



# Chief's Corner



## High Standards, 485 To Be Exact

We at the Wilson Police Department stick to the highest of standards – 485 of them. For more than 30 years, the department has been a Commission on Accreditation Law Enforcement Agency (CALEA) accredited law enforcement agency. CALEA holds us accountable for 485 standards in our day-to-day operations as well as being prepared for emergencies. We take pride in being an accredited agency and continually work to hold the highest of standards, yet still jump at any chance to improve. I am proud of all of the men and women who make our agency a special place to work and I am even more proud of how we continue to push the bar higher and higher.



**Thomas Hopkins**  
Chief of Police

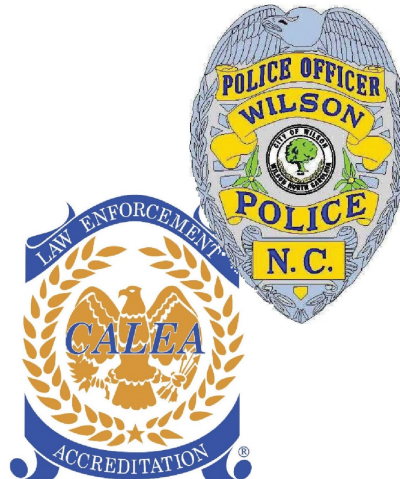
When Wilson PD achieved accredited status for the first time in 1987, we were only the second law enforcement agency in the state of North Carolina to do so. Wilson PD was also only the 47th agency in the nation to become accredited. Currently, only 5% of law enforcement agencies nationwide have achieved CALEA Accreditation status.

Wilson PD continued to push the bar higher by maintaining accreditation status and going through a rigorous audit for reaccreditation every three years. In April 2006, Wilson PD earned Flagship Agency status, which is to acknowledge the achievement and expertise of some of the most successful accredited agencies, and to assist others by providing "flagship examples." In 2012, Wilson PD was not only re-accredited, but also recognized as a Meritorious & Excellence agency. Meritorious awards go to those agencies with 15 or more continuous years of accreditation. Excellence is awarded to agencies who stand out and receive unanimous recommendation by the review committee.

## Gold Standard

In November 2017, Wilson PD went through our 10th re-accreditation. We decided to take on a challenge and registered to undergo our first ever Gold Standard Assessment, the highest level a law enforcement agency can achieve within Accreditation. An agency cannot even begin a Gold Standard Assessment without meeting a number of strict performance indicators in the years leading up to the new assessment. CALEA assessors review our files for compliance of the 485 standards and then arrive on-site and conduct interviews, public forums and other check-ups to find out whether we just look good on paper or are actually living out the standards in our day-to-day operations.

I am very proud to say that the Wilson Police Department did incredible during the Gold Standard Assessment. We have been officially awarded our 10th re-accreditation as a Gold Standard agency including awards of Excellence and Meritorious status. Less than 1% of all of the law enforcement agencies in the nation have achieved CALEA Gold Standard Accreditation and your Wilson Police Department is one of them!



*Pictured from left: Receiving Wilson PD's Gold Standard Accreditation with Excellence in Frisco, Texas. Left to right: Sgt. Steve Stroud, Captain Kendra Howell, Major Scott Biddle; Wilson PD's team led by Captain Kendra Howell, addressing CALEA's Accreditation Committee; CALEA Awards Banquet in Frisco, Texas in March; CALEA Accreditation Committee.*



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