



For Immediate Release
March 24, 2009

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Airports Authority Police Awarded Professional Accreditation

Department Joins Select Group of Virginia Law Enforcement Agencies in Achieving Designation

The Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority Police Department has been awarded *Professional Accreditation* by the Virginia Law Enforcement Professional Standards Commission (VLEPSC) Executive Board. Accreditation is considered the ultimate measure in professionalism among law enforcement agencies. There are more than 400 law enforcement agencies in the Commonwealth of Virginia, yet only 77 agencies have achieved the *Professional Accreditation* distinction.

The Airports Authority Police Department is a full service law enforcement agency with the same responsibility as a county or municipal police agency to enforce the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia. Airports Authority Police additionally enforce Federal Regulations pertaining to airport operations and the Airports Authority's rules and regulations, which carry the full force and effect of law. The department's jurisdiction includes Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport, Washington Dulles International Airport and the Dulles Airport Access Highway.

The Virginia Law Enforcement Professional Standards Commission consists of members of the Virginia Sheriff's Association, Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police, and the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services.

The VLEPSC establishes professional standards for law enforcement agencies in the Commonwealth of Virginia and administers the accreditation process by which local agencies can be systematically measured, evaluated and updated. Assessors from the VLEPSC verified the Airports Authority Police Department's compliance with established criteria during a three-day on-site inspection at Reagan National and Dulles International Airports conducted in November 2008. Based on this agency's report, the VLEPSC Executive Board voted unanimously to grant Initial VLEPSC Accreditation to the Airports Authority Police Department at its February 18, 2009 meeting in Salem, Virginia.

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