



Hanover County Sheriff's Office

Colonel V. Stuart Cook, Sheriff



News Release

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The Hanover County Sheriff's Office receives re-accredited status!

At a regular meeting of the Virginia Law Enforcement Professional Standards Commission on January 19, 2006, the Hanover County Sheriff's Office received its re-accredited status by a unanimous vote.

The Sheriff's Office was the eighth law enforcement agency in the state to earn state accredited status in 1998. The office was re-accredited in 2002, and again now in 2006. Accredited status is valid for four years, at which time an accredited agency must undergo a vigorous, independent inspection.

The inspection of the office took place during the first week of this past December. The inspection team was made up of three trained assessors from agencies across the Commonwealth. During the assessment, the Sheriff's Office was found to be in full compliance with all 180 professional standards set forth by the Commission. Providing the inspection report to the commission, Lt. Cindy Caldwell of the Campbell County Sheriff's Office, who lead the team of assessors, noted the team's admiration of the agency's shrewd use of tax dollars and visible dedication to the community.

Commissioner Gerald Holt, Sheriff of the Roanoke County, was impressed by the evidence of an excellent relationship with the County Administration and Board of Supervisors. "Your rapport with the county administration is admirable," said Sheriff Holt as he addressed Colonel Cook.

The inspection visit was only hampered by the area's first winter weather event during that first week of December. The on-site assessment involved physical inspections of vehicles, equipment and facilities, ride-a-longs with patrol deputies, interviews with personnel, and a strict review of documentation regarding the 180 professional standards set forth by the commission. Commissioner Charlie Jett, Sheriff of Stafford County, was obviously impressed with the efficiency and effectiveness of the inspection. "You definitely have the model to follow!"

Although Colonel Cook appreciated the kind words, he said "The true credit goes to the men and women of the Hanover County Sheriff's Office. They are responsible for fulfilling these professional standards on a daily basis, and they deserve the praise."

The Hanover County Sheriff's Office remains one of only 51 law enforcement agencies in the Commonwealth who have earned and retained state accredited status. In 2003, the Sheriff's Office also earned national accredited status through the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies and became the first full service Sheriff's Office in the Commonwealth to earn national accreditation. The Sheriff's Office will be re-inspected late this summer to verify its compliance with those national standards.

"By maintaining these standards, both on a state and national level, we are holding ourselves accountable to the highest level of professionalism, and ensuring that our citizens and businesses receive the best possible service," said Colonel Cook.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Lt. Doug Goodman at 365-6312. To find out more about the state accreditation program, visit www.dcjs.virginia.gov/accred/.

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