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NEW GRADUATES FROM LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING ACADEMY

CHOCTAW, Miss. – Five Tribal members received their diplomas and graduated from the Mississippi Law Enforcement Officers' Training Academy (MLEOTA) in Pearl, Miss., on Thursday, March 25, 2010. Ira Ben, Brandon Fireplace, Shaun Jimmie, Dwight McMillan, and Jordan York, along with 58 others, were part of Basic Class # 229 and undertook an intensive ten-week training course to meet the qualifications needed to be law enforcement officers.

The guest speaker for the ceremony was Charlie Alexander, Special Projects Director for MLEOTA, who is retiring after fifty years in law enforcement. He encouraged the graduates to always be honorable and dedicated people, both in their professional and private lives. Mr. Alexander also had the honor of administering the Code of Ethics to the graduates. The ceremony closed with the presentation of the graduates to the audience.

Many friends and family attended the ceremony to support and encourage the new graduates.

Ben will serve in the Choctaw Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks Department, while Fireplace, Jimmie, McMillan, and York will serve in the Choctaw Police Department.

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The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, under the esteemed leadership of Miko Beasley Denson, has an enrolled membership of over 10,000 and is the only federally recognized tribe in the State of Mississippi. Headquartered in the Pearl River community, near Philadelphia, Mississippi, the Tribe has emerged as a leader in economic development. The Tribe provides a range of governmental services for its members including schools, a hospital, medical clinics, police and fire protection, courts, an elderly center, among many others.