

## Commendations and Awards

### 1015.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy provides general guidelines for recognizing commendable or meritorious acts of members of the Talbot County Sheriff's Office and individuals from the community.

### 1015.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Talbot County Sheriff's Office to recognize and acknowledge exceptional individual or group achievements, performance, proficiency, heroism and service of its members and individuals from the community through commendations and awards.

### 1015.3 COMMENDATIONS

Commendations for members of the Office or for individuals from the community may be initiated by any office member or by any person from the community.

### 1015.4 CRITERIA

A meritorious or commendable act may include, but is not limited to:

- Superior handling of a difficult situation.
- Conspicuous bravery or outstanding performance.
- Any action of performance that is above and beyond typical duties.

### 1015.5 OFFICE MEMBER DOCUMENTATION

Members of the Office should document meritorious or commendable acts. The documentation should contain:

- (a) Identifying information:
  1. For members of the Office - name, division and assignment at the date and time of the meritorious or commendable act
  2. For individuals from the community - name, address, telephone number
- (b) A brief account of the meritorious or commendable act with report numbers, as appropriate.
- (c) The signature of the member submitting the documentation.

### 1015.6 COMMUNITY MEMBER DOCUMENTATION

Documentation of a meritorious or commendable act submitted by a person from the community should be accepted in any form. However, written documentation is preferred. Office members accepting the documentation should attempt to obtain detailed information regarding the matter, including:

# Talbot County Sheriff's Office

## Policy Manual

### *Commendations and Awards*

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- (a) Identifying information:
  1. For members of the Office - name, division and assignment at the date and time of the meritorious or commendable act
  2. For individuals from the community - name, address, telephone number
- (b) A brief account of the meritorious or commendable act with report numbers, as appropriate.
- (c) The signature of the person submitting the documentation.

#### **1015.7 PROCESSING DOCUMENTATION**

Documentation regarding the meritorious or commendable act of a member of the Office should be forwarded to the appropriate Commander for his/her review. The Commander should sign and forward the documentation to the Sheriff for his/her review.

The Sheriff or the authorized designee will present the commendation to the office member for his/her signature. The documentation will then be returned to the Administrative Services secretary for entry into the member's personnel file.

Documentation regarding the meritorious or commendable act of an individual from the community should be forwarded to the Administrative Services Commander. The documentation will be signed by the Commander and forwarded to the Sheriff for his/her review. An appropriate venue or ceremony to acknowledge the individual's actions should be arranged. Documentation of the commendation shall be maintained in a file designated for such records.

#### **1015.8 AWARDS**

Awards may be bestowed upon members of the Office and individuals from the community. These awards include:

- Award of Valor.
- Award of Merit.
- Lifesaving Award.
- Meritorious Conduct.

Criteria for each award and the selection, presentation and display of any award are determined by the Sheriff.