The Florida Accreditation winter conference was held February 23 - 27 in Tampa at the Crowne Plaza East. Florida Accreditation extends its heartfelt thanks to the FLA-PAC Executive Board for hosting this conference, and the Color Guard and other volunteers from Hillsborough County Sheriff’s Office. We particularly thank Tammie Jacobs, Danny Accomando, Juliane Day, and Aimee Pidgeon for all of their hard work to make this conference so outstanding.

FCAC and CFA again congratulates the FLA-PAC for its 20 year anniversary celebration of raising the levels of professionalism, performance, and efficiencies in Florida’s Public Safety community. The Florida PAC Executive Board and the anniversary committee deserve a special thank you also, for the fantastic job they did in putting together the 20th anniversary celebration on Wednesday, February 25. The banquet was special and beautiful and nostalgic. We were served filet mignon and shrimp, and the most decadent chocolate dessert ever! President Cheryl DeGroff proposed a lovely toast and there was recognition of all the previous Executive Board officers, including two of the three original corporate officers – Joe Howlett and Sandy Shields. Tony O’Brien was the third corporate officer, but unfortunately he passed away several years ago. There was something for everyone including a very funny comedian, a deejay, and fabulous gifts! Everyone left with a new sense of the history of Florida PAC and feeling very honored to be part of this celebration.

The Florida Corrections Accreditation Commission (FCAC) held its general meeting on February 24, 2009. The Commission’s first order of business was to grant reaccreditation to the Hillsborough County Sheriff’s Office Department of Detention, Levy County Sheriff’s Office Jail, Leon County Sheriff’s Office Jail, Brevard County Sheriff’s Office Jail Complex, Lake County Sheriff’s Office Detention Center, St. Lucie County Sheriff’s Office Department of Detention, Osceola County Corrections Department, and the Suwannee County Sheriff’s Office.
Director Greg Futch from the Osceola County Corrections Department was introduced and welcomed as a new Commissioner. The Commission approved six changes to standards. The changes are detailed on Change Notice 3.0.14, which is available on our website at www.flaccreditation.org.

The Commission’s Awards Committee met and selected the recipients of the FCAC 2008 Accreditation Manager of the Year, FCAC 2008 Assessor of the Year, and the FCAC 2008 Distinguished Service Award. The winners will be presented awards at a luncheon to be held in their honor on June 30, 2009, immediately following the FCAC General Business Meeting in Bonita Springs. The FCAC thanks the FLA-PAC and its membership for graciously sponsoring this luncheon and invites everyone to attend the luncheon honoring the winners.

The Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation, Inc. (CFA) conducted business on Wednesday, February 25, by reviewing 14 agencies. CFA is pleased to announce that four agencies received initial accreditation at this conference. They are the Florida Department of Financial Services, Division of Insurance Fraud, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Brevard County Sheriff’s Office, and Indian River Shores Department of Public Safety. The agencies that received reaccredited status are: Alachua County Sheriff’s Office, Leon County Sheriff’s Office, Palatka Police Department, Boca Raton Police Services Department, Key Biscayne Police Department, North Port Police Department, Hillsborough County Sheriff’s Office, Marion County Sheriff’s Office, Ormond Beach Police Department, and Volusia County Beach Patrol. Congratulations to all of these outstanding agencies for their success and commitment to a philosophy of excellence.

The CFA Standards Review and Interpretation Committee (SRIC), chaired by Commissioner Julie Jones and co-chaired by Commissioner Rich Nugent, had a heavy agenda and addressed each issue with careful review and resolution. The biggest issue the Committee reviewed was the new Inspectors General Investigation Standards. These standards were reviewed chapter by chapter and accepted with the caveat that standards were needed for the handling and securing of evidence. The Change Notice for standard changes approved by the Commissioners for February’s meeting is available on the website. Other Commission business included an update on the Inspectors General (IG) Investigations function accreditation program. The Commissioners reviewed all of the material developed for that program and voted to launch this program July 1.

CFA bid farewell to two Commissioners at this conference: Chief G. Curt Willocks and City Manager Dr. Jack Schluckebier of Melbourne. They will certainly be missed, but we look forward to seeing them at future conferences as participants. Chief Albert “Butch” Arenal of Punta Gorda Police Department and Florida League of Cities Manager, Ken Small are our new Commissioners. We welcomed these two new Commissioners at this meeting and are very happy to have them.

The next conference will be at the Coconut Point Resort and Spa in Bonita Springs, June 29 – July 3.

Be sure and check the website, www.flaccreditation.org for more information on training opportunities and other pertinent information about CFA and FCAC.
Training Opportunities

Accreditation Manager Training

July 23-24, 2009.....8:30am - 4:30pm.....$125.00

Designed for the newly assigned Accreditation Manager or members from agencies that are considering pursuing accreditation or reaccreditation.

- Program Overview
- Commission History
- Standard Interpretation
- Organizational Involvement & CEO Commitment
- Accreditation Mgr. Role & Responsibilities
- Accreditation Manager© Software Demonstration

New Assessor Orientation

July 16-17, 2009.....8:30am - 4:30pm.....No Charge

For members desiring to serve as Assessors. (To qualify to attend this training and become an assessor, you must meet certain criteria and complete an application which can be found on our website at www.flaccreditation.org)

- Commission Philosophy
- Pre-On-Site Activities
- Assessor Tools Software
- Standard Interpretation
- Non-Applicable Standards
- Scenario-based Exercises
- Comparative vs. Full
- Final Report

Training Location
FLORIDA ACCREDITATION OFFICE
3504 Lake Lynda Drive, Suite 380 • Orlando, FL 32817
Please visit the Florida Accreditation website to register www.flaccreditation.org
FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 800-558-0218

2009 Commissioners

COMMISSION FOR FLORIDA LAW ENFORCEMENT ACCREDITATION

Sheriff Ken J. Mascara, Chairperson - St. Lucie County
Judge Keith Cary, Vice-Chairperson - 20th Judicial Circuit of Florida
Sheriff Bob Hansell - Osceola County
Chief Peter Paulding - Gulf Breeze Police Department
Sheriff Richard Nugent - Hernando County
Colonel Julie Jones - Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission
Mr. Kenneth S. Small - Florida League of Cities
Commissioner Gary Wheeler - Indian River County Commission
Chief Kenneth Pachnek - Lauderdale Police Department
Sheriff Wendell Hall - Santa Rosa County
Chief Robert Merchant - Altamonte Springs Police Department
Chief Albert A. Arenal - Punta Gorda Police Department

FLORIDA CORRECTIONS ACCREDITATION COMMISSION

Sheriff David F. Harvey, Chairperson - Wakulla County
Sheriff Tommy Seagraves, Vice-Chairperson - Nassau County
Prettrial Services Supervisor Susan Burdette - Orange County
Prettrial Services Supervisor Jeff Kilpatrick - Alachua County
Major Greg Smith - Collier County Sheriff’s Office
Major Patrick Tighe - St. Lucie County Sheriff’s Office
Director Gordon A. Bass - Jacksonville Sheriff’s Office
Commander Susan Jeter - Brevard County Sheriff’s Office
Director David Digs - Seminole County Sheriff’s Office
Sheriff Gary Borders - Lake County
Chief Greg Futch - Osceola County Corrections
Sheriff Ed Dean - Marion County
The FCAC SRIC met on Monday, February 23rd and reviewed seven submissions, which resulted in the following results/recommendations which were approved by the Commission:

**4.21 M** – The standard statement is revised as follows: “A written directive requires employees to obey any lawful order of a superior, including any order relayed to the employee by another employee.”

**4.24 M** – Bullet D is revised as follows: “A requirement that the employee being evaluated is provided a copy of the completed evaluation report upon request;”

**5.06 M** – Bullet D is revised as follows: “Less-lethal weapons for which the member is authorized to use.”

**19.06 M** – The Accreditation Manager note is revised as follows “Current licenses will suffice for Nurse Practitioners and Physician Assistants, all others require training by the responsible physician.”

**19.17** – The standard statement is revised as follows: “A written directive requires inmate medical files, or a summary of the medical file, accompany the inmate when transferring to another facility. The records are sealed in an envelope marked “Confidential Medical Information”. No more than three days dosage of medication shall accompany the medical records for inmates who are taking prescription medication, unless otherwise directed by the facility physician or authorized medical designee.”

**20.08** – The standard statement is revised as follows: “A written directive requires no more than three days dosage of medication, or arrangements made for the inmate to obtain the medication, be issued to inmates who are taking prescription medication when released, unless otherwise directed by the facility physician or authorized medical designee.”

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Following is a summary of the changes to the CFA Standards Manual, approved by the Commission at the February 25, 2009 business meeting.

**2.08M** – bullet A, added “search warrants”

Bullet G, changed to read “A documented annual administrative review of agency practices involving bias-based profiling, to include areas of forfeitures, traffic stops and search warrants; and”

New Bullet H, “Handling of complaints from the public.”

**9.02M** – bullet A changed to read “Agency authorization for members”

**17.08M** – bullets A – D changed to require operational equipment

**29.08M** – changed to bulleted standard

**30.16M** – changed to require current supplies, frequency changed from weekly to monthly.

**32.02** – Assessor Guideline changed

*Both change notices can be found in their entirety on our website, www.flaccreditation.org.*
On May 1, 2002, Chief Robert C. Merchant, Jr., was sworn in as the 16th Police Chief for the City of Altamonte Springs.

Chief Merchant was hired by the Altamonte Springs Police Department in March 1980, following his honorable discharge from the United States Marine Corps. During the past 28 years, he has worked in a variety of different assignments in each of the Department’s bureaus.

Chief Merchant has a Bachelors Degree in business from Rollins College. He graduated from the University of Central Florida with a Masters Degree in Criminal Justice. Chief Merchant is a graduate of the FBI National Academy (178th Session) and the Florida Criminal Justice Institute’s Chief Executive Seminar, and served as President of the Central Florida Criminal Justice Association in 2002.

Chief Merchant has been directly involved in a number of key initiatives. In 2002, Chief Merchant implemented strategic planning to identify the organization and community goals for each fiscal year. This process allows for citizen and employee input on the priorities for the agency. The Strategic Plan is posted on the Department’s website. He also facilitated a full-time police presence in the Altamonte Mall by agreeing to relocate Our Community-Oriented Police Service Section to a storefront inside the mall. In 2005, Chief Merchant wanted today’s youth to have the ability to get involved in policing. This resulted in the creation of a Police Explorer Post. In addition, he facilitated the development of a Community-Policing Plan specifically developed for the downtown business district (Uptown Altamonte). In 2008, Chief Merchant and Seminole County Sheriff Don Eslinger partnered to provide the Seminole County Sheriff’s Office with office space inside the public safety complex to operate their district operations. This has resulted in financial savings and enhanced levels of communication in the delivery of police services.

Chief Merchant takes an active role in educating children by periodically visiting middle schools in Seminole County and discussing his role in the community and answers questions they may have about the law enforcement profession. Through example, he encourages the members of the Department to serve the community while embracing the mission and core values of the Altamonte Springs Police Department, also known as PRIDE, Professionalism, Respect, Integrity, Dedication and Excellence.

Chief Merchant has been married for 30 years. He and his wife Donna have two daughters, Heather and Brook, and a grandson Keyan.

Chief Greg Futch began his law enforcement career with the Seminole County Sheriff’s Office in 1982, working in every division within the agency. While in Seminole County, he was the commanding officer over the Patrol Division, Criminal Investigations Division, Community Policing Division and the Jail Division. During his career there, he held the rank of Major and was third in command of the 900 member agency. In 2004, Chief Futch accepted the position of Commander with the Brevard County Sheriff’s Office, where he held the position of Director of Jail Operations. In 2006, he took the position of Jail Director at the Flagler County Sheriff’s Office, where he held the rank of Major. In 2008, Chief Futch accepted the position of Director of Corrections for the Osceola County Corrections Department. Chief Futch has fourteen years of command level experience, most of which was dedicated to directing four of Florida’s finest county jail operations. In addition, he has been an adjunct instructor at three law enforcement and corrections training academies in Central Florida for nearly twenty years. He is a member of the American Jail Association and the American Correctional Association. Chief Futch currently sits on the Florida Sheriff’s Association-Corrections Advisory Committee and is a Commissioner for the Florida Corrections Accreditation Commission.

Chief Futch holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminology from Florida State University and has completed graduate courses in Public Administration at the University of Virginia, in pursuit of his Master of Science Degree. He is a graduate of the 192nd session of the FBI National Academy and the 25th session of the FDLE Chief Executive Institute. He is also a graduate of the National Institute of Corrections. He has completed over 2400 hours of law enforcement career development training during his career. Chief Futch is distinguished as a Certified Jail Manager, by the American Jail Association.
Congratulations to The Agencies Accredited and Reaccredited at the Tampa Conference!

CFA

Mr. Kenneth S. Small
Florida League of Cities

FCAC

Sheriff Ed Dean
Marion County

Indian River Shores
Department of Public Safety

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

Brevard County Sheriff’s Office

Florida Division of Financial Services Division of Insurance Fraud

- Alachua County Sheriff’s Office
- Leon County Sheriff’s Office
- Palatka Police Department
- Boca Raton Police Services Department
- Key Biscayne Police Department
- North Port Police Department
- Hillsborough County Sheriff’s Office
- Marion County Sheriff’s Office
- Ormond Beach Police Department
- Volusia County Beach Patrol
- Hillsborough County Sheriff’s Office
- Levy County Sheriff’s Office
- Leon County Sheriff’s Office
- Brevard County Sheriff’s Office
- Lake County Sheriff’s Office
- St. Lucie County Sheriff’s Office
- Osceola County Corrections Department
- Suwannee County Sheriff’s Office