LASD Deputy Involved Shooting (DIS) Southbound Interstate 5 transition to the 210 Freeway East.

The following information is based on facts determined from an investigation into the incident described. The investigation is ongoing and as witnesses are interviewed, evidence is analyzed and reports are reviewed, our understanding of the facts may change. The details described below are accurate with the facts as we know them.

On March 5, 2020, at approximately 9:30 pm, deputies from Palmdale Station saw a 2007 Audi A4, near 25th Street East and Spanish Broom Drive. They believed that the driver may have been impaired and tried to pull over the car, in order to check the driver’s sobriety. Instead of pulling to the curb, the vehicle sped away northbound. The deputies gave chase as the suspects continued to avoid capture.

The driver of the vehicle was Jesse Alan Janto, (MW/38) and the passenger was Dain Edward Sanderson (MW/31), both from Northern California. The suspect vehicle rammed the gate onto the Plant 42 Air Force facility in Palmdale, drove through the base, through several barriers, and then returned to the city streets.

The suspects traveled south on the 14 Freeway as Sheriff’s deputies in cars and in a helicopter followed. At one point, spike strips were used to flatten the tires on the left side of the suspects’ car. While attempting to evade deputies, the suspects fired shots at the pursuing helicopter. Ultimately, the car was disabled and stopped on the transition from southbound Interstate 5 to the 210 freeway east.

As the vehicle stopped, each suspect fired handguns at the deputies who were stopped behind them and a Deputy Involved Shooting (DIS) occurred. The driver, Jesse Janto, ran from the car across the freeway, where he was arrested after struggling with deputies. The passenger, Edward Sanderson, surrendered and was arrested at the car.

Jesse Janto was treated at the scene by Los Angeles County Fire Department Paramedics and transported to Providence Holy Cross Medical Center, for gunshot wounds to his legs. Suspect Sanderson was not injured and was arrested at the scene. Each suspect was charged with Attempted Murder on a Peace Officer, weapons violations, narcotics violations and several additional felony charges.

No deputies or other civilians were injured in the incident.

Investigators recovered a 9mm semi-automatic pistol, with an extended magazine from the freeway embankment, at the driver’s door and a .357 caliber revolver from the center console of the vehicle.

It was determined that Jesse Janto was wanted in Medford, Oregon and Oroville, California, for similar offenses including evading the police, along with weapons and narcotics charges.
LASD Homicide investigators responded to the scene to conduct interviews, follow up and process the scene. Representatives from the Office of the Inspector General (OIG), Internal Affairs Bureau (IAB), and the Los Angeles County District Attorney’s Office, Justice System Integrity Division (JSID) also responded and monitored the investigation.

Once completed, the criminal investigation will be forwarded to the District Attorney’s Office to determine if the force used by the involved personnel violated any criminal laws. Once completed, the LASD will evaluate the actions of the personnel within the application of policy, procedures and tactics.

Anyone with information regarding this incident is encouraged to call Sheriff’s Homicide at 323-890-5500. Anonymous tips may be received through CRIMESTOPPERS at 800-222-8477.