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## NEWS RELEASE

### ACCREDITATION ASSESSMENT TEAM INVITES PUBLIC COMMENT

A team of assessors from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA), will arrive Saturday, July 16, 2011 to examine all aspects of the Harrisonburg-Rockingham Emergency Communications Center (HRECC) policy and procedures management, operations and support services, Jim Junkins, Director announced today.

Verification by the team that the HRECC meets the Commission's state-of-the-art standards is part of a voluntary process to gain accreditation-a highly prized recognition of emergency communications 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. Individuals that would like to provide comments to the assessment team may do so by phone. The public may call 540-442-9111 on Monday, July 18th between the hours of 2pm and 4pm.

Telephone comments are limited to 10 minutes and must address the agency's ability to comply with CALEA's standards. Copies of the standards are available at the HRECC. The local contact is Dee Dee Sencindiver, 540-432-6150.

Persons wishing to offer written comments about the HRECC ability to meet the standards for accreditation are requested to write: Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA), 13575 Heathcote Blvd, Suite 320, Gainesville, VA 20155.

The HRECC has to comply with 218 standards in order to gain accreditation status Junkins said. Junkins stated, "Accreditation makes us a more professional agency and challenges us to excel in our core values of Integrity, Innovation, Stewardship and Learning. It provides additional credibility to an excellent Emergency Communications System."

According to Dee Dee Sencindiver, the Accreditation Program Manager and Operations Manager for the HRECC, the assessment team is comprised of law enforcement and

communications practitioners from similar but out of state agencies. The assessors will review written materials, interview individuals, and visit offices and other locations where compliance can be witnessed. The assessors are:

- Andrew D'Eramo
- Director of the Lewiston-Auburn 9-1-1 Center
- Lewiston, ME
  
- Dana Schell
- Communications Manager of the Arlington City Dispatch Services
- Fort Worth, TX

Once the assessors complete their review of the agency, they report back to the full Commission, which will then decide if the agency is to be granted accredited status, Sencindiver stated.

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

For more information regarding the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. please write the Commission at 13575 Heathcote Boulevard, Suite 320, Gainesville, VA 20155 or call 703-352-4225 or email [calea@calea.org](mailto:calea@calea.org).

Media representatives can contact Director Jim Junkins at 540-434-2006 for any questions or follow-up.

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