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# Sheriff's office accredited

## Police group recognizes Kenton Co.

BY HOWARD MCEWEN | ENQUIRER CONTRIBUTOR

The Kenton County Sheriff's Department has been accredited by the Kentucky Association of Police Chiefs (KACP). The accreditation requires the department to comply with 157 accepted policy and procedures standards.

Jefferson and Boone counties are the only other two sheriff departments in the state that have received the accreditation. There are 65 city police departments across the state that have been accredited.

"If you're in the law enforcement business it gives you a little more standing," said Kenton County Sheriff Charles Korzenborn. "People thought I'd fall flat on my face. But we were able to show progress every year and this is like a graduation certificate for me."

**ADVERTISEMENT** Two of the policies and procedures put into place include the use of force and high-speed pursuits.

"What is your criteria for doing those things?" said Shawn Butler, KACP president and Independence police chief. "Once you have an accepted policy it lays those things out. An easy example: If we Mace someone, there are procedures in place to make sure they get medical attention as fast as possible. All officers will carry disinfectant and water to hose that person down, then they'll do a detailed report."

The benefit to taxpayers is lower costs.

"I know on our level we save 10 percent off our liability insurance," said Butler. "If you are embroiled in civil liability, policies and procedures are one of the first things they'll take a look at. Are they doing what are accepted policies?"

Mike Bischoff, a retired Fort Thomas police officer, is the accreditation program manager for the KACP.

"The sheriff is demonstrating to the voters that he has gone through this process and demonstrated to them that the department has been the best it can be," said Bischoff.

The KACP accreditation has been a personal longterm goal, said Korzenborn, who was elected in 1999. Before taking office, he operated a family auto repair business in Fort Mitchell.

"When I took over there was no law enforcement done. They were in all the county sectors serving paper for evictions," said Korzenborn. "My job is to convince people that the sheriff's office is viable entity."

Korzenborn said he established captain's positions and assigned responsibilities to various officers.

"When I took over, 90 percent of the people wanted to do the job. I did not have any resistance in it," said Korzenborn.

The KACP accreditation certificate is good for five years.

"It professionalizes their department. There is a road map for how things are done," said Butler.

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