

# A PROMISE MADE AND KEPT



## What is Accreditation

In July, 2001, the Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association introduced its Law Enforcement Accreditation Program to help organizations evaluate and improve their performance. It promulgated standards, policies and procedure recognized as “Best Practices” throughout law enforcement. Agencies seeking accreditation undertake a thorough analysis of their departments to determine how existing policies, procedures and practices can be adapted to meet these standards. Once done, independent certified professionals (Assessors) visit the agency to *verify* that all of the applicable standards have been implemented.

It takes, on average, two years of difficult and complex work to achieve accreditation. After two intensive audits, if successful, the Pennsylvania Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission will grant accreditation.

## We Have Been Recommended for Accreditation

After 2 ½ years of painstaking effort, I am now pleased to announce that we have been recommended for accreditation.

## What Does This Mean

When I ran for re-election in 2010, I promised that my top priority would be to make the Sheriff’s Office one of the most professional in the County and region. ***Being accredited means I have kept my promise***; it is proof that we are among the elite group of professional law enforcement organizations within the Commonwealth now that we have received accredited status.

Consider this. There are over 1,100 law enforcement agencies in Pennsylvania along with 67 County Sheriff's Offices and the State Police. Of those, some 300 agencies have enrolled in the program and *only 83 agencies have actually attained Accreditation* since the program's inception.

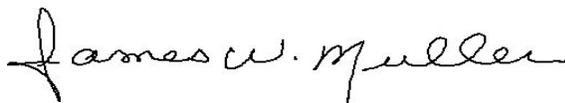
We are proud that the Adams County Sheriff's Office will become *just the 5th Sheriff's Office out of 67 within the Commonwealth and the only Adams County Law Enforcement agency other than the State Police to have been Accredited.*

### **Why Become Accredited?**

Ask yourself, "Would I want my child to attend an unaccredited school or college? Or send them to an unaccredited library? Would I want to go to an unaccredited hospital?" Accreditation is *proof* that our Sheriff's Office is now among the best, most professional law enforcement agencies within Pennsylvania.

There are other benefits of Accreditation including:

- Establishing a credible framework for evaluating agency practices and procedures.
- Reducing agency risk and exposure to lawsuits.
- Decreasing some liability insurance expenditures.
- Improving law enforcement/ community relations.
- Increasing employee input, interaction and confidence in the agency.
- Identifying and highlighting the capabilities and competence of the agency.
- Furnishing a solid foundation for the agency to build upon for further progress.
- Providing reliable methods to improve essential management.



James W. Muller  
Adams County Sheriff