Los Angeles County
Sheriff’s Department

Achievements
Sheriff Leroy D. Baca’s Second Term in Office
2002 - 2006
Message from the Sheriff

Now that the campaign is over, the Department’s progress for the past four years is worthy of our full attention. I would like to share my thoughts with you about what we have achieved together.

First, our biggest victory was the new contract for deputies. It was authored by Chief Administrative Officer David Janssen and wholeheartedly approved by the Board of Supervisors. The credit belongs to the Board of Supervisors and each hard-working deputy and their supervisors at all levels who stayed the course during tough times while working in our jails, patrol stations, detective assignments, transit services, courts, colleges, and every special unit throughout the Department.

For our professional staff, I am well aware of your needs and will work to help the Professional Peace Officers Association and the Service Employees International Union Local 660 in securing the best contracts possible. I am particularly concerned about the records clerks at the Inmate Reception Center who have worked tirelessly and heroically throughout the years with insufficient pay in view of their enormous responsibility. Our crime lab personnel are also critically underpaid as are our Department psychologists. There are many more professional staff who merit significant pay raises.

As you know, we need more sworn personnel. We lost 1,000 deputies during the recession, which caused the reduction of service in patrol and our jails, resulting in the early release of inmates.

With the Board of Supervisors’ support, we have embarked on an aggressive build back. By the end of June, we will have over 400 deputies in training. Your help in recruiting is paying off in huge dividends. We are hiring more people than any other law enforcement agency in California, with over a thousand currently in backgrounds.

To memorialize and celebrate our time and effort, I have highlighted some of our major achievements over the past four years to celebrate and acknowledge our endeavors. I am very proud of the men and women of this Department and our accomplishments outlined in this document and look forward to many more goals to be realized in the near future.
The County was in the middle of difficult financial circumstances at the onset of this term. Despite curtailments totaling approximately $1.6 million and 1,224 budgeted positions, the Sheriff’s Department was successful in meeting many goals for enhancing services without overspending its budget. The ongoing and intensified training of personnel to combat and defeat terrorist acts within the County, the acquisition of three armored response vehicles for special enforcement activities, and the destruction of over six tons of confiscated illegal weapons are just a few examples of the Department’s success in improving its high level of service to the community.

The Department is now positioned to reopen jail beds and has added budgeted positions throughout the custody system. In addition, the Century Regional Detention Facility was reopened as a “women only” jail. Funding and other resources have been established to improve medical services within the custody system, and the opening of a new crime laboratory is forthcoming. Furthermore, the Department has expanded and accelerated its recruitment and retention efforts to fill its vacant budgeted positions.

With the Board of Supervisors’ assistance, the Hall of Justice will continue to be renovated. Once it is ready to be occupied, the Detective Division will occupy the current Headquarters Building. The Executive staff, along with other administrative support functions, will move to the Hall of Justice.

**PROJECT** | **DESCRIPTION** | **STATUS**
--- | --- | ---
San Dimas Sheriff’s Station | Construction of a 26,000 sq ft replacement facility and a 3,400 sq ft service building on 4.6 acres. | Completed.
Palmdale Sheriff’s Station | Construction of a 53,000 sq ft station and a 8,300 sq ft service building on 11 acres. | Completed.
SEB Replacement - Phase I | Rehabilitation of existing facilities at BRTC for relocation effort of Bureau from East Los Angeles Station (approximately 23,600 sq ft). | Completed.
Los Angeles Regional Forensic Crime Lab | A new state-of-the-art forensic crime laboratory facility of approximately 200,000 sq ft located at the campus of California State University, Los Angeles on 4.5 acres. | Construction ongoing. Anticipated move in 02/2007.
Athens Sheriff’s Station | A new 34,500 sq ft facility and a 5,000 sq ft service building located on a portion of a 15.4 acre County-owned site. | Design plans continuing.
SB 989 Water Clarifiers | Install new water clarifier systems at various Sheriff facilities to control water run-off due to car washing. | Design plans continuing.
Lakewood Sheriff’s Station | Construct 12,221 sq ft addition and remodel approximately 26,000 sq ft of existing station and adjacent annex building and construct a new replacement 5,000 sq ft service building. | Construction ongoing. Anticipated move in 07/2007.
BRTC Academy - Phase II | Construct new recruit training academy. | Construction ongoing.
BRTC Range - Phase III | Renovate existing pistol range, construct enclosed sanding range with overhead sanding bays and lights, and install a new bullet trap and ricochet guard. | Negotiations proceeding with Tetra Design.
Altadena Sheriff’s Station | Construct a new 30,000 sq ft replacement facility and a 4,947 sq ft service building on the existing 2.2 acre site. | Design package to be completed by late 07/2007.
Industry Sheriff’s Station | Construct a new 60,000 sq ft station adjacent to the existing station and remodel the existing station. | Preliminary design and needs assessment continuing.
Newhall Sheriff’s Station | Construct a new 35,000 sq ft station on a 5 acre site to service new developments in Santa Clarita Valley. | Preliminary design and needs assessment continuing.

**Inmate Reception Center Expansion Project**

In January 2005, the Twin Towers Correctional Facility relinquished the third floor in Tower II to the Inmate Reception Center. This solved the serious IRC crowding problem. Prior to this change, up to 1,000 new bookings and court returnees would have been confined within the limited space of IRC.

**Correctional Treatment Center**

In October 2005, the State of California, Department of Health Services, issued the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department’s Medical Services Bureau (MSB) a full license to operate and maintain a Correctional Treatment Center. Los Angeles County is the only county jail system in the state to successfully undergo the State Department of Health Services’ rigorous scrutiny to achieve this prestigious license. MSB is now working with East Los Angeles College to provide continuing education to its nursing staff and to provide required training to nursing students. As the Bureau continues to grow and expand its technology base, we can anticipate that it will soon be the preeminent healthcare provider across the nation. As MSB’s positive reputation spreads into the medical community, its ability to recruit highly qualified professional staff will increase to phenomenal levels.

**Inmate Education**

Over the past four years, the Inmate Services Unit has strengthened its relationship with the Hacienda-La Puente Unified School District (HLPUSD), with whom the Department contracts for correctional education services. During this time, HLPUSD has issued a total of 123 high school diplomas and 640 GEDs. They have also issued 5,783 vocational certificates in disciplines such as painting, construction, dog grooming, computer operations, groundskeeping, sprinkler installation, and offset press operations. In 2003, the HLPUSD Correctional Education program was the recipient of the 2003 Program of Excellence Award from the Department of Education for their Parent Education Program.

**Electronic Medical Record**

The Jail Health Information System (JHIS) was developed to address the need for an electronic medical record which includes fingerprint identification as well as x-rays. This system will be further enhanced to allow for easy retrieval of files. This capability will reduce the costs associated with the storage of and ultimate elimination of hard film images. The images can also be shared with clinicians across the nation, and this will ultimately improve patient outcomes and reduce civil liability.
**HIV-AIDS Related Services**

In 2003, under the Corrections Demonstration Project, LASD partnered with the Centers for Disease Control, Department of Health Services, and the Office of AIDS Programs and Policy to establish protocol in order to provide HIV-related services to inmates in the Los Angeles County Jail system. What began as a demonstration project under the federal government has evolved into a multifaceted partnership, consisting of various units within the Sheriff’s Department, other Los Angeles County departments and community-based organizations to meet the needs of our inmate population that is either HIV positive or at risk of acquiring the disease.

**Community Transition Unit (CTU)**

The CTU has been a liaison for providing links to service providers who assist inmates incarcerated in the jail system.

In 2005, the CTU embarked upon a comprehensive partnership with the “Eimago Ready 4 Work” program to provide services for female offenders at the Twin Towers Correctional Facility.

In 2004, the CTU, along with the Department of Mental Health, began a pilot program to create an ongoing process and to establish uniformity with the discharge planning for the mentally ill.

In 2004, the CTU received the National Association of Counties Achievement Award for innovative county government program and received the 18th Annual Productivity Quality Award: “County Ambassadors: Performing Heroically” for their ongoing efforts and innovative ways in assisting inmates being reintegrated into the community.

In 2003, the CTU received a toll-free telephone service line for inmates released to local shelters, mental health facilities, crisis hotline, and transportation.

In 2002, the CTU received the 16th Annual Productivity and Quality Award: “Measures of Success” Top Ten award for their work in establishing the United States Veterans Module at the Century Regional Detention Facility.

On December 13, 2005, the Department entered into a contract for inmate telephone service with AT&T Corporation. The Inmate Services Unit is currently monitoring the changeover of the telephones and facilitating instruction for departmental employees regarding new management and investigational tools available with the upgraded telephone platform.

In February 2006, the vendor for commissary services began offering a web-based ordering system by which the family members of Los Angeles County Jail inmates could order gift packs and prepaid telephone cards for their incarcerated family/friends.

**Advancements in Contracted Services**

In order to comply with changes to the California Code of Regulations, Title 16, Section 2725, commonly referred to as the Nurse Practice Act (NPA), we were required to make changes to our sick call procedures. A Nurse Clinic format allows for an inmate co-payment of $3 for certain types of self-initiated, nonemergent clinical encounters. We have also provided availability of over-the-counter products to inmates for a nominal charge through the jail stores and vending machines.

**Nurse Clinics**

In order to maintain the health of our inmate population, we have implemented Nurse Clinics. These Nurse Clinics are located in the Century Regional Detention Facility.

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**New Courthouses**

The construction of two courthouses have been completed in recent years and are currently in operation. In April 2002, the Chatsworth Courthouse was opened for business, with ten functioning courtrooms. The Michael D. Antonovich Antelope Valley Courthouse was dedicated on October 16, 2003.

**Statewide Security Assessments of All Superior Courts**

Starting in 2005, Court Services Division, in conjunction with the California State Sheriffs’ Association, conducted comprehensive security assessments of all the Superior Courts within the State of California in order to determine security risks and recommend preventative measures to enhance court security.

**Best Practices and Staffing Standards for Court Security**

This program was implemented in collaboration with the Superior Court to identify procedures to optimize effectiveness and cost efficiency of court security, which enhanced security and court operations.

**In Court Release Program**

This program was implemented in response to a federal court mandate that all inmates who are ordered released from custody by the Superior Court be released immediately. The program created a comprehensive process to identify inmates who qualify for release and established the criteria for the release of those inmates from court.

**Trial Court Funding (TCF) Contract Compliance Levels**

As a result of the Lockyer-Isenberg Trial Court Funding Act of 1997, trial court funding became a function of the state and Court Services Division became responsible for specific contract compliance levels.

**DNA Program**

Based on the Unsolved Crime and Protection Act, otherwise known as Proposition 69, and in conjunction with the In Court Release Program, a DNA collection program was implemented. Court Services Division is responsible for the collection of DNA within six designated court branches. DNA samples are submitted to the California Department of Justice DNA laboratory for analysis, and the DNA profiles are then stored in the California DNA data bank. The technological advancements of DNA and its collection can play a critical role in criminal investigations.
Custody Operations Division

The Board of Supervisors has been working with our jail managers to improve the infrastructure of the Men's Central Jail, Pitchess Detention Center Complex and Sybil Brand Institute, as well as the delivery of our medical and psychological services for inmates. We are working as fast as we can to open new jail beds and significantly reduce early releases. As the inmate population grows, correctional services will also grow. Recovery programs for inmates reduce recidivism, which is a strong priority of the jail system.

Custody Master Plan

In March 2006, one floor at TTCF was reopened and the former PDC South was repopulated as the North Annex. This plan includes current developments to repopulate empty beds at PDC North Annex and Twin Towers Correctional Facility. It entails the development of a comprehensive plan to shift the inmate population by housing inmates according to their security levels. Additionally, it involves finalizing future plans of a massive expansion of jail facilities. Included are renovation of Sybil Brand Institute and construction of new jails at the Pitchess Detention Center Complex.

Century Regional Detention Facility (CRDF) Reopening

Transfer of the female inmate population to CRDF was completed on March 26, 2006. CRDF is receiving and releasing all female prisoners and inmates via the booking area, reception center and release area. Property, cashiering, medical/mental health, and food services are fully operational.

Closed-Circuit Television System

In August 2005, the Pitchess Detention Center East Facility fully implemented a system that has cameras installed in all dorms and is useful to the unit and staff from Operation Safe Jails to identify suspects involved in inmate disturbances. Currently, the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department is seeking a way to implement and install a uniform recorded surveillance closed-circuit television system throughout Custody Operations Division.

Custody Ride-along Program

This program consists of paid ride-alongs for deputies assigned to Custody Operations, Correctional Services and Court Services Divisions. The program was designed to reduce the number of failures in patrol training by affording the deputies a vehicle to learn while being properly compensated.

Scent Detection Canines

On March 15, 2006, two canines and their handlers were placed into service conducting searches of the various custody facilities. Pruno, a jail-made alcoholic beverage, is being lo

Cargo CATs

Since Cargo CATs was restored as a unit in December 2002, investigators have recovered over $34 million in stolen cargo. They specialize in investigating cargo theft, usually high-dollar items such as computers, computer chips, televisions and food products. In 2003, Cargo CATs created their own web page, which enables private industry from across the country to report their cargo theft to the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department.

Commercial Crimes Bureau

In the past four years, the Commercial Crimes Bureau has created and expanded the responsibilities of the Southern California High-Tech Task Force. They have been highly successful in preventing millions of dollars of lost revenue to the movie industry.

In 2005, the Traffic Violators School Monitoring (TVSM) was created to bridge the gap between the courts, DMV and law enforcement.

The Identity Theft Unit was created as an investigative unit that has received numerous accolades since its onset.

The Fraud Detail is expanding its efforts in the area of Elderly Fiduciary Abuse and has become a member of the Los Angeles Elder Abuse Forensic Center.

Cargo CATs

Innovation continues to grow through the development of technological aspects of receiving anonymous clues, to utilizing experienced retired homicide detectives to help solve cases, to just plain relentless determination.

In July 2005, Homicide and Data Systems Bureaus developed a web site to educate the public as to the frequency, location and motives for murders in the country known as “LACountyMurders.com.” The website provides an electronic link where visitors can provide information on cases to the investigators.

Three retired homicide detectives were hired through a 120-day contract with full peace officer status, which enabled Homicide Bureau to continue working on cold cases, as their experience level is invaluable to the bureau.

The following highlights are noteworthy cases that have been solved over the past several years:

• The murder of Deputy David March.
• The 2001 high-profile homicide case of Jana Carpenter Koklich, the daughter of former California Senator Paul Carpenter.
• The 1957 killing of two El Segundo police officers.
• The 1992 case where a mother-of-four and her housekeeper were shot in retaliation for testifying against the suspect.
Recruitment

Our recruitment campaign is operating at an extremely high level as we continue to recruit qualified candidates throughout the United States, with our primary focus in the Southern California region. In addition, we have experienced tremendous success with hiring our brave military personnel, who will enhance our Department by their strong fortitude. Since January 2005, we have graduated 497 deputy sheriffs from our Academy. As of June 2006, we have been operating five academy classes concurrently, totaling 455 deputy sheriff cadets.

With the continued support of the Board of Supervisors, we have expanded our advertisement campaign to include the following mediums: billboards, radio, cable television, newspapers, sporting venues, and the internet.

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<td>Total:</td>
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Thanks to the dedicated efforts of the sworn and professional staff of this Department, I am confident we will meet and exceed our goal to graduate 1,000 deputy sheriffs by the end of the year.
**Major Crimes Bureau**

Detectives are involved in numerous local, state and federal task forces and operations, including HAIT, The Fugitive Task Force, and FALCON and FALCON II, all of which have resulted in numerous arrests.

In October 2005, the Fugitive Task Force formulated a plan called “Save Our Streets” for the City of Compton. This project resulted in 89 arrests of suspects wanted for various violent crimes in Compton. They were also involved in the apprehension of the suspect wanted in the murder of Deputy David March, who was hiding out in Mexico.

Major Crimes Bureau Metro detectives investigated and solved several widespread robbery cases, with the suspects being sentenced to prison terms ranging from 50 to 200 years.

In addition, the Major Crimes Bureau’s Career Offenders Section absorbed the existing Countywide Surveillance and Pre-Apprehension Team (CSAT).

**Narcotics Bureau**

Over the last four years, the Community Oriented Multi-agency Narcotics Enforcement Team (COMNET) was deployed to 15 locations and was a great success. In 2005, Narcotics Bureau’s Marijuana Enforcement Team eradicated over 88,000 marijuana plants in the Angeles National Forest and Malibu State Park.

Narcotics Bureau also has investigators assigned to various task forces, including the United States Customs Task Force, Southwest Border Task Force (DEA), Omega Task Force (Immigration and Customs Enforcement), Los Angeles International Drug Task Force (DEA), and Los Angeles Interagency Metropolitan Police apprehension Crime Task Force. Investigators assigned to these task forces have been responsible for arresting several suspects for various narcotic related crimes and for the seizure of large amounts of narcotics, firearms and assets, including the arrest of a suspect who shot and wounded a Glendora police officer and a citizen.

**Operation Safe Streets Bureau**

Operation Safe Streets Bureau organized a steering committee made up of the Los Angeles, Long Beach, Hawthorne and Inglewood Police Departments to establish a gang information clearinghouse for Los Angeles County. The Los Angeles Regional Gang Information Network (LARGIN) was subsequently adopted as a countywide clearinghouse for information regarding gang-related crimes.

In 2004, Bureau personnel and 16 specialized Multi-Agency Response Team (MART) members worked closely together during search warrant and parole and/or probation operations in an effort to evaluate living conditions of at-risk children. Additionally, 85 County Counsel attorneys have been trained in gang issues and are supporting the project in Children’s Court.

To date, more than 2,000 children have been rescued from hazardous or unhealthy environments, with nearly 60 percent of these children taken into protective custody. The success of this program continues to grow as Operation Safe Streets Bureau personnel continue to work closely with Department of Children and Family Services (DCF/S) personnel and County Counsel attorneys are trained in gang issues.

The Special Victims Bureau participates in a multi-jurisdictional task force which includes federal, state and local law enforcement agencies. This Sexual Assault Felony Enforcement (S.A.F.E.) Team specializes in child pornography on the Internet. With the ever-increasing rise of Internet crimes, child pornography and “Myspace.com” type access to molesters, our Department’s participation in this task force has proven to be a valuable resource in the fight against Internet crimes.

In 2005 alone, the Special Victims Bureau successfully filed over 358 felony sexual abuse cases, including high-profile cases.

**Taskforce for Regional Autotheft Prevention (TRAP)**

From 2003 to 2005, auto theft has increased 8 percent in the State of California, but at the same time, auto theft in Los Angeles County has dropped by 4.4 percent. One reason for the decrease is the quality of investigations being conducted by detectives assigned to this task force.

In 2004, TRAP successfully proposed Assembly Bill 1663, which was signed into law by the Governor, extending the funding for every law enforcement auto theft task force in California until January of 2010. TRAP detectives have investigated several large rings, including members of the “Mongols” motorcycle gang and a Honduran VIN switching ring who targeted luxury sports utility vehicles and fully-equipped pickup trucks. Both investigations combined led to the arrest of more than 40 suspects responsible for a high percentage of the stolen vehicles reported in this county.

The Special Victims Bureau created an electronic, paperless record management system for the Bureau’s child abuse cases. This project received the Los Angeles County Quality and Productivity Commission Award for Best Innovative Use of Technology in October 2003.

In 2005, the Special Victims Bureau implemented a program in which all suspected child abuse reports generated by DCFS are routed directly to the respective Sheriff’s Station that has jurisdiction where the crime occurred. The result of establishing this program streamlined processing child abuse reports and better met the needs of the community.

In April 2006, the Special Victims Bureau held its first Annual Child Abuse Training Conference. This training was very well received by the numerous Los Angeles County and outside participating law enforcement agencies.

The Special Victims Bureau created a law enforcement component into the Department of Children and Family Services Academy for newly hired social workers. This training component has proven to be an invaluable tool in the fight against child abuse by building a rapport between our two departments.

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**Special Victims Bureau**

**(Formerly Family Crimes Bureau)**

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During Sheriff Baca’s second term, planning efforts to accommodate the population growth in the North County have continued. After years in a “storefront” building, Palmdale Sheriff’s Station moved into a brand new 47,000 square foot facility with its own dispatching and incarceration capability. Meanwhile, plans are being developed for a satellite station to be built in Santa Clarita Station’s unincorporated Castaic area. A complete architectural program has been designed for a new Altadena Sheriff’s Station facility. It will be the basis for replacing the nearly 60-year-old current building when funding becomes available. Additionally, feasibility studies have been initiated regarding remodeling or replacing the building at East Los Angeles Station.

In addition to building new facilities as described above, the Department has developed and implemented new approaches toward methodically assessing and enhancing staffing and deployment in growing areas. A “Rural Policing Committee” was established to explore and overcome the unique policing challenges presented by large tracts of sparsely populated Sheriff’s Department jurisdiction.

In January 2006, the Compton Station Area Violent Gang Task Force (J-Team), East Los Angeles Station’s Whitmore Boulevard and Special Problems team, Altadena’s “Community Intervention Team” (J-Team), East Los Angeles Station’s Whitmore Boulevard and Special Problems team, Altadena’s “Community Law Enforcement and Recovery” program (CLEAR), Forest mountain and canyon safety effort, and Temple’s “Joint Community Law Enforcement and Recovery” program (CLEAR), launched a new $3 million/pound tissue of violence and drug trafficking. The task force was composed of various specialized units in the Department, as well as county, state and federal agencies, to assist station patrol and investigative personnel. COPS, CIT, Homicide, Narcotics, OSS, Major Crimes and Compton Station deputies, along with assistance from the U.S. Marshal’s, FBI, ATF, California State Parole, Los Angeles County Probation Department, Los Angeles County District Attorney’s Office, Department of Corrections, and the Department of Children and Family Services.

Since its inception, over 800 gang members have been arrested, with over 276 guns seized and a 40 percent reduction in crime. A first quarter crime comparison to last year showed gang-related crime statistics had an 81 percent decrease in murders, 21 percent drop in attempt murders, 52 percent decrease in assaults with firearms, and a 77 percent drop in shootings at dwellings.

The project will dedicate space for a briefing room, report writing areas, COPS, CIT, Homicide, Narcotics, OSS, Major Crimes and Compton Station deputies, along with assistance from the U.S. Marshal’s, FBI, ATF, California State Parole, Los Angeles County Probation Department, Los Angeles County District Attorney’s Office, Department of Corrections, and the Department of Children and Family Services.

Additionally, crime-fighting initiatives were identified and undertaken. Specialized teams and programs were created or grew stronger, such as Lancaster Station’s Community Appreciation Project (LAN-CAP) and Target-Oriented Policing team, Palmdale’s “Partner’s Against Crime” (PAC), Los Angeles’ Juvenile Intervention Team (J-Team), East Los Angeles Station’s Whitmore Boulevard and Special Problems team, Altadena’s “Community Law Enforcement and Recovery” program (CLEAR). Santa Clarita’s Career Offender Burglary and Robbery Apprehension team (COBRA), Crescenta Valley’s Angeles National Forest mountain and canyon safety effort, and Temple’s “Joint Contract City DUI Enforcement” team.

To supplement these teams, several grants also provide funding for addressing other policing issues in the Antelope Valley such as the School Grant, which funds deputies to police all the schools in the district; the Off-Highway Vehicle Enforcement Grant for operations to deter illegal off-road recreational vehicle use on public and private property; and the Alcohol Bever- age Control Grant, which funds several operations throughout the year to address illegal liquor sales to minors and other ABC violations in the Lancaster area.

The groundwork was laid for a Compton-style task force to assist in combating crime in the burgeoning Antelope Valley, slated to commence in July 2006. Trimester meetings with all station staff in attendance have been conducted since 2001, with increasing emphasis on assessing crime patterns, utilizing crime analysis data, and exploring creative approaches to improving public safety.

Finally, the first steps toward a regionwide initiative to combat hate crimes through prevention, rather than merely by means of after-the-fact investigation, have been approved and are underway.

Additionally, crime-fighting initiatives were identified and undertaken. Specialized teams and programs were created or grew stronger, such as Lancaster Station’s Community Appreciation Project (LAN-CAP) and Target-Oriented Policing team, Palmdale’s “Partner’s Against Crime” (PAC), Los Angeles’ Juvenile Intervention Team (J-Team). The goal of the task force was to reduce gang-related crime. The task force was composed of various specialized units in the Department, as well as county, state and federal agencies, to assist station patrol and investigative personnel. COPS, CIT, Homicide, Narcotics, OSS, Major Crimes and Compton Station deputies, along with assistance from the U.S. Marshal’s, FBI, ATF, California State Parole, Los Angeles County Probation Department, Los Angeles County District Attorney’s Office, Department of Corrections, and the Department of Children and Family Services.

Since its inception, over 800 gang members have been arrested, with over 276 guns seized and a 40 percent reduction in crime. A first quarter crime comparison to last year showed gang-related crime statistics had an 81 percent decrease in murders, 21 percent drop in attempt murders, 52 percent decrease in assaults with firearms, and a 77 percent drop in shootings at dwellings.

The Florence/Firestone Community Enhancement Team (FFCET) was implemented to address eight “quality of life” areas as identified by community participants. They include development and infrastructure enhancements, road cleanliness and aesthetics, code enforcement, public safety, enhancing the residents’ knowledge of available County services, pedestrian mobility, community identity and involvement, and health and wellness. Since the successful deployment of the Gang Murder Task Force to coincide with the initial efforts on behalf of FFCET, shootings and violent crime have dropped extensively.

Field Operations
Region II
Compton Task Force
In January 2006, the Compton Station Area Violent Gang Task Force was formed due to the alarming increase in violent crime in the area. The goal of the task force was to reduce gang-related crime. The task force was composed of various specialized units in the Department, as well as county, state and federal agencies, to assist station patrol and investigative personnel. COPS, CIT, Homicide, Narcotics, OSS, Major Crimes and Compton Station deputies, along with assistance from the U.S. Marshal’s, FBI, ATF, California State Parole, Los Angeles County Probation Department, Los Angeles County District Attorney’s Office, Department of Corrections, and the Department of Children and Family Services.

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Field Operations
Region III
County Gang Murder Task Force
In the Florence/Firestone area of Century Station’s jurisdiction, a 56-person task force, funded by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, was created and over a six-month period resulted in over 300 arrests, the seizure of 133 firearms, several solved homicide cases, and a 70 percent reduction in assaults.

Lakewood Station Expansion Project
The Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department, in partnership with the city of Lakewood and the Honorable Don Knabe, Los Angeles County Supervisor for the Fourth District, is currently undertaking a $15 million expansion of Lakewood Station. The project will join the 29,330 square feet of the two existing buildings with a new addition of approximately 19,000 square feet to create a state-of-the-art facility.

Sheriff’s Leadership Academy
Through a collaborative effort led by Field Operations Region II, the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) and Hope’s Nest, the Sheriff’s Leadership Academy (SLA) was created to provide a safe haven for students who wanted to learn but feared gang violence in their own neighborhood schools. The goal was to create an environment that would foster academic excellence, leadership and integrity. The doors were opened in October 2005, and this two-classroom academy has grown into a school that rivals private school education.

Expansion Project
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The project will dedicate space for a briefing room, report writing room, non-custodial interview rooms and juvenile detention rooms. In addition, it will create a larger female locker room capable of accommodating 75 females, and the public lobby would increase in size from a meager 320 square feet to over 840 square feet. The dispatch/communications center would be expanded from an overcrowded 492 square feet to over 1,500 square feet. Finally, space would be allocated for an Emergency Operations Center that would meet the needs and demands for Homeland Security.
III stations and collection started on January 1, 2006. The Risk Management Incident Tracking application In 2005, Region III created an application to track foot pursuits and bookings. The time saved could potentially reduce paid overtime on late arrivals; and war bag lockers for patrol personnel. This new facility is being completely funded by the City of La Mirada.

Norwalk’s Automated Booking Process
A booking program was created to expedite, streamline and improve the efficiency of the current booking and report writing process. This automated booking program utilizes the information given to the booking deputy from the arrestee, which is typed into a computerized booking slip, and transposed that information onto the required booking packets forms and complaint reports automatically. With this program, a deputy completes an entire booking in 10 to 15 minutes. In addition, the reports will always be legible and complete. The reports will always be legible and complete. The reports will always be legible and complete.

Foot Pursuit Tracking Database
In 2005, Region III created an application to track foot pursuits. The Risk Management Incident Tracking application was subsequently modified and installed at all Region I, II and III stations and collection started on January 1, 2006. The data gathered will provide quantitative information of what is happening during foot pursuits, as well as the opportunity to develop better training and tactics.

La Mirada Community Station
On June 28, 2006, the City of La Mirada celebrated the groundbreaking ceremony for the expansion of the La Mirada Community Sheriff’s Station. The new facility will add an additional 3,000 square feet, along with a dedicated parking structure for patrol vehicles. The renovated station will provide a customer friendly lobby; dispatch and complaint operations; dedicated briefing/meeting room; male and female locker rooms, including bunk rooms; two interview rooms; dedicated Emergency Operations Center; a fitness room; a learning center; and war bag lockers for patrol personnel. This new facility is being completely funded by the City of La Mirada.

Lakewood Sheriff’s Community Safety Center
The grand opening of the Lakewood Sheriff’s Community Safety Center took place in October of 2003. The center is located in the Lakewood Center Mall and provides a staffed public counter for the public’s safety and assistance. In addition, Lakewood community groups can schedule meetings and host community events at the center. The center has easy access to city and county online information systems and serves as a training center for both law enforcement and the Red Cross. Its convenient mall location is a “one-stop” resource for shoppers and is highly visible and responsive to the residents’ needs.

Automated Fingerprint Identification System
In 2001, the City of Cerritos wanted to provide an increased level of service to more rapidly identify all latent fingerprints left at property crime scenes. To that end, the city contracted for its own full-time Forensic Identification Specialist II (FIS II) to be assigned to Cerritos Station and funded its own autonomous Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) work-site. Latent fingerprints are lifted by trained Law Enforcement Technicians and certified city Community Safety Officers. The city of Bellflower’s detective unit reported that during 2004, city CSOs completed 431 lifts on 98 different cases, which were submitted to the Cerritos AFIS work-site wherein 37.8 percent were identified. These identifications resulted in 26 arrests and 49 criminal filings, including clearing 4 robberies, 12 burglaries, 15 auto thefts and 18 forgery fraud cases. Many serial burglars and armed robbers have been identified, arrested and charged. Because of the success of this program, it is being expanded to other stations within Region III.

Rowland Heights Service Center
The Rowland Heights Service Center was established in October 2004 from a community partnership between the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department; Walter Conn, President/CEO of Charles Dunn Company; and Kent Wu, President of Asset Group, LLC. The center was established in response to a need for an increased police presence in the Rowland Heights area and to provide a comfortable and safe atmosphere for non-English speaking residents to report incidents.

The Rowland Heights Services Center is located at 1737 Fullerton Road, at the intersection of Colima Road in Rowland Heights and is open weekdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Staffed by civilian volunteers, the center makes it possible for the public to obtain information about the Sheriff’s Department, as well as to request service.

New San Dimas Sheriff’s Station
On Saturday, January 28, 2006, Sheriff Baca officially opened the new 28,000 square foot San Dimas Sheriff’s Station, located at 270 South Walnut Avenue in San Dimas. The old station, located at 122 North San Dimas Avenue, proudly served the Sheriff’s Department and the community for more than 55 years. This beautifully designed building is a completely unique, “one-of-a-kind” modern sheriff’s facility. It incorporates a “western theme” design of masonry and open wood beams to accentuate San Dimas’ western heritage.

The original Sheriff’s Academy at the Biscailuz complex will be restored as our flagship recruit academy in the near future, thanks to Supervisor Gloria Molina. The Whittier facility will continue to train recruits. In addition to the College of the Canyons Academy, an academy at Antelope Valley College will be opened in the next few months. Future plans include opening an academy at El Camino College. These five locations will increase the efficiency of training and will enable recruits to devote more time to their studies and reduce their travel time.

Tactical training is now being delivered to patrol stations by utilizing tactical simulation trailers. This equipment allows deputies to receive valuable “real life” training experiences at their work sites on a daily basis.
The Special Enforcement Bureau will be relocated to the Biscailuz Regional Training Facility in the near future. The Sheriff’s Department, LAPD and the FBI have opened the nation’s first municipal Joint Regional Intelligence Center of which Chief Bratton, Assistant Director in Charge Stephen Tidwell of the FBI and Sheriff Baca are justifiably proud because of our Departments’ mutual sharing of our resources.

In 1997, the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department reentered transit policing after the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) chose to disband their police department. In May 2003, Transit Services Bureau (TSB) subsequently secured the entire contract and has been the sole law enforcement provider for the MTA.

LASD University is becoming a vital element in our organization’s culture. Nearly 1,000 Department employees have earned undergraduate and graduate degrees in a wide variety of academic disciplines. The colleges and universities associated with LASDU are California State University, Long Beach; National University; Woodbury University; Northcentral University; Tiffin University; Touro University; East Los Angeles College; West Los Angeles University; Abraham Lincoln University School of Law; Irvine University College of Law; and Pacific Coast University School of Law. In addition, the University of Southern California recently joined the LASDU consortium of colleges.

Over the past four years, our relationship with the Office of Independent Review (OIR) has strengthened. Working with them has added significant credibility to the Department’s internal investigations and disciplinary processes. The innovation demonstrated through the creation of the OIR oversight model exemplifies the Department’s commitment to our Core Values.

The acquisition of the entire $60 million contract made TSB the second largest transit-policing agency in the nation. This resulted in the MTA gaining a wealth of LASD services with this new contract, including the following:

- Over 300 uniformed deputies patrolling bus and rail lines, working from six different locations;
- Over 100 civilian fare inspectors enforcing transit-specific violations;
- Special Problems Units designed to concentrate on vandalism and other high frequency incidents, resulting in over $2 million worth of vandalism cases solved since March 2003;
- Two Crisis Response Units to deal with the mentally ill, the homeless, those who need substance abuse help and transient social services assistance on transit-owned property;
- Two gun-detection K-9s;
- One search and rescue K-9;
- Eight explosives K-9s (six LASD and two MTA security); and
- Assigned LASD Arson/Explosives Unit (Bomb Squad) housed at MTA headquarters.

Since the beginning of the March 2003 contract, TSB has grown significantly to handle added MTA contracts and responsibilities:

- Full-time LASD Commander acting as Chief of Transit Police for the MTA, with two Captains commanding separate North and South Bureau operations;
- Organizationally moving TSB to the LASD Office of Homeland Security, placing TSB in the same division as Emergency Operations Bureau, Arson/Explosives Detail, Aero Bureau and Special Enforcement Bureau;
- Opening the Gold Line Rail to Pasadena and the Orange Line Busway in the San Fernando Valley; and
- Tripling the number of assigned personnel.

A recent MTA survey showed an 87 percent customer satisfaction rate for ridership safety and security.
Vehicle Fleet

In 2005, the Fleet Management Unit repainted and refurbished nearly 40 high-mileage black and white sedans and issued them to various Volunteer on Patrol (VOP) programs, saving the Department over $500,000 in new vehicle purchases.

DNA Cold Hits

The Combined DNA Index System (CODIS) database is the state and federal search engine that allows detectives and forensic scientists to facilitate investigations and link forensic unknown samples to one another. Within the past four years, there have been 151 felony hits, 57 case-to-case hits and 243 investigations aided that all can be attributed to CODIS.

Fingerprint Technology Developments

Records and Identification Bureau (RIB) switched to a state-of-the-art Los Angeles Automated Fingerprint Identification System (LAFIS) and became the first agency in the nation to achieve a 99 percent accuracy rate in identifying individuals from a fingerprint database. LAFIS is capable of returning a positive fingerprint identification of a suspect within four minutes of that suspect being fingerprinted on a livescan fingerprint device. Finally, RIB personnel developed, tested and demonstrated the ability to capture fingerprints and booking photographs during field bookings using a handheld device that transmits the information to LAFIS and returns a positive fingerprint-based identification within four minutes.

LASDashboard

The LASDashboard is a web-based data sharing system that provides near real-time information on law enforcement activity occurring within the communities serviced by the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department.

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Crime Lab Construction Project

On January 14, 2005, the Los Angeles Regional Crime Laboratory began the construction phase of the decade-long joint project. A consolidation of two laboratories was first proposed by the Los Angeles City-County Consolidation Commission in 1980 due to the overcrowded and outdated conditions at the Sheriff’s Departments’ and Los Angeles Police Department’s crime laboratories. Financial backing was obtained from the State of California, and a unique law enforcement partnership took place. Two distinct police laboratories, LASD and LAPD, began working jointly toward a state-of-the-art forensic complex.

Major laboratory operations will include firearms, photography, DNA, trace evidence, questioned documents, and vehicle examination capabilities. LAPD will also house their blood alcohol testing, toxicology, and narcotics operations in the facility.

California State University, Los Angeles, will be offering a curriculum for their forensic science students, along with an opportunity for real-life laboratory work experience. The University will be enhanced by classrooms and laboratory space within the facility.

Multi-jurisdictional Interoperability

LASD/CFMB purchased and installed advanced, fixed-mounted radio equipment at the Sheriff’s Communications Center to establish interoperability amongst other public safety agencies at the local, state and federal levels, which extends throughout multiple counties. Interoperability links have been established during emergency law enforcement operations and training events involving military, law enforcement and other public safety agencies, which have proved to be a success. This interoperability adds another layer of functionality to Homeland defense.

The Technical Services Division has made tremendous strides in the technological advancement of the Department and has been a leader in the nation for other law enforcement organizations. Below is a list of accomplishments:

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Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP)
The Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department has adopted the Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP) system as its standard for all new telephone systems. VOIP will permit phone calls to be processed through a data network, including both the internal network and the Internet, permitting expanded use of voice mail, linking of voice mail and email systems, enhancing video conferencing, and enabling centralized configuration and administration of the system. Data Systems Bureau (DSB) configures, installs and operates the system, which runs on a redundant network.

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In the past eight years, I have tried to shape our Department into a flexible, strong, proactive law enforcement agency. We have remained leaders in the law enforcement community and are driven by the following principles:

• Our Core Values
• A leadership culture
• Thirst for knowledge

I see each of you as part of one big, cohesive family. Let’s always look upon our profession with respect, compassion and dignity. Embrace our Core Values in all that you do, from daily contact with the public to the manner in which you involve yourself with union activities.

I welcome your input and leadership in guiding this Department toward an even brighter future. I ask that you continue to keep our Department’s vision and “Tradition of Service” in perspective so we can pursue a higher quality of life for our Department members, as well as the communities we serve.

In the past 41 years, I have tirelessly worked to make our Department the most trusted and respected by the public and our fellow police and sheriffs’ departments. Together, we can continue to lead our Department, and I welcome your ideas on how to do that.

There are no better people in this difficult work of public safety than each of you. However, there is always room for improvement in everything we do, and I urge you to always strive to do your best.