

# Media Release

## For Immediate Release

## Contact:

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## **Accreditation Assessment Team Invites Public Comment**

(Kent, WA) A team of assessors from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA), Inc. will arrive August 28, 2010 to examine all aspects of Valley Communications Center's policy, procedures, management and operations, Director Steve Reinke announced today.

Verification by the team that Valley Communications Center meets the Commission's state-of-the-art standards is part of a voluntary process to maintain accreditation – "a highly prized recognition of public safety communications excellence", Director Reinke stated.

As part of the on-site assessment, agency employees and members of the community are invited to offer comments by calling (253) 372-1539 on Monday, August 30, 2010 between the hours of 1:00 PM and 5:00 PM. Comments will be taken by the assessment team.

Telephone comments are limited to 10 minutes and must address the agency's ability to comply with CALEA's standards. A copy of the standards is available at Valley Communications Center. Local contact is Mary Sue Robey at (253) 372-1300.

Persons wishing to submit written comments about Valley Communications Center's ability to comply with the standards for accreditation may send them to the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA), 13575 Heathcoat Boulevard, Suite 320 – Gainesville, Virginia 20155.

"Valley Communications Center has to continuously comply with over two hundred rigorous standards in order to maintain accredited status", Director Reinke stated. Reinke further explained that "accreditation provides official recognition of the dedication and hard work of the professionals at Valley Communications Center who work tirelessly 24-hours a day, 7-days a week to assist our community in emergency situations".

The Accreditation Program Manager for Valley Communications Center is Karen Shepard. Shepard stated that “the assessment team is composed of communications and law enforcement practitioners from similar but out-of-state agencies”. The assessors will review written materials, interview individuals, and visit offices and other places where compliance can be witnessed. The assessors are Team Leader Jim McKean, Chief (Ret.), Grove City Police Department (OH) and Assessor Larry Brinker, Director, Hendricks County Communications Center (IN). “Once the Commission’s assessors complete their review of the agency, they report back to the full Commission, which will then decide if the agency will maintain accredited status”, Program Manager Shepard stated.

Accreditation is for three years, during which the agency must submit annual reports attesting continued compliance with those standards under which it was initially accredited.

For more information regarding the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc., please write the Commission at 10306 Eaton Place, Suite 320, Fairfax, VA, 22030-2201; or call (800) 368-3757 or (703) 352-4225.

