



ACCREDITATION

ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY POLICE ACCREDITATION



The Anne Arundel County Police Department was founded in 1937. Over the years, the Department has steadily grown into a large, modern organization, keeping pace with the growing population of Anne Arundel County that is expected to surpass 500,000 people in the near future. County businesses and communities will also grow as increasing demand for products, services, and places to live will become greater. As a result of this growth and development, the police department will need to remain efficient and effective to assure that public safety needs are not compromised. The quality of life for citizens living and working in Anne Arundel County is enhanced by the police department adhering to high standards and practicing sound law enforcement. Detecting and preventing crime has tasked the police department with assuring the safety and general welfare of the public by enforcing laws, protecting lives, property, and the rights of citizens.

On July 30, 1994, the Anne Arundel County Police Department received national accreditation through the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA). CALEA is a nonprofit organization that exists and derives its authority from the law enforcement community. It was formed in 1979 through the combined efforts of four major law enforcement membership organizations: International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP); Police Executive Research Forum (PERF); National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE); and, National Sheriff's Association (NSA).

The overall purpose of the Commission's accreditation program is to improve delivery of law enforcement services by offering a body of standards, that cover a wide range of up-to-date law enforcement topics. It recognizes professional achievements by offering an orderly process to address and comply with applicable standards. The department's accreditation is a milestone of achievement as important as the day the department first began. In order to remain accredited, the Anne Arundel County Police Department must undergo a lengthy re-accreditation process every three years.

Since the first accreditation, the Anne Arundel County Police Department has successfully been re-accredited in 1999, 2002, and 2005. The next re-accreditation process is in 2008. Aside from the recognition of obtaining international excellence, the primary benefits of accreditation include controlled liability insurance costs, administrative improvements, greater accountability from supervisors, and increased governmental and community support.