



# Newport News Sheriff's Office

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## MEDIA RELEASE

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### VLEPSC Accreditation: What It Means

It took the Newport News Sheriff's Office only ten months to do what has taken other departments years to accomplish to accomplish.

The Virginia Law Enforcement Professional Standards Commission, or VLEPSC, has accredited the Newport News Sheriff's Office. It is a real testament to the dedication of the deputies.

This is the first time in the history of the Newport News Sheriff's Office that it has been accredited.

VLEPSC Auditors spent three days going through files, randomly interviewing deputies to test their knowledge, and examining the physical plant itself. The Newport News Sheriff's Office complied with all 180 standards set forth by VLEPSC. With a 100% score, the office became a Virginia law enforcement accredited agency.



(Auditors looked buried in mounds of documentation. Photo courtesy of NNSO)

What does it mean to be VLEPSC accredited? Bragging rights – that's first and foremost. We have risen to a new level of professionalism. The public benefits because we are more streamlined and proficient in the way we go about our day-to-day business.

Being VLEPSC accredited means we meet the same professional standards as other accredited agencies across the Commonwealth of Virginia. Following strict policies and procedures will make it easier to defend lawsuits.

The Police Department is no longer the only accredited law enforcement agency in the City of Newport News. Having a seal of approval from a recognized accreditation authority could translate into leverage in local government decisions. That is not to say it will. However, the possibility is there. We are watching how other accredited law enforcement agencies are viewed by their localities. We are seeing that, in some cases, it does make a difference in how they are treated.

The Newport News Sheriff's Office will undergo another review by VLEPSC auditors in 2007. Once we pass, the accreditation remains in effect for four years.

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