

New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police

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NEW JERSEY LAW ENFORCEMENT LEADERS GATHER FOR IMPORTANT “BEST PRACTICES” CONFERENCE

NJ State Police Superintendent Fuentes among those honored for leadership

November 2, 2009 (Princeton, NJ) – On November 2 and 3, several hundred police executives and law enforcement professionals from around the state will meet at Princeton University for the 2009 Law Enforcement Accreditation Conference co-hosted by the New Jersey Public Safety Accreditation Coalition (NJPSAC) and the New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police (NJSACOP).

The Conference has established itself as a premier law enforcement conference in New Jersey. Now in its fourth year, the Conference offers two distinct tracks for attendees. First, there is a new accreditation manager tract for new accreditation managers and first time attendees. This training leads to the certificate “New Accreditation Manager”. Every agency enrolled in the state accreditation program is required to have a certified accreditation manager. The training is also strongly recommended for other members assisting in the accreditation process and allows for accreditation manager succession planning in addition to improving overall agency awareness. For returning conference attendees, or others not pursuing the certification route, there are numerous break-out sessions dealing with the most current and risk related topics in law enforcement.

In addition to recognizing agencies for their collective achievement of accreditation, the NJSACOP and NJPSAC recognize police professionals with their “Distinguished Leadership Award.” This year’s recipients include two very prominent career law enforcement executives, Colonel Joseph R. Fuentes, Superintendent of the New Jersey State Police and Morris County Sheriff Edward V. Rochford. They have both demonstrated commitment to law enforcement accreditation and the continued professionalization of policing in New Jersey.

Currently, forty (40) state, county and municipal law enforcement agencies are accredited in New Jersey and a rapidly growing list of in excess of 100 others are actively seeking that distinction. The discussion of police liability has become an important topic in law enforcement. Difficult budgetary cycles and an ever changing legal landscape, necessitates active and progressive management of agencies.

In addition, several Joint Insurance Funds (JIFS) operating in New Jersey have recognized the value of Accreditation by offering incentives and/or support to agencies pursuing and achieving accreditation, as well as financial incentives to jurisdictions that achieve and maintain accredited status. Following last year’s Conference, N.J. Attorney General Anne Milgram distributed correspondence to all County Prosecutor’s Offices encouraging the use of forfeiture funds to support agencies pursuing accreditation.

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For more information on this or any other related topic, please contact NJSACOP Executive Director Mitchell Sklar at 856-988-5880 or mcsklar@njsacop.org.

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