

MEDIA ADVISORY

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ASHLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT

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THOMAS A. CLARK, CHIEF

From September 29, to October 3, 2007, every facet of the Ashland Police Department was inspected to determine the agency's compliance with internationally accepted law enforcement professional standards.

This assessment was conducted by three independent assessors from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement, Inc (CALEA): Major Paul Baggett of the Polk County Sheriff's Office, Florida; Captain Joseph Bartlett of the Greenville Police Department, North Carolina; and Sgt. Jaqueline Luthcke of the Ridgewood Police Department, New Jersey.

At the conclusion of the inspection, the assessment team found the Police Department to be in 100% compliance with all 291 mandatory standards applicable to their function, and in compliance with 96.4% of the optional standards. The agency only had to meet 80% of the optional standards.

The inspection team conducted their assessment through a review of agency records, policies, inspection of equipment and interviews with agency members. The team also took public comments during a publicized call-in period and a public hearing in Town Council Chambers.

Although the accreditation status will not be formally confirmed until a full meeting of CALEA Commissioners, the Police Department is very pleased with the inspection team's findings. When the accreditation designation is officially bestowed upon the agency by the CALEA Commission, the Ashland Police Department will be the 25th law enforcement agency in the Commonwealth to earn this rating. Of special note, the Ashland Police Department will be the smallest agency in the Commonwealth to earn this distinction.



The assessors are interviewing Corporal Scott Menzies regarding traffic safety equipment and initiatives.