

# Message from the Sheriff

LOS ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

As we approach the end of 1999 and reflect on the events of this past year, I would like to say that I am extremely proud of the men and woman who make up the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. I am proud to say that my first year in office has been very rewarding and productive.

Throughout the course of the year, we have achieved many of the goals that were set forth when I took office. One of the more important achievements, I believe, has been the establishment of the Deputy Leadership Institute, which will help bring forward and utilize the leadership qualities of all deputy personnel. I plan to continue focusing on providing advanced training and enhanced career development opportunities for all Department personnel.

As part of my goal to be more responsive to specific community needs, we have established the Asian Crime Task Force. We also celebrated the creation of the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Bureau, the expansion of the Vital Intervention and Directional Alternatives (VIDA) and mentoring programs, the Town Sheriff Program, and the opening of the Biscailuz Recovery Center. We have also restored the San Dimas and Marina Del Rey Stations to full-service status. The Altadena Station is also expected to open in the near future.

One of my primary goals when I took office was to increase staffing to improve the quality of life for those who live in the communities we serve. I am proud to say we have hired more than 1,100 personnel, both sworn and civilian. I continue to stress the need to target gang violence and have increased the number of investigators at both our Safe Streets and Homicide Bureaus.

I have also announced the formation of the L.A.S.D. Charitable Committee. This nonprofit organization will participate in celebrating the Department's 150th anniversary. The year long program includes the Department's first-ever float in the Tournament of Roses Parade and a fund raising campaign which will benefit the Department's youth programs.

As we look forward to the start of the new millennium, I am confident that our Department will meet any challenges it may face. Our hard work and sacrifices over the past year have only enhanced the outstanding reputation enjoyed worldwide by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

