

The Commission of Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) awarded international reaccreditation to the Evansville Police Department in November 2008 for the fifth time. The Indiana Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission (ILEAC) awarded the Evansville Police Department state accreditation in April 2010 for the second time.

What does this mean to you?

As a citizen, this is good news! The accreditation program gives the police department the tools necessary to ensure that all policies and procedures conform to the most up-to-date professional law enforcement standards. International law enforcement accreditation through the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) and the state accreditation through the Indiana Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission (ILEAC) is not mandatory, but it does reflect the Evansville Police Department's willingness to demonstrate professional excellence to the Evansville Community. The Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) was formed in 1979 to develop a set of professional law enforcement standards. Law enforcement agencies at state and local levels must demonstrate voluntarily that they meet the stringent criteria. The Commission administers the accreditation process and awards law enforcement agencies with certification. The overall goal of the accreditation program is to promote professionalism and improve the delivery of law enforcement services. Currently, the Evansville Police Department is one of ten agencies in the state that is currently accredited and one of 434 internationally that have achieved this honorable goal.

The Chief of Police, Assistant Chief of Police and the Accreditation Manager appear before the CALEA Commissioners during a hearing on the Evansville Police Department accreditation.

What are the Standards the police department must meet?

The standards address six major law enforcement topics:

1. Role, Responsibilities and Relationships with Other Agencies
2. Organization, Management and Administration
3. Personnel Administration
4. Law Enforcement Operations, Operational Support and Traffic Law Enforcement
5. Prisoner and Court-related Services
6. Auxiliary and Technical Services

Designed to reflect the best professional practices in each of the six areas, the standards deal with the "what to", leaving the decision of "how to" up to each agency. To be reaccredited, the Evansville Police Department executed an "Application for Reaccreditation", and submitted to the Commission a plan for achieving reaccreditation (Annual Report) and the progress conducted toward specific goals. An on-site inspection is conducted within 36 months to confirm compliance to current standards.

Reaccreditation Requires Higher Levels of Compliance with Standards

Initial accreditation requires compliance with 80% on other-than-mandatory standards – including new standards enacted by the Commission following accreditation or the previous reaccreditation. The Evansville Police Department was in compliance with 92.4% of the other-than-mandatory standards and 100% of the 292 mandatory standards during the most recent on-site assessment in 2008; this is an accomplishment, for which the community can be proud.

Benefits to the Community

- Recognition that the agency's managerial and operational policies and procedures are in accord with a body of nationally certified and recognized professional standards
- Assurance that every aspect of the agency's personnel system is in accord with professional standards
- Nationwide recognition of professional excellence
- Assures the community that the agency is committed to providing the highest quality services and that its policies and procedures are not only effective and responsive but also fair and equitable
- Enhances community understanding, cooperation and support of the agency and its role in the community
- Liability litigation is deterred
- State-of-the-art, impartial guidelines for evaluation and change when necessary
- Ongoing evaluation of whether agency resources are being utilized in the best interest of its mission assignment
- Provides neutral guidelines for developing strong budget justifications – especially for personnel and their allocation across function and activities
- Promotes standardization of policies, thereby increasing efficiency in handling calls for assistance, referrals and joint investigations with other agencies
- Promotes relationships with prosecutors, courts, correctional agencies and state and local government officials
- Add to employee confidence and assures that they are a part of an agency, which is nationally recognized as being a provider of truly professional police services

What is an accreditation manager?

The accreditation manager is an officer appointed by the Chief of Police to coordinate the accreditation process and act as liaison between the department and CALEA. The accreditation manager attends bi-monthly INPAC meetings and CALEA Conferences throughout the year.

What is the Indiana Police Accreditation Coalition?

The Indiana Police Accreditation Coalition is an association of Indiana law enforcement agencies that are working on gaining or maintaining International accreditation.

INPAC has represented agencies at the CALEA Commission hearings, conducted mock on-sites for agencies, provided training and assisted in the revision of the CALEA standards manual.

INPAC's mission recognizes and supports the concept of accreditation for law enforcement agencies as a means to enhance the quality of law enforcement services within Indiana. To this end, INPAC will provide a network of member agencies that will encourage communication, mutual cooperation, support and the sharing of valuable resources.

This coalition, founded in 1993, meets bi-monthly at Indianapolis. The Evansville Police Department is a charter member of INPAC and has and continues to be invaluable help in maintaining the Evansville Police Department's accreditation status. CALEA trained assessors

from INPAC come to the Evansville Police Department to conduct mock assessments every three years to help prepare the agency for the CALEA Assessment.

When did the Evansville Police Department become accredited?

The Evansville Police Department was the sixth agency within the State of Indiana to become accredited by CALEA in November 1994.

For more information about CALEA or ILEAC or INPAC, please contact:

CALEA's website at www.calea.org

ILEAC's website at www.iacop.org/ileac

INPAC's website at www.inpac.org