

CREATION OF THE OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY

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On September 11, 2001, we all witnessed the horrific attack upon America perpetrated by terrorists who had taken up residence within the United States. We were truly shocked and saddened at the tragic loss of thousands of innocent lives and the billions of dollars in property loss. The fact that terrorists could successfully target two of our country's major commercial and government centers with such impunity was a clear indication that drastic action had to be taken to insure the integrity of our country's "Homeland Security."

This attack upon our country also clearly demonstrated that emergency personnel first on scene can make a significant contribution in the rescue of severely injured victims and the restoration of public order. In this instance, "first responders" from local government entities were the only public safety personnel on scene for several hours. It was incumbent upon these first responders to attend to the critically injured, initiate rescue operations, establish the crime scene perimeters, and develop logistical supply and communications lines for the many hundreds of addi-

tional state and federal emergency personnel who would eventually arrive on scene.

Should an incident or disaster of this magnitude occur in our county, many of the first responders will be the men and women of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. It is the Sheriff's duty and responsibility to insure that all residents of our county are adequately protected from the threat of any and all forms of terrorism.

Therefore, we are embarking upon a proactive effort to enhance our Department's response to potential threats related to local homeland security. This will be accomplished by designating a special office to command those bureaus and units within our Department that have a nexus to local homeland security.

On October 27, 2002, our mission was accomplished. The new Office of Homeland Security was established by Sheriff Baca with the concurrence of the Board of

Supervisors. The Office is comprised of the following units and/or bureaus:

- Aero Bureau
- Emergency Operations Bureau
- Special Enforcement Bureau
- Office of Security Management
- Operations Bureau
- Field Operations Support Services Unit
- Reserve Forces Bureau
- Safe Streets Bureau
- Community Law Enforcement Partnership Program Unit

The members of this office are committed to the pursuit of a coordinated strategy of preparedness to ensure the readiness of our "first responders" who are ultimately entrusted with the mission of protecting all the citizens of our county.

