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SENECA COUNTY CORRECTIONAL FACILITY AWARDED NYS CORRECTIONAL FACILITY ACCREDITATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**FOR MORE INFORMATION
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Seneca County Sheriff Jack S. Stenberg announced today the Seneca County Correctional Facility has been awarded Correctional Facility accreditation status by the New York State Sheriff's Association. Sheriff Stenberg received the news from Thomas Mitchell, Counsel for the New York State Sheriff's Association on Friday. "Receiving accreditation status demonstrates that we are operating our Correctional Facility in accordance with professional standards of excellence and it is a credit to the hard work by the men and women of this Office to attain excellence in Corrections operations", said Sheriff Stenberg. "Of all the New York State Accreditation programs, Correctional Facility accreditation is the hardest to achieve due to the complexity of the program requirements", commented the Sheriff.

On June 28 – 29, 2010, three NYS Correctional Facility Accreditation Assessors from the NYS Sheriff's Association spent two days at the Seneca County Sheriff's Office and Correctional Facility reviewing Administrative, Operational and Medical policies and procedures, examining training records, interviewing staff and conducting observations of operations to ensure total compliance with one hundred sixty-six (166) professional standards of operations and excellence.

The assessors, all of whom are veteran correctional facility administrators in their exit accreditation remarks before a large contingent of Sheriff's Office staff commented "All three assessors agreed that the entire facility was one of the cleanest and organized buildings we have seen and Sheriff Stenberg, and his staff, are to be commended for this." "The staff that we interacted with during our assessment were some of the most professional and dedicated employees we have ever seen and you should be very proud of them" commented Major Christopher Lian, Accreditation Team Leader.

Sheriff Stenberg commended Undersheriff Gary Sullivan who served as the program manager for the Corrections Accreditation Program. Undersheriff Sullivan commented "The entire staff at the Seneca County Sheriff's Office and Correctional Facility has embraced the accreditation process. They have put in the many long hours and hard work to achieve this important recognition. The assessors gave us a thorough top to bottom review of our operations and concurred that we met or exceeded all the standards of professional excellence. We share this honor with dedicated men and women of this Office who without question deserve this recognition."

"Only two divisions remain to undergo accreditation – the Law Enforcement Division, which comprises the uniform road patrol, criminal investigation and navigation and the Civil Division", said Sheriff Stenberg. "Work is progressing smoothly and we full expect to have both of those divisions done by the end of the year. Not only do the employees of this Office deserve this special recognition, but, also the Citizens of Seneca County deserve to have a law enforcement agency and correctional facility which has complied with standards of professional excellence and operations." Earlier this year, the Court Security Division was awarded NYS Court Security Accreditation status. An official award presentation is being planned for August 2010.