



The Delaware River and Bay Authority NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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DRBA Police Department Earns CALEA's Gold Standard with Excellence *Agency Receives 100% Compliance Rating for Sixth Consecutive Assessment*

(New Castle, DE) Today, Delaware River and Bay Authority (DRBA) Police Department officials announced that the Commission on Accreditation of Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA) recently voted unanimously to reaccredit the DRBA Police Department with its Gold Standard with Excellence. On November 20, 2014, Police Administrator Richard H. Arroyo and Accreditation Manager M/Cpl. Kristen Todd appeared before CALEA's 21-member governing body to represent the Authority's Department and to complete the reaccreditation process.

"I am extremely proud of the dedicated men and women who worked tirelessly to earn this prestigious recognition," said Richard H. Arroyo, DRBA Police Administrator. "The Gold Standard with Excellence Award is CALEA's highest recognition and our officers and staff eagerly stepped forward to meet the challenge. It's an honor and a privilege to lead the men and women of this Department."

"On behalf of the Authority Commissioners, I want to extend my congratulations to the men and women of the Authority's police department," said Chairman James N. Hogan. "As a former law enforcement officer, I know that the CALEA accreditation process is both challenging and thorough. The Authority police department is a first class operation and this extraordinary award is a validation of its effectiveness and reputation in the law enforcement community."

Arroyo noted that only 1% of all law enforcement agencies in North America are accredited, with a mere 15% of those able to achieve the CALEA's Gold Standard with Excellence Award. In 2011, CALEA introduced the Gold Standard Assessment for agencies to voluntarily seek a higher level of evaluation during the reaccreditation process. The rigorous Gold Standard Assessment focuses not only inspecting compliance files, but also permits on-site inspectors more time observing personnel in the field. The assessment process measures the impact of accreditation on operations rather than simply confirming compliance through a file-by-file review.

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In August, 2014, the assessment team reviewed four hundred and eighty-three (483) standards, conducted staff interviews, inspected equipment, and observed daily operations. The assessors, Chief William Benson of the Wheeling Police Department and Captain Richard Lane of the Indian River County Sheriff's Office completed the on-site and field assessments of the department .

M/Cpl. Todd noted the sacrifices and efforts of the assessment team during the extensive process. "As the Accreditation Manager for the Department, I want to thank the assessment team for their efforts," Todd said. "Both Chief Benson and Captain Lane were very professional and we are grateful for their thorough review of our department."

The DRBA Police Department was first accredited by CALEA in 1996, and has since maintained its accredited status. The last six (6) re-accreditations were met with a 100% compliance rating. All agencies participating in the CALEA process are required to submit an annual report to CALEA and are inspected once every three (3) years to ensure compliance with CALEA standards.

About the Delaware River and Bay Authority

The DRBA, a bi-state governmental agency created by Compact in 1962, owns and operates the Delaware Memorial Bridge, the Cape May- Lewes Ferry, and the Delaware City – Salem Ferry Crossing. The DRBA also manages corporate and aviation properties through its economic development powers - two airports in New Jersey (Millville Airport and Cape May Airport) and three in Delaware (New Castle Airport, Civil Air Terminal and Delaware Airpark). All DRBA operating revenues are generated through the bridge, ferry and airport facilities. For more information, visit www.drba.net.