

QUICK FACTS

A Few Good Men & Women and Saskatchewan Police College

A Few Good Men & Women is a seven-part series looking behind the scenes at municipal police recruitment and training in the province of Saskatchewan, Canada. The series features the recruit competition at Regina Police Service, the 18-week training course at Saskatchewan Police College, and the on-the-beat field training that occurs after police college in Regina, Saskatoon, Estevan and Moose Jaw.

The Recruit Competition: A Few Good Men & Women begins with the twice-yearly recruit competition at Regina Police Service. Approximately half of eligible applicants to the Regina Police Service are invited to participate in a recruit competition. Of those, only approximately 7% will ultimately receive job offers and be sent to Saskatchewan Police College for recruit training. In this instance, thirteen Regina Police Service candidates were hired, sworn in and sent to the college as part of Recruit Class #56.

The recruit competition itself occurs over several months of probing interviews, written exams, and background investigations. One of the most feared elements of the recruit competition is the POPAT, the Police Officer Physical Abilities Test. In the form of an obstacle course simulating the pursuit and apprehension of a suspect, it's a daunting test of strength, agility and endurance.

Saskatchewan Police College: SPC, located on the campus of the University of Regina, was founded in 1990 and is where all municipal police services in the province send their new recruits for training before they begin serving on Saskatchewan streets. Recruit Class #56, featured in A Few Good Men & Women, graduated thirty police officers: thirteen from Saskatoon Police Service, twelve from Regina Police Service, three from Moose Jaw Police Service, one from Prince Albert Police Service and one from Estevan Police Service.

Classes are taught by a wide range of instructors from various fields, including long-serving police officers with the various municipal police services in the province. Study and written exams include topics such as Criminal Law, Human Behaviour and Police Procedures, while strategic training includes intensive courses in Driver Training, Defence Tactics, Crisis Intervention and Firearms Training.

For the recruits of Class #56 much of this study involves scenario training. Recruits are thrust into active case study scenarios, and how they handle the

crisis situations is assessed, evaluated and corrected. And throughout the course, every spare moment is devoted to fitness work and firearms training, as recruits are expected to continually improve in these areas and meet daunting benchmarks.

After graduation, the new officers return to their respective municipal police services and plunge into field training on the streets, paired with experienced officers on patrol. There they are guided in the procedures of their specific police service, and learn the innumerable tricks of the trade from their training officers. But before long they are expected to pull their own weight in real world situations — traffic accidents, petty thefts, drunken brawls — with the potential for confrontation in any radio call.