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## NEWS RELEASE

### **Accreditation Assessment Team For Airport Police Department Invites Public Comment**

For immediate release - - August 2, 2006

A team of assessors from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA) will arrive August 19, 2006, to examine all aspects of the Tampa International Airport Police Department's policy and procedures, management, operations and support services.

"Verification by the team that the Tampa International Airport Police Department meets the Commission's state-of-the-art standards is part of a voluntary process to gain accreditation – a highly prized recognition of law enforcement professional excellence," stated Chief of Police Paul F. Sireci. "We have to comply with 373 standards in order to gain accredited status."

As part of the on-site assessment, department employees and members of the community are invited to offer comments at a public information session on Monday, August 21, 2006, at 7:00 p.m. The session will be conducted in the Aviation Authority boardroom located in the main terminal, third floor, Tampa International Airport. Individuals not able to attend the public information session may voice comments by telephone. The public may call (813) 870-8700 extension 8521 on Tuesday, August 22, 2006, between the hours of 1:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m.

All comments are limited to 10 minutes and must address the agency's ability to comply with CALEA's standards. A copy of the standards is available at the Tampa International Airport Police Department. The local contact is Lieutenant Robert W. Dixon, Jr. at (813) 801-6049.

Persons wishing to offer written comments about the Tampa International Airport Police Department's ability to meet the standards for accreditation are requested to write: Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA), 10306 Eaton Place, Suite 320, Fairfax, Virginia, 22030-2201.

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Louis E. Miller *Executive Director*

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Peter O. Knight Airport Plant City Airport Vandenberg Airport

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The assessment team is composed of law enforcement practitioners from similar but out-of-state agencies. The assessors will review written materials, interview individuals, visit offices and other places where compliance can be witnessed. The assessors are: William F. New, Jr, Chief of Police, Charleston County Aviation Authority Police Department, Charleston, South Carolina; Stephen L. Johnson, Accreditation Manager of the Medford, Oregon Police Department; and Francois Pepin of the Aeroports de Montreal in Dorval, Quebec, Canada. Once the Commission's assessors complete their review, they will report back to the full Commission which will determine the accredited status.

Accreditation is granted for three years and the agency must submit annual reports attesting continued compliance with those standards under which it was initially accredited.

For more information regarding the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc., please write the Commission at 10306 Eaton Place, Suite 320, Fairfax, Virginia, 22030-2201 or call (800) 368-375.

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