

Sheriff's Office receives recognition for traffic safety efforts

The Hanover County Sheriff's Office placed first in the 2009 Virginia Law Enforcement Challenge and second in the National Law Enforcement Challenge for traffic safety initiatives. The Law Enforcement Challenge program promotes professionalism in traffic safety enforcement and encourages agencies to share their best practices and programs with other law enforcements agencies throughout the nation. Agencies compete with other jurisdictions that have similar sized organizations.

The Sheriff's Office was evaluated in several categories, including policies, officer training, incentives and recognition, public information and education, enforcement activity, and most importantly, results. In 2009 a combination of effective programs resulted in a 18.5% reduction in crashes at Hanover's top ten most dangerous intersections and a 2.5% decrease in overall vehicle crashes throughout the county. Hanover County also experienced a 14.5% decrease in alcohol-related crashes and related injuries, as well as a 25% decrease in alcohol-related fatalities.

The recognition of the traffic safety strategy in Hanover County reinforces the efforts of our officers and reassures the citizens that initiatives are underway and ongoing to make our roads safer. The real award will be lives saved.

The Virginia Law Enforcement Challenge Award was presented August 9, 2010, at the Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police at their annual conference in Reston, Virginia. The National Law Enforcement Challenge Award will be presented October 26, 2010, at the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) annual conference in Orlando, Florida.

For more information on the benefits of Law Enforcement Challenge please refer to the below link.

http://www.vachiefs.org/news/item/2009_virginia_law_enforcement_challenge_awards_announced/



Pictured from left: New Kent Sheriff F.W. "Wakie" Howard (Co-chair of the VA Highway Safety Committee), Captain David Vermeer, Sergeant Drew Darby, and the Honorable Rich Holcomb (Commissioner, VA Department of Motor Vehicles)