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I am very pleased to give my highest personal and professional endorsement to Geoff Dean as the next Sheriff of Ventura County.

Like the current Sheriff, Brooks, Geoff sought greater expertise in relation to terrorism; counter-terrorism and homeland security to further prepare for and prevent attacks against those he is sworn to protect in Ventura County. At the Naval Postgraduate School I lecture and advise military and command staff first responder grad-students on these issues and have been pleased to teach both Sheriff Brooks as well as working one on one with Geoff on these same issues. *Geoff thoroughly understands the background, current threat situation and how that relates to protecting Ventura County from potential terrorist attacks. His analysis is sound.*

I have known Geoff since 1981 when I was sworn in as a Deputy for the Ventura County Sheriff's Department. I was privileged to work with him for many years in various capacities, but in particular on the Sheriff Department's SWAT team as a Deputy, Sr. Deputy and Sergeant in many intense and sometimes critical situations. My experiences during that time on the SWAT team showed all of us that worked with him a lot of Geoff's character—he was and is a rock solid decision maker and leader. Early on he was my supervisor and later we worked together as Sergeants. In every situation and changing relationship Geoff was remarkably capable and considerate. *My experiences reflect the support of the Ventura County Sheriff's Association, which similarly endorse Geoff Dean in his campaign for Sheriff.*

Geoff continued with the department after I was retired from injuries sustained fighting in the line of duty, but as our careers diverged, I remained in contact with both Geoff and those who worked with and for him on the department and throughout the community. His decision-making ability, character and positive resolve were a constant hallmark of his leadership as he was repeatedly promoted through the ranks taking on ever more responsibility. He eventually led 3 of the 4 divisions within the department, demonstrating how he works effectively with other leaders throughout the community. *This fact highlights the recommendations given to Geoff by every police chief in Ventura County.* These individuals have worked with Geoff over the years and have witnessed first hand the effective leadership for which Geoff is well known throughout the county.

Whether I'm advising Geoff on terrorism issues—or asking his advice on leadership issues when I served as the Director of Security Policy at the Ministry of Interior, in Iraq (2003-2004)—I have witnessed leadership and integrity at every turn. It is my distinct pleasure to endorse Geoff Dean as the next Sheriff for Ventura County.