

INTRODUCTION



The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department is the principal law enforcement agency for forty-one contract cities and the unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County, as well as the provider of bailiff and security services for the Municipal and Superior Courts. The Sheriff's Department also staffs the County Jail system which is comprised of nine jail facilities that house an average of more than 19,000 inmates at any given time. More than 86,224 Part I Crimes and 94,447 arrests were handled by the Department in 2001.

Services provided by our Department are as diverse as the County itself. In addition to providing basic patrol services, the Department offers the resources and expertise of specialized units including: Homicide Bureau, Narcotics Bureau, Organized Crime Section, Asian Crime Task Force, Family Crimes Bureau, Scientific Services Bureau, including fingerprint identification and crime laboratory services, and Fugitive Warrant Operations.

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department also maintains specialized Search and Rescue Teams. Many of the team members are reserve deputies and volunteers who have brought specialized skills or training to the Department and have received additional specialized training in mountain, swift water, and ocean rescue operations. Deployed by helicopter to an emergency or disaster, they are prepared, at a moment's notice, to effect rescue operations within Los Angeles County or to assist other counties or states in their rescue operations.

Any law enforcement agency's primary concern is with the public it's charged to protect. After September 11, 2001, that concern was never more real. Responding to emergencies is one of the things we do best. Within hours after the cowardly attacks on the other side of our nation, this Department immediately mobilized its Terrorism Early Warning Group, as well as the entire Emergency Operations Center (EOC). During such an emergency, Sheriff Lee Baca has a unique role as head of the EOC which is mandated by law.

Sheriff Baca also testified before the House Intelligence Committee regarding terrorism at the Manhattan City Hall in New York. Following his testimony, the Sheriff presented donations in the form of two checks totaling \$244,305 to New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani to benefit the survivors of the New York City police officers and firefighters who died in the collapse of the World Trade Center on that fateful day. "The courage and leadership demonstrated by the people of New York City embodies the real tower of American strength and is an inspiration to everyone," Baca wrote in a letter to Mayor Giuliani.

In expression of heartfelt sorrow, the funds were raised in a County-wide fund-raising effort by the men and women of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department and its community partners. The charitable giving was facilitated through the collection of donations and through the Department-sponsored sales of memorial bracelets and bumper stickers.

Needless to say, September 11 has contributed to making this past year one of the busiest twelve months this Department has had in recent history. While this year has been highlighted by many accomplishments, including the successful navigation of some challenging hurdles, we have also been devastated by the loss of two of our finest deputies. With great sorrow, we said goodbye to Deputy Brandon Hinkle who died following an accident on his Department motorcycle, and Deputy Hagop "Jake" Kuredjian who died at the hands of a deranged gunman.

One of the challenges we faced was recruitment, which is increasing following extraordinary efforts by our personnel. This is especially gratifying because recruitment numbers for law enforcement nationwide have been falling. In fact, our recruitment in 2001 saw a marked increase in both sworn and professional staff because of the Department's commitment to getting the best and the brightest the area has to offer. The Department's success in these ventures can be traced back to innovative partnerships for community outreach with media outlets, as well as the Mobile Recruitment Center. Sheriff Baca unveiled the Sheriff's Department's newest recruitment tool this year at East Los Angeles Community College. The Mobile Recruitment Center, a modified version of a city bus, is now being used by Examinations Unit personnel to administer written examinations for prospective deputy sheriffs at community events, college campuses, and job fairs. As a result of these efforts, the number of female recruits in the year 2000

was up 5% over 1999. Last year the percentage grew even higher, resulting in an impressive 25% of new recruits being females.

Also, recruitment has been fueled by Sheriff Baca's innovative approach to law enforcement in general. As an example, and as a small part of Sheriff Baca's long-range plans for the Department, the Office of Independent Review (OIR) was established to oversee internal investigations and citizens' complaints. A prominent former federal prosecutor of hate crimes and police misconduct cases, Michael Gennaco, has been appointed to head the Office. He has selected five top civil rights attorneys to work with him in reviewing investigations and complaints, with an eye toward determining if training or policy and procedures should be changed to improve service and eliminate similar problems in the future. Those attorneys are: Ben Jones, Ray Jurado, Steve Connolly, Rob Miller, and Ilana Rosenzweig. Additionally, the OIR intends to examine ways to provide recognition and incentives for employees who perform their duties in an exemplary fashion, specifically in the areas of use of force, integrity, public contact, and other issues that frequently are the subject of discipline.

In addition to the OIR, the landscape in which we fight crime is changing. Sheriff Baca is not going to be left behind. In July 2001, the Sheriff implemented a multi-agency task force that targets high-tech crimes. The task force began with the Sheriff's Department's formation of a Computer Crimes Unit in 1991.

Shortly thereafter, statewide cooperatives were being formed to combat high tech crime.

In 1998, the Governor's Office of Criminal Justice Planning (OCJP) approved the formation of task forces throughout the state. The Southern California Regional High Tech Crime Task Force covers the Los Angeles, Orange, and Ventura counties. Multi-agency cooperation is essential because the nature of high tech crimes surpasses jurisdictional boundaries over large geographic areas. The Task Force is staffed with investigators from city, county, state, and federal agencies throughout the region. The Task Force is involved with the investigation of crimes such as child pornography, identity theft, counterfeiting of computer software and components, Internet auction fraud, hacking, intrusion, and stalking. The offices and labs are located in the city of Norwalk, with a satellite office and lab in Ventura County. The hard work of the Task Force investigators will go a long way in taking a "byte" out of crime.

Strategic planning may not be as exciting as fighting the new frontier of high-tech crime, but is just as important to the vitality of an organization. That brings us to the Department's 30-year strategic plan, known as LASD2. This innovative strategic plan was formalized last year in a 115-page document, entitled "Long-Term Strategic Plan," which puts the future of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department in a working document that can be implemented over the next three decades. Sheriff Baca has long characterized his plan to

adding a civilian Assistant Sheriff by way of an example - as "practical idealism." This document demonstrates that workable future.

Our Department is growing. On January 21, 2001, security and law enforcement services for all nine campuses of the Los Angeles Community College District became part of the Sheriff's Department. With approximately 100,000 enrolled students, the Los Angeles Community College District consists of one district office, two satellite facilities, and nine college campuses located throughout the western portion of Los Angeles County. Two of the campuses are already in areas serviced by the Sheriff's Department. The College District joins the forty-one contract cities, the court system, our unincorporated areas, the jails, as well as many other services we provide throughout Los Angeles County.

While we continue to grow - currently 16,311 budgeted, sworn and professional staff employees - we are continually learning how to better train our staff and manage this, the largest sheriff's department in the nation. For example, we are drafting a Department-wide Diversity Plan which will focus both on valuing and managing diversity within the Department, as well as addressing the issues of racial profiling and bias-based policing when dealing with the public. We also are expanding the Department's on-site Associate's and Bachelor's Degree educational programs to enable more employees to pursue higher education at convenient locations.

Through diversity and education, we build strength, tolerance, and finally, better leaders. While doing this, we needed to employ a way to say thanks to our employees. As a result, we implemented the Department's "On the Spot Recognition" program. Recognition forms are now available to the public to express appreciation for "a job well-done." The public's input will both recognize individual excellence and allow the Department to evaluate public opinion and priorities, enabling our Department to better serve the community.

It's important to note that this is just a short list of some of the accomplishments over the last year. Many more, such as the activation of the Hate Crimes Unit and In-Court Release Program, are contained in the body of this report. We believe we are the best law enforcement agency in the world because we have the best people delivering the best programs.

As a final note, this report replaces the prior *Year In Review* document which was published for calendar years 1991 - 2000. We will be introducing a revised statistical summary later in the year which will provide all of the data previously included in the *Year In Review*.

Sheriff's Headquarters Building in Monterey Park.

