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MEDIA RELEASE

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FLORIDA SHERIFF'S STAR MAGAZINE ARTICLE

SUMTER COUNTY SHERIFF'S COMMUNICATIONS CENTER ACCREDITED

On September 25th, 2013 the Sumter County Sheriff's Office Communications Center was accredited by the Florida Telecommunications Accreditation Commission (FLA-TAC). An historic event, the Sheriff's Office is the first in the state of Florida to receive accredited status by this organization through a program implemented by the Florida Police Accreditation Coalition, Inc.

FLA-TAC Executive Director Robert Brongel stated, "This is an historic day that was made possible through the foresight of Sheriff Farmer, who recognized the critical need to develop an accreditation program designed specifically for the Florida public safety telecommunications community. He was a driving force in its implementation and provided tremendous support during its development. Work began in 2010 with the design of the process and creation of the standards, and it took three years of hard work and dedication by subject matter experts to arrive at this point." The telecommunications standards are based on federal and state law, and best practices as determined by telecommunications professionals.

Sheriff Farmer stated: "I felt it was important to provide a program that validated our communication center and knew it would speak volumes to the citizens we represent that we are providing them with the professional services they demand and deserve."

To achieve accredited status, the communications center endured two comprehensive inspections of their facility, along with in-depth reviews of records and interviews of communications personnel. Sheriff Farmer, along with Communication Supervisor Mrs. Caren Holloway and Accreditation Manager Sergeant Juliane Day, received their final review before the full commission and was found to be in compliance with 100% of the 116 standards. The accreditation award was presented at a ceremony in Sarasota, Florida.

Along with the Sumter County Sheriff's Office Communications Center, the Neptune Beach Police Department Communications Center had the distinction of being the first police communications operation to be accredited at the same ceremony.

For further information, Executive Director Robert Brongel may be contacted at: Florida Telecommunications Accreditation Commission, Post Office Box 51208, Sarasota, Florida 34232, by phone at (941) 313-4047 or by email at flatac@verizon.net.

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