

# Message from the Sheriff

This past year, the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department continued to meet the challenges presented by the economic decline in our state and local budgets. Even though we have experienced the most significant financial cuts in our Department's history, we have prevailed in our efforts to maintain the highest level of service and safety for the communities we serve.

Throughout the year we faced many challenges, the largest being an 84 million dollar cutback in our budget. Only through perseverance were we able to manage and overcome this shortfall. I am extremely proud of the men and women of the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department as they continued to move forward in the face of financial adversity, both professionally and personally. They are deserving of our support and recognition, and I commend each and every one of them for a job well done.

The Department continues to review and implement programs designed to meet the needs of the youths in our communities, as well as the victims of violent and domestic crimes. While funding for these various programs is difficult to obtain, I am committed to seeking out new and creative funding sources to maintain these programs.

This *Year In Review* report serves as a detailed introduction to the programs and events that our Department carried out during 2003.

Finally, our work is far from over. The Los Angeles Sheriff's Department has always been a leader in law enforcement and I am committed to continuing in that distinction while serving our communities and improving on creating the safest environment possible for the citizens of Los Angeles County.

Lee Baca, Sheriff

