

Meet MTA's newest Metro Rail operators:



Graduating with the June 2003 class were rear row from left, Darryl Dorsey and John Gainer. Middle row, Felipe Corona, Edward Ponce and Ricardo Gomez. Front row, Eric Sanchez, Javier Galvan, Norma Carrasco, Maria Campos and Miguel Orozco. Pictured below: The three most senior graduates will be assigned immediately to Metro Rail service. They are, from left in uniform, Edward Ponce, John Gainer and Darryl Dorsey. With them at the graduation ceremony are Rail Transportation Director Melvin Clark, rear, and Division Transportation Manager Eugene Adams. GO TO > [Entire story](#)



PHOTOS: BILL HEARD

Graduation Sets New Metro Rail Operators on the Right Track

By FRANKLIN A. HOLMAN

(June 25, 2003) MTA's newest Metro Rail operators are looking to their future with a new spirit of teamwork and professionalism toward their jobs, themselves and their colleagues.

The 10 classmates, who graduated last Friday, banded together to pull through the 16-week course that featured quizzes, hands-on physical training and comprehensive tests.

"The physical constraints are a challenge," graduate Norma Carrasco says. "During training, I had to close an emergency

hatch, which took every ounce of energy that I had.”

Graduating with Carrasco were Darryl Dorsey, Edward Ponce, John Gainer, Eric Sanchez, Javier Galvan, Maria Campos, Miguel Orozco, Felipe Corona and Ricardo Gomez.

By uniting as a team, students went beyond the normal expectations of the course. They took diagrams and graphic representations of rail cars and improved them by substituting their own pictures. They also created their own study guides and practice tests, reviewing them night and day.

‘A lot of teamwork’

“We had a lot of teamwork,” graduate Maria Campos says.

“Whenever someone had difficulty, we came together and helped each other overcome it.”

The students helped each other learn standard operating procedures, rail safety, mainline and yard operation and vehicle troubleshooting.

“I have never seen such a cohesive team that helps each other get through the course.” Assistant Rail Division Manager Davide Puglisi says. “I want to see that perpetuated as they become operators.”

As train operators, the class has stepped into a new phase of their careers. In making the transition from bus to train, they will be responsible for handling vehicles with more weight, with much faster speeds and many times more passengers.

“The professional level is increased when the operator is responsible for more passengers,” Rail Transit Operations Supervisor Gerald Harper says.

Recertification is required

Train operators maintain their knowledge of train operation by reviewing course material and by taking a recertification course, required every 60 days.

“There is always something new to be learned,” Campos says. “It’s like with anything you’re taught, there is always more to discover.”

Train operators Daryl Dorsey, Edward Ponce and John Gainer — the most senior members of the class — will be the first to switch from bus to train. The rest of the group will be integrated into Metro Rail as openings become available.

Whether starting now or later, all graduates were proud to be congratulated with course completion certificates at the June 20 graduation ceremony.

“The graduates of this class have distinguished themselves beyond the basic skills needed to succeed as a Metro Red Line train operators,” Puglisi says.

"I am deeply honored to have finished this course," graduate John Gainer says. "The rewards are great, and I have a bright future as a train operator."

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