



Voice: (540) 434-4436



101 North Main Street
Harrisonburg, VA 22802



fax: (540) 434-2512

NEWS RELEASE

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ACCREDITATION ASSESSMENT TEAM INVITES PUBLIC COMMENT

A team of assessors from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA) will arrive Saturday, August 16, 2014 to examine all aspects of the Harrisonburg-Rockingham Emergency Communications Center (HRECC) policy and procedures management, operations, and support services.

“Verification by the team that the HRECC meets the Commission’s standards is part of a voluntary process to gain accreditation, which is a highly prized recognition of emergency communications professional excellence,” explained Jim Junkins, Director of HRECC.

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, August 18, 2014 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.

Anyone wishing to offer written comments about HRECC’s ability to meet the standards for accreditation are also able 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 212 standards in order to gain accreditation status.

Dee Dee Sencindiver, HRECC’s Accreditation Program Manager and Operations Manager 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.”

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:

Commissioner William Bleyle – Onondaga County Department of Emergency Communications (New York) – Team Leader

Mary Sue Robey – Valley Communications Center (Kent, Washington) – Team Member

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 reaccredited status.

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. The HRECC first gained accreditation status in 2011 and this assessment will be the first reaccreditation process.

Media representatives can contact Operations Manager Dee Dee Sencindiver at 540-432-6150 for any questions or follow-up.