Twenty three police officers graduate from training this evening - the second of the five police squad graduations in 2004 under the Martin Government's $75M Building our Police Force Plan.

Police Minister Paul Henderson will join Squad 76 at their graduation this evening, which marks the end of 28 weeks of training.

“The Martin Government's $75M Plan is delivering the maximum rate of police recruitment in line with recommendations of the O'Sullivan Report, doubling the number of recruits entering the NT Police,” Mr Henderson said.

“This record rate of recruitment is gradually increasing the number of NT police officers, allowing for more police and more patrols on the beat – and that means safer communities.”

“The 23 members of Squad 76 will be posted across the Territory, with 11 being stationed in Darwin, 10 officers to Alice Springs and two to Tennant Creek.”

“47 more recruits are still in training – squads 77 and 78 and a new Squad of recruits will commence in June.”

“Compare these record rates of recruitment to the early 1990s – when between 1991 and 1994 not a single officer graduated.”

“I congratulate Squad 76 on today's graduation and wish them well throughout their career with the NT Police.”