

# Introduction

YEAR IN REVIEW 2008

INTRODUCTION

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department is the largest sheriff's department in the world, with a law enforcement jurisdiction of over 3,157 square miles and a service population of approximately 4 million residents. Additionally, law enforcement services are provided to 9 community colleges, the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, 48 Superior Courts and residents living in the 90 unincorporated communities and 40 contract cities. The department is also responsible for managing and securing approximately 19,000 inmates in eight custody facilities.

This year the Department reached a milestone when budgeted positions for Deputy Sheriff reached 10,000. Once filled, there will be 17,000 sworn and professional staff. To that end, 1,252 Deputy Sheriff Trainees and 262 Custody Assistants were hired. It was a phenomenal accomplishment to hire more police officers than any other agency on the West Coast and second nationwide only to the New York City Police Department.

Allowing our personnel to enhance their education has been the goal of the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department University program. This educational program is open to Sheriff's personnel, members of other law enforcement agencies, and public service organizations. Since its inception, over 1,000 employees have obtained Associate to PhD degrees.

During this past year, substantial facility refurbishments allowed the relocation of the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Bureau, Operation Safe Streets Bureau, and the East Los Angeles Station Gang Enforcement Team. Additionally, the Cedar Lodge located at the Pitchess Detention Center was remodeled to allow for all-weather formalized tactical training for the Arson/Explosives Detail and for law enforcement personnel from around the world to attend the Post Blast Investigation School.

The department continued to apply the principles of public trust policing, by the use of police resources that include the public's participation in the mission of public safety. Two examples of how the department is leading the way in public trust policing are the new Compton Gateway Towne

Center Satellite Station and the City Terrace Sheriff's Substation. Opening its doors on May 16, 2008, the Compton Gateway Towne Center Satellite Station is a partnership between the Sheriff's Department, City of Compton, Prism Realty Corporation, and local businesses. The City Terrace Sheriff's Substation, serving East Los Angeles residents, was opened on August 23, 2008. This Sheriff's Substation will serve as a one-stop law enforcement facility.

During the past three years, investigators from Major Crimes Bureau assisted the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives with an undercover investigation that resulted in the arrests of at least 70 members of the Southern California-based motorcycle gang known as the "Mongols." On October 21, 2008, approximately 550 Sheriff's personnel were involved in, "Operation Black Rain." Search warrants were served at approximately 120 locations throughout Southern California, resulting in the seizure of illegal drugs, weapons, and 70 motorcycles.

Our Special Enforcement Bureau took the top prize in the "Urban Shield 2008" competition, the largest homeland security training exercise of its kind in the nation. This competition consisted of 50 hours of continuous realistic scenarios in simulated real-world conditions, including dignitary protection, hostage rescue, industrial sabotage, prison riot, maritime interdiction, school takeover, active shooter, and aircraft interdiction, among many others. The goal is to assess regional disaster response capabilities, as well as to test readiness to deal with many types of large-scale incidents.

The accomplishment of the members of the Special Enforcement Bureau team is emblematic of the Sheriff's Departments' Mission, Creed and Core Values. When faced with a seemingly insurmountable challenge, members of this department find a way to summon the courage, knowledge and strength to overcome the obstacles that lie ahead. The coming year will undoubtedly pose new and difficult challenges, however, once again we will be ready to lead the way with innovative ideas that build upon the trust the public has bestowed upon each member of this department.

