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Message from the Sheriff

For as many years as I have held the position of Sheriff of Los Angeles County, my annual “Message from the Sheriff” has always focused on the daily challenges presented to this Department: the challenges inherent in operating a law enforcement entity concerned with protecting the life and property of over ten million diverse residents in a 4,752-square-mile area. What’s more, those challenges include providing housing and security to 17,000 inmates, manning the courtrooms to insure that the wheels of justice within Los Angeles County run smoothly, and answering the call whenever crime and criminals try to take advantage of innocent civilians. Factor in the difficult economic time we have experienced in 2007, and you have some idea as to the extent of our challenges.

However, each challenge derives an opportunity, and taking advantage of these opportunities seems to be the cornerstone of the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department. A larger population requires a larger policing presence, and to that end we have seized the opportunity to hire some of the best and brightest recruits from throughout the country to fill our ranks. Due to the hard work of the Recruitment Unit, Backgrounds Unit, and the Training Bureau, we are well on the way to a new milestone of 10,000 fully-manned sworn positions, supported by 8,000 professional staff that should occur in the near future. We continue to have personnel called up to active military duty and deployed overseas. We take this opportunity to increase the scope of the Military Activation Committee, to assist the families of our brave Department members serving their country. The Los Angeles County Jail inmate population continues to grow, so we embark on new procedures, facility upgrades, and new technologies to ensure deputies’ safety while they watch over their charges. We research and improve our tactics, training, and equipment in response to violent crime, and when met with criminal action or public dissonance, members of our sworn staff take the opportunity to arrest and deter crime, upholding their oath to serve the public against all threats.

The brave men and women who make up our Department have always taken the opportunity to face challenges head on, including the extremely difficult challenge of pressing on after losing a Department member to a violent crime or accident. We cannot reverse time and bring back Deputy Raul Gama, but we can take this opportunity to come together in tribute to fallen heroes, pray for their family and friend’s comfort, remember their best qualities, and use their excellent examples to guide us as we continue down the road of life.

This year provided our Department with varied and difficult challenges, but once again, you have rewarded my faith, continued to exemplify the very heart of the Core Values, and kept this Department at the forefront of law enforcement throughout the world. I could not possibly be more proud of each and every one of you and the incredible job you have performed over the past year.

Thank you.

Leroy Baca, Sheriff
The men and women, both sworn and professional staff, who proudly serve on the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department are among the most highly trained and motivated professionals in the United States. Their dedication to being the best is rarely matched by any law enforcement agency in the world. We are the largest Sheriff’s Department anywhere, comprising more than 17,000 personnel, both sworn and professional staff. The organization is responsible for more than 10 million county residents, providing direct law enforcement services to approximately 2.7 million of those residents who live in the 90 unincorporated communities and 40 contract cities of the County of Los Angeles. Additionally, the department provides law enforcement services to nine community colleges, the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, and 48 Superior Courts. The Department also has the responsibility of housing, feeding, medically treating, and securing approximately 19,000 inmates in eight custody facilities.

Deputies answering calls for service must navigate through nearly a hundred cultures and languages on a day-to-day basis. Deputies patrol through coastal beaches, city streets, mountain roads and even in the water and sky. At the same time, detectives from Narcotics Bureau, Homicide Bureau, Special Victims Bureau, Major Crimes Bureau, Arson/Explosives Detail, and Operation Safe Streets Bureau may be initiating or completing another investigation.

Obviously, the task of maintaining order and safety for the citizens of Los Angeles County is a monumental one. Sheriff Baca deeply believes that education should be a lifelong process, and that a highly educated workforce is necessary to carry out the responsibilities entrusted to us by the public. Consistent with this belief, Los Angeles Sheriff’s Department University (LASUD) was created. Although originally developed to provide various learning programs for all members of the Department, other public service organizations and members of the law enforcement community have and are utilizing the services of LASUD. We have developed a catalog that provides additional information regarding the consortium of colleges and universities partnered with LASUD. This partnership assists LASUD in providing accessible and affordable educational opportunities to all members of the public service community.

Of course, investing in the personnel of the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department is paramount. Nearly as important is an investment in the infrastructure of the Department. To that end, a major accomplishment and victory for the citizens of Los Angeles County was the opening of the Hertzberg-Davis Forensic Science Center. Through a partnership of the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department and the Los Angeles Police Department, this facility houses criminal laboratories of both Departments, as well as classrooms for the California State University, Los Angeles, School of Criminal Justice and Criminalistics, and the California Forensic Science Institute. It will also provide criminal laboratory services to numerous law enforcement agencies within Los Angeles, such as the District Attorney’s Office, 46 police agencies, and the City Attorney’s Office.

Additional developments with the Department included the Special Enforcement Bureau’s move into two newly renovated buildings at the Biscailuz Regional Training Center totaling 28,000 square feet of space.

Technological advancements included the Advanced Surveillance and Protection Plan (ASAP) pilot project deployed at Compton Station to assist with gang and crime-fighting efforts. ASAP features a variety of technology such as digital video surveillance, acoustic gunshot detection, Automatic License Plate Recognition (ALPR), and other advanced wireless components integrated into a command center functioning with station dispatch.

These are only a few of the accomplishments of our great Department. In a continuing and an aggressive recruitment campaign, we are quickly on our way to a major milestone of 10,000 sworn positions. Certainly, this Department is not simply about numbers. We believe we are the best law enforcement agency in the world because we have the best people delivering the best programs.
Our Core Values

As a leader in the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department, I commit myself to honorably perform my duties with respect for the dignity of all people, integrity to do right and fight wrongs, wisdom to apply common sense and fairness in all I do, and courage to stand against racism, sexism, anti-Semitism, homophobia, and bigotry in all its forms.

Our Mission

Lead the fight to prevent crime and injustice. Enforce the laws fairly and defend the rights of all. Partner with the people we serve to secure and promote safety in our communities.

Our Creed

My goals are simple. I will always be painfully honest, work as hard as I can, learn as much as I can, and hopefully make a difference in people’s lives.
FACILITIES SERVICES BUREAU (FSB) WAS CREATED IN 1990 TO ADDRESS AND BETTER SERVE THE MAINTENANCE NEEDS OF THE DEPARTMENT’S FACILITIES. PRIOR TO 1990, THE COUNTY INTERNAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT HANDLED THE MAINTENANCE FOR ALL OF THE SHERIFF’S DEPARTMENT FACILITIES. FSB BEGAN WITH A STAFF OF 40 EMPLOYEES, AND HAS GROWN TO NEARLY 400 MAINTENANCE, CRAFT, AND SUPPORT PERSONNEL. FSB MAINTAINS SEVEN MILLION SQUARE FEET OF SPACE, INCLUDING CUSTODY FACILITIES, STATIONS, COURT LOCK-UPS, AND ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES. FSB RESPONDS TO APPROXIMATELY 110,000 ANNUAL CALLS FOR SERVICE, AND PRIDES ITSELF IN EXCEPTIONAL CUSTOMER SERVICE AND ACCOUNTABILITY.

MAXIMO was adopted in direct response to the Department’s greater need for detailed reports and accountability, and to streamline operational procedures for maximum efficiency. As a result, FSB embarked on a sizable endeavor to become fully automated and accountable for all labor and material expenditures by implementing the IBM-Maximo software.

Maximo software is a web based program, recognized as the global standard for maintenance, repair tracking, and accountability. Maximo has enabled FSB to automate all aspects of its business operations, including the tracking of assets, equipment history, labor, and expenses. The system will automate preventive maintenance scheduling and work orders. Since the implementation of Maximo, FSB has been able to catalogue 55,000 room locations, 22,000 material item types, and 480 users. The cataloging is necessary for tracking repairs and job orders.

Maximo has improved the way FSB conducts its operations. With the assistance of Data Systems Bureau, FSB also extended its wireless network. FSB equipped its staff with wireless tablet style computers, allowing the staff to receive and complete work orders in the field. These tablet style computers also have the basic business suite of programs making them the Mobile Digital Terminal (MDT) of the maintenance staff. These improvements will help us achieve our goal of providing service excellence.

FSB trained Custody Division to create and track work orders related to each jail facility. Maximo now provides custodial staff with real-time reports regarding cell repairs and bed availability. Medical Services Bureau will utilize Maximo in the future to more accurately track and archive maintenance and labor records and to document compliance with regulatory mandates and occupancy certifications. FSB will continue to train Department personnel until each Division is able to create their own work orders, run ad hoc reports, and manage their project priorities.

Maximo will provide facility status reports to the Division Chiefs and Commanders to assist them in identifying and prioritizing their Division’s critical needs. This increased real-time communication will also alert the Financial Programs Bureau’s Budget Unit regarding the funding needed for any given project or emergency.

When fully operational, Maximo will also provide detailed ad hoc reports for each Division’s expenditures. Unit Commanders will then have an effective tool to view all scheduled or in-progress maintenance and repair work within their facility. Maximo will also provide an accurate cost of ownership for each facility, which will be useful to the Budget Unit and for contract negotiations with contract cities and the Federal Government.

Maximo allowed the Department to integrate its procurement, labor, vendor services, and inventory management into one system. Employees are able to accurately account for current material inventories and identify parts and supplies needed for the facilities, which will result in reduced inventories. Historical usage and accurate inventories allow us to utilize a Just-In-Time (JIT) materials ordering model, which alerts each unit when particular supplies need to be ordered.

An effective preventive maintenance program is now being implemented Department-wide, beginning with the custody facilities. This program will cause a noticeable shift from reactive repairs to proactive maintenance. Repair costs will be reduced and the life of the equipment will be extended.

The architecture of Maximo is expandable to allow for the growing needs of the Department. Maximo has the ability to track any asset, including fleet vehicles, weapons, employee badges, and other assigned equipment. Maximo will ultimately be integrated with the new Countywide e-Caps timekeeping and purchasing programs.
The Sheriff’s Department Medical Services Bureau (MSB) has developed and implemented a Telemedicine Program to address some of the challenges in providing medical care to inmates. These challenges include an aging inmate population, the security issues of inmates housed in a hospital setting, the security issues related to transporting inmates to and from the hospital, the extreme costs associated with the security and transportation of inmates, the need for specialty clinics and MSB’s ability to provide this constitutionally required level of care.

Telemedicine addresses these issues by bringing the medical services to the inmate, instead of the inmate to the services. Keeping the inmate in the jail eliminates the costs and security risks associated with taking the inmate out of the jail setting.

The Telemedicine Program addresses the Sheriff’s commitment to “Workforce Excellence” by enhancing public and employee confidence in the importance and honor of public service. It also addresses the Sheriff’s Department “Service Excellence Goals for Effectiveness, Efficiency and Responsiveness.” The program is an extremely effective and efficient method of providing constitutionally guaranteed medical care to the incarcerated inmate population through the use of technology.

The goals of Telemedicine are to improve delivery of healthcare to the inmate population; to increase security through the reduction of transporting inmates outside of the jail environment; to improve access to specialty care through more efficient scheduling and the reduction of downtime between appointments; and the recruitment and retention of staff by creating an effective and efficient delivery system of care. A case study is being conducted to capture the benefits of Telemedicine in a complete and comprehensive return on investment format.

MSB has partnered with the Department of Health Services, specifically at the University of Southern California/ Los Angeles County Medical Center, to establish the first Telemedicine Specialty Clinics. Telemedicine has applications far beyond the jail. Telemedicine allows for quicker access to healthcare. Initially, this will be specialty care in clinics, with access to the Emergency Room to follow. Through early intervention, increased medical compliance, and treatment, we have improved patient outcomes; thereby leading to reduced liability exposure.

By virtue of keeping the inmates in the custody environment, we have reduced transportation costs and increased public safety, as potentially violent inmates have been kept from the general public during assessment and treatment. Additionally, the program has reduced the risk of escape by treating the inmates in a secure jail setting. The Telemedicine Program can also be used for consultations prior to sending an inmate for treatment to an Emergency Room, thereby, reducing needless trips and getting earlier intervention for those inmates that truly require treatment.
Custody Assistant Pilot Program

In July 2007, Court Services Division implemented a Custody Assistant Pilot Program. Ten Custody Assistants were assigned to five of the counties busiest court lock-up facilities (Clara Shortridge Foltz Criminal Justice Center, Compton Court, Long Beach Court, Airport Court and Michael D. Antonovich Antelope Valley Court). These Custody Assistants assisted court lock-up personnel with releases, DNA collection, booking of court remands, and Live Scan processing.

In an attempt to address the issue of jail overcrowding, a video arraignment program was envisioned and a study was initiated. The objective of this project was to study and document the impact of a video arraignment program on the operational costs. Through a cooperative effort by the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department, Los Angeles Superior Court, Los Angeles District Attorney’s Office, Office of the Public Defender, and the Office of the Alternate Public Defender, the pilot project would test the potential of the program and its possible expansion into other courts.

In partnership with Communications and Fleet Management Bureau, the Motorola HT-1250 multi-channel radio was selected, and repeaters were installed in strategic locations within our courthouses, which allowed our personnel to communicate with one another with a higher degree of effectiveness. The anticipated completion of this project is 2008.

In an effort to replace the outdated Automated Information Management (A.I.M.) program which captured statistical information for purposes of Sheriff’s Critical Issues Form (SCIF), Court Services Division adopted the FileMaker software program. The FileMaker system is more intuitive for the user and is a flexible database that stores a multitude of statistical information that Court Services Division executives relied upon for reporting to the Sheriff, Superior Court, and the County Board of Supervisors.

The Defendant Inmate Movement Management System (DIMMS) was introduced by Court Services Division and developed between late 1996 through 1999 and was operational in the year 2000. In 2007, Court Services Division conducted a replacement and upgrade of the network system and purchased new hand-held Windows Pocket Mobile PC scanners and deployed them in court lock-up facilities. These new scanners help improve the management and control of inmates between custody facilities and the courts.

Several incidents in Court Services Division lock-up facilities caused the installation of cuffing ports to enhance the safety of our personnel. At the completion of the design phase, the installation process began on the doors of temporary lock-up cells within Court Services Division. These cuffing ports created a “safety barrier” between inmates and lock-up personnel when the need to handcuff inmates was necessary. In addition, the cuffing ports were installed to minimize the safety hazards of physical confrontation when handcuffing inmates. The anticipated completion of this project is 2008.

The 2007 Charitable Giving Campaign was a phenomenal success. Court Services Division personnel participated in this campaign with extreme passion, contributing the highest donation within the Sheriff’s Department totaling in excess of $11,500.00. Thanks to the management of the funds by Court Services Division, Operations Assistant II Irene Mesta, the Sheriff’s Department’s total contribution, which was in excess of $203,300.00, was the highest contribution since the Sheriff’s Department’s participation in the campaign.
The mission of Custody Support Services is to act as a resource and assist the Department personnel assigned to both Custody Operations and Correctional Services Divisions. This mission is met by ensuring that personnel receive quality administrative support, in-depth research, independent auditing, critical incident review and policy development.

Custody Support Services is a diverse unit whose personnel are constantly being challenged to perform a variety of tasks and to stay on the cutting edge of contemporary custodial issues and practices. In this era of shrinking budgets and the Department working more with the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), the Los Angeles County Office of Independent Review, and Custody Support Services strives to provide the most up to date information for the ever changing environment in custody.

Custody Support Services is composed of three teams: Standards and Compliance, Data Analysis, and Risk Analysis. The Standards and Compliance Team is responsible for ensuring that custody facilities within the department are in compliance with department and division policy, as well as any state and federal mandates. The Risk Analysis Team works with all custody facilities and other entities to identify and mitigate Custody Operations and Correctional Services Divisions’ liability issues. The Data & Analysis Teams’ foremost goal is to achieve data integrity. Data is analyzed to provide useful information for Unit commanders to better manage their facilities. These three teams work on such projects as: death reviews, statistical data reports and surveys, custody facility command inspections, legislative analysis, Title 15 audits, State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP) and the maintenance of the Custody Division Manual. In addition, Custody Support Services ensures that personnel are provided the most cutting edge technology product and training.

After the jail riots in 2006, it became imperative that the Sheriff’s Department needed to change the way inmates were classified. Custody Support Services devised a method to reclassify inmates in a manner that was within the confines of an aging computer system. Since the same system had been used for the past twenty years, training had to be conducted to provide up to date information for both custody and court personnel. This project helped reclassify inmates and was developed to help alleviate housing shortfalls within the Los Angeles County Jail System. The new classification system narrowed the definition of the K-10 classification and introduced a new K-6 classification.

In 2007, Custody Support Services coordinated a custody-wide audit with the consulting firm of Crout and Sida. This was a 18 month independent audit commissioned by the Board of Supervisors and involved an in-depth audit focused on various topics from inmate movement, housing, jail security, policy, facility security, and staffing models. This was the first audit of its kind within the Sheriff’s Department.

On October 22, 2007, a Southern California wildfire threatened the Pitchess Detention Center. Custody Support Services activated the Custody Emergency Operation Center to facilitate the evacuation of inmates from the Pitchess Detention Center – South Facility to other jail facilities throughout the Los Angeles County Jail System. With the help of all jail facilities, and the direction of Custody Support Services, the Los Angeles County Jail System successfully relocated 440 inmates to the North County Correctional Facility, Twin Towers Correctional Facility, and Men’s Central Jail.

Custody Support Services has been in existence since the 1980’s and works on long term and immediate custodial issues. Custody Support Services prides itself on working together to keep the Los Angeles County Jail system operating in accordance with policy and procedures.
The Narcotics Bureau's Marijuana Enforcement Team (M.E.T.) was organized in 1991 and is a “co-lateral” assignment for approximately forty street level narcotics detectives. The team's primary objectives include reducing the supply of marijuana to the illegal market by eradicating crop sites, increasing public and environmental safety by removing grows and trash from public lands, investigating indoor growing operations and deterring potential growers through the team's investigation and enforcement efforts.

Illegal grows pose a significant threat to users of public lands and to the environment. Danger to the public exists when illegal grows are accidentally located. Growers haul untold gallons of herbicides, gasoline and other chemicals into remote areas where they have cleared space for marijuana plants by stripping the native vegetation. They also utilize fertilizers and insecticides that eventually make their way into streams, ponds, and lakes. When the growing season is over they abandon their claims leaving mounds of trash and human waste.

The marijuana growing season runs from approximately April through September and M.E.T. personnel are extremely active during that time period. M.E.T. operations involve strenuous physical activity, requiring difficult hiking in extremely steep mountainous terrain, as well as, the cutting and bundling of the marijuana plants seized as evidence. Team membership is voluntary and members receive approximately sixty hours of specialized training each year in a variety of areas directly related to M.E.T. operations. Necessary training areas included are land navigation, rural team movement, rappelling and heli-tac techniques, man tracking, emergency first aid and specialized investigative techniques.

National Guard units provide expertise and skills in areas not usually associated with urban law enforcement. They facilitate a large amount of the land navigation and rural team movement training. When available, Air National Guard personnel provide military helicopter support for M.E.T. personnel in hauling marijuana plants from remote grow locations. The helicopter is operated by pilots with training specifically related to “long line” cable lifting techniques. M.E.T. Teams are often transported to remote grow areas by Air 5 which is staffed by a crew from Aero Bureau and paramedics from the Emergency Services Detail (ESD).

M.E.T. works in a cooperative task force arrangement with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and law enforcement components of the United States Forest Service, the National Parks Service and the California State Park service. Nearly ninety percent of the available public land associated with illegal marijuana grows falls under the jurisdiction of one of these park or forest agencies.

Highlighting the 2007 eradication efforts was a three day long operation that resulted in the elimination of a series of gardens in the Angeles National Forest that covered an area approximately seventeen miles long and six miles wide. That operation involved members of the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department, the Drug Enforcement Administration, the United States Forest Service and the Campaign Against Marijuana Planting (C.A.M.P.). Team members eradicated 70,158 marijuana plants and removed hundreds of pounds of trash from the grow sites.

During the 2007 season M.E.T. operations resulted in the eradication of over 274,000 plants. Thousands of pounds of “camp trash” were also removed from public lands. A total of 77,413 plants were seized from illegal indoor grows. The total number of marijuana plants removed thus far during 2007 is over 300,000.
In the tales of these incidents, deputies arrest burglars and recover property before the victims even know anything was stolen. They outwit and arrest slick con artists who specialize in duping elderly victims to steal from them. They break up car stripping rings by reading trace evidence in desert sand. There is even an “overseas” arrest for murder by a deputy serving as a reserve in the armed forces, who captures an Iraqi suspect who planted an I.E.D. to kill American servicemen.

We’re posting the stories one at a time on the Department’s website at lasd.org. Just click on “patrol stations” and then on “Region I.” See for yourself how lucky we are to have these capable men and women protecting us!

Police work is like no other career or job. Certain aspects of it are absolutely unique, which is one of its many attractions for energetic, astute, caring people.

Since 1850, the Sheriff’s Department has been providing exceptional patrol and investigative services from its many Sheriff’s Stations. One of the primary services performed by the deputies at the stations is arresting and prosecuting criminals.

As of 2007, some of the exciting, fascinating investigations and arrests made by the patrol deputies in Region I have been preserved in a unique anthology, titled “Code 6 in Region I.”

By way of paying tribute to the men and women who work 24/7 and maintain public safety, the division chief reviewed several hundred arrest reports, selecting 24 of them to be creatively, but accurately, depicted in short stories. The stories are about deputies’ alertness, initiative, perseverance, and passion for solving crimes and bringing lawbreakers to justice.

The suspects and victims portrayed in the stories are real people that deputies have encountered in performing their duty. And what encounters! A drunk burglar steals only beer bottles from residential refrigerators, then fumbles and drops a couple to inadvertently reveal his trail. A con-man gets a job as a salesman at a car dealership, then “sells” 100% financed cars to his various crime partners, all with forged ID—until a patrol deputy out-cons him. A registered sex offender offers “home body piercing” to underage girls while regaling them with stories about his previous sex exploits in prison. All these suspects were arrested for these crimes by observant, inquisitive, knowledgeable patrol deputies and detectives.

The same kind of deputies become the “stars” of true stories in which they foil and arrest robbers before the crime is committed; in which they impersonate crime partners on cell phones and lure other suspects into the waiting arms of the law; and in which they calmly stand up to antagonistic crowds of onlookers with lynching on their minds.

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Compton Sheriff’s Station
Science Alive!

Compton Station is proud to announce its newest program, SCIENCE ALIVE! This program is offered through the Compton Sheriff’s Station Youth Activities League, which has provided a variety of athletic and educational opportunities to children in Compton for many years.

SCIENCE ALIVE! is an educational program that will enhance the scientific knowledge, math, and literacy skills of elementary students through enrichment science activities.

The goal of SCIENCE ALIVE! is to provide quality science instruction to 5th grade students in Compton and surrounding unincorporated areas. Students will participate in hands-on laboratory activities, view multimedia presentations, and hear guest speakers from the science careers highlighted in their California Science textbook. These activities will reinforce the science instruction that students receive in their classrooms.

The Youth Activities League (YAL) was packed on Thursday, October 18th as 200 excited fifth graders from Carver and Willard Elementary Schools participated in a kick-off for “Science Alive!”

Sheriff Leroy Baca expressed his excitement and support for “Science Alive!” during a press conference at the kick-off celebration. Other special guests/speakers included: Robert Nero, Compton Unified School District (CUSD) Deputy Superintendent; Eric Perrodin, Mayor of Compton; Del Huff, Senior Deputy for County Supervisor Yvonne Burke; Isadore Hall, City of Compton Councilman.
San Dimas Sheriff’s Station
“Altus Global Alliance Award”

In October 2007, San Dimas Station was the recipient of the Altus Global Alliance Award.

This unique alliance works across continents and, from a multi-cultural perspective, improves public safety and justice.

The committee is made up of six local community members who tour police and sheriff’s stations all over the United States.

Following a guided tour of the facilities during the week of October 30, 2007 through November 4, 2007, the committee members rated the station in five categories, using the Altus Police Station Visitors’ Week Assessment Form.

The categories were:
• Community Orientation
• Physical Conditions
• Equal Treatment of the Public
• Transparency
• Accountability and Detention Conditions.

San Dimas Station was rated the highest among all participating stations in the North American Region.
STAR Unit

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department's Success Through Awareness & Resistance (STAR) Unit provides drug, gang, bullying, and violence prevention education to students and community members throughout Los Angeles County. STAR Unit programs are a collaborative effort between the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, educators, students, parents, and other community resources to offer an educational program in the classroom and in the community. STAR Unit curriculum is designed to prevent the use of “gateway” drugs (alcohol, tobacco and marijuana) and violence among students. In 2006/2007, Deputies assigned to the STAR Unit served at 243 schools in 34 school districts, impacting over 51,000 students on a monthly basis. The Parent Education component of the STAR Unit program launched this past school year impacted over 3,000 parents and families across the County of Los Angeles.

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The STAR Unit curricula most widely used are “Too Good for Drugs” and “Too Good for Violence.” The “Too Good” Programs are proactive, emphasizing the positive, healthy development of children and youth. They are result-oriented and have been proven to change attitudes, improve behavior, and increase social and emotional competence. The lessons are designed to reduce risk factors and increase protective factors by building five essential life skills; goal setting, decision making, bonding with pro-social others, identifying and managing emotions, and communicating effectively. The program’s highly interactive teaching methods encourage students to bond with pro-social peers, and engages students through role-playing, cooperative learning, games, small group activities, and class discussions. In addition to the classroom lessons, STAR deputies provide lessons to students on bullying and Internet safety. Bullying is a significant problem in many schools and has been identified as a destructive contributing factor in recent school violence incidents such as the Columbine, Colorado shooting tragedy.

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The Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department has found a way to address the interoperable communication challenge that previously existed by creating a project that includes relevant public safety agencies, uses U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) grant funds, and incorporates the DHS philosophy that new technologies be created from the bottom up to ensure that first responder requirements are successfully achieved.

The Los Angeles Regional Common Operational Picture Program, more commonly referred to as LARCOPP, is an innovative approach that provides real-time situational awareness and a common operating picture. It is comprised of the following departments: Los Angeles County Sheriff’s, Los Angeles Police, Los Angeles County Fire, Los Angeles City Fire, Long Beach Police, Long Beach Fire, Glendale Police, Glendale Fire, and the Pomona Police Department.

LARCOPP is a secure platform that can transmit real-time video of an incident via deployable broadband digital cameras or through a video uplink from a public safety agency’s helicopter. It allows for the transmission of perimeter information, street maps, aerial views of the site, traffic routes, emergency vehicle access, and a host of GIS data. It lets commanders locate, track, and move manpower and equipment resources.

The system works in real-time, sending the same information to other responding agencies, off-site emergency operations centers, or if needed, to the state EOC or the DHS National Operations Center in Washington, D.C. This technology is extremely mobile and can as well be installed in stationary facilities. Rapid deployment during incidents is essential not only during times of natural crisis, but also from acts of domestic and international terrorism.

With the amount of disasters that our region faces each year, the ability to share resource and situational awareness data is of vital importance to all first responders. The LARCOPP uses an all-hazards approach and assures that all players have access to the same information. California, the creator of SEMS, which set the foundation for the national NIMS system, has been a leader in disaster management. Focusing on the NIMS standards and emergency management solutions, this technology provides first responders at all levels of management (from the field to the DDC, CEOC and/or NOC) a "true picture of what is really happening."
The Law Enforcement Information Sharing Program (LEISP) was established in order to handle the business and technical needs required to capture, organize, and share data and information, both within the Sheriff’s Department and outside law enforcement agencies.

Dashboard was introduced in the beginning of 2006 as an information management tool. The program was developed for command staff, Public Safety Directors, and city managers. Dashboard provides users with summarized crime statistics and law enforcement activity within their jurisdiction. With this easy to use application, reports on calls for service, arrests, service minutes, and response times can be generated for analysis. Due to its success and user-friendly interface, Dashboard received a Quality and Productivity Award from the County of Los Angeles during 2007.

Regional Terrorism Information and Integration System

The Regional Terrorism Information and Integration System (RTIIS), governed by the Los Angeles County Police Chiefs Association, integrates crime data from law enforcement agencies throughout Los Angeles County. The RTIIS consists of a COPLINK node for the 45 municipal law enforcement agencies (other than LASD and LAPD who have their own nodes). These three COPLINK nodes have been connected so that law enforcement data, no matter the source, can be shared for investigative, crime analysis, and patrol purposes. RTIIS ensures that we have effective information gathering, analysis, and sharing capabilities to identify, prevent, interdict, and respond to not only acts of terrorism, but all crimes throughout Los Angeles County.

COPLINK

COPLINK rapidly analyzes vast quantities of data, currently housed in various systems. Through coordination with state and federal agencies, COPLINK users also receive data from federal law enforcement systems. Often characterized by existing users as “a super Google for police officers,” COPLINK allows users to quickly and easily view the results of sophisticated analysis from complex data searches that uncovers hidden relationships and associations across multiple data sources.
CRIME ANALYSIS PROGRAM

In December 2007, all LASD Crime Analyst items were transferred to Technical Services Division under the direction of MIS forming the Crime Analysis Program (CAP). The goal was to bring all crime analysis personnel under one central command for purposes of clarity of mission, goals and objectives. The CAP structure continues to add to the Department’s ability to effectively and efficiently meet the needs of our personnel and the communities we serve.

CRIME ASSESSMENT CENTER

The Crime Assessment Center (CAC) is the result of a three-year effort to enhance the analytical capabilities of our Department’s Crime Analysis Program, expand the focus of our crime-fighting efforts, and provide state-of-the-art technologies that help us to effectively search mountains of information to quickly identify and apprehend criminals. CAC is located in the lower level of the Sherman Block Sheriff’s Headquarters Building in Monterey Park. This new analytical facility is home to a cadre of crime analysts with a unique mission to analyze crime throughout the entire County, without regard to jurisdictional boundaries.

ADVANCED SURVEILLANCE AND PROTECTION UNIT

The Advanced Surveillance and Protection Unit (ASAP) was created to bring new emerging surveillance, apprehension, and investigative technologies to the Patrol Deputy and Detective. These technologies have pioneered developing standards throughout the Department. Currently, the ASAP unit has implemented Automatic License Plate Recognition (ALPR) systems, Acoustic Gunshot Detection Systems, Video Surveillance Systems (CCTV), and Advanced Command Center Integration. The ASAP unit is currently researching additional technology applications of video analytics, portable surveillance systems, and numerous other wireless technologies.
The Medal of Valor award is the highest honor a member of the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department can receive. It is awarded to persons who distinguish themselves by displaying great courage, above and beyond the call of duty, in the face of an immediate life-threatening peril, and with full knowledge of the risk involved.

This medal is awarded to persons who, when confronted by circumstances beyond the normal course of their duties, place themselves in potential peril while performing an act of heroism or while saving or attempting to save the life of another.

This medal is the second highest award a Department member can receive. It is awarded to persons who place themselves in immediate peril and perform an act of heroism and/or save the life of another person.

This medal is awarded to persons who, when confronted by circumstances beyond the normal course of their duties, place themselves in potential peril while performing an act of heroism or while saving or attempting to save the life of another.
On the evening of January 25, 2006, Deputy Russell Helbing and his partner, Deputy Edmundo Torres, were working their usual assignment in the Compton and Carson Station areas when they observed a vehicle driving at a high rate of speed fail to stop for a red traffic light. The deputies pulled alongside the suspect's vehicle at a second red light, illuminated the interior, and observed two occupants who appeared to be male gang members. The deputies pulled in behind the suspect's vehicle to initiate a traffic stop regarding the traffic violation.

Unbeknownst to the deputies, the suspects were members of a notorious street gang. The driver was wanted for two murders, and they were both heavily armed and wearing body armor.

The suspects suddenly stopped their vehicle in the number two lane and the driver's door simultaneously opened. Deputies Helbing and Torres quickly exited their patrol car. Without warning, the driver exited his vehicle and began firing a handgun at Deputy Torres, the rounds striking their patrol car as he stood by the door. Deputy Torres returned fire; however, he realized after the first or second shot that his gun had jammed. Deputy Torres immediately took cover behind their patrol car, narrowly escaping serious injury or death as the suspect's gunfire penetrated the car's windshield. As Deputy Helbing drew his duty weapon to engage the driver suspect, the passenger suspect drew a pistol-grip AK-47 assault rifle and also fired at the deputies. Deputy Helbing was able to reach cover behind a vehicle parked at the curb and return fire, striking the suspect's vehicle several times. The suspects reentered their vehicle and sped off while continuing to fire at the deputies and keeping them pinned down.

Despite the obvious danger, the deputies made a conscious decision to pursue the suspects while broadcasting information to fellow deputies. As the suspects’ vehicle made a wide southbound turn onto northbound traffic lanes, the passenger, still armed with the AK-47 assault rifle, leaned out of the passenger’s side window and fired at the pursuing deputies.

An Aero unit that had joined in the pursuit observed the suspects’ vehicle, now traveling eastbound, suddenly stop at a traffic light. The suspects exited their vehicle, armed themselves, and prepared to ambush the deputies. The Aero unit quickly warned the deputies to continue around the blind turn. Realizing the deputies were not falling into their ambush, the suspects in the northbound vehicle made several turns onto side streets, in areas known to be frequented by gang members, in an attempt to lose the pursuing deputies. The suspects eventually turned back southbound on Willowbrook Avenue and approached a group of people, known to be gang members by the deputies, standing on the street and sidewalk. As the suspects passed this group, at least one individual began firing a weapon at them.

As the suspects continued to pursue the suspect vehicle, the driver reached out of the open driver’s side window with a handgun and began firing shots at them. Deputy Morse, realizing they had just been shot from behind and were now being shot from directly in front of them, feared he and his partners might be seriously injured or killed and fired several shots at the suspect vehicle through the windshield of their patrol car. At about this same time, the suspect vehicle came to an abrupt stop, as it had reached the end of a cul-de-sac street. It was later determined the suspects had driven down the cul-de-sac street for the purpose of ambushing the deputies.

The driver of the suspect vehicle exited and began to run through a parking lot while carrying a handgun. Deputy Bates began to chase this suspect, who turned toward him and raised his weapon. Deputy Bates fired three shots at the suspect. The suspect lowered his weapon and continued to flee from Deputy Bates.

Sergeant Knott detained the second suspect in the vehicle at gunpoint while ensuring the individuals who had fired at them from down the street were not approaching the scene at the termination of the pursuit. This gave Deputy Morse the opportunity to join in the foot pursuit of the armed suspect.

Deputies Bates and Morse continued chasing the suspect, but eventually lost sight of him. For their safety, they stayed in their position and coordinated a perimeter around the location, which resulted in the eventual arrest of the shooting suspect.

For displaying great courage above and beyond the call of duty, in the face of immediate life-threatening peril, with full knowledge of the risk involved, Deputy Frederick Morse, Deputy Jason Bates, and Sergeant Laurence Knott were awarded the Meritorious Conduct Medal-Gold.
On October 31, 2006, Deputy Corey Morning was on patrol in the city of Cerritos when he and another unit were dispatched to an “assault with a deadly weapon” call at a local high-rise office building. As Deputy Morning drove through the parking lot adjacent to the office building, he was directed by several frantic witnesses toward a vehicle parked a short distance from the front door of the building.

Deputy Morning maneuvered his radio car to within 30 feet of the vehicle and immediately noticed a female lying motionless on the ground next to the driver’s door. Unknown to Deputy Morning, he arrived on the scene immediately after a man had murdered his wife in the parking lot.

As Deputy Morning exited his radio car, a man stepped out from behind the vehicle and immediately fired a hail of bullets at Deputy Morning from a 9 millimeter pistol. As bullets flew past him, Deputy Morning dashed for cover across the expansive parking lot and returned fire. The suspect pursued Deputy Morning across the parking lot, then opened fire on another deputy who had come to Deputy Morning’s aid. The deputies successfully retreated, and the suspect returned to his vehicle and reloaded his weapon.

A request for assistance was broadcast and additional deputies arrived at the scene. Deputy Morning saw that the arriving deputies were unable to locate the armed suspect, who was hiding from their view in the passenger side of the vehicle.

The deputies attempted to call Deputy Morning to their position of secure cover behind several radio cars; however, their radio cars were parked in the opposite direction of the crowded six-story office building. Instead of moving to a more secure position, Deputy Morning, risking coming under repeated gunfire once again, left his position of cover and cautiously advanced toward the armed suspect across the open parking lot. Deputy Morning was able to flank the suspect and, while using parked cars for cover, position himself a short distance behind him. Deputy Morning’s actions alerted other deputies to the suspect’s exact position and ensured that the suspect could not retreat into the nearby occupied office building that was full of horrified onlookers.

The suspect suddenly appeared to be on the verge of re-targeting the deputies to his west. Knowing the suspect fully intended to fire on the deputies, Deputy Morning opened fire on the suspect, driving him from his hiding place. The suspect was then mortally wounded by the deputies.

For disregarding his own safety during this extremely violent confrontation and placing himself in immediate life-threatening danger to protect the lives of the public and his fellow deputies, Deputy Corey Morning was awarded the Department’s highest honor, the Medal of Valor.
In the early morning hours of January 26, 2005, a deranged man abandoned his sports utility vehicle on railroad tracks in the city of Glendale when he aborted a suicide attempt. A Metrolink commuter train slammed into the SUV, setting off a spectacular three-train collision. Commuters were thrown through the cars and became trapped amidst tons of twisted metal as the double-deck rail cars toppled and burst into flames. Deputy Rowe, a passenger, was thrown against the interior of the train, and he sustained major internal, neck, and back injuries.

Flames roared from the mangled wreckage as trapped passengers screamed for help. Realizing that further tragedy could result if the fires were not controlled, Deputy Rowe attempted to extinguish the fire, placing himself at risk of further injury or worse.

Deputy Rowe observed a victim lying on the ground near one of the burning cars. Ignoring the serious injuries he had already sustained, Deputy Rowe moved this victim to a safer location with the assistance of another passenger.

Heavy smoke continued to billow from everywhere while diesel fuel spurted onto the ground and on some of the passengers’ clothing. Despite the increasing danger, Deputy Rowe reentered the burning train, where he observed another passenger struggling to move another injured victim. Together they managed to take the victim to a triage area.

Although his injuries caused his mobility to become increasingly limited, Deputy Rowe again returned to the train and found Deputy William Alexander lying on the floor with serious head wounds. Deputy Alexander said he was unable to stand and could not open his eyes. While intense heat and flames continued to build, Deputy Rowe dragged Deputy Alexander toward an exit and forced open the doors. As he attempted to remove Deputy Alexander from the train, an LAPD officer arrived and could not open his eyes. While intense heat and flames continued to build, Deputy Rowe dragged Deputy Alexander toward an exit and forced open the doors.

As they exited, the suspect simultaneously pointed a large caliber revolver in their direction. The suspect ran from the location, and Sergeant Wolak and Deputy Wright immediately requested additional units to assist.

Although they were fired upon, both Sergeant Wolak and Deputy Wright felt it was imperative to maintain a visual on the suspect, who was now running through a residential neighborhood armed with a handgun and obviously either under the influence of a narcotic, mentally ill, or both. They could have quickly established a containment, but due to the immediate deadly threat to the community, they pursued the armed suspect on foot.

The suspect ran toward the front door of a residence and hid in some foliage. Sergeant Wolak and Deputy Wright felt it was imperative to maintain a visual on the suspect, who was now running through a residential neighborhood armed with a handgun and obviously either under the influence of a narcotic, mentally ill, or both. They could have quickly established a containment, but due to the immediate deadly threat to the community, they pursued the armed suspect on foot.

On June 27, 2006, Sergeant Jason Wolak and Deputy Tracy Wright were working a crime suppression unit when they observed a male riding a bicycle, swerving from one side of the street to the other. Sergeant Wolak and Deputy Wright decided to monitor the male on the bicycle and drive closer to him. As they approached, they noticed the man was sweating profusely and yelling. Both felt the man was either mentally challenged or under the influence of a narcotic.

Sergeant Wolak and Deputy Wright maintained a visual on the suspect as he continued riding his bike. When the suspect looked over his shoulder in their direction, he immediately stopped his bicycle in the middle of the street. Deputy Wright stopped their patrol vehicle approximately 45 feet from the suspect. The suspect, who was now straddling the bicycle, suddenly reached for his waistband.

Believing the suspect was either arming himself with a weapon or discarding contraband, both Sergeant Wolak and Deputy Wright exited their patrol car. As they exited, the suspect simultaneously pointed a large caliber revolver in their direction. Fearing the suspect was about to fire upon him and his partner, Sergeant Wolak fired five rounds from his duty weapon at the suspect. The suspect immediately dismounted his bicycle and fired two rounds in their direction, one of which struck their police car. The suspect ran from the location, and Sergeant Wolak and Deputy Wright immediately requested additional units to assist.

Although they were fired upon, both Sergeant Wolak and Deputy Wright felt it was imperative to maintain a visual on the suspect, who was now running through a residential neighborhood armed with a handgun and obviously either under the influence of a narcotic, mentally ill, or both. They could have quickly established a containment, but due to the immediate deadly threat to the community, they pursued the armed suspect on foot.

The suspect ran toward the front door of a residence and hid in some foliage. Sergeant Wolak and Deputy Wright positioned themselves behind a parked vehicle, which simply provided them with concealment, not protection from flying bullets.

The suspect re-emerged from behind the bushes and discovered the position of Sergeant Wolak and Deputy Wright. He again raised his weapon and fired three rounds at them. Sergeant Wolak and Deputy Wright immediately returned fire, and the suspect once again crouched behind the bushes near the front door of the residence.

Their view of the suspect was somewhat obscured; however, they could see he was manipulating his weapon as if reloading it. Because of their obstructed view and concern the suspect may enter the location, Sergeant Wolak and Deputy Wright moved from their position to directly across the street to get a better view of the suspect’s position and actions.

The suspect once again emerged from behind the bushes and looked in the direction of where the deputies were previously positioned. Unable to locate the lawmen, the suspect ran toward the front door of the residence and out of sight. Sergeant Wolak and Deputy Wright immediately contained the area with the assistance of responding deputies.

Due to the violent nature of the suspect, the Special Weapons Team responded to the location. The suspect was eventually taken into custody and charged with attempted murder of a peace officer.

For displaying great courage above and beyond the call of duty and placing themselves in immediate peril to protect the lives of innocent people, Sergeant Jason Wolak and Deputy Tracy Wright were awarded the Meritorious Conduct Medal-Gold.
On December 23, 2006, Sergeant (then Deputy) Arthur Escamillas was off duty and traveling home with his 20-year-old daughter in the city of La Mirada when he observed a car fire on Imperial Highway. The car had just been involved in a solo vehicle traffic collision and was engulfed in flames when he stopped his vehicle to render aid.

Sergeant Escamillas, along with five other civilians, ran toward the burning vehicle and saw the driver of the vehicle still moving inside. The driver was attempting to remove his seat belt; however, he could not free himself as he was pinned inside the vehicle. While heavy smoke and flames continued building, Sergeant Escamillas and the other civilians worked frantically to try and unpin the driver.

One witness reported “minor explosions going off” as the rescuers tried desperately to free the occupant of the vehicle. It took Sergeant Escamillas and all five civilians assisting him to remove the driver’s seat belt and unpin him. As they quickly carried the victim to safety, the entire vehicle became fully engulfed in flames.

The Los Angeles County Fire Department responded to put out the fire and render assistance. It was later determined that had it not been for the heroic actions of Sergeant Escamillas and the other rescuers, the driver would probably have lost his life as a result of the collision.

For displaying reverence for human life when confronted by circumstances beyond the normal scope of his duties and placing himself in potential peril to save the life of another, Sergeant Arthur Escamillas was awarded the Meritorious Conduct Medal-Silver.

On March 20, 2006, Deputies Adam Kirste and Omar Miranda were on routine patrol when they observed a suspicious vehicle driven by a female driver with a male passenger. They checked the status of the vehicle’s license and noted a felony warrant to an individual by the name of Carlos Campos. A traffic stop was conducted, and the driver of the vehicle slowly pulled over to the curb.

Deputy Kirste approached the driver’s side of the vehicle while Deputy Miranda approached the male passenger. Deputy Miranda asked the passenger for his name, and he replied, “Campos.” Deputy Miranda asked the suspect to exit the vehicle and walk toward the rear of it. Initially the suspect was cooperative; however, when Deputy Miranda asked the suspect to place his hands behind his back, the suspect began to reach toward his side. Deputy Miranda warned him not to do anything stupid and grabbed the suspect’s hands to handcuff him. At this time the suspect pulled away and began running eastbound on the street.

Deputy Miranda chased the suspect and tackled him to the ground. The suspect landed face down, with his hands underneath him. Deputy Miranda attempted to pull the suspect’s hands from underneath his body. He was unaware the suspect was armed until he saw a pistol protruding from the suspect’s right hand.

The suspect continued fighting with Deputy Miranda. As Deputy Kirste ran to assist his partner, the suspect pointed his pistol at him and fired, striking Deputy Kirste on his right thigh. The violent struggle between Deputy Miranda and the suspect continued as the suspect attempted to turn over onto his back. Deputy Miranda was unable to draw his weapon as he struggled with the suspect. The suspect fired a second round, which struck Deputy Miranda on his right forearm. Deputy Miranda grabbed the suspect’s wrist to prevent him from pointing the gun in his or his partner’s direction.

After sustaining a serious leg and hip injury, Deputy Kirste managed to unholster his weapon, move in a westerly direction, and fire four rounds, all of which struck the suspect. Only then did the suspect stop fighting and drop his weapon.

For displaying courage above and beyond the call of duty to protect the life of a fellow law enforcement officer, with full knowledge of the risk involved, Deputy Adam Kirste and Deputy Omar Miranda were awarded the Meritorious Conduct Medal-Silver.
During the morning hours of November 2, 2004, Deputy Kelly Simon was patrolling the area around his assigned school campus when a female citizen flagged him down, franticly screaming that a man across the street was being attacked by dogs. Deputy Simon looked in that direction and saw there was in fact an elderly man being viciously attacked by four large rottweiler and pitbull mix dogs.

Deputy Simon ran to the scene and heard the victim yelling for help and screaming in pain. All four dogs were biting the victim’s arms and legs. Several of the dogs were latched onto the victim’s arms, violently thrashing their heads and tearing the victim’s flesh. The victim was bleeding profusely from all his limbs.

Deputy Simon quickly formed the opinion that in order to save the elderly man from further serious injury or worse, drastic measures needed to be taken. Without hesitating, he moved in close to the victim and close to the ferocious animals. Deputy Simon then shielded the victim’s body with his own and fired one round from his handgun at one of the dogs, striking it in the head. Incredibly, this did not stop any of the dogs from continuing their attack. While still trying to protect the victim with his own body, Deputy Simon fired five additional rounds, striking three of the dogs while the fourth ran into the house.

The victim got up, walked a few feet, and subsequently collapsed on the street. Deputy Simon continued his lifesaving efforts by attending to the victim until the arrival of paramedics.

The elderly man, who apparently had no family members living with him, was deeply saddened at the loss of his dogs. Nonetheless, he was tearfully grateful and voiced his appreciation to Deputy Simon for saving his life.

For disregarding his own safety and well being, and taking immediate action to safeguard the life of another, Deputy Kelly Simon was awarded the Meritorious Conduct Medal-Silver.
In the evening hours of December 23, 2006, after finishing his shift at the Twin Towers Correctional Facility, Custody Assistant Richard Ojeda began driving home. As he traveled on the westbound 118 Freeway to the northbound 5 Freeway, he observed a white sports car suddenly veer at a high rate of speed from the number five lane to the number one lane of the freeway. The vehicle collided into a retaining wall, flipped over onto its roof, and skidded several yards to a stop.

Upon observing the horrendous collision, Custody Assistant Ojeda immediately pulled over to the side of the road to render assistance. The overturned car suddenly burst into flames, and Custody Assistant Ojeda ran over to the vehicle. He observed that the roof of the car was crushed and the driver and sole occupant of the vehicle was injured and trapped inside. A second witness also rushed over to the vehicle to assist. As smoke and fumes began to fill the passenger compartment, this witness squeezed his way through the car and cut away the driver’s seat belt; however, he could not free the driver from the flaming wreckage.

With the heat and fire becoming more intense, Custody Assistant Ojeda knew that waiting on the arrival of emergency personnel to extricate the driver could prove deadly. Although he could see the flames advancing and feel the increasing heat, Custody Assistant Ojeda crawled through the shattered and twisted pieces of metal of the vehicle to get to the driver. Knowing he had mere moments to act, he grabbed ahold of the injured driver and pulled him through the broken window to safety.

For displaying bravery in the face of immediate danger and risking his own life to save the life of another, Custody Assistant Richard Ojeda was awarded the Meritorious Conduct Medal-Silver.
Detective Raul Gama was tragically killed on May 1, 2007, while on surveillance in the city of North Hollywood. Detective Gama was in his parked county vehicle when he was hit by an out-of-control motorist and killed instantly. At the time of his death, Raul was working with his team, the Cargo CATs unit of Major Crimes Bureau.

Detective Gama is survived by his wife Sandra and four children, Monica, 13; Crystal, 11; Anita, 9; and Marco, 3.

Raul's story

Raul's career grew at ELA Station and he became the team leader for the city of Cudahy. He assisted the city and councilmembers with problems any hour of the day or night. He told his wife Sandra that this was his assignment and his responsibility – just another example of the maximum effort Raul put into everything he did. While at Cudahy, Raul introduced the "Meet a Deputy" program. This program is a model of community policing now utilized by all Sheriff's stations to improve community relations and enhance the quality of life in the communities we serve.

While working as the team leader in Cudahy, Raul made a heroic rescue of an autistic child in the Los Angeles riverbed. The river had become a treacherous trap for a young child and his grandfather who lost their footing while trying to traverse the riverbed. Without concern for his own safety, Raul courageously jumped into the raging river and was himself swept away during the rescue attempt. Raul regained his footing on some debris and was able to reach out to the boy and his grandfather and lead them to safety.

In 2004, Raul received the Department's "Meritorious Conduct Silver Medal" for his heroic actions in 2003, when he assisted in the rescue of a family trapped in their house by a train derailment. In addition, he received more than 52 commendations in his career with the Sheriff's Department. Raul was very proud of his career, the Department, and his ELA Station "low profile" pin.

While at ELA Detective Bureau, Raul decided it was time to move on to another challenge. He interviewed for a detective position at Major Crimes Bureau, was accepted, and began his assignment with the Cargo CATs unit. With his outstanding investigative skills and interviewing techniques, he had suspects confessing to their crimes and asking for forgiveness.

He enjoyed the many aspects of working at Major Crimes Bureau and often offered his assistance to other units within the bureau. Everywhere he worked, Raul would always greet his coworkers with a handshake and a big smile on his face.

Raul's family came first and he made that clear to everyone. When he wasn't working, he was with his wife and kids doing all the things they loved to do. He loved helping his children with their homework and was very involved with the family's church. He enjoyed teaching his children to love God, and he volunteered his time and talent to help the church in whatever way he could. It was the family's strong faith that helped them through difficult times.

For a school project, Raul's daughter Monica wrote a letter about her father two weeks prior to his death. It read, "A hero to me is someone who I can look up to or is a role model to me. They would have to be confident and determined in everything they do. They have to set a good example to me. Someone that I can follow. My father is a great hero to me. He inspires me to do my best. What grabs my attention is he thinks of consequences before he makes a decision. Also, I know that he would be there for me whenever I needed help. He always told me that I had to try my best and do well in school so that I could do anything I wanted to do when I'm older. My father is a police officer for the L.A. County Sheriff's Department, so he is used to using common sense, something we should all do, he uses it to make the right decisions. Whenever someone did something to him, he would stand up to that person. He backed up every little thing he said. He always had a reason for his doings. That is my hero. I believe my father could be anyone's hero. My dad is my greatest hero that I love and admire."

On Thursday, May 17, 2007, an end of watch roll call was held for Major Crimes Bureau units. At the conclusion of that roll call, Major Crimes Bureau retired Deputy Raul Gama's Cargo CATs call sign, D4W3.

Raul, rest in peace. You were a wonderful husband, great father, true friend and exceptional Deputy Sheriff. You will be missed, but never forgotten.
# Department Budget

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Budgeted Positions for Fiscal Year 2007-2008 (excludes student professional workers and student workers).

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<td>976</td>
<td>503</td>
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<td>154</td>
<td>353.9</td>
<td>520.4</td>
<td>316.7</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>239</td>
<td>885</td>
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<td>TOTAL PROFESSIONAL STAFF</td>
<td>8,072</td>
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<td>976</td>
<td>503</td>
<td>1,231.5</td>
<td>2,570.5</td>
<td>154</td>
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<td>520.4</td>
<td>316.7</td>
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<td>885</td>
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<td>1,627.9</td>
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<td>907</td>
<td>996</td>
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## Department Personnel Strength

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<th>WHITE</th>
<th>BLACK</th>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>6,608</td>
<td>1,263</td>
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<td>3,094</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>358</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL SWORN</strong></td>
<td>9,452</td>
<td>7,924</td>
<td>1,528</td>
<td>4,556</td>
<td>940</td>
<td>3,395</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>417</td>
<td>126</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| PERCENTAGE      | 84    | 16    | 48     | 10    | 36    | 0        | 5               | 1     | 0        | 0     |

| DEPUTY SHERIFF TRAINEE | 303 | 251 | 52 | 84 | 25 | 176 | 2 | 9 | 7 | 0 |
| PROFESSIONAL STAFF    | 6,623 | 2,490 | 4,133 | 1,446 | 1,489 | 2,140 | 10 | 731 | 803 | 4 |

| TOTAL PROFESSIONAL STAFF | 6,926 | 2,741 | 4,185 | 1,530 | 1,514 | 2,316 | 12 | 740 | 810 | 4 |
| PERCENTAGE              | 40    | 60    | 22     | 22     | 33    | 0    | 11 | 12 | 0 | 0 |
| **TOTAL PERSONNEL**    | 16,378 | 10,665 | 5,713 | 6,086 | 2,454 | 5,711 | 27 | 1,157 | 936 | 7 |

As of January 1, 2008
2007 Part I Crime Clock

### Crimes Committed Every 24 Hours

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crime</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Larceny Theft</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>14 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Theft Auto</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>31 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burglary</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>31 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aggravated Assault</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>45 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robbery</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>1 hour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arson</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>9 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forcible Rape</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>14 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Criminal Homicide</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>32 hours</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*One crime is committed every 24 hours.*
# Department Crime Activity Summary

## PART I REPORTED CRIMES*  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crime</th>
<th>Calendar Year 2006</th>
<th>Calendar Year 2007</th>
<th>Percent Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Criminal Homicide</td>
<td>328</td>
<td>277</td>
<td>-16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forcible Rape</td>
<td>656</td>
<td>607</td>
<td>-7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robbery</td>
<td>6,339</td>
<td>6,483</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aggravated Assault</td>
<td>11,143</td>
<td>11,728</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burglary</td>
<td>15,845</td>
<td>16,757</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Larceny Theft</td>
<td>35,115</td>
<td>37,590</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Theft Auto</td>
<td>17,610</td>
<td>16,606</td>
<td>-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arson</td>
<td>904</td>
<td>994</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>87,940</td>
<td>91,042</td>
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## ARRESTS

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<th>Calendar Year 2006</th>
<th>Calendar Year 2007</th>
<th>Percent Change</th>
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<tr>
<td>Adult Arrests</td>
<td>96,537</td>
<td>112,074</td>
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<tr>
<td>Juvenile Arrests</td>
<td>12,458</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>108,995</td>
<td>125,467</td>
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</table>

## PART I CRIMES  

### STOLEN AND RECOVERED PROPERTY

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<th>Calendar Year 2007</th>
<th>Percent Change</th>
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<td>Amount Stolen</td>
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<td>Amount Recovered</td>
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<tr>
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<td>29</td>
<td>28</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### SYNOPSIS:

* Community College Bureau is excluded.
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Crime Analysis Program (CAP) is grateful to all those who contributed to this publication.

Published By

County of Los Angeles Sheriff’s Department
Crime Analysis Program (CAP)
4700 Ramona Boulevard, Monterey Park, California 91754-2196
562.345.4220

For additional information on the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department, please contact Sheriff’s Headquarters Bureau at 323.526.5541 or visit us on the web at www.lasd.org.