

# LOS ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

## AUDIT AND ACCOUNTABILITY BUREAU



## Part II of Stops and Detentions Audit

Supervisory Review of Deputy's Daily Worksheet  
Antelope Valley Stations  
Project No. 2024-60-A



## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The County of Los Angeles, the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD or Department), and the United States Department of Justice (US-DOJ) entered into the Antelope Valley (AV) Settlement Agreement (Agreement) on April 28, 2015<sup>1</sup>, with the goal of ensuring police services are provided to the AV community in a manner that fully complies with the Constitution and the laws of the United States. The Department is expected to implement the mandated stipulations of the Agreement to effectively ensure both public and deputy safety, while fostering a renewed public confidence in the LASD.

The Audit and Accountability Bureau (AAB) was authorized by the Sheriff of Los Angeles County, the US-DOJ, and the AV Monitoring Team (MT) to conduct the Stops and Detentions Audit of Lancaster and Palmdale Stations (AV Stations). These limited scope audits, referred to by the AAB as "mini" audits, focused on a narrow set of audit objectives and specific audit populations. For Part II of the Stops and Detentions Audit, the auditors examined the supervisory review of Department members stop and detention activities and provided the AV Stations with timely feedback, allowing for necessary operational improvements.

In addition, the AAB auditors simultaneously conducted additional Stops and Detentions audits assessing other key paragraphs (as represented below) of the Agreement. This approach ensured the AAB reviewed each required paragraph of the Agreement leading to a thorough evaluation of operational effectiveness and accountability. The Stops and Detentions audits were conducted in the following manner:

Part	Audit
I	Backseat Detentions
II	Supervisory Review of Deputy's Daily Worksheet
III	Backseat Detentions Related to Domestic Violence
IV	Initiation of Stops and Detentions Related to Consent Searches
V	Initiation of Stops and Detentions Related to Parole/Probation Searches

The primary objectives for this audit were to assess whether supervisors conducted regular reviews of deputies' documentation of stops, seizures and searches for completeness, accuracy, and legal sufficiency.

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<sup>1</sup> [Antelope Valley Settlement Agreement, No. CV 15-03174, United States v. Los Angeles County et al. \(D.C. Cal. April 28, 2015\)](#)

The auditors identified areas for improvement in the AV Stations' supervisory review of the Deputy Daily Worksheet (DDWS), as well as in the implementation of a tracking system for repeated violations. The audit report presented detailed findings, which were conveyed to the AV Stations. The report highlighted specific areas of concern and offered audit recommendations to address the issues identified during the auditing process. The AV Station Captains were provided the opportunity to respond to the audit report through an informal e-mail.

The AV Stations were evaluated individually for each objective, and the results were combined to determine whether they met the established compliance metrics.

The table below indicates the audit findings based on the AV Stations' compliance and the established compliance metrics.

### **Summary of Compliance Metrics Findings**

Obj. No.	Audit Objectives	Lancaster %	Palmdale %	AV Total	Compliance Metrics %
<b>1</b>	<b>WEEKLY AUDITS OF DEPUTY'S DAILY WORKSHEET</b>				
1(a)	<i>Sergeant's Weekly Audit of Deputy's DDWS</i>	17%	81%	40%	95%
<b>2</b>	<b>DEPUTY'S DAILY WORKSHEET COMPLIANCE CHECKS</b>				
2(a)	<i>Stop, Search, and Seizure Documentation Errors</i>	4%	42%	33%	95%
2(b)	<i>Review for Sufficient Legal and Department Policy Justification</i>	100%	100%	100%	95%
2(c)	<i>Documentation of Corrective Action</i>	100%	100%	100%	95%
<b>3</b>	<b>WATCH COMMANDER REVIEW OF COMPLIANCE CHECKS</b>				
3(a)	<i>Review of Compliance Checks</i>	33%	35%	34%	95%
<b>4</b>	<b>TRACKING OF REPEATED VIOLATIONS</b>				
4(a)	<i>Documentation of Repeated Violations<sup>2</sup></i>	0%	0%	0%	N/A

The auditors noted observations in the detailed audit findings which highlighted recurring challenges and areas where the AV Stations could improve their operations. This review yielded five recommendations in areas where compliance has not been fully achieved. The audit recommendations are critical to ensuring the AV Stations align with Department standards and the requirements of the Agreement.

A detailed discussion of these recommendations is provided at the end of the audit report, where the auditors provide insights into the recommended corrective actions to address deficiencies, hold deputies and supervisors accountable, and improve overall compliance. Auditors also noted areas where the AV Stations met compliance during the audit time periods,

<sup>2</sup> The compliance metric percentage has not been established and agreed upon by the Department, US-DOJ, and MT therefore the auditors indicated this as Not Applicable (N/A).

specifically:

- Supervisor review of sufficient legal and Department policy justification with the deputies
- Supervisor documentation of corrective action for errors in legal sufficiency and Department policy justification

The AAB will continue to conduct detailed audits to uphold transparency and accountability, assess progress and provide recommendations for ongoing improvement at the AV Stations.

### **Follow-up Procedures**

The AAB will conduct a follow-up of the recommendations and verify if the auditee has made necessary improvements. Verification of corrective action will be assessed by examining new directives, amended unit orders, and/or relevant documentation. The AAB will work with the auditee in understanding the implementation of audit recommendations, as it may be a lengthy process and require a collaborative effort with other Department resources.

The AAB acknowledges the dedication and hard work of the AV Station Unit Commanders and their personnel. We are committed to providing ongoing guidance throughout the audit process to ensure compliance is not only achieved but also sustained over time. The AAB believes in its mission to provide independent, objective, and thorough analyses to assess and improve the Department's policies, procedures, and practices. Through these efforts, the AAB helps ensure transparency and accountability to the Department's operations and management.

**Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department  
Audit and Accountability Bureau**

**Part II of Stops and Detentions Audit:  
Supervisory Review of Deputy's Daily Worksheet  
Antelope Valley Stations  
Project No. 2024-60-A**

**AUDIT REPORT**

**PURPOSE**

The Audit and Accountability Bureau (AAB) conducted the Stops and Detentions Audit under the authority of the Los Angeles County Sheriff Department (LASD or the Department), pursuant to the United States Department of Justice (US-DOJ) Antelope Valley (AV) Settlement Agreement (Agreement) Paragraph 149, which states:

*The Monitor shall... determine whether LASD has implemented and continues to comply with the material requirements of this Agreement... Where appropriate, the monitor will make use of audits conducted by the [Audit and Accountability Bureau] taking into account the importance of internal auditing capacity and independent assessment of this agreement.*

The Stops and Detentions Audit was conducted in five separate audits (Part I, II, III, IV, and V) to provide timely feedback to Lancaster and Palmdale Stations (AV Stations). Each of the five audits addressed the requirements of the AV Agreement. This audit, designated as Part II, focused on assessing the supervisory review of the Deputy Daily Worksheet (DDWS) related to the AV Stations.

Specifically, this audit evaluated supervisory reviews of the DDWS and the AV Stations' compliance with Section III, Paragraphs 58 through 63 of the AV Agreement.

**BACKGROUND**

On April 28 2015, the County of Los Angeles, the Department, and the US-DOJ entered into the Agreement with the goal of ensuring police services are provided to the AV community in a manner which fully complies with the Constitution and laws of the United States.<sup>3</sup> The Department is responsible for implementing the mandated stipulations of the Agreement, ensuring both public and deputy safety, while fostering renewed public confidence in the LASD.

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<sup>3</sup> United States of America v. The County of Los Angeles and The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. Case Number CV 15-03174, April 28, 2015.

The Agreement includes requirements that stops, detentions, and searches be professional, reasonable, lawful, and properly documented.

In the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> quarters of 2024, the AAB conducted a Stops and Detentions Performance Audit, Project No. 2024-7-A.

This performance audit identified areas for improvement in the AV Stations' supervisory reviews of stops, detentions, and searches. This audit also focused on the implementation status of the recommendations provided by the AV Monitoring Team's (MT) in their "Antelope Valley Monitoring Team First Stops and Bias-Free Policing Audit" report, published in September 2023. The AV Stations have implemented a corrective action plan to address the issues identified in the audit. The implementation status of the corrective action plan will be documented in this compliance audit report.

## **OBJECTIVE, SCOPE, AND METHODOLOGY**

### **Audit Scope and Criteria**

The auditors conducted this audit of the AV Stations' supervisory review of deputies' documentation for stops, seizures, and searches.

Paragraph 59 of the Agreement requires that AV Station supervisors conduct regular reviews of arrest reports and citations for completeness, accuracy, and legal sufficiency. This audit did not include an evaluation of arrest reports or citations. These requirements will be evaluated in the next AAB Supervisory Review of the Deputy's Daily Worksheet Audit (2025-5-A) and in future audits.

The audit scope focused on the following:

- Sergeants conducting weekly audits of at least one DDWS involving stop, seizure, and search activity (if applicable) for each deputy under their supervision.
- Sergeants recording all errors found on the DDWS were recorded in the DDWS – Log Compliance Checks form.
- Sergeants reviewing DDWS for sufficient legal and Department policy justification.
- Sergeants documenting on the DDWS - Log Compliance Checks form the corrective action for identified errors.
- Watch Commanders reviewing the DDWS audits to ensure they are completed accurately.
- AV Station management tracking repeated violations or deficiencies in stop, seizure, and search procedures, and documenting the corrective actions taken.

## Audit Population and Sampling

The selected audit period was August 1, 2024, through October 31, 2024. The auditors randomly selected one week from each of the three months, using a randomizer tool to determine the audit sample population. This audit period was judgmentally selected to allow time for the AV Stations to implement recommendations from the prior Stops and Detentions Performance Audit, Project No. 2024-7-A, which was submitted to the stations in June 2024.

Auditors requested the Stations' DDWS - Log Compliance Checks and DDWS for the three-week audit period. The Stations submitted the following documents:

- Lancaster
  - DDWS – Log Compliance Checks = 22
  - DDWS – Three-week audit period = 94
  
- Palmdale
  - DDWS – Log Compliance Checks = 60
  - DDWS – Three-week audit period = 237

Auditors used the Employee Performance Evaluation Tracking System (EPETS)<sup>4</sup> Assigned Raters Reports and completed DDWS - Log Compliance Checks to verify the population of sergeants, rated deputies, and DDWS' that were submitted. All DDWS - Log Compliance Checks and DDWS' for Palmdale Station were accounted for.

However, Lancaster Station did not submit DDWS - Log Compliance Checks and DDWS' for a cumulative total of 49 sergeants and 309 deputies for the three weeks that were evaluated. A follow-up request was sent to Lancaster Station for the missing documentation and required for an explanation if the documents were unavailable or not applicable. Subsequently, Lancaster Station submitted 11 additional DDWS - Log Compliance Checks, which rated 52 deputies and resulted in 33 additional DDWS'.

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<sup>4</sup> EPETS is a department-wide mandatory information system application. It is designed to assist units in ensuring that annual and probationary performance evaluations of all permanent Department employees are completed in a timely manner.

The documents submitted for the three randomly selected weeks resulted in the following final audit sample population:

**Audit Population**

AV Stations	Date Range	DDWS Log Compliance Checks	DDWS'
Lancaster	08/18/24 – 08/24/24	10	38
	09/08/24 – 09/14/24	13	53
	09/29/24 – 10/05/24	10	36
Palmdale	08/18/24 – 08/24/24	20	80
	09/08/24 – 09/14/24	20	78
	09/29/24 – 10/05/24	20	79
<b>Total</b>		<b>93</b>	<b>364</b>

Auditors evaluated the total sample population of 93 DDWS – Log Compliance Checks and the corresponding 364 DDWS'.

The compliance check log and DDWS sample populations represented a population of 11 lieutenants, 31 sergeants, and 143 deputies for Lancaster Station; and 14 lieutenants, 57 sergeants, and 270 deputies for Palmdale Station.

**Audit Procedures**

The auditors reviewed the DDWS' and the DDWS - Log Compliance Checks in the audit sample, to determine whether the sergeant audited at least one DDWS with stop, seizure, or search activity for each deputy under their supervision for the week. If the DDWS included in the sergeant's audit did not contain the required activity, auditors reviewed the deputy's other DDWS' for the week to verify that no activity was performed. If a DDWS with the required activity was identified for that deputy, it was documented as an audit finding, indicating that the sergeant did not properly conduct the audit.

Once the population of DDWS' with the required activity was identified, auditors conducted a review to determine whether the DDWS contained stop, seizure or search errors. The compliance metric requirements for Agreement paragraphs 41-56, which require Mobile Digital Computer<sup>5</sup> (MDC) documentation, were used to identify errors.

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<sup>5</sup> A computer system installed in patrol vehicles, enabling Department members to access Department databases, communicate with dispatch, and perform operational tasks in the field.

After auditors reviewed the DDWS' to identify errors, the DDWS - Log Compliance Checks were evaluated for discrepancies identified between the auditor's and sergeant's findings. These discrepancies were documented as audit findings. The auditors also reviewed the DDWS - Log Compliance Checks to evaluate whether the sergeant documented corrective actions for the errors they identified. The lack of corrective action for identified errors were documented as an audit finding.

Additionally, the DDWS - Log Compliance Checks were reviewed to determine whether the Watch Commander or Lieutenant identified deficiencies in the sergeant's audit. Deficiencies found by the auditors but not documented by the Watch Commander were documented as an audit finding.

### Summary of Findings

The AV Stations were evaluated individually for each objective and the results were combined to determine whether they met the established compliance metrics.

The table below indicates the audit findings based on the AV Stations' compliance and the compliance metrics.

#### Summary of Compliance Metrics Findings

Obj. No.	Audit Objectives	Lancaster %	Palmdale %	AV Total	Compliance Metrics %
<b>1</b>	<b>WEEKLY AUDITS OF DEPUTY'S DAILY WORKSHEET</b>				
1(a)	<i>Sergeant's Weekly Audit of Deputy's DDWS</i>	17%	81%	40%	95%
<b>2</b>	<b>DEPUTY'S DAILY WORKSHEET COMPLIANCE CHECKS</b>				
2(a)	<i>Stop, Search, and Seizure Documentation Errors</i>	4%	42%	33%	95%
2(b)	<i>Review for Sufficient Legal and Department Policy Justification</i>	100%	100%	100%	95%
2(c)	<i>Documentation of Corrective Action</i>	100%	100%	100%	95%
<b>3</b>	<b>WATCH COMMANDER REVIEW OF COMPLIANCE CHECKS</b>				
3(a)	<i>Review of Compliance Checks</i>	33%	35%	34%	95%
<b>4</b>	<b>TRACKING OF REPEATED VIOLATIONS</b>				
4(a)	<i>Documentation of Repeated Violations<sup>6</sup></i>	0%	0%	0%	N/A

<sup>6</sup> The compliance metric percentage has not been established and agreed upon by the Department, US-DOJ, and MT therefore the auditors indicated this as Not Applicable (N/A).

## Detailed Findings

### Objective No. 1 – Weekly Audits of Deputy's Daily Worksheet

This objective evaluated if AV sergeants audited at least one DDWS log involving stop, seizure, or search activity for each deputy under their supervision.

#### Objective No. 1(a) – Sergeant's Weekly Audit of Deputy's DDWS

##### Criteria

AV Settlement Agreement Compliance Metrics, Supervisory Review, Paragraph 59:

*At least 95% of the time, supervisors review at least one CAD log for each deputy under their supervision each week<sup>7</sup>.*

AV Settlement Agreement, Paragraph 59, page 12 (April 2015):

*Sergeants shall audit at least one Computer Aided-Dispatch (CAD) log for each deputy under their supervision each week. Sergeants shall conduct further review as indicated by weekly audits, PPI information and other indicia.*

Lancaster Station Unit Order #69 and Palmdale Station Unit Order #14-06:

*Sergeants shall audit at least one DDWS log involving stop, search and seizure activity (if any is conducted) for each deputy under their supervision each week.*

##### Procedures

Auditors reviewed the DDWS and the DDWS - Log Compliance Checks in the sample to determine whether sergeants conducted a weekly audit of at least one DDWS involving stop, seizure, or search activity (if any was conducted) for each deputy under their supervision.

When the sergeants indicated that a DDWS was not reviewed for a deputy due to various reasons (no civilian contacts, vacation, FMLA, desk assignment, etc.), auditors reviewed Regional Allocation of Police Services<sup>8</sup> (RAPSNET) to verify whether the deputies had any DDWS' for the week that had applicable activity<sup>9</sup> and therefore should have been reviewed.

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<sup>7</sup> All SA paragraphs and compliance measures in this report were taken from the "Antelope Valley Monitoring Team First Stops and Bias-Free Policing Audit, report date: September 2023."

<sup>8</sup> The Regional Allocation of Police Services (RAPSNET) application is an on-line system containing information that forms the official record of the Sheriff's Department's patrol unit activity generated from the Computer Aided Dispatch System (CAD).

<sup>9</sup> Applicable activity is stop, seizure, or search activity.

For deputies whose DDWS were reviewed as part of a compliance check, auditors determined a number of DDWS' were submitted that did not have any applicable activity. Auditors reviewed RAPSNET to determine whether the deputies had any other DDWS' for the week which did have applicable activity and therefore should have been reviewed.

### Findings

For the cumulative total of 38 sergeants and 257 deputies that Lancaster did not submit DDWS - Log Compliance Checks and DDWS' for, the Station reported they have experienced delays in completing DDWS audits due to ongoing staffing shortages and a heavy administrative workload. As a result, higher-priority tasks such as use-of-force investigations, pursuits, and civil complaints have taken precedence. Command staff are actively working to streamline administrative processes to improve efficiency, and these efforts have already resulted in noticeable improvements in other areas.

- For Lancaster Station, this applied to 59 deputies. Auditors determined that four (4) deputies had at least one DDWS with applicable activity that should have been reviewed by a sergeant.
- For Palmdale Station, this applied to 121 deputies. Auditors determined that two (2) deputies had at least one DDWS with applicable activity that should have been reviewed by sergeant.

When a deputy's DDWS was reviewed for a compliance check but did not document any applicable activity, auditors reviewed RAPSNET to determine whether the deputy had any other DDWS' for the week which included applicable activity, auditors found:

- For Lancaster Station, this applied to 84 deputies. Auditors determined that 26 deputies had at least one DDWS with applicable activity that should have been reviewed.
- For Palmdale Station, this applied to 118 deputies. Auditors determined that 34 deputies had at least one DDWS with applicable activity that should have been reviewed.

For Lancaster Station, based on the findings above, auditors determined:

- Sergeants did not perform a review of the DDWS for 257 deputies.
- Sergeants reviewed a DDWS with applicable activity for 59 deputies.
- Sergeants reviewed a DDWS with no applicable activity for 26 deputies, even though the deputies had another DDWS with applicable activity that should have been reviewed.
- Four (4) deputies did not have a DDWS reviewed for the week because the sergeants determined there was no applicable activity for various reasons; however, the deputies did have applicable activity.
- Fifty-eight (58) deputies had no applicable activity for the week and were therefore noted as no incidents noted (NIN<sup>10</sup>).

Therefore, for Lancaster Station, 59 of the 346 (17%) reviews met the criteria for this objective because the sergeants conducted a weekly audit of at least one DDWS involving stop, seizure, or search activity for each deputy under their supervision. The remaining 287 (83%) did not meet the criteria for this objective because the required reviews were not performed.

For Palmdale Station, based on the findings above, auditors determined:

- Sergeants reviewed a DDWS with applicable activity for 152 deputies.
- Sergeants reviewed a DDWS with no applicable activity for 34 deputies, even though the deputies had another DDWS with applicable activity that should have been reviewed.
- Two (2) deputies did not have a DDWS reviewed for the week because the sergeants determined there was no applicable activity for various reasons; however, the deputies did have applicable activity.
- Eighty-four (84) deputies had no applicable activity for the week and were therefore noted as NIN.

Therefore, for Palmdale Station, 152 of the 188 (81%) reviews met the criteria for this objective because the sergeants conducted a weekly audit of at least one DDWS involving stop, seizure, or search activity for each deputy under their supervision. The remaining 36 (19%) did not meet the criteria for this objective because the required reviews were not performed.

For the AV Stations in total, 211 of the 534 weekly reviews, evaluated by the sergeants for the deputy's stop, seizure, or search activity, resulted in a compliance rate of 40%. The AV Stations did not meet the criteria for this objective and are therefore not in compliance with the metric.

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<sup>10</sup> No incidents noted.

## Recommendations

Given the Department's ongoing staffing shortages, LASD should prioritize conducting a comprehensive workload study for Lancaster Station to assess the staffing levels necessary to meet operational demands, including the critical tasks outlined in the Agreement. In the interim, LASD should implement strategies to maximize the efficiency of existing personnel. These strategies may include redistributing administrative responsibilities, exploring temporary or external support for DDWS audits, and utilizing the Sheriff's Automated Contact Reporting (SACR) System<sup>11</sup> to identify stop, seizure and search activity, as it is less labor-intensive than the current method. Additionally, developing a standardized framework for task prioritization will help ensure that essential compliance and audit requirements are met, despite limited staffing.

The AV Stations' management must improve their DDWS log review procedures and Oversight to ensure that sergeants are thoroughly reviewing DDWS logs involving stop, seizure, or search activities.

To reinforce this process, the stations should require the watch commanders or lieutenants to verify that DDWS logs are being properly reviewed by sergeants. This verification should include the use of a standardized checklist to guide their review. The checklist would help ensure that critical elements, such as stop clearance codes, narrative details, and contact information are consistently evaluated which will promote a more thorough and accountable review process.

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<sup>11</sup> The SACR is a stand-alone system and will run independently of the Computer-Aided Dispatch (CAD) system. The SACR is a data entry system designed to collect any detention by a peace officer of a person or any peace officer interaction with a person in which the peace officer conducts a search, including a consensual search, or arrest.

## **Objective No. 2 – Deputy's Daily Worksheet Compliance Checks**

This objective evaluated whether AV sergeants took appropriate action to address all violations and deficiencies in stop, seizure, and search activity, as well as legal sufficiency, as documented on the DDWS.

### **Objective No. 2(a) – Stop, Search, and Seizure Documentation Errors**

#### Criteria

AV Settlement Agreement Compliance Metrics, Supervisory Review, Paragraph 59:

*In 95% of the time when the auditors identified deficiencies or violations in a DDWS log, the supervisor had identified and documented the same errors.*

AV Settlement Agreement, Paragraph 59, page 12 (April 2015):

*Sergeants assigned as raters shall regularly audit their assigned deputies' stop, search, and seizure documentation in addition to arrest reports and citations for completeness, accuracy, and legal sufficiency.*

Lancaster Unit Order #69 and Palmdale Station Unit Order #14-06:

*Sergeants shall audit at least one DDWS log involving stop, search and seizure activity (if any is conducted) for each deputy under their supervision each week.*

#### Procedures

The auditors used the compliance metric requirements outlined in Agreement paragraphs 41-57, which require MDC documentation, to determine whether there were errors on the DDWS. Subsequently, auditors reviewed the DDWS - Log Compliance Checks to evaluate whether the same errors were identified by the auditing sergeant.

#### Findings

For Lancaster Station, of the 59 deputies whose applicable activity was reviewed, auditors determined that 34 had no stop, seizure, or search related errors and were therefore NIN for this criterion. Of the remaining 25 deputies, auditors determined sergeants identified all stop, seizure, or search related errors on one (1) deputy's DDWS, however, the sergeant did not identify the errors identified by the auditors for the other 24 deputies.

Specifically, sergeants failed to identify:

- 6 errors for missing contact information for arrest, detention or transport of a civilian
- 6 errors for incorrect search code documentation
- 6 errors for missing or incorrect SACR code
- 4 errors for missing or incorrect clearance code
- 8 errors for incorrect or lack of documentation of codes for type/reason for contact
- 1 error for lack of articulation for a stop
- 9 errors for lack of articulation for a search
- 2 errors for lack of articulation for a backseat detention

For Lancaster Station, one of the 25 (4%) met the criteria for this objective because the sergeant conducted a thorough review of the stop, seizure, or search activity for accuracy. The remaining 24 (96%) did not meet the criteria for this objective because the sergeant did not conduct a thorough review.

For Palmdale Station, of the 152 deputies whose applicable activity was reviewed, auditors determined 76 had no stop, seizure, or search related errors and were therefore NIN for this criterion. Of the remaining 76 deputies, auditors determined sergeants identified all stop, seizure, or search related errors on 32 deputies' DDWS', however, the sergeant did not identify the errors identified by the auditors for the other 44 deputies.

Specifically, sergeants failed to identify:

- 4 errors for missing contact information for arrest, detention, or transport of a civilian
- 7 errors for incorrect search code documentation
- 3 errors for missing or incorrect SACR code
- 7 errors for missing or incorrect clearance code
- 30 errors for incorrect or lack of documentation of codes for type/reason for contact
- 4 errors for lack of articulation for a search
- 5 errors for lack of articulation for a backseat detention

For Palmdale Station, 32 of the 76 (42%) met the criteria for this objective because the sergeant conducted a thorough review of the stop, seizure, or search activity for accuracy. The remaining 44 (58%) did not meet the criteria for this objective because the sergeant did not conduct a thorough review.

For the AV Stations in total, 33 of the 101 sergeants conducted a weekly, thorough review of the stop, seizure, or search activities for accuracy, which resulted in a compliance rate of 33%. The AV Stations did not meet the criteria for this objective and are not in compliance with the metrics.

### Recommendations

AV Stations' captains must require sergeants to conduct thorough reviews of the deputies' activities by implementing a corrective action plan. This plan should include specific corrective action that shall be taken when sergeants fail to adequately review the deputies' DDWS. The corrective actions should be delineated and progressive for repeated violators of the DDWS review requirements.

## **Objective No. 2(b) – Review for Sufficient Legal and Department Policy Justification**

### Criteria

AV Settlement Agreement Compliance Metrics, Supervisory Review, Paragraph 60:

*In 95% of the time when the supervisor determined that a log did not provide sufficient detail or did not articulate sufficient legal and policy justification for the action, the supervisor reviewed the action with the deputy to determine whether there was sufficient legal and LASD policy justification.*

### Procedures

The auditors reviewed DDWS' and identified instances when the sergeant noted any stop, seizure, or search activity that lacked sufficient detail or did not articulate adequate legal and policy justification for the action. Thereafter, auditors reviewed the DDWS – Log Compliance Check to determine whether the supervisor reviewed the action with the deputy and documented the discussion or other actions taken on the form.

### Findings

For Lancaster Station, when conducting their reviews, sergeants identified stop, seizure, or search related errors for 2 deputies. In both instances, the sergeant documented on the Compliance Check form the activity had been reviewed with the deputy. Therefore, for Lancaster Station, 2 of the 2 (100%) reviews of legal sufficiency with the deputy were documented on the Compliance Check form.

For Palmdale Station, when conducting their reviews, sergeants identified stop, seizure, or search related errors for 44 deputies. In all 44 instances, the sergeant documented on the Compliance Check form the activity had been reviewed with the deputy. Therefore, for Palmdale Station, 44 of the 44 (100%) reviews of legal sufficiency with the deputy were documented on the Compliance Check form.

For the AV Stations in total, 46 of the 46 reviews of legal sufficiency with the deputy were documented on the Compliance Check form, which resulted in a compliance rate of 100%. Based on these results, the AV Stations met the criteria for this objective and therefore are in compliance with the metric.

### Recommendations

There are no recommendations because the AV Stations met the established compliance metrics.

## **Objective No. 2(c) – Documentation of Corrective Action**

### Criteria

AV Settlement Agreement Compliance Metrics, Supervisory Review, Paragraph 61:

*At least 95% of the time when the supervisor identified deficiencies or violations in a log, the supervisor took appropriate corrective action.*

### Procedures

Auditors reviewed the DDWS - Log Compliance Checks to evaluate whether the sergeant documented corrective action for stop, seizure, or search activity errors they identified on the DDWS.

### Findings

For Lancaster Station, when conducting their reviews, sergeants identified stop, seizure, or search related errors for 2 deputies. In both instances, the sergeant documented on the Compliance Check form the activity had been reviewed with the deputy, and the corrective action taken regarding the errors. Therefore, for Lancaster Station, 2 of the 2 (100%) reviews documented the corrective action taken.

For Palmdale Station, when conducting their reviews, sergeants identified stop, seizure, or search related errors for 44 deputies. In all 44 instances, the sergeant documented on the Compliance Check form the activity had been reviewed with the deputy, and the corrective action taken regarding the errors. Therefore, for Palmdale Station, 44 of the 44 (100%) reviews documented the corrective action taken.

For the AV Stations in total, 46 of the 46 reviews documented the corrective action taken on the Compliance Check form, which resulted in a compliance rate of 100%. Based on these results, the AV Stations met the criteria for this objective and therefore are in compliance with the metric.

### Recommendations

There are no recommendations because the AV Stations met the established compliance metrics.

### **Objective No. 3 – Watch Commander Review of Compliance Checks**

This objective evaluated if AV Watch Commanders took appropriate action to address all violations and deficiencies in stop, seizure, or search activity documented on the DDWS.

#### **Objective No. 3 (a) - Review of Compliance Checks**

##### Criteria

AV Settlement Agreement Compliance Metrics, Supervisory Review, Paragraph 63:

*Watch commanders or lieutenants thoroughly review 95% of the DDWS Compliance Check Forms they are required to review.*

Lancaster Unit Order #69 and Palmdale Station Unit Order #14-06:

*Watch Commander/Lieutenant shall thoroughly review the log audits to ensure the sergeants are accurately auditing the deputy DDWS logs and note any issues in the Watch Commander signature line area of the form.*

*Sergeants assigned as raters shall audit their assigned deputies' stop, search, and seizure documentation for completeness, accuracy, and legal sufficiency. This includes log entries that were not coded as arrests, stops, searches, or seizures but should have been. If a deputy's stop, search, or seizure documentation does not provide sufficient detail or articulate sufficient legal and policy justification for the action, or contains abbreviations that are indiscernible, the supervisor shall review the action with the deputy to determine whether there was sufficient legal and LASD policy justification and to take corrective action.*

##### Procedures

Auditors reviewed the DDWS - Log Compliance Checks to determine whether the Watch Commander identified deficiencies in the sergeant's audit. Any deficiencies found by the auditors but not documented by the Watch Commander were determined to be an audit finding.

##### Findings

For Lancaster Station, 11 of the 33 (33%) Compliance Checks met the criteria for this objective because they did not contain any unidentified stop, seizure, or search related errors or lacked a review of a DDWS with applicable activity. Of the remaining 22 (67%) Compliance Checks did not meet the criteria for this objective because they contained unidentified stop, seizure, or search related errors or lacked a review of a DDWS with applicable activity.

For Palmdale Station, 21 of the 60 (35%) Compliance Checks met the criteria for this objective because they did not contain any unidentified stop, seizure, or search related errors or lacked a review of a DDWS with applicable activity. Of the remaining 39 (65%) Compliance Checks did not meet the criteria for this objective because they contained unidentified stop, seizure, or search related errors or lacked a review of a DDWS with applicable activity.

For the AV Stations in total, 32 of the 93 Compliance Checks demonstrated evidence of a thorough review by the Watch Commander or Lieutenant, which resulted in a compliance rate of 34%. The AV Stations did not meet the criteria for this objective and therefore not in compliance with the metric.

### Recommendations

The AV Stations' management must improve their DDWS review processes and controls to ensure the Watch Commanders or lieutenants are thoroughly reviewing DDWS logs involving stop, seizure, or search activities. Currently, every DDWS Compliance Check Form submitted by a supervisor was signed by a lieutenant. However, there was no documentation of any errors or concerns that may have been identified, or corrective action taken prior to signing off.

The stations must require the Watch Commanders or lieutenants to verify whether the sergeants are reviewing DDWS logs involving stops, searches, and seizure activities by completing a checklist. The checklist would document the key elements Watch Commanders or lieutenants must verify during the reviews (e.g., clearance codes, clearance narrative, contact information, etc.). This checklist should include the Watch Commander's or lieutenant's name, signature, date of review, and acknowledgement of the review results. This checklist should be attached to every DDWS – Log Compliance Check form and subject to audit by the MT and AAB.

## **Objective No. 4 – Tracking of Repeated Violations**

This objective evaluated if AV Station management tracked repeated violations or deficiencies in stop, seizure, and search activity, and documented the corrective action taken.

### **Objective No. 4 (a) – Documentation of Repeated Violations**

#### Criteria

AV Settlement Agreement Compliance Metrics, Supervisory Review, Paragraph 62:

*AV supervisors and unit commanders consistently track repeated violations and deficiencies in stops, searches, and seizures and take effective corrective action.*

*Repeated violations or deficiencies in stops, detentions, searches, and detentions and the corrective action taken are tracked in the Performance Recording and Monitoring System (PRMS), personnel logs, station logs, or by an alternative process.*

#### Procedures

The auditors contacted the AV Stations' management to request a copy of the 2024 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Quarterly Review Reports, which were previously used to track the repeated violations of stop, seizure, or search activity documented in the DDWS. The auditors intended to review these reports to determine whether repeated violations of the applicable activity were being tracked.

#### Findings

The auditors were informed the Quarterly Review Reports are no longer prepared for the AV Stations and the information was now available through the new dashboard system, the Performance Oversight and Intervention Tracker (POINT)<sup>12</sup>. However, auditors reviewed this system and determined POINT does not capture or track repeated violations. According to the AV Stations management, no other tracking system is in place at this time.

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<sup>12</sup> The Performance Oversight and Intervention Tracker is a collection of datasets from some of the Department's enterprise systems which have been imported into the Microsoft Power BI service and used to create dashboards and visuals.

The repeated violations of stop, seizure, or search activity are not tracked at the AV Stations, which resulted in a compliance rate of 0%. Therefore, the AV Stations did not meet the criteria for this objective and are not in compliance with the established compliance metrics.

Additionally, in the Stops and Detentions Performance Audit, Project No. 2024-7-A, auditors assessed the AV Stations' implementation status for the recommendations provided in the Antelope Valley Monitoring Team First Stops and Bias-Free Policing Audit" report issued in September 2023. Specifically, for "MT Recommendation 10h - Develop a Mechanism to Track Repeated Violations," auditors determined the tracking mechanism for the AV Stations was partially implemented. However, to date, auditors have determined that a tracking mechanism has not been implemented. The implementation of a tracking mechanism will be reassessed in AAB's next Supervisory Review of Deputy's Daily Worksheet audit, Project No. 2025-5-A.

### Recommendations

It is recommended that LASD create a system for tracking deputy activities in the AV. LASD should review the types of documentation to be captured to ensure LASD Unit Commanders have the necessary information to track and hold staff accountable for repeated violations, and the corresponding corrective action. Additionally, the system should track instances when sergeants and lieutenants fail to provide adequate review of stop, seizure, or search activity, and when they do not provide corrective action to staff when appropriate.

Additionally, it is recommended that the AV Stations resume utilizing the Quarterly Review Report to track repeated violations until the POINT system is capable of tracking the violations. It is also recommended the POINT system become operable for AV Stations' use by the beginning of the 2026 calendar year.

## **CONCLUSION**

The AAB acknowledges the ongoing efforts of the AV Stations' management to address the identified issues, such as discussing errors with the deputies and taking action to correct the errors identified. However, there remains a significant lack of thoroughness in the review of DDWS logs involving stop, seizure, or search activities.

The auditors believe the results of this Stops and Detentions audit are valuable in identifying opportunities to enhance the AV Stations' operations. The AAB will continue to work with the stations in finding feasible solutions to support compliance with the AV Agreement and LASD policies.

## **SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **Objective No. 1 – Weekly Audits of Deputy's Daily Worksheet**

**(a) Sergeant's Weekly Audit of Deputy's DDWS:** Given the Department's ongoing staffing shortages, LASD should prioritize conducting a comprehensive workload study for Lancaster Station to assess the staffing levels necessary to meet operational demands, including the critical tasks outlined in the Agreement. In the interim, LASD should implement strategies to maximize the efficiency of existing personnel. These strategies may include redistributing administrative responsibilities, exploring temporary or external support for DDWS audits, and utilizing the Sheriff's Automated Contact Reporting (SACR) System<sup>13</sup> to identify stop, seizure and search activity, as it is less labor-intensive than current method. Additionally, developing a standardized framework for task prioritization will help ensure that essential compliance and audit requirements are met, despite limited staffing.

The AV Stations' management must improve their DDWS log review procedures and oversight to ensure that sergeants are thoroughly reviewing DDWS logs involving stop, seizure, or search activities.

To reinforce this process, the stations should require the watch commanders or lieutenants to verify that DDWS logs are being properly reviewed by sergeants. This verification should include the use of a standardized checklist to guide their review. The checklist would help ensure that critical elements, such as stop clearance codes, narrative details, and contact information are consistently evaluated which will promote a more thorough and accountable review process.

### **Objective No. 2 – Deputy's Daily Worksheet Compliance Checks**

**(a) Stop, Search, and Seizure Documentation Errors:** AV Stations' captains must require sergeants to conduct thorough reviews of the deputies' activities by implementing a corrective action plan. This plan should include specific corrective action that shall be taken when sergeants fail to adequately review the deputies' DDWS. The corrective actions should be delineated and progressive for repeated violators of the DDWS review requirements.

**(b) Review for Sufficient Legal and Department Policy Justification:** There are no recommendations because the AV Stations met the established compliance metrics.

**(c) Documentation of Corrective Action:** There are no recommendations because the AV Stations met the established compliance metrics.

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<sup>13</sup> The SACR is a stand-alone system and will run independently of the Computer-Aided Dispatch (CAD) system. The SACR is a data entry system designed to collect any detention by a peace officer of a person or any peace officer interaction with a person in which the peace officer conducts a search, including a consensual search, or arrest.

### **Objective No. 3 – Watch Commander Review of Compliance Checks**

**(a) Review of Compliance Checks:** The AV Stations' management must improve their DDWS review processes and controls to ensure the Watch Commanders or lieutenants are thoroughly reviewing DDWS logs involving stop, seizure, or search activities. Currently, every DDWS Compliance Check Form submitted by a supervisor was signed by a lieutenant. However, there was no documentation of any errors or concerns that may have been identified, or corrective action taken prior to signing off.

The stations must require the Watch Commanders or lieutenants to verify whether the sergeants are reviewing DDWS logs involving stops, searches, and seizure activities by completing a checklist. The checklist would document the key elements Watch Commanders or lieutenants must verify during the reviews (e.g., clearance codes, clearance narrative, contact information, etc.). This checklist should include the Watch Commander's or lieutenant's name, signature, date of review, and acknowledgement of the review results. This checklist should be attached to every DDWS – Log Compliance Check form and subject to audit by the MT and AAB.

### **Objective No. 4 – Tracking of Repeated Violations**

**(a) Documentation of Repeated Violations:** It is recommended that LASD create a system for tracking deputy activities in the AV. LASD should review the types of documentation to be captured to ensure LASD Unit Commanders have the necessary information to track and hold staff accountable for repeated violations, and the corresponding corrective action. Additionally, the system should track instances when sergeants and lieutenants fail to provide adequate review of stop, seizure, or search activity, and when they do not provide corrective action to staff when appropriate.

Additionally, it is recommended that the AV Stations resume utilizing the Quarterly Review Report to track repeated violations until the POINT system is capable of tracking the violations. It is also recommended the POINT system become operable for AV Stations' use by the beginning of the 2026 calendar year.

## **FOLLOW-UP PROCEDURES**

The AAB will conduct a follow-up of the recommendations and verify if the auditee has made necessary improvements. Verification of corrective action will be assessed by examining new directives, amended unit orders, and/or relevant documentation. The AAB will work with the auditee in understanding the implementation of audit recommendations, as it may be a lengthy process and require a collaborative effort with other Department resources.

## **DEPARTMENT APPLICATIONS**

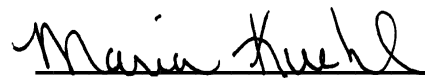
- Employee Performance Evaluation Tracking System (EPETS)
- Regional Allocation of Police Services (RAPSNET)
- Mobile Digital Computer (MDC)

## **REFERENCES**

- Antelope Valley Monitoring Team First Stops and Bias-Free Policing Audit (September 2023)
- Antelope Valley Settlement Agreement Compliance Metrics
- Lancaster Station Unit Order #69, Supplemental Supervisory Responsibilities (August 2019)
- Palmdale Station Unit Order #14-06, Supplemental Supervisory Responsibilities (July 2021)
- United States Department of Justice – Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Antelope Valley Settlement Agreement, Case Number CV 15-03174 (April 2015)

**Views of Responsible Officials**

On April 8, 2025, AV Station command staff submitted an informal response to the AAB concurring with the audit results. The AAB presented the final audit report to the Division Director, Office of Constitutional Policing.

 12/22/2025  
MARIA G. KUEHL DATE  
Acting Captain  
Audit and Accountability Bureau  
Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department