ALEAC Overview

"Safety Through Standards"
AIRBORNE LAW ENFORCEMENT ACCREDITATION COMMISSION: ALEAC

- Founded in 2002 as a 501(c) 6 non-profit California Corporation
- A subsidiary of ALEA
- Focused on adherence to a common standard of safety for all airborne law enforcement air units in the United States and Canada.
Mission Statement

- To develop and maintain a set of **best practice standards** for use by all law enforcement air units in the United States and Canada

- To provide **air unit accreditation** through comprehensive evaluation and on-site assessment
Vision Statement

- Voluntary **compliance** with ALEAC Standards by all law enforcement air units

- **Validation** of compliance with the Standards through the process of Accreditation.
Core Values

- Safety Through Standards
- Excellence Through Accreditation
- A Common Standard of Safety
- Professionalism in law enforcement aviation
Standards for LE Air Units

- Standards applicable to all LE air units regardless of size or branch of government (federal, state, local)
- Standards divided into five sections:
  - Administration
  - Operations
  - Safety
  - Training
  - Maintenance
- Two categories of Standards:
  - Mandatory compliance for accreditation purposes
  - Recommended compliance for accreditation purposes
Standards as Best Practices

- ALEA adopted Standards as best practice guidelines for all LE air units and guide for starting new air units

- Standards based on two highest priorities of an airborne law enforcement unit:
  - “Safety First” in all aspects of the operation.
  - Provision of quality aviation services to further the agency’s mission.
Accreditation Program

- Encourage safe, efficient and accident-free aviation operations in support of law enforcement missions.
- Objectively evaluate and certify a unit’s overall compliance with the Standards
- Program is strictly voluntary as is compliance with the Standards
Accreditation Process

- Process of accreditation divided into two parts:
  - adoption of the standards
  - unit application & assessment process

- Five phases in the accreditation process:
  - Application
  - Unit self-assessment
  - On-site assessment
  - Commission review
  - Maintaining compliance through re-accreditation
Accreditation Structure

- Provides an orderly system of inspection, reports and recommendations to applying unit in addition to validation of compliance

- Allows recognition of professional achievement and compliance with Standards in a consistent and uniform manner

- Accreditation is valid for a period of three years
Major Benefits of Accreditation

- Safe and Efficient Law Enforcement Aviation Operation
- Greater accountability within the agency
- Controlled liability insurance costs
- Strong support from government officials
Accreditation Achievements

- Completed first unit assessment of initial applicant (Columbus, OH PD)
  - Three other agencies in queue, one pending application
  - Many more inquiries and expressions of interest

- Recognition of Standards by NTSB with recommendations for modifications

- NTSB recommendations were all adopted by Commission and will appear in updated version of Standards

- IACP and NSA Resolutions in support of standards & accreditation
Accreditation Challenges

- Cost of Accreditation
  - From $5,000 - $9,500 depending on unit size
  - Same cost for re-accreditation
- Failure of aviation insurance industry to acknowledge value of accreditation
- Non-compulsory program (unlike similar programs such as CAMTS)
- Standards are above minimum requirements
- Resistance to oversight or outside review
Conclusion

- Primary goal of ALEAC and ALEA is the SAFE and efficient use of ALL aircraft in support of law enforcement missions.

- NTSB reference to Standards in New Mexico State Police accident is extremely significant.

- It is our intent to continue working with NTSB & FAA to promote safer public safety aviation operations.