



PRESS RELEASE

Sheriff's Office Achieves Fourth Accreditation Award

On February 4, 2014, the Washington County Board of Commissioners recognized and presented a formal award to Sheriff Pat Garrett that marks the agency's fourth consecutive national law enforcement accreditation by Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA). CALEA is a national credentialing program established to enhance law enforcement as a profession and to improve law enforcement service delivery.



Since its initial accreditation in 2004, the Washington County Sheriff's Office has voluntarily proven continued standards compliance for an external inspection team every three years. The most recent assessment took place May 6-9, 2013, and reaccreditation was awarded following a hearing on November 16, 2013. This award is especially significant because the Sheriff's Office completed a Gold Standard Assessment and the Accreditation with Excellence Award.

The Sheriff's Office met stringent criteria for the new Gold Standard Assessment, a more intensive onsite inspection. Qualification required two prior successful Advanced Accreditation awards with no compliance or process management issues during the last inspection. This form of assessment is heavily reliant on physical inspection, direct staff questioning, ride along and service observations, and community feedback. Inspectors must verify compliance at all levels of the organization.

Further, the Sheriff's Office was selected to receive the Accreditation with Excellence Award, which is bestowed on agencies that set the benchmark for public safety professionalism by demonstrating:

- Excellence in developing and implementing contemporary policies and procedure.
- Excellence in the ability to use accreditation as a tool for continuous improvement.
- Excellence in the collection, review, and analysis process for service improvement.
- Excellence in addressing CALEA standards, beyond compliance.

The Washington County Sheriff's Office remains the largest law enforcement agency and only Sheriff's Office in Oregon to attain national accreditation by CALEA. Only 52 large law enforcement agencies in the United States have achieved **Advanced Accreditation**, and of those, only 15 have received the **Accreditation with Excellence Award**. Even fewer of those have also passed a **Gold Standard Assessment**.

Sheriff Garrett commends his staff in all divisions of the Sheriff's Office. This award recognizes their daily efforts to serve all citizens in our community with professionalism and integrity.