

Captain Vanessa R. Gilbert of the Henderson County Sheriff's Office successfully graduated the 235th session of the FBI National Academy on December 12, 2008 at Quantico, Virginia.

The session of the National Academy consisted of law enforcement men and women from all 50 states, 27 international countries, four military organizations, and six federal law enforcement agencies.

Internationally known for its academic excellence, the National Academy Program, held at the FBI Academy, offers 11 weeks of advanced investigative, management, and fitness training for selected officers having proven records as professionals within their agencies. On average, these officers have 19 years of law enforcement experience and usually return to their agencies to serve in executive-level positions.

FBI Director Robert Mueller was the principal speaker at the graduation and presented Gilbert with her diploma.

Training for the program is provided by FBI Special Agents, and other staff members holding advanced degrees, many of whom are recognized internationally in their fields of expertise.

National Academy students earn undergraduate and graduate credits from the University of Virginia due to the accreditation by the university.

“Captain Gilbert is a superior leader by any measure. The FBI National academy is the highest academic achievement in law enforcement. It is very challenging academically as well as physically. It was clear our agency and the county would benefit greatly by sending her.”

Upon her return to the Sheriff's Office in December, Vanessa was promoted to the rank of Captain. She will be the new Detention Captain.

“She is recognized by the whole department as a highly qualified thoughtful leader with exceptionally high standards. Don't let her size and charm fool you, if anyone fails to meet her work ethics they will have awakened a giant they can't handle,” said Sheriff Davis.

The entire Sheriff's Office would like to congratulate Captain Gilbert upon her graduation from the FBI National Academy and on her promotion!