

# 2015 Achievement Awards Virginia Association of Counties

## APPLICATION FORM

All applications must include the following information. Separate applications must be submitted for each eligible program. **Deadline: June 1, 2015.** Please include this application form with electronic entry.

### PROGRAM INFORMATION

Locality: Prince William County

Program Title: Operation Dragon Slayer

Program Category: Criminal Justice/Public Safety

### CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Tara Van Horn

Title: First Sergeant

Department: Prince William County Police Department

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### SIGNATURE OF COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR OR CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Name: Christopher E. Martino

Title: Deputy County Executive

Signature: 

## **2015 VACO NOMINATION FOR ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

On June 24<sup>th</sup> through June 26<sup>th</sup>, detectives from the Prince William County-Manassas City-Manassas Park Narcotics Task Force, in conjunction with additional units of the Prince William County Police Special Investigations Bureau, concluded a narcotics operation which centered on distributors of prescription medication and heroin throughout Prince William County.

This operation follows the November 2013 narcotics operation, dubbed "Blue Dragon", which concentrated on enforcement action and education of street level users of these narcotics. Operation Blue Dragon netted over 40 arrests and the execution of 7 search warrants.

This latest operation, nicknamed "Dragon Slayer", officially began in April of 2014 and over the course of the investigation, detectives obtained warrants for **86** individuals, **68** of which are now in custody. During this operation, detectives also executed search warrants at **13** different target locations and conducted additional searches at **6** other locations.

Operation "Dragon Slayer" not only included the necessary enforcement of state law, but also included education about narcotic distribution and use in hopes of future prevention. After each arrest was made, staff and resources were made available by the Prince William County Community Services Board and the Police Chaplain Unit to educate the individual on substance abuse and provided arrestees with information about how to receive help.

Additional assistance during the operation was provided by the Prince William County Sheriff's Office, the Adult Detention Center, the Stafford County Sheriff's Office, and aviation support from U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

### ***Seized During the Operation:***

Over \$100,000 in U.S. Currency; suspected illegal narcotics including heroin, cocaine, ecstasy, and marijuana; suspected prescription medications; evidence of distribution; paraphernalia; and multiple firearms including handguns, shotguns, and rifles.

This collaborative effort between multiple jurisdictions and agencies led to an innovative solution to a troubling nationwide trend of increased narcotic use. The agencies worked collaboratively to provide enforcement, education, and assistance to offenders in an effort to increase awareness and decrease recidivism. For these reasons, I nominate Operation Dragon Slayer participants for their dedication in providing innovative services to the community.