

Message from the Sheriff

In the past few years, our Department has experienced its share of challenges. There have been budget cuts, staffing shortages, and a lack of funds to make necessary infrastructure repairs or to replace outdated facilities. The relentless drive of our Department personnel and the continued support of the Board of Supervisors has greatly assisted in overcoming these obstacles, as we enter a period of rebuilding. This year, above all others, we can see tangible evidence of our steadfast pursuit.

Anyone monitoring this year's transfer lists can attest to the increase in the staffing of our Department. These increases have permitted our Department to expand our recruitment efforts with the goal of filling our many vacancies. The opening of the new academy at Antelope Valley College furthers our effort to train deputy sheriff recruits.

The Special Enforcement Bureau completed its move into the newly refurbished Biscailuz Regional Training Center (BRTC) in early October. Construction continues to progress at the BRTC, the future home of our flagship academy, pistol range, and numerous advanced training units that are expected to move to the BRTC in 2007. As of December 1, we met our goal of hiring 1,000 deputy sheriffs by the year's closing, thus reaching an all-time high for the hiring of newly sworn personnel in a year.

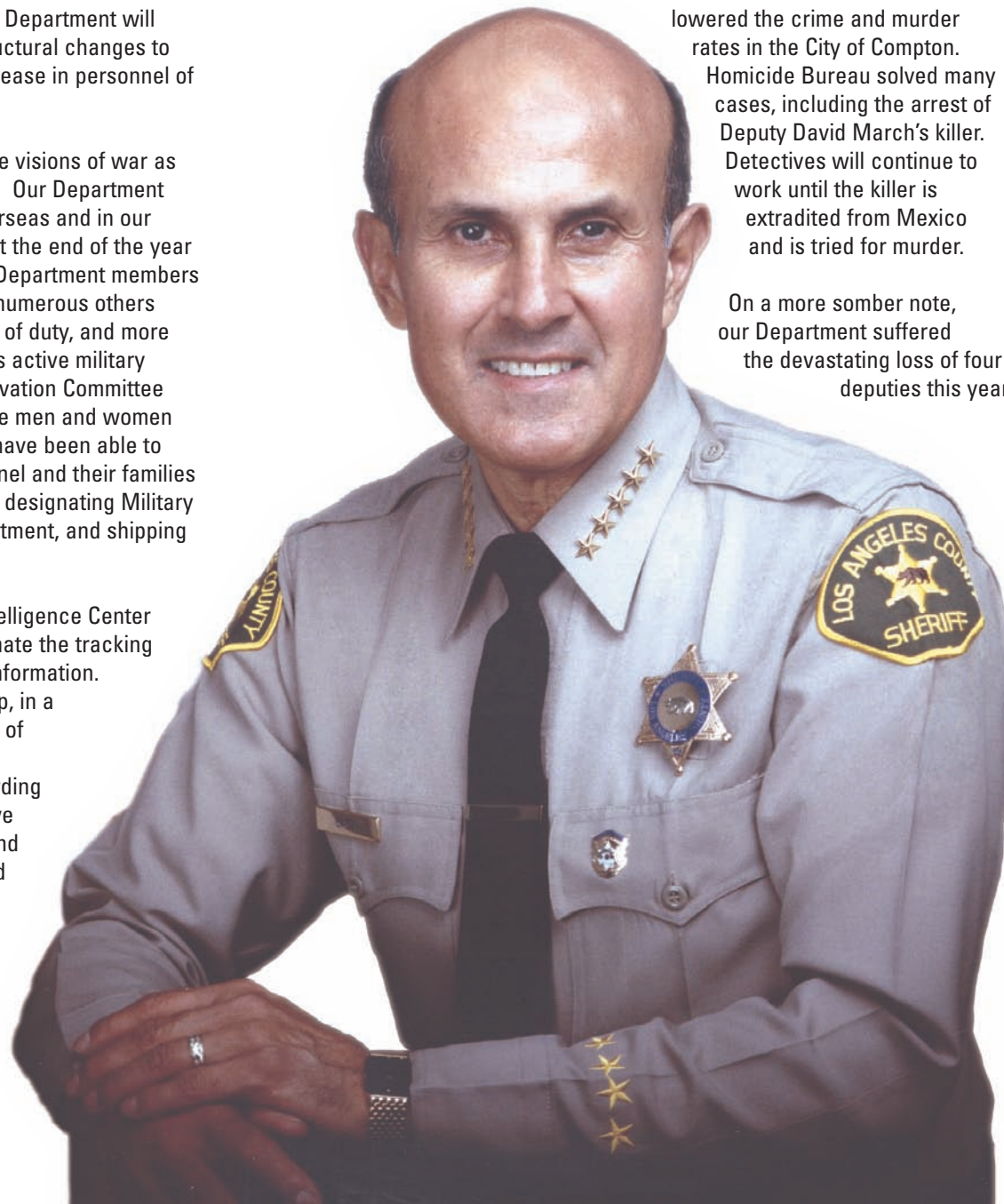
This year, with the support of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, we had monumental progress from our Facilities Planning Bureau. The cities of Palmdale and San Dimas held ceremonies for the opening of their new stations. We broke ground for the construction of the expansion and refurbishment of the Lakewood Station and La Mirada Community Station. Construction continues at the state-of-the-art Regional Crime Laboratory, which we anticipate to open in May of 2007. Additionally, funding was approved to renovate the Sybil Brand Institute for Women jail

facility. As we move into a new year, the Department will undeniably continue to make needed structural changes to accommodate the advancement and increase in personnel of our growing agency.

Almost daily, the world news captures the visions of war as our country continues to battle terrorism. Our Department personnel engage in this action both overseas and in our homeland. This was especially evident at the end of the year as the holiday season came to pass: 29 Department members were deployed to serve in the Iraqi war, numerous others returned home, some from a second tour of duty, and more than 350 Department personnel served as active military reserves. The Department's Military Activation Committee (MAC) has continued to support the brave men and women who serve in our nation's military. They have been able to provide support to both activated personnel and their families by establishing an informational website, designating Military Liaison Officers at each unit of the Department, and shipping holiday packages to deployed personnel.

On the home front, the Joint Regional Intelligence Center (JRIC) opened its doors in July to coordinate the tracking and dissemination of counter-terrorism information. The Terrorism Early Warning (TEW) Group, in a concerted effort with the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Los Angeles Police Department, will filter tips received regarding possible terrorist activities. This proactive effort will undeniably benefit the Southland in identifying threats, following leads, and ultimately preventing attacks.

The "Compton Task Force" seized firearms, served search warrants, and affected the arrest of hundreds of criminals. Their effort substantially



lowered the crime and murder rates in the City of Compton. Homicide Bureau solved many cases, including the arrest of Deputy David March's killer. Detectives will continue to work until the killer is extradited from Mexico and is tried for murder.

On a more somber note, our Department suffered the devastating loss of four deputies this year.

The senseless murder of Deputy Maria Rosa was brought to somewhat of a close when a break in the case resulted in the arrest of two suspects. Deputy Pierre Bain was killed when he was struck on his motorcycle while attempting to initiate a traffic stop. Tragically, Deputy David Piquette was also killed in a separate traffic accident. Deputy Paul Wilms was killed as a result of an accidental shooting. Our Department nearly suffered another fatality when Deputy James Mulay was deliberately run down by a robbery suspect attempting to flee the scene of a crime. His will to survive and inner strength have carried him through the pain, surgeries, and therapy he has had to endure. With the tremendous support of his family, friends, and law enforcement family, he has made nothing short of a miraculous recovery. For those whom we have lost, we can keep the memories of how they touched our lives in our minds, their spirits close to our hearts, and their love of life as an example to all.

The experiences and tasks that challenge us on personal and professional levels will be constant. It is how we choose to face these obstacles which show our true measure. As a Department, I am proud that this year has been a testimony to the fact that our morale and accomplishments will continue to persevere, regardless of the challenges. Our actions continue to exemplify our Core Values, Mission Statement, and Department Creed, enabling us to better serve and impact the lives of the people in our communities.

Lee Baca, Sheriff