

MESSAGE FROM THE SHERIFF

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT



Before we take stock of this past year's challenges and accomplishments, we respectfully and silently pause a moment, out of recognition for those taken from us during the horrific terrorist attack of September 11, 2001. That cowardly act of horrific proportions has left its mark on our country for time immemorial. But that mark has blossomed into a country unified in strength and purpose unrivaled in recent history.

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department has long exemplified our country's strength, resolve, and purpose, driven by the exemplary men and women who make our organization the finest law enforcement agency in the country. Their commitment, their hard work, their entrepreneurial spirit, has resulted in our innovative and successful approach to law enforcement. Which is why I'm proud to report to you that our Department is strong, secure and ever-vigilant to ensuring our continued tradition of service.

This *Year In Review* report serves as a detailed introduction to many of those programs devised and implemented by our sworn and professional staff. As an example, our Terrorism Early Warning Group, an interdisciplinary group comprised of a dozen agencies, was about its business immediately after September 11.

Our long-term strategic plan, known as LASD2, was formalized this past year, and provides a clear and strong picture of our future. There are many other examples contained in these pages. I think you will find them both illuminating and productive.

A successful inventory, however, falls short unless there is clear direction for the future. That is here as well. There is still much to do as we continue moving forward into the new millennium and I am confident our Department is ready to meet any such challenges.

The hard work and sacrifices over this past year have only enhanced the outstanding reputation enjoyed worldwide by our Department. You just can't go wrong when you have the best people delivering the best programs, as exemplified by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

- Lee Baca, Sheriff