



Law Enforcement Accreditation

# Cleveland Metroparks Ranger Department

# The Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies

During the 1960's and 1970's many citizens lost confidence in their law enforcement agencies. In response, the United States Department of Justice provided a grant to the four leading law enforcement executive associations to advance law enforcement professionalism by establishing voluntary standards.

The result of this initiative was the creation in 1979 of a private, non-profit corporation: The Commission on Accreditation of Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc.



# The Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement

- The purpose of CALEA's Accreditation Programs is to improve the delivery of public safety services, primarily by: maintaining a body of standards, developed by public safety practitioners, covering a wide range of up-to-date public safety initiatives; establishing an accreditation process; and recognizing professional excellence.

# The Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Goals:

- Strengthen crime prevention and control capabilities;
- Formalize essential management procedures;
- Establish fair and non-discriminatory personnel practices;
- Improve service delivery;
- Solidify interagency cooperation and coordination; and
- Increase community and staff confidence in the agency.

# The Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies structure:

- CALEA is governed by a Commission composed of 21 members. Eleven must be law enforcement practitioners, the remaining ten members are selected from the public and private sectors.
- CALEA maintains a professional staff managed by an Executive Director.

# Benefits of Accreditation

- Requires an agency to develop a comprehensive, well thought out, uniform set of written directives.
- Accreditation standards provide the necessary reports and analysis a chief needs to make fact based, informed management decisions.
- Requires a preparedness program be put in place so an agency is ready to address natural or man-made disasters.

# Benefits of Accreditation (Cont'd.)

- Accreditation is a means for developing or improving upon an agency's relationship with the community.
- Strengthens an agency's accountability, both within the agency and the community.
- Being accredited can limit an agency's liability risk exposure because it demonstrates that internationally recognized standards have been met.
- Accreditation assists in an agency's pursuit of professional excellence.

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- In August 2012, Cleveland Metroparks Ranger Department signed into a contract with CALEA and began the self-assessment process.





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- In June 2015, 2 independent assessors were assigned to verify our compliance with 189 standards.
- This was completed thru file review, facility inspections, interviews, observations, public call-in sessions, and a public hearing.

# The Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies

- On November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2015 Chief Veloski and Lt. Schabitzer spoke before a Commission Review Board hearing on behalf of the Cleveland Metroparks Ranger Department.
- The Review Board unanimously voted to recommend agency accreditation to the full commission.

# The Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies

- On November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2015 the full CALEA Commission accepted the recommendation and awarded the Cleveland Metroparks Ranger Department as an accredited agency.



# The Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies

- The Cleveland Metroparks Ranger Department is now among the four percent (645) of American law enforcement agencies that are accredited.
- Cleveland Metroparks Ranger Department is one of only six accredited park district/natural resources law enforcement departments nationwide.