “. At that moment I made a promise to myself that I will do everything in my power to be there for my son.

To this day when the song is played it brings me back to my academy days.

Thank you Special Agent Larry Levine”-
Michael Kohut, 178th session



MICHAEL KOHUT, 178TH SESSION

UPDATES

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Robert F. Vodde, Ph.D. (Bob), is a graduate of the 174th Class of the National Academy and a proud Lifetime Member. After serving as Chief of Police in Leonia, NJ for his last ten years before retiring after 25 years of service (2000), he transitioned into higher education at Fairleigh Dickinson University where he served as a tenured professor of criminology, department chair, and the University's Metropolitan Campus Provost and Campus Executive.

He currently resides on the southern shore of North Carolina with his wife, Jan, who is nearing 50 years of marriage. Still involved with research and consulting, he particularly enjoys spending time with his three children and five grandchildren, along with international travel and working at his golf game. His daughter-in-law currently serves as an Assistant Section Chief in the Cyber Division of the FBI's Washington Office. Favorite experience was exchanging so many practices and procedures with law enforcement executives from around the world.

Monsey Farhat, Session 178

Retirement Date 8/1/2004

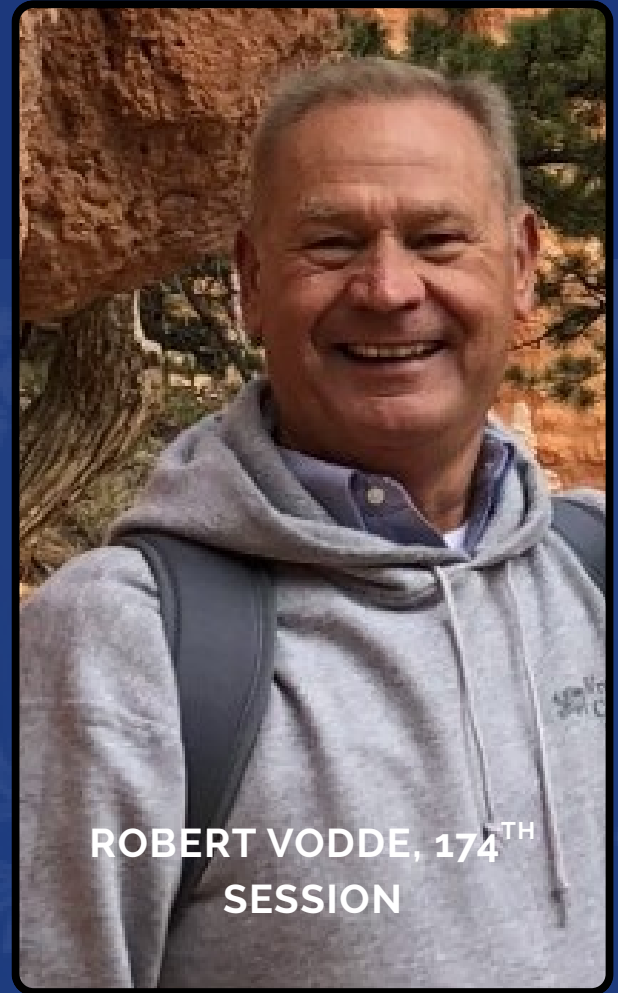
Department NJ State Police

Reemployed by NJSP from 2004 to current as an Investigator.

Favorite memory of NA: Dinner with Virginia SP Superintendent and classmates from 15 other State Police agencies.

Lifetime member: Yes

December 2025



ROBERT VODDE, 174TH SESSION



MONSEY FARHAT, 178TH SESSION

UPDATES RECENT GRADUATES

December 2025



R.A.C. BRIAN GRANT
LT. JAMES ROSIELLO
LT. MICHAEL HEBERT
CAPT. WALTER LAURENCIO
CAPT. ERIN HARRY
CHIEF ESTEBAN CUNNINGHAM
LT. RAY BURGAN
CAPT. CHRISTOPHER PETONAK
CAPT. JAVIER TORO
LT. ISMAEL VARGAS

FBI NATIONAL ACADEMY 295th SESSION

GRADUATES OF THE 295TH SESSION

LT. WAYNE KARALEVICH
LT. BRYAN BURKE
CHIEF JASON CARROLL
LT. JAVIER GARGUILLO
CHIEF MICHAEL ANTISTA
CAPT. HENRY WHITE III
CHIEF MICHAEL GROMEK
CHIEF ROBERT BURTON
DC MATTHEW SICILIA



GRADUATES OF THE 296TH SESSION

UPDATES

2025 CONFERENCE RECAP

The New Jersey Chapter of the FBI National Academy Associates hosted its most successful Annual Training Conference to date, held October 5-7, 2025, at the luxurious Ocean Casino Resort in Atlantic City, NJ. The event drew a record-breaking 420+ attendees and the largest number of vendors ever to participate. A star-studded lineup of speakers – including Max Schachter, Chief Brian O'Hara, Heidi Ramsey, and former FBI Special Agent Gregory Coleman – delivered impactful and thought-provoking presentations.

It was also an honor to welcome National President Bill Carbone, Executive Director Jeff McCormick, Section IV Representative Steve Hrytzik, and Past President Craig Petersen, whose presence underscored the strong national support for our Chapter and the importance of our shared mission.

Attendees enjoyed two highly attended evening networking events, which offered excellent opportunities for connection, collaboration, and camaraderie. The energy, engagement, and record participation made this year's conference one for the books – a true reflection of the NJ Chapter's commitment to excellence and professional growth.

**— TED WITTKÉ,
PRESIDENT, FBINAA
NEW JERSEY CHAPTER**

December 2025



UPDATES

December 2025

2025 CONFERENCE RECAP FBINAANJ VISITS WEST POINT



Pictured L-R:
Steve Dembowski #178,
Capt. Edward Colleton #289,
Col. Patrick Callahan #243,
LtCol. Eric De Los Santos #273
Lt. Nelson DeOliveira #283
Lt. Robert Booth #288

On December 5th, Chapter Historian and Past Chapter President Steve Dembowski joined Colonel Patrick J. Callahan and his troopers during their annual visit to West Point.

Continuing a long-standing tradition, Colonel Callahan and his team laid a wreath at the gravesite of General H. Norman Schwarzkopf—a West Point graduate and the first Colonel of the New Jersey State Police.

This meaningful tribute honors the trailblazers who came before us and highlights the decades-long connection between the New Jersey State Police and the FBI National Academy, a shared legacy of leadership, service, and pride.

We also congratulate Colonel Callahan on the recent news of his retirement and thank him for his years of dedicated service to the NJSP and the National Academy community.



MESSAGE FROM THE FBI NEWARK FIELD OFFICE S.A.C.

December 2025



As I reflect on 2025, I feel grateful for the opportunity to serve the Newark FBI as Special Agent in Charge and to work with all of you. I head into 2026 with optimism, determination, and renewed resilience, especially after the historic government shutdown last month. As law enforcement professionals of the FBINAA NJ Chapter continue to strive for professional growth, the FBI will be here to support those efforts every step of the way.

The more we nurture the partnerships between local, state and federal entities, the better we can support investigations and intelligence sharing. We have seen many developments over the year, such as the creation of a new Homeland Security Task Force to address transnational organized crime, narcotics trafficking, and violent crime. Through a unified framework, the HSTF in New Jersey will serve as a model for protecting the homeland from evolving threats. We will be relying on our partnerships with all of you for our success in this critical mission.



Congratulations to outgoing President Ted Wittke. I want to thank him for all the time and effort he has put into the FBINAA NJ Chapter during his term.

I wish you all a peaceful holiday season and I will see you all in the new year. I look forward to our continued partnership.



Stefanie Roddy
Special Agent in Charge
FBI Newark Field Office

ABOVE: FBI NEWARK
SAC STEFANIE RODDY

SAVE THE DATE

**FBI National Academy Associates
New Jersey Chapter**



*First Quarterly
Business Meeting*

**Swearing-In Ceremony Of The
2026 Executive Board And
FBINA Session Graduates**

Thursday, February 19, 2026 Starting at 5:30 pm

FBINAA NJ Chapter Apparel Store

Various
Colors
Available!

Navy

Black Heather

Oxford Gray

Military Green



LINK BELOW



SHOP NOW



T-Shirts Hoodies Bags Backpacks Polo Shirts
Vests Quarter Zips Fleeces
and more!

SHOW YOUR FBINAA NJ CHAPTER
PRIDE!

OUR OFFICIAL CHAPTER APPAREL IS
AVAILABLE ONLINE, AND IT'S A
GREAT TIME TO GEAR UP FOR 2026.

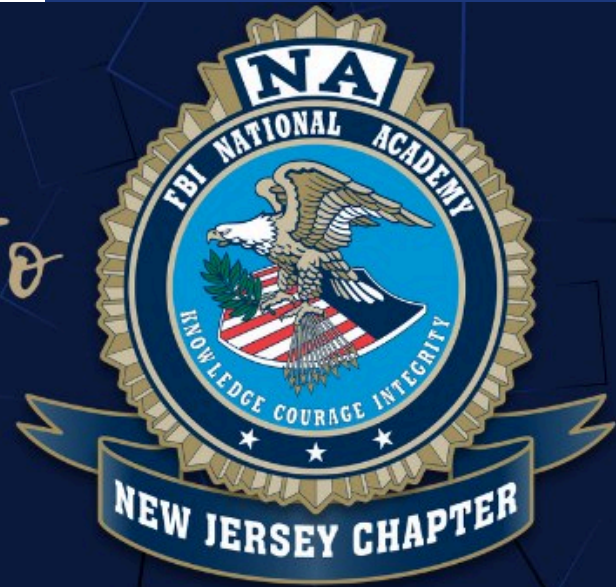
SHOP THE COLLECTION HERE:

★ [CLICK HERE FOR STORE](#) ★



ORDER TODAY AND REPRESENT THE FBINAA NEW JERSEY
CHAPTER WITH PRIDE!

News About Our
Members? We Want To
Know!



- AWARDS
- PROMOTIONS
- RETIREMENTS
- PASSINGS



PLEASE FORWARD ALL NEWS ALONG WITH
PHOTO(S), DATES AND CORRECT SPELLING OF
MEMBERS NAME TO:

CHAPTERCHAT@FBINAANJ.COM