CALEA® ACCREDITATION

PERPETUAL ACTION FOR PUBLIC SAFETY AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

The purpose of CALEA® Accreditation is to establish a foundation within public safety agencies that focuses on achieving the best outcomes in the delivery of services. Consistent internal and external review, combined with third-party validation of an agency's policies and procedures, is critical in the delivery of high-quality public safety services and promotes accountability.

- Although accreditation does not prevent all negative outcomes, it does set the course for success and provides a tool for review and ongoing measurement against stated objectives. It results in data which agency leadership use for policy decisions, as well as to share with community members and stakeholders.

- CALEA connects public safety professionals to others in the industry to take advantage of emerging technologies, research and other strategic approaches. It recognizes that standards are dynamic and must constantly be monitored and maintained for relevancy to the agencies and their service communities.

- We believe "what gets measured gets done". And, we support agencies as they progress with our process, thereby promoting the constant assessment of strengths and weaknesses within the construct and application of our best practices.

- The Commission currently serves slightly more than five percent of the nation's law enforcement agencies, with enrollments increasing every month.

- Between 25 and 30 percent of the nation's law enforcement officers are employed by agencies engaged in the CALEA® Accreditation process.

- Although the process has existed for over 40 years, during the past 85 months the Commission has recognized more total active enrollments in accreditation programming month over month, demonstrating its continued and contemporary value in the industry for those seeking progressive solutions.

- The model is focused on the promulgation of best practices in the form of standards, which are used by participating agencies in the administration of accreditation programs.

- Agencies VOLUNTARILY enroll and begin a period of self-assessment to confirm they have effective policies and practices to support compliance with the standards, and more broadly the intent of the applicable standards.

- The process also includes the receipt of community feedback through public sessions and culminates with a hearing held by the Commission to determine the candidate agency's status as an accredited public safety entity.

- If awarded CALEA® Accreditation, the agency matriculates to a requirement of ongoing compliance with applicable standards, which is validated through annual compliance reviews and site-based interviews and observations once every four years.

- Throughout CALEA's standards manuals, there is a clear commitment to procedural justice, ethical policing, community trust and engagement, transparency in service delivery, appropriate organizational culture, fairness in systems and processes, and consistency in what citizens should expect from their law enforcement agency(ies).

- CALEA Accreditation matters and it is a powerful example of a directed initiative to promote the adherence to the constitution and fairness in the application of justice. It includes employee recruitment and selection, management of internal and criminal investigations, promotion, evidence management, preparation for unusual occurrences, victim & witness support, engagement with at-risk and juvenile populations, contract and administrative management, use of authority and force, and all aspects of operational activities. It is an imperfect system; however, it serves an important role in not only the perspective of the public about the police, but also the police perspective about their responsibilities. Additionally, it works to identify those not contributing positively to the mission, purpose and values of the organization and also supports staff with relevant training, equipment, policy and leadership.

- CALEA® Accreditation is ACTION and it occurs perpetually through the dynamic nature of standards.