



ANNUAL REPORT

2017

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 policies and procedures. 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 2017 with approximately 124 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:

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

Sheriff Steve Draper (2013)
Treasurer
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

Chief Bradley J. Rinehimer (2017)
James City County Police Department

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

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

Sheriff J. Joseph (Joe) McLaughlin Jr. (2016)
New Kent County Sheriff's Office

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

Chief Steve Pike (2014)
Division of Capitol Police

Sheriff Stacey A. Kincaid (2017)
Fairfax County Sheriff's Office

Chief Ron Lantz (2017)
Albemarle County Police Department



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

Amherst County Sheriff's Office

George Mason University Police Department

Floyd County Sheriff's Office

City of Petersburg Police Department

Suffolk City Sheriff's Office

Augusta County Sheriff's Office

Town of Dumfries Police Department

Fluvanna County Sheriff's Office

College of William and Mary Police Department

NEWLY ACCREDITED AGENCIES

City of Colonial Heights Sheriff's Office

Town of Grundy Police Department

City of Richmond Sheriff's Office

REACCREDITED AGENCIES

Second Awards

City of Colonial Heights Police Department

City of Hopewell Police Department

Reynolds Community College Police Department

Town of West Point Police Department

Town of Farmville Police Department

City of Newport News Sheriff's Office

Roanoke City Sheriff's Office

Third Awards

City of Chesapeake Sheriff's Office

Lancaster County Sheriff's Office

Town of Purcellville Police Department

Fairfax County Sheriff's Office

City of Martinsville Sheriff's Office

City of Winchester Police Department

Fourth Awards

Bedford County Sheriff's Office

City of Salem Sheriff's Office

Williamsburg-James City County Sheriff's Office

Rockingham County Sheriff's Office

City of Virginia Beach Sheriff's Office

Fifth Awards

Galax Police Department

Radford University Police Department

Sixth Awards

Fairfax County Police Department
Prince William County Sheriff's Office

Initiatives

DIRECTIVES

The Commission issued the following directives:

VLEPSC DIRECTIVE 2017-01 Records Retention Standards

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. This program has proven itself to be very helpful in recruiting small agencies with minimum budgetary funding.

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 2017 annual conference of the Virginia Law Enforcement Accreditation Coalition (VALEAC), Commission Chairman Roche announced that Master Assessor, Captain Christopher Hawkins Westmoreland County Sheriff's Office, was the recipient of the 2017 Commissioner's Award.

Chris Hawkins is the Operation Captain for the Westmoreland County Sheriff's Office. In that position he oversees communications, patrol, investigations, and court services. Captain Hawkins has over 26 years of law enforcement experience including his time as a First Sergeant with the Virginia State Police, First Sergeant with the Stafford Sheriff's Office, and as the Chief of Police in the Town of Colonial Beach. Captain Hawkins has served in numerous capacities as a motorcycle officer, field training officer, general instructor, gang instructor, and a NIM's instructor, to name a few. He is a graduate of the National Criminal Justice Command College and serves on many committees and boards.



Captain Chris Hawkins receiving the 2017 Commissioner's Award from VLEPSC Chairman, Chief Gary Roche

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

Lieutenant Jeremy Barnett James City County Police Department

Senior Deputy Barbara Barrett City of Chesapeake Sheriff's Office

Mr. Charles Bishop Reynolds Community College Police Department

Sergeant William Elliott Campbell County Sheriff's Office

Deputy Devon Tweedy Campbell County Sheriff's Office

Master Assessor

Sergeant Walter Douglas Prince George County Police Department

Captain Christopher Hawkins Westmoreland County Sheriff's Office

Mr. Michael Layman James Madison University Police Department

Lieutenant Heather Richardson City of Norfolk Sheriff's Office

Lieutenant Pilar Uelmen City of Falls Church Police Department

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 2016 annual conference one (1) assessor was presented with the Certified Accreditation Professional Program Award.

Captain Christopher Hawkins, Westmoreland County Sheriff's Office

Ms. Kristi Jenkins, Town of Smithfield Police Department

Contact Information

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Submitted by:
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