



SALEM POLICE DEPARTMENT NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release – December 7, 2010

SALEM POLICE DEPARTMENT RECEIVES RE-ACCREDITATION

On Thursday, December 2, the Salem Police Department was awarded re-accreditation through the Virginia Law Enforcement Professional Standards Commission (VLEPSC) at its Executive Board Meeting in Botetourt County.

There are more than 360 law enforcement agencies in Virginia, but only 82 have earned this distinction. The Salem Police Department, the first municipal police department in Virginia to become VLEPSC accredited, has maintained accreditation since September 1997. In 2005, Salem was the first municipality in Virginia to have both its Police Department and Sheriff's Office VLEPSC accredited.

"This is an accomplishment that the entire department and community can be very proud of," says Salem Police Chief Jeff Dudley. "To have law enforcement professionals from around the state come in, review every aspect of our operation and ultimately give us a thumbs-up really shows our citizens the professionalism of our police department."

To maintain accredited status, the Salem Police Department had to provide satisfactory documentation to prove that it is complying with the stated standards of the Virginia Law Enforcement Professional Standards Commission and the Code of Virginia. Each detail must be proven with paperwork and backup documentation. During the on-site assessment visit, assessors from across the state scrutinized the department viewing more than 2000 points of professional practices. In addition, the assessors rode with officers, inspected the building and vehicles, reviewed operations and conducted interviews with officers.

The On-Site Assessment Team Leader, Captain Ricky W. Arnold, of the Wytheville Police Department reported, "The Salem City Police Department, under the leadership of Chief Jeff Dudley, is committed to the idea of professionalism and it is exhibited by his agency. It is also committed to its service to the community, and to the standards of accreditation."

The Virginia Law Enforcement Accreditation Coalition was established in 1993 as an alternative to a national accreditation program. The commission is overseen by a board of directors comprised of Chiefs of Police and Sheriffs from across the state, who are selected for their expertise and knowledge. It is also supported by the Department of Criminal Justice Services.

“It takes a true team effort and the support of everyone in the department to make this happen,” says Dudley. “I’m very proud of the men and women of the Salem Police Department who serve our citizens and exemplify these high standards each and every day.”

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