

NEWS RELEASE

DIVISION OF POLICE

MANSFIELD, OH

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Date: April 13, 2009

SUBJECT ACCREDITATION ASSESSMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT:

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ACCREDITATION ASSESSMENT TEAM INVITES PUBLIC COMMENT

Mansfield, OH, April 13, 2009--A team of assessors from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA), will arrive April 25th 2009 to examine all aspects of the Mansfield Division of Police's policy and procedures, management, operations, and support services, Chief Messer announced today.

Verification by the team that the Mansfield Division of Police continues to meet the Commission's state-of-the-art standards is part of a voluntary process to retain accreditation--a highly prized recognition of law enforcement professional excellence, he said.

As part of the on-site assessment, agency employees and members of the community are invited to offer comments at a public information session Monday, April 27, 2009 at 6:30 P.M. The session will be conducted in Council Chambers, of the Mansfield Municipal Building, 30 N. Diamond St., Mansfield, OH.

If for some reason an individual cannot speak at the public information session but would still like to provide comments to the assessment team, they may do so by telephone. The public may call 419-755-9460 on Tuesday April 28, 2009 between the hours of 1:30 P.M. and 3:30 P.M. Comments will be taken by the Assessment Team.

Telephone comments as well as appearances at the public information session are limited to 10 minutes and must address the agency's ability to comply with CALEA's standards. A copy of the standards is available at the 2nd Floor Administrative Offices of the Police Division in the Mansfield Municipal Building. Local contact is Deputy Chief James Boyer, 419-755-9725.

Persons wishing to offer written comments about the Mansfield Division of Police's ability to continue to meet the standards for accreditation are requested to write: Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement, Inc. (CALEA), 10306 Eaton Place, Suite 320, Fairfax, Virginia, 22030-2201.

The Mansfield Division of Police complies with 380 CALEA Standards in order to retain its accredited status, Chief Messer said. He further stated the accreditation process forces us to look closely at ourselves, making changes and instituting new procedures in the management of the Division to more closely reflect the high professional standards set by the Commission. We welcome the outside review of our efforts to insure the necessary compliance level continues to be maintained.

The Accreditation Program Manager for the Mansfield Division of Police is Deputy Chief James Boyer. He said the assessment team is composed of law enforcement practitioners from similar, but out-of-state agencies. The assessors will review written materials; interview individuals; visit offices and other places where compliance can be witnessed. The assessors are: Chief of Police Gary W. Lafone, Conover Police Department, Conover NC; Commander James Keating, Arvada Police Department, Arvada, CO.; and Commander Danny R. Messimer of the Marietta Police Department, Marietta, GA. Once the Commission's assessors complete their review of the agency, they report back to the full Commission, which will then decide if the agency is to be retain it's accredited status.

Accreditation is for three years, during which time the agency must submit annual reports attesting continued compliance with those standards under which they were initially accredited.

For more information regarding the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement, Inc., please write the Commission at 10306 Eaton Place, Suite 320, Fairfax, Virginia, 22030-2201; or call (800) 368-3757 or (703) 352-4225.

P. Messer
Chief of Police