



ANNUAL REPORT

2015

Virginia Law Enforcement Professional Standards Commission
Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services • 1100 Bank Street • Richmond, VA 23219
804-786-8421
www.vlepsc.org

Program Information

OVERVIEW

The Virginia Law Enforcement Professional Standards Commission (VLEPSC) was established in 1993, and tasked with creating an accreditation opportunity specific to Virginia law enforcement. Since that time, the Commission has overseen the development of a comprehensive, efficient, and viable process that can assist Virginia's law enforcement community in the development and certification of policy and procedure. The Executive Board of the VLEPSC consists of representatives selected by the Virginia Sheriffs' Association (VSA) and the Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police (VACP). The partnership developed by the VACP, VSA and the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) is unique among state level accreditation programs in the country. Virginia is the only state accreditation program that can boast of this format for the sharing of leadership. The Virginia process is voluntary, attainable and relatively cost free. The Commission first accepted applications for accredited status on January 1, 1996, and completed 2015 with approximately 127 agencies involved in some phase of the program.

MISSION

The mission of the Virginia Law Enforcement Professional Standards Commission is to advance law enforcement professionalism through the establishment of professional standards and the administration of a formal mechanism by which Virginia agencies can be systematically measured, evaluated, and updated. The Commission goals include:

1. To increase the effectiveness and efficiency of law enforcement agencies in the Commonwealth of Virginia in the delivery of services;
2. To promote cooperation and coordination among all components in the criminal justice system;
3. To ensure the appropriate level of training for law enforcement personnel;
4. To promote public confidence in law enforcement; and
5. To promote the professionalism of law enforcement agencies in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

The Commission

The Commission is comprised of six (6) active Chiefs of Police chosen by the Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police and six (6) active Sheriffs chosen by the Virginia Sheriffs' Association. Commissioners serve terms as designated by their respective Associations.

The current members of the Commission (and the year they were appointed) are as follows:

Sheriff Brian Roberts (2009)
Chairman
Brunswick County Sheriff's Office

Sheriff Steve Draper (2013)
City of Martinsville Sheriff's Office

Chief Louis Battle (2013)
Town of Warrenton Police Department

Chief John Evans (2011)
City of Manassas Park Police Department

Sheriff Gabe Morgan (2009)
City of Newport News Sheriff's Office

Sheriff C.O. Balderson (2011)
Westmoreland County Sheriff's Office

Chief Gary Roche (2007)
Vice Chairman
Town of Pulaski Police Department

Chief Michael Goldsmith (2014)
City of Norfolk Police Department

Sheriff Darrell Warren Jr (2015)
Gloucester County Sheriff's Office

Chief Steve Pike (2014)
Division of Capitol Police

Chief Stan Olah (2011)
Wintergreen Police Department

Sheriff Eric A. Atkins (2011)
City of Salem Sheriff's Office



Accreditation Partners

Although the Commission operates as an independent body, the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) provides oversight and staffs the project. DCJS remains committed to the state accreditation program and continues to provide the financial backing for day-to-day services.

The VLEPSC program is dependent on the voluntary participation of individual law enforcement personnel. The assessment of agencies seeking accredited status is conducted by three-member teams composed of Virginia law enforcement personnel that are selected from the Virginia Law Enforcement Accreditation Coalition (VALEAC). The program could not be successful without participating agency Chiefs of Police and Sheriffs allowing agency personnel to travel to applicant agencies in order to conduct assessments. The use of voluntary assessors allows the Virginia process to keep costs to minimal levels.

VALEAC continues to be an asset to VLEPSC and has been instrumental in contributing to the success of this program. Its members and leaders conduct quarterly meetings and training for new accreditation managers and assessors.



Accreditation Activities

NEW APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

Dickinson County Sheriff's Office

City of Colonial Heights Sheriff's Office

Richmond City Sheriff's Office

Buena Vista Police Department

Town of Grundy Police Department

Town of Woodstock Police Department

NEWLY ACCREDITED AGENCIES

Virginia Department of Alcohol Beverage Control Bureau of Law Enforcement

REACCREDITED AGENCIES

Second Awards

Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office

Gloucester County Sheriff's Office

James Madison University Police Department

Henry County Sheriff's Office

Clark County Sheriff's Office

Third Awards

Pittsylvania County Sheriff's Office

Warren County Sheriff's Office

City of Bristol Sheriff's Office

Warrenton Police Department

Charlotte County Sheriff's Office

Fourth Awards

Page County Sheriff's Office

Augusta County Sheriff's Office

New Kent County Sheriff's Office

York-Poquoson County Sheriff's Office

Botetourt County Sheriff's Office

Bedford Police Department

James City County Police Department

Chesterfield County Sheriff's Office

King George County Sheriff's Office

Fifth Awards

Martinsville Police Department

City of Lexington Police Department

Chesterfield County Police Department

City of Danville Police Department

Initiatives

DIRECTIVES

The Commission issued the following directives:

NONE

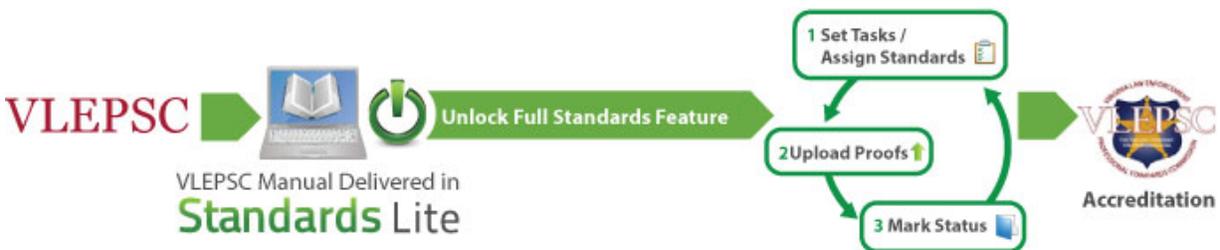
VML INSURANCE PROGRAMS

In February 2015, VLEPSC partnered with VML to assist in deferring the application cost for agencies that are accredited or start the self-assessment phase of accreditation. If the agency carries liability coverage through VML, the company will pay the initial and reaccreditation application fees of \$250.00 to VLEPSC. This is being done to encourage agencies to join the accreditation process by reducing the budgetary cost of the program.

POWER DMS STANDARDS

In August 2012, VLEPSC partnered with PowerDMS™ to launch STANDARDS. This new subscription-based software allows agencies to provide current and potential members with a cutting-edge document management solution. For more information, visit www.powerdms.com.

The Commission assessed its first PowerDMS™ agency, the Manassas Park Police Department, in December 2014. The assessment was successful and many agencies have found the value of using this product for accreditation and policy management.



Recognitions

THE COMMISSIONER'S AWARD

Each year the Commission recognizes one of their many dedicated and professional volunteers who give their time and themselves to staffing the many VLEPSC assessments. They serve as assessors and team leaders to ensure the important business of state accreditation is accomplished. The recipient, nominated by Program Manager Mays with concurrence of the Commission, follows many previous recipients of this honor that has been awarded annually since 2002.

At the October 2015 annual conference of the Virginia Law Enforcement Accreditation Coalition (VALEAC), Commission Chairman Roberts announced that Senior Assessor, Sergeant Rebecca Herrera of the Division of Capitol Police, was the recipient of the 2015 Commissioner's Award.

Sergeant Herrera has been with the Division of Capitol Police for over 15 years. She has served as the Accreditation Manager since 2010. She is currently serving as a senior assessor for the Virginia Law Enforcement Professional Standards Commission. She has served on many mock assessments and on site assessments. She currently serves as an advisor for VALEAC advisory team assisting other law enforcement agencies in becoming accredited. She has served on the VALEAC training committee. She was elected as president of the Virginia Law Enforcement Accreditation Coalition during the October 2015 annual conference.



Sergeant Rebecca Herrera receives the Commissioner's Award from Chairman Roberts

ASSESSOR CAREER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

In 2005, VLEPSC and VALEAC created the Assessor Career Development Program. Each level of the program requires that certain criteria be met. The following assessors met those requirements in 2014.

Senior Assessor

Deputy Pat McNett Shenandoah County Sheriff's Office

Senior Specialist Gregory Berry, Lynchburg Sheriff's Office

Megan Gerald, Warrenton Police Department

Lieutenant Milton Franklin, Reynolds Community College Police Department

Sergeant Chris Douglas, Prince George County Police Department

Master Assessor

Sergeant Carla Spencer, Salem Police Department

Major Harold Heatley, Tazewell County Sheriff's Office

Master Police Officer Harvey Finkel, City of Charlottesville Police Department

Lieutenant David Hudson, Lancaster County Sheriff's Office

Sergeant Shannon Williamson, Arlington County Sheriff's Office

VALEAC Certified Accreditation Professional Program (CAP)

In 2015, VALEAC developed a program to certify assessors as professionals. The Virginia Law Enforcement Accreditation Coalition promotes the concept of voluntary certification for all accreditation professionals in the criminal justice field. This certification focuses exclusively on the individual and is an indication of the current proficiency in a particular criminal justice field. Accreditation professionals who become Certified Accreditation Professionals will be distinguished as individuals who have reached one of the highest levels of achievement and recognition in their field. During the 2015 annual conference twenty-one (21) assessors were presented with the Certified Accreditation Professional Program Award.

Chief Ricky Arnold, Wytheville Police Department

Michael Layman, James Madison University Police Department

Deputy Barbara Barrett, Chesapeake Sheriff's Office

Senior Specialist Gregory Berry, Lynchburg Sheriff's Office

Lieutenant Colonel Donald Sloan, Lynchburg Sheriff's Office

Donna Akers, Christiansburg Police Department

Major Harold Heatley, Tazewell County Sheriff's Office

Master Police Officer Harvey Finkel, City of Charlottesville Police Department

Lieutenant Heather Richardson, City of Norfolk Sheriff's Office

John Woodward Sr., City of Norfolk Sheriff's Office

Lieutenant Colonel John Joseph McLaughlin Jr., New Kent County Sheriff's Office
Lieutenant Kellie Crespo, Prince William County Sheriff's Office
Lieutenant Timothy Brown, Christiansburg Police Department
Lieutenant Milton Franklin II, Reynolds Community College Police Department
Sergeant Rebecca Herrera, Division of Capitol Police
Chief Robert Mawyer, West Point Police Department
Sergeant Shannon Williamson, Arlington County Sheriff's Office
Megan Gerald, Warrenton Police Department
Captain Cindy Caldwell, Campbell County Sheriff's Office
Gail Sojka, Radford Police Department
VLEPSC Program Manager Derrick Mays, Department of Criminal Justice Services

Contact Information

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Submitted by:
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