

Pottawattamie County Sheriff's Department

Eric Hempel spoke this week about his experience in preparing for and joining the Pottawattamie County Sheriff's department. He is a 2005 graduate of Treynor High School and graduated from Iowa State University in Criminal Justice on May 9, 2009.

Eric began his quest in getting a job as a patrolman with a physical and mental test on February 23, 2009. On March 27 he received a call to be hired, but first had to pass physical, psychological, and voice stress tests. The psychological test was 1800 questions and took 6-7 hours to complete.

Eric started a twelve week training program at the Police Academy at Camp Dodge in Des Moines in April. The training was intensive and included physical training, use of handguns, using a tazer gun and being shot by one, driving maneuvers, and a variety of other experiences.

Eric now patrols an area that includes several towns and an area of I-80 between the 8 mile and 50 mile markers. He wears a bullet-proof vest at all times when working.