



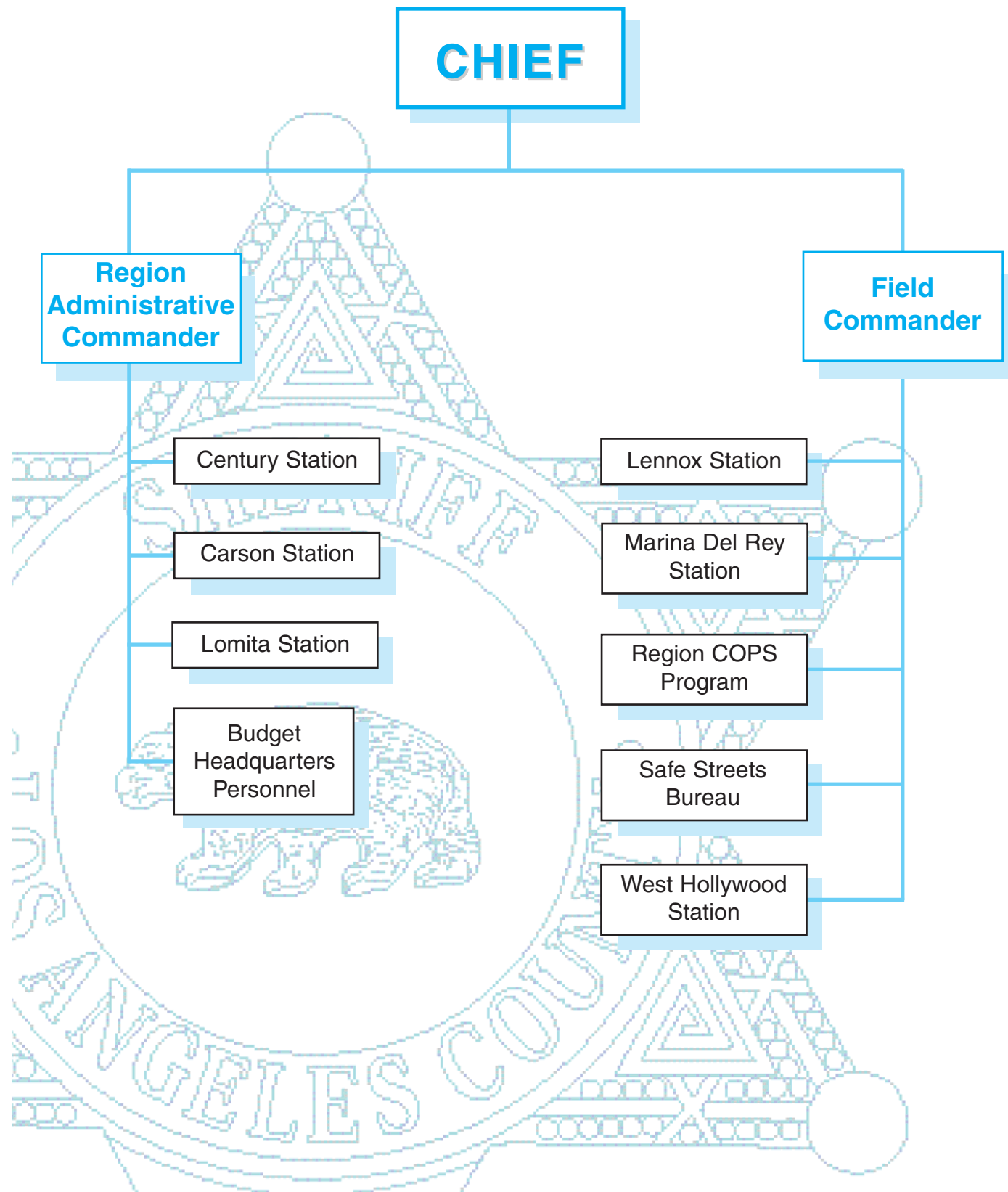
field operations region II

FIELD OPERATIONS REGION II



YEAR IN REVIEW • 1998

## FIELD OPERATIONS REGION II



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Field Operations Region II is responsible for the performance of the basic police tasks of protecting life and property, preserving the peace, preventing and suppressing crime, and apprehending law violators. These functions are carried out at the following Sheriff's stations and specialized units: Carson, Century, Lennox/Marina Del Rey, Lomita, and West Hollywood Stations; Safe Streets Bureau; and Field Operations Support Services.

### CARSON STATION

Carson Station, located in southwest Los Angeles County, provides services for the unincorporated county areas of West Compton, Gardena, Torrance and Rancho Dominguez and the contract city of Carson. The Station's jurisdiction includes California State University, Dominguez Hills and UCLA/Harbor General Hospital. During 1998, the Station was involved in the following activities:



Captain John L. Scott  
Carson Station

#### City Town Hall Meetings

Carson Station's City COPS team conducts quarterly Town Hall Meetings at specific target locations which are identified as problem areas by the community. Prior to the Town Hall Meetings, deputies survey the residents within the targeted area, in order to identify the issues that affect their "quality of life." During the meetings, the survey results are discussed with the residents, and a "plan of action" is introduced. This plan is then implemented to eradicate area problems. The Community Services Staff also attends the Town Hall Meetings. They work with local residents

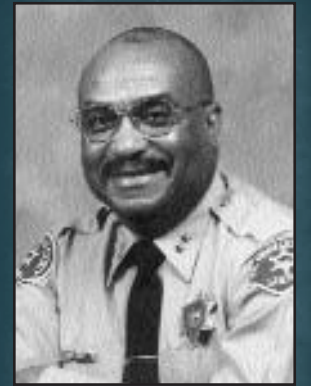
to organize Neighborhood Watch groups and identify Block Captains.

#### Cops Consortium

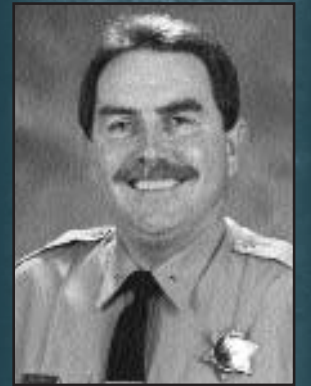
Carson Station hosted a two-day "Community Policing Consortium," for community leaders in the Carson area. This course, which was presented by the COPS Consortium members from Washington, D.C., served to introduce the history and philosophy of community policing to those in attendance. The goal of the class was to provide community leaders with a taste of how collaborating with law enforcement can translate into positive outcomes for their community. With this information, it is hoped that these community leaders will carry the concepts of community policing forward within their respective peer groups. Participants in this Consortium consisted of individuals from churches, civic organizations, community associations, local businesses, Neighborhood Watch groups and law enforcement. This group continues to meet periodically to discuss issues of concern.

#### Family Violence Intervention Team

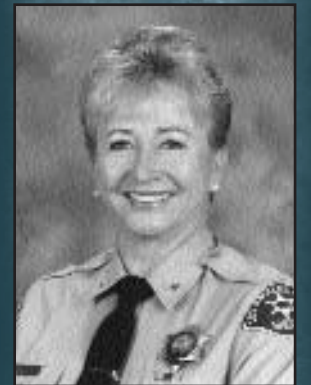
The purpose of the Family Violence Intervention Team ("Safety Through our Perseverance" Intervention Team), (STOP IT), is to restructure the system to significantly increase early intervention by specially trained Deputy Sheriffs. This program provides an enhanced focus on criminal case preparation from initial report taking. This detailed case documentation improves the viability of the criminal case, and assists in interrupting the cycle of violence by building a case that will withstand the criminal justice system when the victim is unavailable or recants testimony. The STOP Intervention Team goal is to reduce recidivism of family violence incidents through the deployment of a "STOP IT" Deputy, who is trained to provide early intervention to aid the victims of family violence. By combining the expertise of the "STOP IT" team with the skills of other fami-



Chief Curtis L. Spears (Acting)  
Field Operations Region II



Commander Leonard H. Kramer  
Administration



Commander Elizabeth A. Dickinson  
Field

ly service providers, volunteers and the District Attorney, and using this force in a focused, strategic manner, substantial restraint of repeat offenders is possible in cases that would otherwise be lost in the system.

### **Gang Task Force**

The Gang Task Force was created to address gang-related issues throughout the City of Carson, with special emphasis on Carson High School. The Task Force convenes each month at Carson Station, and comprises personnel from Carson Station, Safe Streets Bureau, staff from Carson High School and personnel from the City of Carson's Department of Public Safety. At each meeting, information is freely exchanged between members, with the hope of diffusing tension between local gangs and averting major incidents or crisis.

### **Reserve Deputy Program**

Carson Station has a complement of twenty-one Reserve Deputy Sheriffs, which qualifies Carson as one of the largest Reserve Companies in the Department. Carson's Reserve Company currently has the only traffic trained Reserve Deputy on the Department, since one of the Reserve Deputies completed all the Basic Traffic and Radar School Courses. In addition, the Reserve Company has created a patrol "Brain Book" used for field investigations, patrol and custody deputies, which has netted more than five thousand dollars. All the funds have been donated to charity.

using a myriad of approaches to meet the law enforcement needs of the diverse community it serves.

### **Century Youth Activity League**

It has been an eventful and fruitful year for the Century Youth Activity League (CYAL) as well. Organizationally, the league, a 501(c) 3 organization, has been merged with the Sheriff's Youth Foundation. This merger has allowed the league to grow more rapidly, and the expanded organization now attends to a larger community of youths. This expanded community outreach will more effectively impact the future of our children in south central Los Angeles.

In 1998, the Century Youth Activities League has distinguished itself in three areas. First, the old Firestone Sheriff's Station has been refurbished and opened as the headquarters of CYAL. Firestone Center contains much needed space for academic enrichment. It contains a computer learning laboratory, mentoring rooms and programming for reading and mathematics.

Second, CYAL has begun an extension site at Ujima Village, serving the needs of residents in the southwest portion of our policing area.

Third, CYAL began an ocean kayaking program. CYAL has entered into an active collaboration with a sailing intervention program, "Anchors Aweigh." Many children who would ordinarily have little or no exposure to ocean sports and water safety now have the opportunity to participate in this arena of Southern California life. CYAL looks forward to serving and enhancing the academic, social, sporting, recreational and guidance needs of our community's youth.

### **Community Relations and Empowerment**

Century Station Community Empowerment and the Youth Activity League have continued to move ahead with their goal of bringing the communities we serve the means to effectively impact the crime, violence, and disorder in their neighborhoods. In many small

but meaningful ways, 1998 has been a benchmark year, resulting in a heightened sense of collaboration and meaningful dialogue between the community and government. The development of youth-oriented programs and activities designed to offset the negative impact of antisocial behavior like gangs and violence has intensified. These programs have developed innovative means to reach more of our at-risk youth.

## **LENNOX STATION**

Lennox Station, located in southwest Los Angeles County, provides police services for the surrounding unincorporated county area and for the contract city of Lawndale. The Marina Del Rey station, located in west Los Angeles County, provides police services for this unincorporated county area and also operates six boat patrols in the harbor and marina waters.

The year 1998 saw some significant changes at Lennox Station. The entire station was renovated and "spruced up" with a new roof and a new coat of paint throughout. Thanks to staff efforts, the station was among the first to go "on-line" with the new Windows NT system. In furtherance of those efforts, Lennox personnel have designed a program whereby deputy personnel are served subpoenas via E-mail. Station personnel are particularly proud of the work put into the "Memorial Wall." The wall was put together almost entirely by donations, and was assembled by off duty deputies. The portraits of fallen comrades are being painted by one of Lennox' own deputies.

Lennox station continues to operate several successful community-based programs, including our Volunteers on Patrol. These valuable citizen patrols have provided high visibility in the local business areas and community parks, reducing crime with our most valuable asset, citizen involvement.

In another program, our Holiday Toy and Food Drive, station personnel donated their time to gather donated food and toys from local businesses. Their efforts made the holidays a little brighter for more than 400 families in our patrol area.

### **COPS Team**

Our COPS team has been responsible for conducting numerous operations in our station patrol area concerning quality of life issues. They have conducted various operations such as gang and narcotics suppression, taxi cab stings, and narcotics warrants. They conduct community meetings and are responsible for property abatements.

Perhaps our proudest achievement is our Community Academy. The purpose of the Community Academy is to provide a better understanding between the local citizens and the Sheriff's Department through education. In keeping with those ideals, and in our efforts to meet the needs of our community, we offer our program in both English and Spanish. Our Spanish Academy is one of the first in the County and currently has 38 students. All of the instructors are bilingual and the class is for the Spanish-speaking community only.

### **Lawndale**

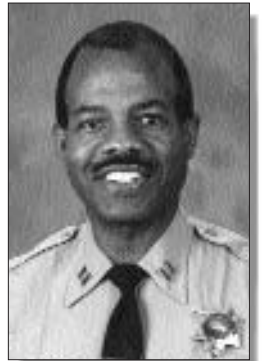
The Lawndale Service Center has been in operation since June 1997. It opened as a collaborative effort between the Sheriff's Department and the City of Lawndale. The Center serves the communities of Lawndale, El Camino Village, Del Aire, and Wiseburn. In its commitment to public safety, the City of Lawndale has added several positions over the last year, and we continue to enjoy a close working relationship with the city of Lawndale. In 1998, the City added a dedicated Sergeant to its contract, and this Sergeant formed the nucleus of a city-sponsored C.O.P.S. team. The team has four Community Enforcement Deputies, a School Resource Deputy, a Civil Abatement Deputy, and a gang Detective. This team coordinates



*Captain Arthur G. Herrera  
Century Station*

## **CENTURY STATION**

Century Station was established in August of 1994 at its present site in the south-central area of Los Angeles County. It serves the contract city of Lynwood and the unincorporated County areas of Athens Park, Florence, Firestone Park, East Rancho Dominguez, Rosewood, Walnut Park and Willowbrook. The population served amounts to nearly 175,000 within a 13.53 square mile area. Part I crimes were reduced by nine percent during 1998. Century Station is



*Captain Ruddle J. Jefferson  
Lennox Station/  
Marina Del Rey Station*

with local citizens and city officials to identify problem areas. The team is then able to target the specific problems that most effect the quality of life in the area. The efforts of these deputies have been supplemented by our station Explorer Post and our Reserve Deputies. Our Reserve Deputies have logged in excess of 1,200 hours of service in 1998. The city has also added a Motorcycle Deputy to aid in traffic enforcement. In one year, this unit has written more than 2,000 traffic citations, which has lead to a dramatic reduction in traffic collisions. All in all, the Service Center has been enthusiastically received by the community and stands as a symbol of our commitment to Community Oriented Policing.

#### **T.A.C.T.**

The station's Target Area Cop's Team (T.A.C.T.) has conducted several citizen surveys and town hall meetings in the station's target areas. These meetings and surveys have allowed the citizens to express issues of concern affecting the quality of life in their neighborhoods. Major issues of concern were narcotics trafficking, gangs, graffiti and traffic. The T.A.C.T. unit conducted operations, surveillances, and served several search warrants. As a result, numerous criminals were arrested and prosecuted. The efforts of the T.A.C.T. unit has had a significant impact in crime suppression, and in the quality of life for the citizens living in the concerned areas.

In response to community concerns over prostitution in our Gardena Park area, our High Impact Team assisted the Target Area Cops Team in a joint venture to suppress prostitution on Crenshaw Boulevard. On two separate dates, our undercover deputies arrested close to forty suspects. Their efforts saw a marked decrease in prostitution on Crenshaw Boulevard.

#### **Youth Center**

Our Youth Center grew during 1998, with the assignment of a dedicated Sergeant to the operation. Under her direction, we saw an expansion of our

Youth Center Programs, which now have more than 300 kids enrolled. Our current programs include music, ballet folklorico, karate, dance, drill team, computer workshops, tutoring, a summer jobs program and a student leadership program. Deputies teach a "Student and the Law" program at the local high school. In a related program, our newly assigned Deputies spend time on our local school campuses, where they become familiar with the school administrators and the student body.

During 1998, the Youth Center saw 2,700 service contacts per month. The efforts and achievements of those personnel serving the Youth Center has greatly enhanced our relationships within the community. Their efforts have become the building blocks of understanding and cooperation with the community as a whole, and those efforts have had a positive impact on the way the community views their law enforcement neighbors.

### **MARINA DEL REY STATION**

Marina del Rey Station, under the auspices of Lennox Station, saw 1998 as a year of successes. The station helped ramrod the installation of call box signs along the Bicycle Path. The July Fourth Celebration and the Christmas Boat Parade, both being Marina del Rey's answer to the Rose Parade, were well-coordinated by the Harbor Operations staff. The Summer Enforcement Team was brought back to fully operational status, and the Marina saw a marked decrease in crime, especially considering the burgeoning summer population.

The Dive Team continued successful search and rescue operations, assisting Homicide Bureau, the County Life Guards, and the Coast Guard on occasion. Two standout instances included deputies who strapped on scuba gear over their Class "B" uniforms, and dove into frigid winter water to search for victims of two vehicles whose drivers launched themselves into the ocean.

Boat Operators made their usual number of rescues of sinking vessels, including one instance when a man's boat was sinking and the deputies leaped aboard, patched up the boat, and towed the boat to shore.

The Station Detective Bureau once again made national news by tracking down the "Poison by Mail" suspect. Detectives also combined efforts with the Summer Enforcement Team to put away a serial boat burglar who had been skulking about the docks and looting boats in the Marina.

The Field Training officer program expanded, with the Station getting a full contingent of trainees, some who would remain, and others to whom Marina del Rey was just a way station prior to their assignment to Transit Services Bureau.

On the land side, the street patrol deputies turned in a number of memorable performances, including observing a robbery in progress, assisting an outside agency catch a homicide suspect, and receiving a favorable amount of service commendations from the citizens.

### **LOMITA STATION**

Lomita Station, Los Angeles County's southern most Sheriff's station, provides services to the contract cities of Lomita, Rancho Palos Verdes, Rolling Hills and Rolling Hills Estates, and the unincorporated County areas of La Rambla, Westfield and The Estates.

Our highlight this year shines on our Special Assignment Deputies. The City of Lomita has pioneered the use of Special Assignment Deputies with a dedicated position focusing on problems outside regular patrol capabilities. These have included investigating series-type crimes, solving local bank robberies, prostitution/john sting operations, escort/hostess service, multi-agency South Bay task force, and civil abatement of problem locations. The results have far exceeded our expectations.

Since 1979, the cities of Rancho

Palos Verdes, Rolling Hills and Rolling Hills Estates have joined together in a Regional Law Enforcement agreement, sharing resources and costs for better efficiency. This year, their collaboration reached even greater cooperation with the addition of a second Special Assignment Deputy to the existing Regional Juvenile Solutions Program.

With the consolidation of the local high schools in 1993, it became increasingly apparent that the region's juvenile population needed some special attention. It was agreed by all that something more than an old fashioned "campus cop" was needed. A Regional Juvenile Solutions Special Assignment Deputy Program was designed to operate under the Community Oriented Policing model.

The Regional Juvenile Solutions Special Assignment Deputy's mission is to focus on solving special juvenile problems, and proactively intervening when juveniles need help, rather than reacting after they get into real trouble. The Special Assignment Deputy's area of responsibility includes the school campuses, parks, shopping centers, businesses and other places frequented by juveniles. This global approach has made the project so much more effective than the traditional campus cop paradigm that a second Special Assignment Deputy was added to the program this year.

Lomita Station also enjoys the distinction of having more active volunteers than Sheriff's personnel. That's right, our volunteers outnumber our full-time complement. Lomita Station's volunteers are integrally involved in every aspect of our operation. Without these dedicated volunteers, we could not provide the same high level of service.

Lomita Station's volunteers include a highly regarded and professional Reserve Company, a large and active Posse, an award winning Explorer Post, a Neighborhood Watch Program that includes more than 310 block Captains and 50 Area Coordinators, thirty-two Volunteers on Patrol, thirty-three Bird Dogs, and an area wide CERT network.



*Captain Edward B. Hitchcock  
Lomita Station*

Our volunteers conduct daily vacation checks, they help staff our front counter every day of the week, support our investigators, provide additional eyes and ears on surveillances and assist at DUI check points, special events and emergencies, all on their own time. All told, our volunteers donated almost 5,000 hours of service to their community during 1998.

## SAFE STREETS BUREAU

Safe Streets Bureau (SSB) provides gang enforcement and prevention programs for the Sheriff's Department. SSB is a decentralized unit that maintains ten investigative units and eight prevention teams that are housed at Sheriff's Stations throughout the County. Although SSB tracks the activity of all 1,350 gangs in Los Angeles County, the main focus is to concentrate on 184 of the most violent and notorious gangs.

The Unit is divided into three categories: Operations Safe Streets (OSS), Gang Enforcement Team (GET), and the CLEAR Florencia/Unsolved Homicide Task Force.

### CAL/GANG

The CAL/GANG computer program debuted in 1998. Sponsored by the Department of Justice and created in consultation with Safe Streets Bureau, this statewide database contains a wide variety of information on gang members, such as arrest history, all known addresses, associates, tattoos and even has the ability to display pictures.

The CAL/GANG system works as a relational database, meaning that it is capable of searching a wide range of different characteristics and then compiling a list of results that match the characteristics. For example, if a detective receives information of a wanted robbery suspect and the only information, other than a general physical description, is that the suspect had a unique tattoo that was on the inside of his left arm, the detective can search the CAL/GANG system with only that tattoo

information, and compare it to the 100,000 gang members cataloged in the system.

A milestone in the CAL/GANG system was the consolidation of LAPD's gang data base into CAL/GANG. For the first time in Los Angeles, an investigator will be able to query just one system when searching for a gang member.

### CAL/GANG Training Center

In July of this year, the late Sheriff Block hosted a gathering of County executives and the media to open the CAL/GANG Training Center. This state-of-the-art facility has 16 work stations which are equipped with the latest desktop computers. These work stations are used to train law enforcement officials from throughout the State on the CAL/GANG system. Different types of classes are available however, only eight hours of instruction are required to become a basic user.

Training is headed by Betsy Domani-co. Betsy is complemented by a variety of sworn and civilian trainers who come from many different agencies throughout Southern California. The center has so far trained more than 300 law enforcement officials, and continues to run training on a full-time basis.

### Operations Safe Streets (O.S.S.)

OSS teams comprise 165 investigators who are assigned to investigate targeted gang crime. Wearing the distinctive green nylon Sheriff's raid jackets, these detectives work in a Sheriff's patrol station and investigate and track gang crimes that occur in that station's jurisdiction. Targeted gangs are where the bulk of OSS resources are committed. However, the activities of other gangs are tracked and monitored. Targeted and tracked gangs will change from time to time as the level of violence each is involved in changes.

OSS investigators are unique from other detectives in the Department in that they try to spend a large percentage of time gathering intelligence. This allows for these detectives to have a unique relationship with the gang members they tracked. It also gives them first

hand information about the gang and their activity.

Partnerships with other organizations are a key to the success of OSS. One example is Deputy Al Valencia who is the liaison deputy between OSS and the Los Angeles County Probation and State Parole Departments. He coordinates OSS search warrants with the Probation and Parole Departments so that we can mutually benefit from the effort. Probation and Parole, in turn, share valuable information with OSS about gang members who have recently been released or those who are about to be released. This agreement has been so effective that the Probation Department has recently increased the number of their staff who work directly with Deputy Valencia.

### Gang Enforcement Team (G.E.T.)

The GET unit consists of seven teams whose primary responsibility is the prevention of gang violence. One additional team, the Suppression Prevention Enforcement And Recovery (SPEAR) team is designed for deployment anywhere in the County where there is a need for gang suppression. A total of 55 GET deputies are deployed in marked patrol cars, wearing Department polo shirt uniforms. Like OSS, these deputies work out of patrol stations, and are responsible for identifying and remedying community concerns related to gang problems.

The GET unit employs a technique called the Gang Management and Assessment System. This program works to not only eradicate traditional gang problems, but to also help schools, parents and the community to stop problems on their own. To aid in this effort, a variety of programs are used as a resource. Programs such as parental accountability programs, curfew programs, after school programs and a variety of community-based organizations that offer services are all utilized to find long-term solutions to gangs.

Safe Streets Bureau is proud to uphold one of the Department's fundamental Core Values of working with the community in solving problems. It is only through this partnership that law enforcement can

hope to establish a lasting solution to gang violence.

### Grant Programs

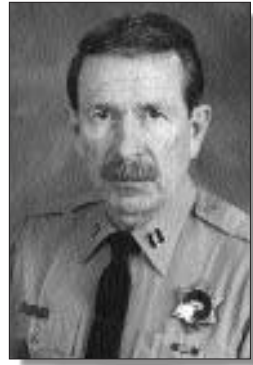
In addition to the above-mentioned programs, Safe Streets Bureau is tasked with managing a variety of grants. The Community and Law Enforcement Recovery (CLEAR) Unsolved Homicide Task Force had a very successful year. This team is composed of Homicide and OSS detectives who work to solve unsolved gang homicides. They are part of the federally funded CLEAR grant and work in conjunction with the LAPD, District Attorney, City Attorney, and Probation Department. In 1998, they successfully solved 14 gang murders. The program proved to be so successful that plans are underway to have a CLEAR Task Force formed to combat the Florencia and 18th Street gangs. This project should be started by mid 1999.

The Sheriff's Mentoring Grant is designed to match at-risk youths with deputy mentors. The goal is to give these youths an alternative to gangs, and to provide them with a positive role model. This program targets the county areas of Temple, Industry and Carson. In 1998, 35 deputies were trained in mentoring techniques and then matched with waiting kids. Funds are provided for the deputy and his assigned youth to participate in "enrichment" activities. Deputies and their assigned youths have, so far, been to a Dodger's game, a Laker's game and to Medieval Times. Most of the matches that have occurred, resulted in the kids staying away from gangs, and the deputies having the satisfaction of making a difference in a child's life.

### SCNAAG Team

A resource that Safe Streets Bureau is fortunate to have is the Southern California Neighborhoods Alliance Against Graffiti. Staffed by two deputies, John Maxwell and Dennis Porter, the alliance is specifically assigned to combat graffiti. Deputies Maxwell and Porter are experts in the crime of graffiti, and they work in partnership with other law enforcement agencies to combat this crime.

This year has shown some



Captain James Mulvihill  
Safe Streets Bureau

interesting and disturbing trends in graffiti. Much of the graffiti seen is written by “taggers”. These individuals’ sole purpose is to gain fame by “tagging”, or scrawling their graffiti on as many places as possible. However, some taggers are beginning to show behavior that is typically associated with gang members, and are referred to as “tag-bangers” by law enforcement. Recently, because of some shootings between rival tag-banger groups, some tagger groups have been reclassified as gangs and are now tracked by Safe Streets Bureau.

#### **Search Warrants**

The OSS team serves a large number of search warrants annually. For the year 1998, more than 300 search warrants were served, almost triple the number from the year prior, and second highest only to Narcotics Bureau in the Department. These warrants resulted in numerous arrests of wanted suspects and many weapon seizures.

#### **The Future**

Safe Streets Bureau expects some changes to occur in the next year. Plans are underway to expand our Unit to provide for more investigators and GET deputies. The CLEAR Florencia project is expected to be a great success, in addition, we look forward to continuing the other successful grant projects.

#### **WEST HOLLYWOOD STATION**

West Hollywood Station is the highlighted unit for Field Operations Region II. (see page 130)