

# Introduction

The Los Angeles Sheriff's Department is the largest sheriff's department in the world, with primary law enforcement jurisdiction of over 4,000 square miles and a direct service population of over 2.6 million residents. Nearly 15,000 sworn and professional members staff 23 patrol stations that respond yearly to more than 500,000 calls for service, 8 custody facilities with a daily inmate population averaging more than 19,000, and a total of 52 court buildings with more than 600 courtrooms. In addition to the direct service areas, the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department also provides emergency tactical response, specialized detective support, crime lab services, and mutual aid for many of the smaller cities within the County.

This year marked the second year of severe financial troubles for the State of California, the County of Los Angeles, and the Sheriff's Department. The Sheriff's Department was forced to swallow another bitter pill this year in the form of over \$84 million in additional curtailments. In the wake of these serious curtailments, Department-wide, the men and women of the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department persevered.

The operating budget tops \$1.6 billion, yet it is important to recognize that the budget is supplemented by revenue through contracts and services. Almost 60% of the Department's budget is funded through this revenue. In May, the contract for law enforcement services provided to the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) was expanded to include the entire system, nearly doubling the existing service area and making the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department the second largest transit policing agency in the nation.

The Department was able to save an impressive amount on expenses through the vocational shops of the Pitchess Detention Center. Many needed items were manufactured by inmates at the North County Correctional Facility. The sewing shop, print shop, and sign shop collectively save the Department \$2 million each year. These shops serve a dual function. Not only do they save the Department money, but they also provide valuable vocational training to County jail inmates.

To better protect deputies in the field and the skies of Los Angeles County, Aero Bureau's aging fleet is being replaced with new American Eurocopter A-STAR helicopters. In 2003, Aero Bureau received seven helicopters out of a total order of twelve aircraft. Purchase costs for the new helicopters were offset by the sale of the existing fleet to various buyers around the world. The new helicopters are more cost-effective to operate, less labor intensive to maintain, and more versatile than the previous helicopters.

The creativity and persistence of many Department members paid off in 2003 with the acquisition of special grants and other funding to add some specialized equipment and to resurrect programs that seemed doomed under the existing County budget. Some examples include:

#### **Cargo Criminal Apprehension Team (C-CAT's):**

Funding for the Cargo CAT's was provided by the City of Los Angeles Port and the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors for the first half of 2003.

#### **Emergency Services Detail (ESD) Rescue Boat:**

The new "Design Concepts" rescue boat was paid for by special grant funding from the California State Department of Boating and Waterways. The motors were generously donated by the Honda Motor Corporation.

#### **Five New Search and Rescue Equipment Trucks:**

Rescue trucks deployed in the Altadena, Crescenta Valley, Lost Hills, San Dimas, and Santa Clarita Valley Station areas were obtained at no cost to taxpayers through drug asset forfeiture funds.

#### **New Bomb Detection Canine "Simba":**

Simba was a gift to the Department and the Arson/Explosives Detail from the Foundation to Combat Terrorism and Transnational Crime.

As a result of the Sheriff's commitment, the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department University (LASDU) was formed. The University consists of a consortium of colleges and universities whose mission is to provide

Department employees with accessible, multi-varied learning programs.

The LASDU graduated the first two classes in 2003. There are currently more than 700 Department members attending courses in Associate, Baccalaureate, and Master's Degree programs on Department facilities. The Los Angeles Sheriff's Department is currently the first and only law enforcement agency in the United States with a corporate university.

The Deputy Leadership Institute (DLI) Program has been able to continue through difficult economic times. This accomplishment has only been possible because of the commitment and dedication of Department members who have taken advantage of unique funding opportunities, made personal sacrifices, solicited volunteers and volunteered themselves, and accepted collateral duties.

In developing leaders at all levels of the Department, the Equity Training Unit and Respect-Based Leadership Program were implemented. The purpose of the Equity Training Unit was to educate approximately 15,000 Department members and 5,000 affiliated members, such as volunteers, reserves, and explorers, on the "Policy of Equality." This new policy replaced the former Sexual Harassment, Discrimination, and Retaliation Policies.

As of October 2003, the Department trained approximately 8,500 sworn and professional staff members in over 400 eight-hour Respect-Based Leadership workshops. The cadre of facilitators consists of 14 full-time deputy sheriffs and 10 part-time professional staff members.

It doesn't end there. In March 2003, more than 150 Sheriff's Department employees voluntarily participated in the Anti-Defamation League's "A Workplace of Difference" training program. This eight-hour anti-bias, California Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) certified program included training that explored the ideas of culture and how we perceive the culture of others. Participants learned the importance

of turning knowledge into usable skills for serving a diverse population.

Sheriff Baca is committed to instituting measures to assure the public that racial profiling and bias-based policing are not practiced by Department personnel. The Department expanded anti-bias training and began working with POST to develop a master plan to provide a viable strategy to accomplish established goals. Efforts, which involved members of the community and the Governor's panel of subject matter experts, resulted in a statewide curriculum which was created and commissioned by POST. As of June 30, 2003, Department racial profiling trainers have provided training for more than 5,000 sworn personnel.

Training and leadership reflects at all levels of the Department. Every day members of our Department are developing innovative concepts. In 2003, the Professional Development Bureau and Custody Training Video Unit developed a computer-based training program by using our Department's Intranet to augment current training and education systems. At any time, Department personnel may log on to the Intranet home page and click on the "LASD Power Point Presentations" for an enhanced level of training. The site has provided a supplemental training alternative at substantial cost savings.

Among law enforcement peers, cooperation results in more accurate and thorough intelligence, coordinated operations, and overall better service to the public. Although jurisdictional borders are well defined, the criminal element crosses those borders, both physically and electronically, with ease. This is a driving force behind interagency cooperation. Sheriff Baca and Los Angeles Police Chief William Bratton announced several cooperative programs in 2003.

The programs included:

#### **10th Annual Weapons Destruction Event**

#### **Gunfire Reduction Campaign**

#### **Gang Violence Planning Authority**

#### **Inter-Agency Community and School Safety Task Force**

Other partnerships with corporate partners, community groups, and other agencies included:

#### **Galpin Ford - Medal of Valor Awards Ceremony**

#### **SBC - Partner to enhance technology used in Amber Alerts**

#### **Hyundai Motor America - "Safetyville" Back to School Traffic Safety Campaign**

Sheriff Baca has long been a staunch advocate of alternative care options for the homeless and mentally ill in Los Angeles County. A lack of available care in these areas has made the Los Angeles County Jail the care provider of last resort for the mentally ill and the homeless. The Department has been closely involved with many programs that help ease the burden on the system, including:

#### **On-going development of the Homeless Public Safety Center**

#### **Salvation Army, Bell Shelter for the mentally ill and homeless.**

#### **Mentally Ill Offender Crime Reduction Grant Program**

#### **Mental Evaluation Team (MET)**

In May, the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department received an award from the California Coalition for Mental Health for Department programs focusing on proper care for the mentally ill.

The Los Angeles Sheriff's Department's Legislative Unit monitors approximately 5,000 pieces of legislation each legislative session and introduces legislation on behalf of the Sheriff's Department. The Legislative Unit has a successful track record of having legislation signed by the Governor and defeating legislation that would hinder law enforcement officers from doing their job. In

2003, the Unit introduced six pieces of legislation, all of which were signed by the Governor. These legislative bills ranged from increasing civil processing fees to assist the Sheriff's Department in its fiscal crisis, to a change in law regarding precursors for methamphetamine.

The Los Angeles Sheriff's Crime Lab celebrated 75 years of successful operation in 2003. The Crime Lab was able to secure State grant funding to advance the technology of its Deoxyribonucleic Acid (DNA) testing protocol through the purchase of a robotics system. This system is used to extract DNA from biological evidence as much as seven times faster than the previous procedure. The Crime Lab also continued its quest for the regional crime lab. When operations open in the Fall of 2006, the regional crime lab will provide training and forensic science services for all of Los Angeles County.

Technology figured prominently in several wide-scale systems that assisted agencies nationwide in solving crimes that once were unsolvable. The Department has solved cases with the help of some of these systems like the National Integrated Ballistic Imaging Network (NIBIN) and DNA databases. The Department continues to explore new systems which will expand our ability to solve crimes in the future. The latest of these systems uses new technology to greatly enhance technology that is over one hundred years old. The Cogent Automated Palm and Fingerprint Identification System (CAPFIS) is designed to process and retrieve personal identification within minutes based on latent finger and palm prints.

One of the most amazing cases solved by our Homicide Bureau was one that involved old fingerprint technology and a relatively new, nationwide Federal Bureau of Investigation (F.B.I.) fingerprint database. Through determined detective work and the use of technology, investigators were able to arrest and convict the murderer of two El Segundo Police Officers forty-five years after the crime was committed.

The generosity of Department members and their desire to reach out to the community continued

throughout 2003. Countless volunteer hours were given and Department members reached deep into their pockets during a year when finances were tight. In 2003, we vowed never to forget the horrific events of September 11th. On the second year anniversary, Department members united in an emotional ceremony to show respect and solidarity, remembering all those whose lives were taken that day. The ceremonial tributes and hollow feelings will be with us for years to come as we continue to understand them.

The development of the statewide California Antiterrorist Information Center, chaired by Sheriff Baca, has given our Department the responsibility of coordinating our County's homeland security efforts with other agencies and entities. Procedures and protocol were developed to ensure timely distribution of critical information through the use of Homeland Security Bulletins. In March 2003, we entered into the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department's "Operation Liberty Shield," working in conjunction with the national program with the same name. The combined goal was to improve homeland security by increasing preparedness and awareness, improving and identifying resources, acquiring equipment, and expanding and improving relevant training.

Our Department members were certainly ready when they were called to active military duty. They answered the call and many who are responsible for protecting our communities were called to protect our Country. Three hundred sixty-five Department members, both sworn and professional staff, are military reservists, and more than 151 were called to active military duty to serve in Iraq and around the world in 2003. Forty-nine of our Department members are still deployed on active military duty, and our thoughts are with them.

On a more somber note, the untimely loss of Deputy Stephen Sorensen, who was taken from us on August 2, 2003, hit us all with sobering fierceness. Steve is truly a hero and will be greatly missed, but never forgotten. Our quest to find Deputy David March's killer continued throughout 2003. With Teri March leading the way and Sheriff Baca joining

Congressman Howard P. "Buck" McKeon, 25th Congressional District, in support of a congressional resolution requesting that President Bush renegotiate the current extradition treaty with Mexico, it became very evident that we will not give up. Sheriff Baca continued to apply the pressure with a meeting at the Attorney General's Office in Mexico City. Never has there been such a clear reminder that we will never stop pursuing those who attempt to disrupt our free and just society.

As we paid tribute and respect to the heroes we have lost, we were ceremoniously reminded of all the Department heroes that are putting their lives on the line to maintain a safe Los Angeles County. Every day there are those who put themselves in harm's way to save the life of another human being, or whose conduct is otherwise meritorious. Thirty-two Department members were worthy of this recognition in 2003 and they were recognized at the Annual Medal of Valor and Meritorious Conduct Awards Ceremony, and at Dodger Stadium during Los Angeles Sheriff's Department Appreciation Night. We all salute you.

