



### The Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc.

The Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA), is an independent accrediting authority established in 1979 by the four major law enforcement membership associations: International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP); National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE); National Sheriffs Association (NSA); and Police Executive Research Forum (PERF). The purpose of the Commission's accreditation program is to improve delivery of law enforcement services by offering a body of standards, developed and approved by law enforcement practitioners, covering a wide range of up to date law enforcement topics. It recognizes professional achievements by offering an orderly process to address and comply with applicable standards. The Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department (LVMPD) was initially accredited in July 1989, becoming the 112th accredited agency in the nation and the first in Nevada. Agencies are reviewed every three years for compliance to



the standards. LVMPD was reaccredited in July 2002. The accreditation concept emphasizes a voluntary, self motivated approach for organizations to achieve, objectively verify, and maintain high quality operations through constant evaluation against standards established by an independent, nongovernmental body. Successful accreditation requires continual evaluation of the Department's directives and demonstrates continual compliance with the established standards. The process assures that professionalism and integrity are constantly evaluated and continuously improved. New standards are developed by CALEA as the Law

Enforcement needs of communities change. Recent examples are bias based policing, homeland security, missing children (Amber Alert) and mental illness issues. LVMPD is dedicated to maintaining compliance to all applicable standards.

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## Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department



## American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors/Laboratory Accreditation Board



The American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors/Laboratory Accreditation Board (ASCLD/LAB) offers accreditation to forensic

laboratories that strictly adhere to a large number of rigorous quality standards. The accreditation program is voluntary and open to any crime laboratory. The program addresses all areas of the laboratory's operations including management, personnel training and qualifications, technical operations, evidence handling, proficiency testing, lab security, and health and safety. Compliance to these standards is assessed through a comprehensive and thorough inspection performed by an external team of ASCLD/LAB trained inspectors. There are 145 standards that are rated as either Essential, Important or Desirable. Accreditation is granted for a period of five years. After years of hard work and preparation, the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department received accreditation from ASCLD/ LAB July 1, 2003 in the areas of Controlled Substances, Toxicology, Biology/DNA, Trace Evidence (Fibers, Fire Debris and Paint), Firearms/Toolmarks, Questioned Documents and Latent Prints. The LVMPD Forensic Lab provides professional forensic services to the LVMPD and other Nevada law enforcement agencies including the unbiased scientific examination and analysis of evidentiary material and property, supervision and management of specific technical programs, assistance in scientific investigations, expert testimony concerning the analyses performed, the interpretation of technical data and laboratory findings, and other related forensic services and activities.



## American Correctional Association

The American Correctional Association (ACA) and the Commission on Accreditation for Corrections (CAC) are private, nonprofit organizations that administer the only national accreditation program for all components of adult and juvenile corrections.

Their purpose is to promote improvement in the management of correctional agencies through the administration of a voluntary accreditation program and the ongoing development and revision of relevant, useful standards. Those standards cover the general areas of Administration/Management; Physical Plant; Institutional Operations; Institutional Services; and Inmate Programs. The accreditation requirements, established in 1878, are the same for all types of agencies; state, county, federal, and private. All programs and facilities sign a contract, pay an accreditation fee, conduct a self evaluation, and undergo a standards compliance audit by trained ACA consultants prior to an accreditation decision by the Commission on Accreditation for Corrections. The Clark County Detention Center was initially accredited in August, 1998 and received the last reaccreditation on January, 2005. The ACA/CAC will audit the facility every three years to ensure that the facility remains in compliance.



### Commitment

In keeping with the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department values and to ensure we provide the highest level of service to the community, the Sheriff is committed to the Accreditation process. Accreditation standards serve as the foundation for the Department to meet or exceed, nationally established benchmarks for policing activities, Forensic Lab, and Detention Services. To maintain accreditation, the Department must meet over 1,000 standards established by the four accrediting bodies. The Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department is the largest of only five Police agencies in the country to hold all four of these awards. Maintaining these accreditations confirms our emphasis on professionalism and excellence in policing and providing services to the Las Vegas Metropolitan Community and Clark County.

## National Commission on Correctional Health Care



The National Commission on Correctional Health Care (NCCHC) is a voluntary, not for profit accreditation organization that is well known and well respected among the nations prisons, jails, and juvenile detention facilities. Its mission is to improve the quality of health care in jails, prisons, and juvenile confinement facilities. The process of accreditation includes an external peer review in which NCCHC publicly recognizes correctional institutions that meet its nationally accepted Standards for Health Services. Through the accreditation process, NCCHC offers a professional judgment regarding health services rendered and assists correctional facilities to recognize and overcome deficiencies. The areas reviewed include: facility governance and administration; safety and health; personnel and training; health care support services; inmate care and treatment; health promotion and disease prevention; special inmate needs and services; health records; and, medical/legal issues. The Accreditation Committee of the National Commission on Correctional Health Care awarded the Clark County Detention Center its initial accreditation in 1993. The Facility was reaccredited in 1996, 1999, and 2002.

### Benefits of Accreditation

- Demonstrates the agency's professional commitment to adhere to a body of standards
- Increases program quality and employee confidence
- Demonstrates that LVMPD's policies and procedures are effective and responsive as well as fair and equitable
- Promotes relationships with other state and local law enforcement agencies, as well as with prosecutors, courts, correctional agencies, and other government officials within the criminal justice system
- Saves tax payer dollars by reducing the impact of vicarious liability suits against the agency which subsequently lowers insurance premiums
- Commits the agency to a broad range of programs to increase homeland security and cope with man-made or natural disasters
- Requires continuous in-depth evaluation of every aspect of an agency's organization and administration, including:
  - the establishment, evaluation and periodic updating of agency goals, objectives and resources;
  - the continuous evaluation of the agency's written policies, procedures and directives and their dissemination to all agency personnel; and,
  - pro-actively correcting deficiencies before they become public problems
- Provides the agency an opportunity to participate in the development or revision of national standards
- Provides objective measures to justify budget requests and policy decisions.