

**KOOTENAI COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT**  
**MEDIA RELEASE**  
**APRIL 6, 2009**

The Kootenai County Sheriff's Department, along with other Northern Idaho Law Enforcement Agencies are pleased to announce the first day of the Idaho Peace Officers Standards and Training Academy in Coeur d'Alene.

The main academy in Idaho is located in Meridian, Idaho in Ada County, some 400 miles from Coeur d'Alene. Previously, officers who had to go to the academy for the 10 weeks of basic training were in Southern Idaho the entire time, commonly unable to see family or friends for the 10 week period of time and costing local agencies substantial amounts of their training budgets for travel and weekend per diem expenses.

P.O.S.T. North, as it is being commonly called, will deliver the exact same training that officers receive in Meridian, using local instructors and local facilities, mostly at North Idaho College. In the long term, the academy in Coeur d'Alene will save P.O.S.T. a substantial amount of the cost to have an individual from Northern Idaho at the academy in Meridian. It will also be a cost savings for local agencies.

According to Kootenai County Sheriff, Rocky Watson, "This academy could not have been made possible if it were not for North Idaho College really stepping up with support, space and personnel. Their perseverance in cutting through the red tape has made P.O.S.T. North a reality."

In addition to N.I.C., Sheriff Watson gave special credit to Coeur d'Alene Chief of Police, Wayne Longo, who chairs the N.I.C. Advisory Committee and Rathdrum Chief of Police, Kevin Fuhr, who led the subcommittee on bringing P.O.S.T. to Coeur d'Alene.

"In these tough economic times, we must find ways to provide quality service, give our employees quality training and keep expenses to a minimum. P.O.S.T. North is a huge step in achieving this goal." – Sheriff Rocky Watson

Rocky Watson, Sheriff

By: Capt. Ben Wolfinger