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MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR RELEASE: **IMMEDIATE**

DATE: **December 2, 2010**

Promotion and Awards Ceremony Highlights Shining Individuals and Accomplishments

The Newport News Sheriff's Office will hold its Annual Promotion and Awards Ceremony on Friday, December 3, 2010. This gives the Sheriff's Office an opportunity to publically congratulate its deputies, civilian personnel and citizens for various accomplishments throughout the year. This year, the Honorable State Senator John Miller will be the Keynote Speaker. The ceremony will take place in City Council Chambers at 2400 Washington Avenue at 3:00 p.m.

Among the awards this year will be the Sheriff's Medal to a K-9 handler and his partner for apprehending two armed robbery suspects. The corporal was the first to respond to the dispatch call. He used his K-9 partner to detain the suspects and to search for a weapon tossed into some tall grass. Also receiving the medal is a deputy who was first on the scene of a home burglary and detained the three suspects until police arrived.

The Group Achievement Award will go to the Narcotics Criminal Interdiction Unit (NCIU) for their significant results in the fight against drug trafficking on the Peninsula. This is an *undercover operation* that started in Spring, 2010. In that short time nearly 81,000 grams (or 200 pounds) of marijuana have been seized. That amount of marijuana has an estimated street value of \$815,440. Operations have also resulted in the seizure of cocaine, heroin, ecstasy, and oxycontin -- with a total street value of \$19,000. In addition to these large amounts of illegal narcotics, the NCIU team has confiscated 21 guns and made 24 arrests.

The 2010 Volunteer of the Year will be recognized for his work to help inmates overcome drug and alcohol addiction. The group "Peninsula 1710" will be recognized for their continuous volunteer work with Southeast Weed & Seed. In fact, they had more than 40 volunteers at the last event on November 6, which was covered by your news organization.

The Newport News Sheriff's Office invites the media to cover this event. We would only ask that you PLEASE PROTECT THE IDENTITY OF THE UNDERCOVER Narcotics Criminal Interdiction Unit. Their identity will be revealed to the friendly audience in attendance, but we wish to prevent the television viewing or newspaper reading audience from knowing who they are. Thank you, in advance, for your cooperation.

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