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DOWNTOWN, QUINCY

49 military veterans begin training to become Boston firefighters

Posted by Matt Rocheleau July 9, 2012 04:14 PM

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(Boston Fire Department)

The new class of recruits starts training at the Boston Fire academy on Moon Island on July 9.

By Matt Rocheleau, Town Correspondent

Forty-nine military veterans began training Monday to become Boston firefighters.

The new recruits were appointed by Boston Fire Commissioner Roderick J. Fraser Jr. and started a 20-week course of study that includes a mix of written and physical tests at the department's training academy on Moon Island.

In addition to the 49 recruits from the Boston Fire Department, four recruits from the Quincy Fire Department and two from the Cohasset Fire Department will be trained with the class.

Along with being required to take "a lot of tests," "they'll be put under some stressful situations to see how they react under pressure," said Fire Department spokesman Steven MacDonald. "Ideally, they'll use the training they get at the

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academy to successfully graduate."

The recruits are expected to graduate sometime around Thanksgiving. Those who graduate will be assigned to firehouses within their respective local fire departments.

Each year, the nation's oldest fire department graduates about two classes, which each enroll about 50 recruits, MacDonald said. Most recruits are from the Boston Fire Department with a few recruits often joining each class from other local fire departments.

Recruits from Boston Fire must be residents of the city.

He said that military veterans are commonly recruited because of a state law that gives hiring preference to veterans for fire personnel positions.

E-mail Matt Rocheleau at mjrochele@gmail.com.

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