

Prince George County Police Department

The Miranda—Be Advised

Police Department News

ACCREDITATION

What it means to all of us....

verb (accredits, accrediting, accredited)
[with object] (usually be accredited)

(of an official body) give authority or sanction to (someone or something) when recognized standards have been met

1. to give official authorization to or approval of:
2. to recognize or vouch for as conforming with a standard
3. to consider or recognize as outstanding

ATTRIBUTE, CREDIT

ac·cred·i·table \-də-tə-bəl \ *adjective*

ac·cred·i·ta·tion \ə-,kre-də-'tā-shən \ *noun*

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On November 18, 19 and 20, 2013, the Prince George County Police Department underwent an assessment by a team of three accreditation assessors from jurisdictions around the State. Two “mock” assessments were held earlier this year to prepare personnel for what to expect when the assessment team was actually here. One question that many people have asked is, “what does it mean to be accredited?”

In this newsletter, we have gathered information from professional sources to try and share with everyone what accreditation will mean for the community as well as the Police Department.

As far as the ending result, the Commission does not meet until January 16, 2014, to decide if we will be designated an accredited law enforcement agency. We did receive positive comments from the three accreditation assessors. We appreciate everything we have learned from them and look forward to the final decision.



**The Virginia Law Enforcement Professional Standards Commission (VLEPSC)** provides law enforcement agencies in the Commonwealth with an avenue for demonstrating that they meet commonly accepted standards for efficient and effective agency operation. The standards used in this program were developed by the Virginia law enforcement community and certified by the Virginia Law Enforcement Professional Standards Commission.

## OVERVIEW & BENEFITS

The Virginia Sheriffs' Association, the Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police and the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) make up the VLEPSC. Executive board members consisting of active Sheriffs and Chiefs of Police establish professional standards and administer the accreditation process by which Virginia agencies can be systematically measured, evaluated, and updated. DCJS manages the day-to-day operations for the Commission.

The Commission's goals include the following: To increase the effectiveness and efficiency of law enforcement agencies in the Commonwealth through the delivery of services; To promote cooperation among all components in the criminal justice system; To ensure the appropriate level of training for law enforcement personnel; To promote public confidence in law enforcement; and To promote the professionalism of law enforcement agencies in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

## WHAT IT MEANS TO THE COMMUNITY:

Accreditation increases the law enforcement agency's ability to prevent and control crime through more effective and efficient delivery of law enforcement services to the community it serves. Accreditation enhances community understanding of the law enforcement agency and its role in the community as well as its goals and objectives. Citizen confidence in the policies and practices of the agency is increased. Accreditation, in conjunction with the philosophy of community policing, commits the agency to a broad range of programs (such as crime prevention) that directly benefit the public. Accreditation creates a forum in which police and citizens work together to control and prevent crime. This partnership will help citizens to understand the challenges that confront law enforcement. Law enforcement will, in turn, receive clear direction from the community about its expectations. Thus, a common set of goals and objectives will be arrived at and implemented.

## **WHAT IT MEANS TO THE POLICE CHIEF:**

Increases cooperation and coordination with other law enforcement agencies and other branches of the criminal justice system. The accreditation process requires an in-depth review of every aspect of the agency's organization, management, operations, and administration to include:

- establishment of agency goals and objectives with provisions for periodic updating;
  - re-evaluation of whether agency resources are being used in accord with agency goals, objectives, and mission;
  - re-evaluation of agency policies and procedures, especially as documented in the agency's written directive system;
  - correction of internal deficiencies and inefficiencies before they become public problems;
- the opportunity to re-organize without the appearance of personal attacks.

The accreditation standards provide norms against which agency performance can be measured and monitored over time. Accreditation provides the agency with a continuous flow of Commission distributed information about exemplary policies, procedures, and projects. Accreditation provides objective measures to justify decisions related to budget requests and personnel policies. Accreditation serves as a yardstick to measure the effectiveness of the agency's programs and services. The services provided are defined, and uniformity of service is assured. Accreditation streamlines operations, providing more consistency and more effective deployment of agency manpower.

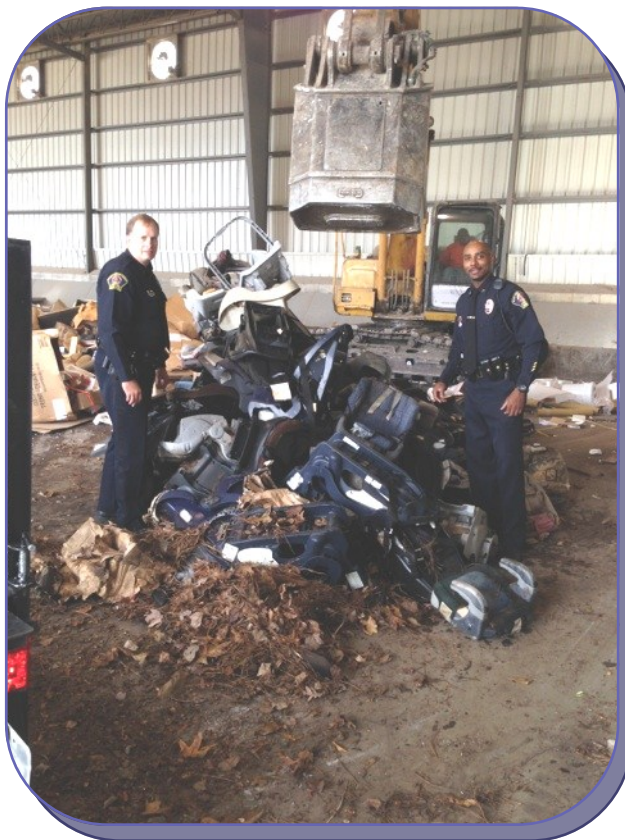
## **WHAT IT MEANS TO THE POLICE OFFICERS:**

Accreditation requires that agency policies and procedures are in written form and are available to all agency personnel at all times. Accreditation assures employees that every aspect of the agency's personnel system is in accord with professional standards, and that the system is both fair and equitable. The agency is compelled to operate within specific guidelines. It is accountable to the Commission. The agency must stay in compliance with the standards set forth by the Commission in order to retain its accreditation. The morale of the agency is enhanced by increasing the employees' confidence in the effectiveness and efficiency of their own agency. Operations become more streamlined and consistent. Accreditation policies address officer safety issues and provide for adequate training and equipment of the officers. Accreditation is a coveted award that symbolizes professionalism, excellence, and competence. Employees will take pride in their agency, knowing that it represents the very best in law enforcement.

## Car Seat “CRUSH”

On Tuesday, November 5, 2013, the Community Policing Unit “Crushed” over 100 damaged, expired and unsafe child safety seats that were turned in or exchanged at one of several Child Safety Seat clinics hosted by the Prince George County Police Department.

The Community Policing Unit would like to remind parents and caregivers that child safety seats with an unknown history or with missing labeling should not be used to transport children. Unwanted, expired or otherwise unsafe child safety seats should be rendered unusable before they are discarded.



Officer Harold Shreves and Sergeant Earl Crawford oversee the destruction of unsafe child safety seats.



## Annual Christmas Wreath Laying Ceremonies

The Police Department annually places wreaths at the gravesites of Sergeant Cliff Scott, Trooper Leo Whitt and Sheriff John Atwood. This year's ceremony took place on Friday, December 6, at 11:00 AM at Southlawn Memorial Park on Birdsong Road. In addition, this year's wreath laying ceremony for Officer Shelly Sherman Crowder was held at 9:00 AM on the same date at Merchants Hope Cemetery. Each year, Virginia State Police Trooper Mike McCann helps us honor these Officers by playing "Amazing Grace" on the bagpipes.



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[www.princegeorgecountyva.gov](http://www.princegeorgecountyva.gov)

## ***Mission Statement***

*The Prince George County Police Department, in partnership with the community, will strive to protect and improve the quality of life in Prince George; providing Leadership through Open Communication, Fair and Dignified Service, and Interactive Problem Solving.*



**"In Partnership With The Community"**

## ***Ending Thoughts From Chief Frankenstein....***

Since becoming Chief of Police in 2000, one of my goals has been to have the Police Department accredited. There is a monumental amount of preparation that goes into this process. Over the years, several Officers have worked on this task along with performing their assigned duties. Lieutenant Tony Goodman, Lieutenant John Leach, Captain K.V. Butler, Lieutenant Marybeth Newton and Captain Ken Williams have all been instrumental in getting this completed but none of them could devote their time in the Police Department solely to accreditation. It was not until a reorganization of personnel that we were able to have Sergeant Chris Douglas devote his time to preparing us for this process. I thank each of these Officers for all they have done, especially our Accreditation Manager, Sergeant Chris Douglas. He has spent long hours in making sure everything was ready for the final assessment. I also want to thank every member of the Police Department for helping us reach this point in our goal to become accredited. We will now wait for the final decision from the Virginia Law Enforcement Professional Standards Commission on January 16, 2014.

Thank you,



Colonel Ed Frankenstein  
Chief of Police

