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The year 2008 will certainly be recognized for its sense of dichotomy. On one hand, the global economic downturn resulted in a greater necessity for social programs and housing assistance for county residents. On the other hand, the percentage of violent crime was reduced in the same area. Figures for unemployment rose, yet the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department not only met, but exceeded, its recruitment numbers. Many large government and business entities retreated, re-tracing their paths and re-crossing bridges in an attempt to try to find a brighter future.

In contrast, the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department continues to move relentlessly forward, blazing a trail of growth and expansion.

The level of dedication and professionalism exhibited by every sworn and professional staff member never ceases to amaze me. We stand in the courtrooms, enabling the judicial system to function; we stand in custody facilities, providing security so the jail system works, and we stand in the street to combat evil, upholding our mission statement to “Lead the fight to prevent crime and injustice.” We continue our Tradition of Service in the face of the country’s economic problems, we continue to research and improve our tactics and training, we continue to update and refurbish our facilities, we continue to reduce crime at the core with educational school programs like Vital Intervention Directional Alternatives (VIDA) and Gang Resistance Education and Training (GREAT) and we attempt to halt jail recidivism with programs like Men Evolving into Recovery Through In-custody Treatment (MERIT). We earn the trust of the residents of Los Angeles County by continuing to “Partner with the people we serve to secure and promote safety in our communities.”

When we come together as a law-enforcement family, wonderful things often occur. In April, the Men’s Central Jail Running Team brought home the Baker to Vegas Challenge Cup Relay trophy in an exciting finish. During the holidays, Compton and Lennox Stations combined to recover over 1800 shotguns, pistols, and assault rifles during the annual “Gift for Guns” program, which we hope to expand to the entire county in the near future.

We mourn as a family as well. In May, we paid tribute to our fallen brothers Deputy Raul Gama and Officer Randy Simmons during the 39th Annual Los Angeles County Peace Officers Memorial Ceremony. More than 3000 law-enforcement officials participated in the Memorial Torch Run that followed. Less than three months later, we gathered to mourn the loss of Deputy Juan Escalante, another young life cut short whom we shall not forget. Not long after that, Deputy Randy Hamson succumbed to his injuries resulting from being struck by a car in 2004.

You continually met every challenge head-on, brilliantly creating methods to defeat any obstruction or obstacles, once again proving that the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department is a leader in the law-enforcement field. I wish to thank every department member for the outstanding job accomplished in 2008. It is truly my honor to lead such an incredible group of people.

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

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

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

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

The department continued to apply the principles of public trust policing, by the use of police resources that include the public's participation in the mission of public safety. Two examples of how the department is leading the way in public trust policing are the new Compton Gateway Towne Center Satellite Station and the City Terrace Sheriff's Substation. Opening its doors on May 16, 2008, the Compton Gateway Towne Center Satellite Station is a partnership between the Sheriff's Department, City of Compton, Prism Realty Corporation, and local businesses. The City Terrace Sheriff's Substation, serving East Los Angeles residents, was opened on August 23, 2008. This Sheriff's Substation will serve as a one-stop law enforcement facility.

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

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

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

Field Operations Region I
1 Altadena
2 Crescenta Valley
3 East Los Angeles
4 Lancaster
5 Malibu/Lost Hills
   a Lost Hills
   b Malibu
6 Palmdale
7 Santa Clarita Valley
8 Temple

Field Operations Region II
9 Avalon
10 Carson
11 Century
12 Community College
13 Compton
14 Lennox
15 Lomita
16 Marina del Rey
17 West Hollywood

Field Operations Region III
18 Cerritos
19 Industry
20 Lakewood
21 Norwalk
22 Pico Rivera
23 San Dimas
24 Walnut/Diamond Bar

Office of Homeland Security - Transit Services Bureau Headquarters
Transit Services Bureau North
- Metrolink
- Metro Gold Line
- Metro Red Line

Transit Services Bureau South
- Metro Blue Line
- Metro Green Line
Our Mission

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

Our Core Values

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

Our Creed

My goals are simple. I will always be painfully honest, work as hard as I can, learn as much as I can, and hopefully make a difference in people’s lives.
Digital Signage/Video Conferencing Project

The Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department remains the largest sheriff’s department in the country, employing approximately 17,000 personnel throughout 3,157 square miles. The Department faces unique communication challenges in today’s demanding, fast-paced society, where delivering timely information to Department members has become critical. Digital Signage allows for the efficient delivery of cost-effective communication to all of the Department’s personnel, including times of natural and man-made disasters.

Digital Signage ensures the dynamic delivery of video, graphics, animation, text, and other web content, on a high-quality display distributed to a targeted audience at a specified time. Using the Department’s current network infrastructure, members of the Administrative Services Division Special Projects Team began the installation phase of the project in September 2008, and will eventually reach every patrol station and jail facility within the Department.

The focal point of the Digital Signage Project is a large, flat screen monitor that displays content delivered from digital signage, video on demand, and video conferencing.

Digital Signage

The Digital Signage system will allow the Sheriff’s Headquarters Bureau to disseminate information throughout the Department via screens in briefing and high traffic areas. The digital signs are capable of displaying current Departmental news directly from Sheriff’s Headquarters Bureau, as well as local content controlled by each respective station or unit. Crime analysts can publish crime maps and statistics specific to each unit, while auto-tuned news feeds from the Internet can be integrated into the system, including weather and traffic conditions on a real-time basis. In emergency situations, the Sheriff’s Headquarters Bureau is able to quickly publish news or messages to every sign in the Department, while routine information, such as local wanted flyers or daily in-service sheets, can be displayed as well.

Video on Demand

The Video Productions Unit has created many training videos over the years, but has experienced difficulty in disseminating them to the various sheriff’s facilities located throughout the County. Most Department computer systems have enough memory to store only a few training videos at any given time. With the new video on demand feature, there will be enough computer storage at each unit to hold most of the currently distributed video library. Department members now have the ability to navigate through a menu system with a remote control, and can choose to view any training video through a high-definition monitor.

Video Conferencing

The digital signage monitors that are being installed in the briefing rooms of every patrol station, sub-station, and jail facility are equipped with video conferencing capabilities, further enhancing Department-wide communications abilities. Each facility has the ability to communicate with other facilities by way of high-definition video and audio feeds, allowing stations to conduct simultaneous briefings with their sub-stations. In addition, Department Executives will have the ability to participate in facility briefings, and stations can conduct briefings with other stations and units in the event of large scale mobilizations. Video conferencing also allows for Department members to attend training classes that are being conducted by way of video conferencing.

The Digital Signage Project is expected to be fully deployed Department-wide by mid-2009. The Department has maintained a worldwide reputation as a leader in the law enforcement community, and this cutting-edge technology will assist the Department in moving forward to enhance inter-Departmental communications interoperability.
The goal of the entire Food Services Unit (FSU) management team has been to continue to be recognized as the leader in the correctional food industry nationwide. In late 2007, the FSU unveiled a new and innovative method of cooking and storing meals.

The Food Services Unit implemented “Cook Chill” which functions on the principle of cooking food to a just-done state, followed by rapid cooling, and storage under tightly controlled time and temperature guidelines. The basic flow of a typical “Cook Chill” food product is: cook, chill, storage, distribution, reheat, and serve. This new process replaced the antiquated “cook and serve” method the Department had utilized for years. The “cook and serve” method of providing food proved to be antiquated, inefficient, and costly, often leading to the daily overproduction of food. Since the inception of the “Cook Chill” process, the FSU has experienced a savings in labor and food costs, higher quality meals, improved food safety, and increased menu flexibility.

In June 2008, the FSU began a venture with the Los Angeles County Probation Department to provide “Cook Chill” food to Camp Holton to assist them in the feeding of their detainees. This partnership is projected to save the County approximately $170,000. It is anticipated by year’s end the FSU will be contracted to provide food to an additional twelve Los Angeles County Probation camps. The overall goal of this project is to not only provide food to these camps, but to also assume responsibility of the Camp Challenger kitchen, which will allow the FSU to expand their base and provide “Cook Chill” food to both Camp Challenger and the Mira Loma Detention Facility.

Prior to 2008, the FSU paid approximately $200,000 per year in outside food contracts. The “Cook-Chill” program has eliminated the need for such contracts. The FSU is currently researching the viability of expanding their operation to include providing food services to other County Departments, unified school districts, and local police agencies.

The FSU strives to maintain the highest level of service while utilizing new methods and technologies to meet the ever-changing correctional food needs. The “Cook Chill” program is just one of many programs that will be implemented and showcased in the upcoming year.
In November 2008, a six-month Custody Assistant Pilot Program was finalized. During the program ten Custody Assistants were assigned to five of the County’s busiest court lock-up facilities (Clara Shortridge Foltz, Compton, Long Beach, Airport, and Michael D. Antonovich Antelope Valley Courts).

In November 2008, eight additional Custody Assistants were added to the program and assigned to additional lock-up facilities. The Custody Assistants will continue to assist court lock-up personnel in the areas of city and county releases, DNA collection, booking of court remands, Live Scan processing, and other general lock-up duties.

In September 2008, the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department Court Services Division, the Glendale Police Department, and the Superior Court of the County of Los Angeles Glendale Courthouse began a video arraignment pilot program.

This program expedites arraignments for misdemeanor and felony defendants via a video format that allowed the defendant to be arraigned on a criminal charge without leaving the Glendale Police Department. Through the use of video conferencing equipment located in the courtroom and jail, a defendant was interviewed by their attorney. The case was heard in a designated courtroom, all without transporting the defendant to the courthouse.

To date, the video arraignment pilot program has improved officer safety, dramatically reduced the risk of escape and inmate incidents, and has vastly improved the overcrowding situation in the Glendale Courthouse lock-up.

The video arraignment pilot project has the potential to be implemented county-wide. The vision of all involved criminal justice agencies is to install and implement these systems in our city and county custody facilities in order to electronically connect to the entire Los Angeles County Court system. In doing so, not only would the valuable time of Court and Sheriff’s Department staff be used more efficiently and safely, but the cost of transporting these inmates to Los Angeles County courthouses would also be substantially reduced.

For over twenty years, Sheriff Baca’s “999 for Kids” program has been helping special needs children, who have been the victims of emotional and physical abuse. Working through the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), “999 for Kids” raises funds through the generosity of our Department members and outside donors, to provide a variety of items that enhance the quality of life of these special children.

Although many of our fundraisers consist of barbeques, bake sales, and teddy bear sales, “999 for Kids” also receives larger donations from an annual dinner dance, 5K/10K run and corporate donations. Each year, “999 for Kids” hosts a Christmas party at the Sheriff’s Academy for all children in DCFS’ Medical Placement Unit, their care givers, and families. The children receive gifts, enjoy a lunch and entertainment, and are able to visit with Santa Claus. Over a thousand children attend each year.
Custody Investigative Services Unit (CISU)

Custody Investigative Services Unit (CISU) is the umbrella name for Operation Safe Jails (OSJ), Jail Investigations Unit (JIU), Custody K-9, and the Gang Intelligence Unit (GIU). CISU is responsible for investigating crimes occurring within any of our county jails, court lock-ups, and Court Services Transportation (CST) buses. Additionally, they gather intelligence on the estimated daily inmate population of 20,000. After July 2007, OSJ and JIU became CISU, allowing improvement in information sharing and intelligence gathering.

OPERATION SAFE JAILS:
The primary role of OSJ is gang intelligence gathering with the objective of preventing facility violence between rival gangs, inmates of different races, and the influence of prison gangs on our inmate population. OSJ provides facility and division executives with updated information regarding ongoing trends which affect day-to-day operations of the facilities; thereby, allowing executives to make informed decisions. OSJ is recognized as a leader in providing gang intelligence to the law enforcement community.

OSJ maintains contact with local, state, federal agencies, and the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR). To accomplish their mission, OSJ uses a variety of databases to identify, track, and monitor high profile inmates, such as, “Shotcallers,” (institutional lingo for an inmate who assumes authority on other inmates and runs a dorm, module, pod, or facility) and prison gang members. Intelligence is gathered from a variety of sources, such as Human Intelligence (HUMINT), Electronic Intelligence (ELINT), law enforcement officers (local, state, and federal), citizens, and cryptic intelligence (written documents). Over the past years, OSJ has recovered numerous jail made weapons, significant amounts of heroin, cocaine, and drug paraphernalia.

On a daily basis, OSJ personnel identify problematic inmates. The identified problematic inmates are then dispersed throughout our custodial facilities in order to maintain harmony. This has assisted in preventing dorm disturbances and in some incidents, full scale riots. Finally, OSJ seeks to protect inmates marked for assault or death within the Los Angeles County jail system. OSJ has a roll-out policy which further enhances the Department’s investigative ability by providing thorough and timely investigations.

CUSTODY K-9:
Custody K-9 personnel continually conduct random searches of all Custody Operations Division facilities. The canines are certified to detect methamphetamine, heroin, other opiates, marijuana, cocaine, and homemade alcoholic beverages, “pruno.” The K-9’s have recovered approximately 327 gallons of “pruno” and over 80 narcotic related findings within the past year.

GANG INTELLIGENCE UNIT:
The new Gang Intelligence Unit (GIU) was designed with the goal of enhancing liaison between the CDCR and CISU. GIU is responsible for monitoring the activity of known or suspected members of organized prison gangs. They provide prison gang intelligence and liaison with Major Crimes Bureau detectives, CDCR personnel, and federal agencies throughout California. GIU targets active prison gang members returning to Los Angeles County Jail from California’s Level-Four prisons. GIU’s other duties include the identification of prison gang members who are arrested on the streets and booked on new charges.

JAIL INVESTIGATIONS UNIT:
The JIU investigates all crimes, other than crimes handled by Homicide Bureau that are committed by inmates within Custody Operations Division, Correctional Services Division, Court Services Division, and on Correctional Services Transportation Bureau buses traversing Los Angeles County. JIU teams are now centralized to provide better accountability in communications between the detectives, OSJ, and to assist the entire team with follow-up.
Los Angeles County covers over 3,157 square miles and has a very diverse population of approximately 10 million people. According to recent California Megan’s Law statistics, there are approximately 83,000 convicted sex offenders in California. Of those 83,000 sex offenders, 15,841 reside in Los Angeles County. In Los Angeles County, over 4,498 have failed to properly register in violation of California Penal Code 290.

The Sheriff’s Department’s, Special Victims Bureau, recognized that sex offenders have one of the highest recidivism rates of all serious crimes. The monitoring and tracking of these offenders is essential for public safety. The ease of travel for sex offenders within the county and all of its cities enables sex offenders to commit sex offenses in adjoining jurisdictions where the offender may not be registered and might escape detection.

The Los Angeles County Regional SAFE Team is comprised of members from the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department, Los Angeles County District Attorney’s Office, Los Angeles County Probation Department, and the California Department of Corrections/Parole Division. Through monthly sweeps, specifically targeting non-compliant sex offenders, the SAFE Team has made a tremendous impact on monitoring this dangerous criminal element.

Through a combined effort, the Los Angeles County Regional SAFE Team immediately instituted regular, monthly sweeps in any one of 23 regional Sheriff’s Station’s jurisdictions. These sweeps targeted non-compliant sex offenders, offenders with arrest warrants, sex offenders on probation and parole, as well as the monitoring of registered sex offenders to ensure they were complying with their registration requirements.

SAFE Team members also conducted investigations which were generated as a result of compliance checks where new evidence was related to additional crimes was located. SAFE Team members have received extensive training in the use of computers by sexual predators. This knowledge has proved beneficial and has resulted in numerous filings with their District Attorney counterparts on the task force.

Jurisdictions patrolled by the Sheriff’s Department, have significantly lowered their non-compliance rate. The non-compliance rate was lowered from 419 in January of 2008 to 360 in October of this year. This represents a 14% reduction in the number of registrants who have failed to register pursuant to Penal Code 290. To date, the Los Angeles County Regional SAFE Team has conducted over 445 searches in their continuing effort to enforce and lower the sex offender non-compliance rate.

The Sheriff’s Department’s, Special Victims Bureau, sought out and found funding in the form of a grant provided through the California Office of Emergency Services (OES). As a result of this funding the Los Angeles County Regional Sexual Assaults Felony Enforcement (SAFE) Team was established to monitor and track sex offenders registered in Los Angeles County.

Due to the regional nature of sex offender movement, a need existed to incorporate outside law enforcement agencies in a cooperative effort. These conditions strengthened the need to locate funding to form a partnership between local law enforcement agencies and establish inter-agency communication and cooperation to maintain diligent monitoring of these high-risk sex offenders.

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Office of the Undersheriff
Technology Exploration Program

The Sheriff’s Department’s Technology Exploration Program continues its quest to find, develop, adapt, integrate and employ the latest technological advances in both equipment and procedures to support its public safety missions.

The time required to bring a technology from concept to fully integrated reality can span many years. Because it is essential that technology developers remain focused upon the public safety end user’s requirements, the Sheriff’s Department maintains technology exploration liaison with several entities including the Department of Justice’s National Institute of Justice, the Technical Support Working Group in the Department of Defense, the Applied Research Laboratory of the Pennsylvania State University, and various local, state, national and international technology support groups and organizations. The Technology Exploration Program also shares the Department’s experience and expertise with business and trade groups and individuals as well as to various media to enhance the public’s understanding of the current and potential role of technology in public safety.

Among the primary responsibilities of the Technology Exploration Program is to assist in technology development through demonstrations, field testing and evaluation of emerging technologies. Field testing and evaluation includes both simulations and actual deployment of technologies. Only after a device has been thoroughly tested to ensure its safety and after it has been shown to work well in the laboratory, will the Department consider testing it to determine its effectiveness in the field. Among the technologies pursued, demonstrated, field tested or evaluated during calendar year 2008 were the following:

• A “see through the wall” radar device that would enable tactical officers to have better situational awareness of what they might encounter before being required to forcibly enter a closed room.
• A high-velocity fire extinguishing system that allows emergency responders to approach scenes too hazardous for human response as well as more narrowly define areas to be searched by persons.
• Unmanned aircraft, ground and marine systems that would allow emergency responders to approach scenes too hazardous for human response as well as more narrowly define areas to be searched by persons.
• A millimeter wave device that would enable jail staff to intervene from a position of safety and without causing any injury during an inmate-on-inmate assault pending the arrival of sufficient staff to safely enter inmate housing areas.
• A portable light-emitting diode device that would use pulsating light to incapacitate or distract a violent or resistive person, without injury to them, to allow deputies to take them into custody without having to overcome physical resistance.
• A ground-link video device to enable real-time visual and data communications between front-line personnel, incident commanders and off-site subject matter experts.
• A portable device that self-corrects and stabilizes video images for target acquisition or situational awareness during tactical operations.

A recent success for the Technology Exploration Program was the Department’s recent acquisition of a magnetic acoustic device to be used by the Sheriff’s Response Teams to increase and focus deputies’ verbal communication with crowd members during demonstrations or other crowd control scenarios. The device allows directions to be transmitted more clearly and for longer distances to ensure that necessary communications are clearly understood.

The Technology Exploration Program is assigned to the Office of the Undersheriff, and can be reached by calling (323) 526-5666.
In response to an increasing trend of Policy of Equality (POE) violations involving the use of the Department’s computer systems, Equity Commander Lynda Castro directed efforts to develop and implement an on-line training video that is mandatory viewing for all supervisors and managers. The training video discusses inappropriate electronic communications that violate the Policy of Equality and reinforces supervisors’ and managers’ affirmative duty to report POE e-mail violations. Video viewing is accessible via the Department’s Intranet.

Department members are informed of the mandated on-line training video through global e-mail announcements. At the conclusion of the nine minute video, supervisors are prompted to read an advisory page that identifies their specific duties and responsibilities within the Policy of Equality. All supervisors must acknowledge their understanding of this policy by “clicking” on an agreement tab displayed on their computer screen.

Viewer participation is automatically captured and stored in the Department’s Equity Training Database, and an electronic receipt is delivered to individual e-mail accounts indicating successful completion of the training. The database can readily produce reports listing those supervisors who have successfully completed the training as well as those supervisors who are delinquent. It is anticipated that this innovative method of capturing and documenting training on-line will be replicated for other Department training.
Hate crimes. Intolerance. Bigotry. Field Operations Region I is trying a new approach toward eradicating these social blights, by implementing an outreach program titled S.H.A.R.E. (Stop Hate and Respect Everyone) Tolerance.

The most eye-catching facet of this effort is a colorful, professionally designed trailer converted into a mobile classroom/theater, equipped with state-of-the-art audio-visual capabilities. Uniformed deputy sheriffs are the centerpiece of the program and are taking the trailer to schools, fairs, open houses, etc. and are using the trailer to assist them in delivering powerful presentations about tolerance.

Field Operations Region I (FORI) is capitalizing on the Sheriff’s Department’s and Sheriff’s deputies’ reputation for community leadership, authoritative judgment, and respect for others as the springboard for conveying a message that is extraordinarily and uniquely effective. Target audiences will include organized groups of school children, as well as members of the general public.

FORI personnel involved in the undertaking have forged beneficial partnerships with the Museum of Tolerance, the Los Angeles County Human Relations Commission, the Antelope Valley Human Relations Commission Task Force, and several school districts. The Narcotics Asset Forfeiture and Supervisor Michael Antonovich’s office is funding the program.

Henceforth, Sheriff’s deputies will be at the forefront of the fight against intolerance, providing leadership and training for our communities.
Carson Station has a three-pronged approach to solving public safety and disorder issues. Our emphasis is on suppression, prevention, and intervention.

Our suppression efforts are focused by conducting bi-weekly Crime Task Force meetings that involve all units based at the station and our allied public safety agencies. Crime trends are analyzed down to the most basic levels and suppression missions are assigned. Our success is evaluated at the subsequent meeting and then the process is repeated.

Problem-solving efforts are the responsibility of every station unit. Although we have special assignment teams to target longstanding problems that require a sustained response, our core patrol force shares in the responsibility of addressing problems that exist within their assigned reporting districts and are a priority to local residents.

In an effort to prevent crime from occurring, we are committed to our "Playing it Straight" youth intervention program that provides instruction on various sports, teaches life skills, and nurtures long-term relationships between the youngsters and their mentor deputies. It also assists parents with mandatory parenting classes.

Carson Station Wins Statewide Community Policing Award
On September 17, 2008, California Attorney General Edmund G. Brown, Jr. presented Captain Todd Rogers and the men and women of Carson Sheriff’s Station with the 2008 James Q. Wilson Award for Excellence in Community Policing. This annual statewide award recognizes law enforcement agencies that have institutionalized community policing as a “way of doing business” rather than a limited program. Carson Station is the first Sheriff’s Station to ever receive the award. The following is the abstract of Carson Station’s nomination:

Our Gang Diversion Team is a partnership between Carson Station and 45 community-based organizations that collaborate to “cure” clients from gang involvement with an individualized plan drawing on existing community resources. Follow-up is conducted by a deputy case manager to ensure that each client complies with the prescribed program. This program has served approximately 200 clients and enjoys an 84% success rate.

We have a tremendous partnership with the community due to our regularly held Neighborhood Partnership Meetings, Community Advisory Committee, Clergy Council, and a wide variety of other means by which we interact and collaborate.

Our partnership with public and private organizations is equally strong. Our allied public safety agencies participate in Crime Task Force meetings and we regularly work together to address public safety and disorder issues.

At Carson Station, Community Policing is the way of doing business. We believe that Community Policing is a “generalist” position that can, and should be done by everyone, not just the appointed Community Policing “specialists.”

Our commitment to Community Policing has been instrumental in producing lower crime rates, solving long-standing problems, and the tremendous support that Carson Station enjoys within the community-at-large.
In addition, thus far, over $100,000 in restitution has been ordered by the court to be paid to the City of Pico Rivera and the County of Los Angeles. Arresting perpetrators is only one prong in a two prong attack on graffiti vandalism. Realizing that solely arresting juvenile offenders is not going to solve the growing problem of graffiti vandalism, the second prong of the VET strategy focuses on intervention. The VET utilizes a deputy probation officer to work with juvenile offenders and their parents, encouraging them to enter into voluntary conditions of probation and to seek parenting and juvenile behavior classes in an attempt to change behavior before the first court appearance. Area Community Based Organizations (CBO’s) provide free parenting classes to parents and free anger management, peer group counseling, mental health, and career development classes for juvenile offenders. Nearly 40% of the juvenile offenders and/or their parents have voluntarily entered into these conditions of probation. None of those participants have been rearrested or have committed additional acts of vandalism.

The Vandalism Enforcement Team has been successful in not only reducing vandalism, arresting graffiti vandals, and holding parents accountable for the acts of their minor children, but they have also been credited with a significant decrease in violent crime in their targeted area. From January 2008 through September 2008, violent crime has decreased 15%, victims of gun violence have decreased 47%, aggravated assaults have decreased 9%, robbery has decreased 24%, and homicide has been reduced by 86%. The Pico Rivera Sheriff’s Station Vandalism Enforcement Team (VET) is a collaborative effort between the City of Pico Rivera, the County of Los Angeles, the Los Angeles County District Attorney’s Office, the Los Angeles County Probation Department, the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department, and Community-Based Organizations (CBO’s). The team consists of four deputy sheriffs, a deputy district attorney, a deputy probation officer, and a sheriff’s sergeant. Utilizing an internet-based graffiti tracker system, the VET focuses their efforts on the most prolific taggers and/or gang members who are committing acts of vandalism in the City of Pico Rivera and the unincorporated West Whittier area of Los Angeles County.

Since its inception in January 2008, the VET team has made over 300 arrests. They have experienced an unprecedented 100% filing rate with the District Attorney’s Office as well as a 100% conviction rate. In addition to arresting vandals and seizing vandalism paraphernalia, the VET has also seized several firearms and a significant quantity of illegal drugs, including methamphetamine and marijuana.
Driving Under the Influence (DUI)

Every year approximately 13,000 people in this country are killed from offenders driving under the influence (DUI) with an alcohol level of .08 or higher (MADD). Los Angeles County is not immune to this problem. The County leads the state with twice the fatality rate of other counties. The Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department is committed to changing this trend and making our streets safer through a comprehensive, multi-faceted strategy of education and enforcement.

To assist in carrying out the Department’s goal of safer streets, the Risk Management Bureau (RMB), Traffic Services Detail (TSD) identified a grant offered through the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS). Through TSD’s efforts in the application process, the Department was awarded $2.4 million for traffic safety operations held in the Department’s contract cities. The grant is managed by RMB and offsets the salaries of a full-time deputy and sergeant as a management team.

This grant has benefited the Department and contract cities with technological advancements that assist in traffic safety. TSD has obtained state of the art surveying equipment for collision scenes and an accommodating three dimensional graphical reconstruction program which can recreate collisions to scale, with the slightest measurement variance, viewable from any angle. This is an invaluable tool for investigators in traffic collision reconstruction.

A state of the art DUI enforcement trailer was also funded by this grant, to be utilized at DUI checkpoints, public information campaigns, and other related operations. The trailer is equipped with cameras, networked computers (DMV, JDIC, etc), and a Datamaster CDM (the latest Department approved Breathalyzer).

Reducing the DUI offenses requires a short-term high visibility enforcement strategy, coupled with a long-term educational strategy. Utilizing grant money, TSD has conducted a total of 522 enforcement operations, including DUI checkpoints, DUI saturation patrols, court sting operations targeting those individuals who lose their license to DUI offenses, and warrant service operations. This resulted in more than 1,100 arrests, 12,101 citations, and 2,410 stored vehicles.

Educational strategies are directed at young adults. With developing values and principles, the young adults are more likely to embrace new values contrary to DUI offenses. The California DUI Court in Schools program is an interactive and multi-faceted educational program for teenaged students on the consequences of drinking and driving. It consists of three options, hosted at a middle-school or high-school: A real DUI trial, a DUI sentencing, and the Courage to Live Program.

DUI Court in Schools: DUI Trial and DUI Sentencing
This is a live DUI trial or the sentencing of a young adult defendant. The trial or sentencing is held at a participating school with a judicial officer, bailiff, defendant, attorneys and other staff appropriate to the trial. After the trial or sentencing, students are allowed to ask questions of any of the participants.

Courage to Live: DUI Outreach Program
This program does not contain the elements of a Real DUI trial or sentencing. Instead, this program is an interactive educational platform which includes judicial officers, deputy sheriffs, and a young DUI probationer. A PowerPoint and video presentation on the dangers of DUI accompanies this program.

This DUI trial education program is evolving and receiving more interest. In the Calendar year 2007, the Courage to Live component of this program was presented to more than 230 students. Further presentation opportunities are expected as partnerships with school board members grow.

The Department will continue its endeavor of safer streets. Against such a formidable challenge, success will be manifested through innovative strategies that increase Department resources and strategic operations that impact DUI offenses.
During 2008, the Emergency Operations Bureau started the nation’s first, all-volunteer and largest open source intelligence operation at the local level of government in support of the Department’s counter-terrorism effort. Open Source Intelligence, or OSINT, is defined by the federal Intelligence Community (IC) as publically available information or material that anyone can lawfully obtain by request, purchase, or observation. Open source information generally falls into four categories: information that is widely available to anyone; targeted commercial data; individual experts; and “gray” literature, which consists of written information produced by the private sector, government sources, and academia. This information is available on only a limited basis—either because few copies are produced, the existence of the material is largely unknown, or access to information is constrained. Open source information becomes open source “intelligence” when it is collected, exploited, and disseminated in a timely manner to an appropriate audience for the purpose of addressing a specific intelligence requirement. Intelligence, moreover, is generally defined as the finished product that is produced after information is collected, processed, and analyzed. For example, a newspaper article detailing critical infrastructure in a particular city is information. When that information is analyzed and combined with additional sources, it is possible to deduce what critical infrastructure may be a potential terrorist target. The finished product is considered intelligence.

The Open Source Intelligence Team is comprised of approximately 45 sworn reserves and civilian volunteers. All team members have at least one common attribute—in this post 9/11 world they were looking for a way to channel their talents and contribute to something larger than themselves in the fight against terrorism that impacts Los Angeles County. The team is headed by a sworn Sheriff’s Department Reserve Area Commander with over 35 years of experience. The team produces patrol bulletins geared to arm field deputies with the information they need to identify the early stages of terrorism planning, white papers for executives, and research papers as requested by Departmental personnel. The team’s role is many faceted, but it includes collecting, gathering, researching, and analyzing information based on requests for information. These requests come from the investigators of EOB’s Counter-Terrorism Unit involving investigative support—doing things that prepare cases that the investigators do not have time to do—freeing them up to do the things that only detectives can do. Other requests for information come from the Bureau’s Tactical Planning Unit and usually involve planned demonstrations in Los Angeles County. The team also provides support to events, such as the Rose Parade. At times, the team supports intelligence analysts at the Joint Regional Intelligence Center (JRINC). The JRINC is an intelligence fusion center consisting of personnel from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Los Angeles Police Department, and the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department. Other times, requests for research or analysis come from the Unit or Area Commanders in the Division, the Division Chief, or other executives in the Department.

In late October 2008, the team received two awards from the Los Angeles County Quality and Productivity Commission for saving thousands of man-hours completing needs that previously were unmet or performed by on-duty county employees. These functions are now completed by this group of hard-working volunteers. Team members go through a variety of training programs, including 21st Century Terrorism, Introductory Analytic Tradecraft, Open Source Information Research and Analysis courses. During the course of 2008, OSINT personnel have donated more than 5,000 hours to the Los Angeles Sheriff’s Department.
Scientific Services Bureau
Implementing New Technologies to Help Solve Crimes

The Scientific Services Bureau (SSB) continued to expand its capabilities and the quality of its work with the addition of new equipment and analytical techniques.

CRIME SCENE 3-D LASER SCANNER

Scientific Services Bureau (SSB) acquired two state-of-the-art High Definition Surveying (HDS) laser scanners for use by crime lab personnel for the reproduction of crime scenes and other high profile investigations. These devices provide a dramatic real-life representation of a crime scene in 3-dimensional high-definition, providing investigators with a powerful tool for documenting and diagraming scenes.

The laser scanner is mounted atop a tripod and is placed near or within the scene. Operated by a team of specially trained examiners from the Latent Prints Section, the laser scanner initially takes a high definition photograph of the scene, followed by scanning the desired portion of the scene, up to 360 degrees, up and down, by a high speed pulsed laser. The scanner is controlled by a standard lap-top computer which can be remotely controlled via a radio link so that examiners can introduce the scanner into the scene, then remove themselves from potential harm and reduce the risk of contamination.

CRIME LAB IMAGING PROJECT (CLIP)

SSB operates one of the largest local crime laboratories in the nation, serving approximately 50 local, state and federal agencies. In 2008, over 90,000 submissions for forensic evidence analysis were received, approximately half of which required photographic images to be captured as part of the forensic examination process.

Digital photography has rapidly become a valuable forensic tool in the Crime Lab and with this project, the digital platform has been incorporated into a number of the forensic disciplines including Firearms Identification, Latent Prints, DNA, Controlled Substances, Trace Evidence, Questioned Documents and Crime Scene Investigation. SSB handles images from various analytical devices including digital cameras, microscopes, scanners and memory cards.

Evidence images from all sections are managed in a newly created image database where images can be easily accessed by authorized personnel. The CLIP database ensures the legal requirement for image security and protection, and maintains a secure audit trail of activities associated with each image. Additionally, the imaging software associated with the database provides examiners with a full set of analysis, measurement and comparison tools to review and evaluate evidence images and enhance their evidentiary value.

STATE-OF-THE-ART DNA TESTING

Since 1994, Scientific Services Bureau has provided quality DNA testing to its client agencies. Unlike any other forensic discipline, in recent years, DNA has experienced significant technological change and growth that has been instrumental in solving many cold cases. The Forensic Biology Section is at the forefront of validating the newest technologies available and continues to train new criminalists to increase the capacity of DNA testing services provided by SSB. In 2008, the following new programs/technologies were implemented:

- **Minifiler DNA Testing:** This specialized testing obtains DNA results from compromised samples that previously would have yielded limited or no genetic data.
- **Quantifiler Duo Testing:** This testing method allows the examiner to simultaneously obtain a quantitative and qualitative assessment of total human and human male DNA in a single run.
- **Reference Batching:** Reference samples submitted to the lab are batched to improve efficiency in testing and reduce turn-a-round times.
- **Property Crime Unit:** Planning is underway to develop a specialized, dedicated unit which will collect and process selected DNA samples from property crimes in a high-throughput, rapid turn-a-round environment.
Medal of Valor and Meritorious Conduct Medal

The Medal of Valor award is the highest honor a member of the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department can receive. It is awarded to persons who distinguish themselves by displaying great courage above and beyond the call of duty, in the face of an immediate life-threatening peril, and with full knowledge of the risk involved.

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

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

MERITORIOUS CONDUCT SILVER MEDAL
On January 21, 1978, former Firestone Station Deputies Robert Braman and A.J. Geoffrion were in the Florence District during a seemingly quiet and uneventful early morning shift. As they patrolled the area, their attention was suddenly diverted by heavy smoke emitting from the interior of a residence on Compton Avenue. Recognizing that the lives of any residents in the home may be in jeopardy, Deputy Braman immediately requested the Fire Department to respond.

While Deputy Braman was requesting assistance, Deputy Geoffrion ran toward the home and pounded on the front door to alert any occupants inside. He continued knocking on the door and shouting out until a male adult, the owner of the home, finally opened the door. The deputies observed that the interior of the home was rapidly filling with black smoke and the male adult appeared delirious and uncertain as to what was occurring. As Deputy Braman assisted the man in regaining his composure, he quickly ascertained that four young children were still asleep in the back bedroom of the residence.

By this time nearly the entire front and middle of the home were totally engulfed in flames. Fearing the children would surely die if they failed to act immediately, Deputies Geoffrion and Braman entered the location. Deputy Geoffrion attempted to fight back the flames that were ravaging the living and dining room areas with a fire extinguisher, while Deputy Braman entered further into the residence to locate the children.

Despite the fact visibility was extremely limited due to thick black smoke, Deputy Braman, with the assistance of the home owner, managed to find all four children, two 12-year-old twin girls, a 9-year-old boy, and a 21-month old baby, in the back bedroom. Deputy Geoffrion, who was now using a garden hose, continued fighting the fire while Deputy Braman and the home owner carried the children to safety.

Although the house had been cleared of its occupants, Deputy Geoffrion persisted in battling the blaze to try and save the home and its contents, but the extreme heat finally drove him away from the location. The Fire Department arrived shortly thereafter and extinguished the flames; however, nearly the entire home was ravaged by the blaze. It was later determined that the home and its contents, but the extreme heat finally drove him away from the location. The Fire Department arrived shortly thereafter and extinguished the flames; however, nearly the entire home was ravaged by the blaze. It was later determined that gas leaking from a line to a floor heater had caused the fire.

For displaying great bravery in the face of immediate danger and rescuing five residents from a raging structure fire, with complete disregard for their own safety, retired Sergeant Robert Braman and retired Lieutenant A.J. Geoffrion were awarded the Department’s highest honor, the Medal of Valor.

On the morning of September 24, 2006, the parents of Deputy Carlito Aguilar returned home after visiting a casino in the city of San Bernardino, unaware they had been followed home by an individual intent on robbing them of their winnings.

A short time after his parents’ arrival home, Deputy Aguilar’s girlfriend Irene heard the front doorbell and opened the door. She was confronted by a female suspect who forced her way into the home and pointed a semiautomatic handgun at Irene’s head. The suspect pushed Irene down the hallway, demanding to know where the older couple was located.

Mr. and Mrs. Aguilar became aware of the suspect. The suspect pointed her gun at Mrs. Aguilar, and forced both she and Irene into the backyard. The suspect demanded money while continuing to point her gun at the two women. Deputy Aguilar heard the commotion coming from the rear of the house. He walked out the window to find his mother and girlfriend screaming and pleading for their lives. Deputy Aguilar called 911, retrieved his gun, and ran outside.

Deputy Aguilar approached their location, trying to stay out of the suspect’s view. The suspect was pulling Mrs. Aguilar by her arm down the driveway and telling her to call Mr. Aguilar back to their location.

Deputy Aguilar crouched down and silently moved closer to the suspect and his mother. Not wanting to escalate the situation, Deputy Aguilar had placed his gun behind his back. Deputy Aguilar placed himself between the suspect and his mother and asked the suspect to put her gun down. The suspect now grabbed Mr. Aguilar and held him at gunpoint. Becoming more irate, the suspect demanded to know what Deputy Aguilar had behind his back.

The suspect pointed her gun at Deputy Aguilar’s head as his parents hid behind him. He had no choice but to draw his own weapon. Deputy Aguilar and the suspect were now pointing their guns at each other. The suspect pulled the trigger and the gun misfired. The suspect then panicked and took off running. Deputy Aguilar gave chase, tackled her to the ground less than a block away, and disarmed her after a brief struggle. She was arrested by responding Burbank Police Department officers.

The suspect was charged with eight counts of robbery, two counts of kidnapping, and assault with a deadly weapon. She was eventually sentenced to 22 years in prison, including two life sentences, for her crimes.

For disregarding his own safety and well being, and taking immediate action to safeguard the lives of his family members from an armed and violent suspect, Deputy Carlito Aguilar was awarded the Meritorious Conduct Medal, Gold.
On the morning of October 24, 2007, a southbound semi-tractor hauling two trailers of gravel was approaching Pacific Coast Highway and Kanan Road when its brakes suddenly failed. Traveling at a high rate of speed, the runaway big rig entered the intersection against a red light and broadsided two vehicles, one being driven by off-duty Los Angeles County Firefighter David Wise. The big rig then slammed into the side of a mountain and burst into flames. Sadly, the drivers of the tractor trailer and one of the vehicles were killed instantly. Firefighter Wise’s vehicle was partially crushed, and he was unconscious and pinned in his vehicle as flames encircled around the wreckage.

Deputies Edward Harrold and Christopher Chavez, who were in their marked patrol car on Pacific Coast Highway, saw the collision rush to aid him. Although huge flames and intense heat surrounded them, the deputies knew they had to get to the driver before his vehicle became completely engulfed in flames.

Without hesitating, Deputies Harrold and Chavez quickly made their way through the shattered and twisted pieces of the destroyed vehicle, but soon discovered that Firefighter Wise was covered in diesel fuel, making him slippery and difficult to grasp.

Knowing they had mere moments to extract Wise from the fiery wreckage, Deputies Harrold and Chavez, along with two motorists who witnessed the horrific collision rushed to aid him. Although huge flames and intense heat surrounded them, the deputies knew they had to get to the driver before his vehicle became completely engulfed in flames.

Realizing Wise was in serious danger, Deputies Harrold and Chavez and two motorists who witnessed the horrific collision rushed to aid him. Although huge flames and intense heat surrounded them, the deputies knew they had to get to the driver before his vehicle became completely engulfed in flames.

Without hesitating, Deputies Harrold and Chavez quickly made their way through the shattered and twisted pieces of the destroyed vehicle, but soon discovered that Firefighter Wise was covered in diesel fuel, making him slippery and difficult to grasp.

Knowing they had mere moments to extract Wise from the fiery wreckage, Deputies Harrold and Chavez, along with the two witnesses, worked together to free the foot of the semiconscious victim and pull him from the burning vehicle.

Rescue Deputy White and Firefighter Flores observed that a large portion of the roof had collapsed. Smoke was pouring out of the house and fire was blazing from the center. Neighbors reported there was no one inside the house.

As White and Flores advanced beyond the gate to ensure there were no occupants in the house, they heard what sounded like a woman screaming for help. They immediately began breaking out windows to release the black toxic smoke and get oxygen to the victim. The entire rear portion of the house was now fully engulfed in heavy smoke and flames.

Rescue Deputy White and Firefighter Flores found the room by the front door impossible to enter. As the woman continued screaming for help, White and Flores worked quickly to find her and soon discovered she was trapped in a room that had a wooden door with a steel mesh security screen. Desperate to free the woman, Firefighter Flores used a hammer to break the lock on the security screen door. As he opened the security screen, they continued to hear screams from just inside the wooden door.

The wooden door was firmly wedged in the door frame and could not be opened by pushing it inward. It was obvious something was blocking the door. After several desperate attempts to force the door open, Firefighter Flores and Reserve Deputy White managed to wrench it out of its frame, clearing the way. They noted there was no interior knob on the door, so there was no way anyone on the inside could have opened the door to escape from the fire.

Although intense heat and flames were now engulfing most of the residence, White and Flores disregarded their own personal safety and quickly entered the location. After tossing debris and other obstacles blocking their path, the rescuers continued further into the room. There was light smoke initially, but it quickly turned into heavy, black smoke as the direction of the fire moved toward them from a short distance away.

White and Flores managed to find the woman, who was hysterical and yelling that her dog and cat were still in the house. Firefighter Flores laid on his stomach and attempted to advance further into the house hoping to find the animals, but he was forced to retreat as the heat and smoke thrust him backward. The room suddenly filled with even thicker black smoke, and White and Flores immediately escorted the victim from the residence.

Several engine companies arrived moments later. By this time the entire residence, including the room the victim was trapped in, was an inferno.

For displaying great bravery in the face of immediate danger and risking their own lives to save the life of another, Firefighter Henry Flores was awarded the Sheriff’s Star Scroll and Reserve Deputy Todd White was awarded the Meritorious Conduct Medal, Silver.
On August 27, 2008, at approximately 11 a.m., Deputy Vincent Durante was patrolling the unincorporated area of Bassett when he heard Deputy Lorenzo Bright request assistance regarding a possible domestic dispute. The domestic dispute involved two people who had abandoned a stolen vehicle and were now running through the surrounding residential area. He also gave a description of the two suspects and their possible direction of travel through the neighborhood.

As Deputy Durante drove his police car toward that location, his attention was immediately drawn toward a male matching the description of one of the stolen car suspects. The male was running south through the front yards of nearby residences.

As Deputy Durante drove his police car toward the male suspect, he could see the suspect had his back to him. The suspect became aware of the deputy’s presence, suddenly reached into his waist area and turned toward Deputy Durante’s police car. Deputy Durante saw the suspect holding a chrome handgun, and he immediately stopped his patrol vehicle.

The suspect advanced on Deputy Durante and began firing his weapon at him, striking his police car. Realizing the suspect was attempting to shoot and kill him, Deputy Durante took concealment by lying across the passenger seat as rounds either penetrated or skipped off the patrol car. Fearing he was about to be shot, Deputy Durante sat up, retrieved his duty weapon, and fired one round through his windshield toward the suspect. The deputy’s counteraction did not deter the suspect’s aggression, as he continued his advancement while still firing his weapon. Deputy Durante attempted to return fire; however, his weapon jammed.

As the suspect neared the left front side of the police car, he held his weapon with both hands and continued to pull the trigger on his weapon. The suspect was about 6 feet away when Deputy Durante noticed the suspect was still pulling the trigger, yet the weapon was not firing. Deputy Durante seized this opportunity to successfully clear his weapon.

Upon realizing his weapon was not firing, the suspect ran past Deputy Durante’s open driver’s door. Durante quickly grabbed his weapon and ordered the suspect to stop. The suspect turned toward him and raised his weapon. Deputy Durante, fearing for his life and the lives of the residents in the surrounding area, fired at the suspect, striking him in the abdomen and forcing him to stop. As Deputy Durante descended back into the El Nido neighborhood, his visibility was severely diminished by smoke and flying embers. Believing he could travel no further without the fire cutting off his only access out of the neighborhood, he made a U-turn to escape. As he glanced in his side view mirror, he saw a hysterical female emerge from the thick smoke, waving her arms in distress. Unable to hear what the female was shouting through the deafening roar of the fire, Deputy Bohnert quickly drove in reverse to contact the female. She stated she was the caretaker for an elderly handicapped man who refused to leave his house. The elderly man, a Malibu resident since 1932 who had survived many fires in the area, did not want to leave his home filled with memorabilia accumulated throughout his life.

As the heat, smoke, and fire continued to build, Deputy Bohnert knew there was no time to spare. He ran down the steps to the threshold of the doorway of the home and observed the elderly man sitting in a wheelchair and the caretaker struggling to push him forward. By this time the house and shrubbery surrounding the house had already caught fire.

Deputy Bohnert quickly took control of the wheelchair and rolled the elderly man outside. Realizing there was no driveway or ramp to roll the man toward the street, Deputy Bohnert hoisted the man out of the wheelchair and onto his shoulder, carried him up the stairs, and threw him onto the front seat of his patrol car. Deputy Bohnert then drove the elderly man, followed by the caretaker, to safety. He then resumed his duties at the fire.

The elderly man’s home eventually burned and collapsed down the hillside. Days later, the charred remains of his abandoned wheelchair still remained in the same location where Deputy Bohnert had left it.

In the wake of Malibu’s most tragic wildfire of 2007, both the caretaker and elderly man were extremely grateful that Deputy Bohnert miraculously appeared through the smoke and flames of the fire to rescue them.

For displaying great courage and placing himself in an immediate life-threatening situation to save the lives of two residents who surely would have perished had it not been for his heroic actions, Deputy Stephen Bohnert was awarded the Department’s highest honor, the Medal of Valor.
On the morning of July 11, 2007, a combined team of Emergency Services and Arson/Explosives deputies were conducting a security boarding on an oil tanker 2 miles outside the Port of Long Beach. While the boarding team searched the ship, Deputies Rickey Hernandez and Michael Sambolich provided security watch from their boat, Ocean Rescue 1.

Deputies Hernandez and Sambolich were suddenly alerted by an emergency marine frequency that an unmanned vessel was racing out to sea from Anaheim Bay. The vessel was headed towards the anchored oil tankers in Los Angeles County’s ship anchorage area, the location of ongoing ship boarding. Deputies Hernandez and Sambolich recognized their rescue boat could intercept the incoming vessel, which was now travelling towards them in an erratic manner. Fearing foul play, they pursued the vessel and closed the distance between them but could not see if any explosives or suspicious devices were on board.

Deputies Hernandez and Sambolich observed the vessel quickly change course and head towards an anchored oil tanker. The deputies quickly warned the oil tanker of the fast-approaching vessel via marine radio as they continued their pursuit. Both deputies watched in distress as the vessel rammed into the bow of the oil tanker, then turned and struck the midsection of the tanker. The vessel again changed direction and struck the oil tanker a third time in the rudder area.

The vessel then began to head towards an oil platform. Having not been able to rule out the possibility of explosives on the ship and unable to determine if the vessel was being remotely operated, Deputies Sambolich and Hernandez decided it was imperative they stop the vessel before it struck the oil platform or another boat in the heavily-traveled waters. Knowing they alone stood between the vessel and a collision with the oil platform, Deputy Hernandez rammed the port side of their rescue boat into the vessel to stop it in its tracks. Deputy Sambolich disconnected the vessel’s propeller, preventing it from moving further. Despite the strong winds and powerful waves, both deputies remained aboard their rescue boat as the vessel continued to head towards the oil platform.

Knowing they alone stood between the vessel and a collision with the oil platform, Deputy Hernandez rammed the port side of the vessel with the starboard side of their rescue boat. The wind, waves, and speed caused the two boats to bounce wildly and collide with each other. Fully aware of the danger involved, Deputy Hernandez again pulled alongside the erratically moving vessel as Deputy Sambolich leapt from their boat to the errant vessel. Nearly falling off when he landed, Deputy Sambolich was able to grab on to the side of the boat, stopping himself from going overboard. He immediately steered the boat away from the path of the oil platform and turned the engine off, preventing what could have been a major disaster.

Deputy Sambolich searched the boat for suspicious devices and found none. Subsequent investigation determined that the owner of the vessel had fallen off his boat while fishing and had been picked up by another fisherman several miles away. The vessel’s throttle had been stuck in the full speed position.

Fearing the vessel could cause serious harm, Deputies Hernandez and Sambolich disregarded their own personal safety and speed alongside the errant vessel. They made several attempts to pull close to the vessel’s side, but were pushed back by strong winds and powerful waves.

On November 7, 2007, at approximately 1:30 a.m., Deputies Robert Lavoie and Sergio Reyes were traveling on the westbound 105 Freeway near Long Beach Boulevard when they came upon a horrifying scene. A tractor trailer had struck the center divider of the freeway, causing extremely heavy damage to the tractor portion of the vehicle. The force of the collision additionally caused diesel fuel to spill onto the tractor, as well as several lanes of the freeway. Although it was raining heavily, the diesel fuel ignited and flames grew to almost 4 feet high.

Deputies Antonio Guillen and Christopher Oakley promptly responded to the scene to assist Deputies Lavoie and Reyes. As smoke and flames billowed out from the wreckage, the deputies hurriedly searched for victims of the collision. The deputies located the male driver, who was bleeding from a head wound and suffering from convulsions. He had been ejected from his vehicle and was seriously injured during the collision. The driver was covered in diesel fuel and positioned amidst the flames. He was just seconds away from becoming completely engulfed in the fire.

Fearing the man would surely die a horrible death unless they acted immediately, the deputies quickly formulated a plan of action. With mere seconds to act, Deputy Oakley armed himself with an extinguisher and began fighting the flames that had trapped the victim. The deputies realized the only way to save the victim would be to move through the fire, grab the victim, and pull him to safety.

As Deputy Oakley continued to attempt to extinguish the flames surrounding the driver, Deputies Guillen, Lavoie, and Reyes, without hesitating, plunged into the fray and quickly pulled the semiconscious victim away from the flames. They then began lifesaving efforts until the arrival of emergency medical personnel.

Amazingly, their heroism did not end there. The deputies noticed an immediate threat to any trains traveling in a westbound direction near the freeway lanes. They quickly communicated the hazard, protecting the railway and diverting what could have been another disaster.

For disregarding their own well being and placing themselves in immediate danger to save the life of another, Antonio Guillen, Robert Lavoie, Christopher Oakley, and Sergio Reyes were awarded the Meritorious Conduct Medal, Silver.
Deputy Brian Mohr, Deputy Grant Roth, Deputy Steven Crosby, and Deputy Joseph Fender were awarded placing themselves in peril to save the lives of a mother and her children. Deputy Christopher Bergo, Deputy Charles Lemke, placed himself in the suspect’s line of fire and removed Deputy Fender from danger. The other deputies returned fire, killing the suspect. Fortunately, Deputy Fender was wearing his bulletproof vest. Deeply concerned for his fellow deputy’s welfare, Deputy Lemke disarmed him and prevented him from harming anyone else.

In the early morning hours of October 29, 2006, an extremely violent suspect stabbed numerous victims with a knife, leaving them in grave medical condition. Deputies who responded to the emergency call learned that the victims knew their attacker and told the deputies where the suspect might be located.

Deputies Christopher Bergo, Charles Lemke, Brian Mohr, Grant Roth, Steven Crosby, and Joseph Fender quickly drove to the suspect’s probable location, a residence in the city of Palmdale. As the deputies approached the house, they heard a female screaming and observed that she was hanging out of an east bedroom window. She yelled to the approaching deputies that a man was attempting to break down the bedroom door to kill her and her children.

As the deputies converged on the home to make entry, they observed the suspect through a north bedroom window holding a knife in his hand. He appeared to be covered in blood. The suspect saw the deputies approaching and ran down a hallway, out of their view.

As the deputies entered the home, they saw a woman lying on the floor near the door, one of them frantically screaming out for help. Deputy Villagomez immediately grabbed the children and passed them to Deputy Vega, who in turn passed them to Deputy Ostrander, who carried them to safety outside the residence.

As the fight continued, one of the suspect’s rounds struck Deputy Fender in the chest and he fell to the ground. Fortunately, Deputy Fender was wearing his bulletproof vest. Deeply concerned for his fellow deputy’s welfare, Deputy Lemke placed himself in the suspect’s line of fire and removed Deputy Fender from danger. The other deputies returned fire, killing the suspect.

It was later learned the suspect had made several attempts to enter the barricaded room, stabbing the door several times, in an attempt to kill the woman and her children.

For displaying great bravery when confronted by circumstances beyond the normal scope of their duties, and placing themselves in peril to save the lives of a mother and her children, Deputy Christopher Bergo, Deputy Charles Lemke, Deputy Brian Mohr, Deputy Grant Roth, Deputy Steven Crosby, and Deputy Joseph Fender were awarded the Meritorious Conduct Medal, Silver.
At approximately 1:30 a.m. on August 2, 2007, Sergeant Michael Inge and Deputies Robert Jones, Carlos Lopez, Christopher Maurizi, and Derek White, along with other deputies from Lennox Station, responded to a call regarding numerous gang members loitering in a known “Raymond Crip” hangout in the city of Los Angeles. The responding deputies were familiar with the location, a high crime residential area where there had been recent gang shootings.

As the deputies approached the residence, one male suspect ran toward the rear of the property. Deputies positioned at the rear of the location heard someone jump a fence on the south side of the property. The deputies observed the suspect run into a neighbor’s backyard and attempt to gain entry through the security gate at the rear of the residence. As the suspect attempted to force his way in, he was met at the door by a young child. The suspect demanded that the child open the door and continued his efforts to force his way inside the home. From Deputy White’s position on the ground, he could not engage the suspect without risking the safety of the child.

The suspect was eventually able to force his way into the residence. At that time Deputy White heard the child ask the suspect why he had a gun in his hand. Upon hearing this, he immediately established a containment and began coordinating a rescue operation.

Communication was established with a female adult inside the residence. Unaware the suspect had entered her home, she was reluctant to exit. Deputies calmly explained the serious nature of the situation and requested that she and all of the occupants immediately exit to ensure their safety. The female, another adult, and two small children then evacuated the location. Once outside, the female advised that her 83-year-old mother, who was disabled and unable to move, was still inside the residence.

Realizing an armed suspect was now inside of the location with an elderly female resident, the deputies made several announcements for the suspect to exit, without success. Acting swiftly, the deputies formulated a plan to enter the location. Knowing there was a high probability of becoming involved in a confrontational situation, the armed suspect, Sergeant Inge and Deputies Lopez, Maurizi, Jones, and White entered the location. Their primary objective was to preserve the lives of anyone in the house and neutralize the threat of the armed suspect.

The entry team immediately conducted a protective sweep of the location and discovered the suspect hiding in a bedroom closet. The suspect was still armed, and the deputies ordered him to step out of the closet with his hands up. As the suspect rose to his feet, a black semiautomatic pistol fell to the floor. The suspect was then taken into custody, and the bedroom closet. The suspect was still armed, and the deputies ordered him to step out of the closet with his hands up.

When the deputies arrived at the location, they observed thick black smoke coming from the roof. As the smoke cleared, they heard children inside screaming and crying. The front door of the residence had a locked metal security screen door and bars on all the windows.

Deputies Lamb, Dominguez, and Ayoub forcibly removed the metal screen security bars from the kitchen window using their bare hands. As the window was about 5 feet from the ground, Deputy Ayoub placed a shopping cart beneath it. With heavy noxious smoke and zero visibility inside the home, Deputy Lopez climbed through the window to locate the victims. Extremely concerned for Deputy Lopez’s safety, Deputies Stone, Chavez, and Lamb began plying the front security screen door open, while Deputy Sum used a ramming device to assist. Deputy Lopez suddenly opened the inner wooden door and kicked the security screen door open.

With heavy noxious smoke and zero visibility inside the home, Deputy Lopez climbed through the window to locate the victims.

Deputies Lopez, Lamb, Sum, Dominguez, and Silliman entered the home. Once inside, they located a female adult and five children lying on the floor near the kitchen. The female appeared to have a knife protruding from her lower abdomen.

The deputies carried the children to safety. Deputies Lopez and Silliman then carried the female out of the home. Fire Department personnel and paramedics immediately began rendering first aid to all of the victims.

A subsequent investigation revealed the blaze was caused by two intentionally set fires. It was determined that in another two to five minutes the house would have become completely engulfed in flames.

For taking immediate action and protecting the lives of others during circumstances beyond the normal course of their duties, Deputy Hani Ayoub, Deputy Omar Chavez, and Deputy Mark Stone were awarded the Department’s Lifesaving Award. For placing themselves in immediate peril to perform an act of great bravery, with full knowledge of the risk involved, Deputy Phillip Dominguez, Deputy Bryan Lamb, Deputy Danny Silliman, and Deputy David Sum were awarded the Meritorious Conduct Medal, Gold. For displaying great courage above and beyond the call of duty, under immediate life-threatening peril, with full knowledge of the risk involved, Deputy Angelo Lopez was awarded the Department’s highest honor, the Medal of Valor.

On the morning of December 27, 2007, Lennox Station received a call from a man who said his wife had locked herself inside their home and was attempting to kill herself and their small children by lighting them on fire. Deputies Angelo Lopez, Phillip Dominguez, Bryan Lamb, Danny Silliman, David Sum, Hani Ayoub, Omar Chavez, and Mark Stone immediately responded to the residence.

When the deputies arrived at the location, they observed thick black smoke coming from the roof. The deputies could hear children inside screaming and crying. The front door of the residence had a locked metal security screen door and bars on all the windows.

Deputies Lamb, Dominguez, and Ayoub forcibly removed the metal screen security bars from the kitchen window using their bare hands. As the window was about 5 feet from the ground, Deputy Ayoub placed a shopping cart beneath it.

Deputies Lopez, Lamb, Sum, Dominguez, and Silliman entered the location. Once inside, they located a female adult and five children lying on the floor near the kitchen. The female appeared to have a knife protruding from her lower abdomen.

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For displaying great courage above and beyond the call of duty, under immediate life-threatening peril, with full knowledge of the risk involved, Deputy Angelo Lopez was awarded the Department’s highest honor, the Medal of Valor.
Juan was in the United States Army Reserves, assigned to the 349th Combat Support Hospital (similar to a MASH unit). He was a Specialist E4, involved in mental health. He earned the Army Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal, and the Army Service Ribbon.

Juan Abel Escalante was hired by the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department on November 30, 2005. He graduated from Academy Class #346 and was sworn in as a Deputy Sheriff on April 6, 2006. Deputy Escalante was assigned to Men’s Central Jail, where he continued to work until he was murdered. Deputy Escalante was loved by his friends and coworkers. He had earned a reputation of caring deeply for his partners and being firm but fair with inmates. Supervisors knew him for being a dependable “go to” guy who would get things done.

Juan was known by all for one obvious trait: he was always smiling and optimistic. Whether it was his Academy mates, fellow MCJ Deputies and Custody Assistants, inmates, civilians or friends, everyone repeated the same phrase about him: “He was always smiling.” We are thankful that we were able to work with Juan while he was assigned here at MCJ. We will miss his smile. We will miss Deputy Juan Abel.

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The Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department - Santa Clarita Valley Station lost a hero in 2008. After a long and hard fought battle, Deputy Randy Hamson succumbed to injuries he sustained after being struck by a car on Saturday, August 16, 2004.

On that day, Deputy Hamson was conducting a follow-up investigation for a traffic collision that had occurred earlier in the shift on Sierra Highway. It was in the late evening hours, and the portion of the road where they were conducting their investigation was poorly lit. Randy saw a vehicle driving with its headlights off and used his flashlight in an attempt to get the driver’s attention. As Randy’s attention was drawn to that vehicle, he stepped forward and was suddenly struck by another vehicle coming toward him. The driver of the vehicle that struck Randy never saw him before the collision occurred.

Randy was rushed to the hospital and treated for a significant head trauma and other injuries. In October of 2004, he was transferred to Casa Colina Hospital, a long term care facility in Pomona. Randy remained in their care until death became imminent. On the afternoon of October 24th, Deputy Randy Hamson passed away.

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Randy joined the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department on March 23, 1999, and graduated the Sheriff’s Academy on August 27, 1999. He worked at Pitchess Detention Center - East Facility, until April of 2003, and then began his patrol service at Santa Clarita Valley Station in April of 2003.

Randy was laid to rest during a full honors ceremony in Santa Clarita on October 30, 2008. Randy will always be remembered as a diligent and hard working deputy. He was admired and respected by his fellow protectors, and the community. He was a great partner, public servant, and friend. He will truly be missed.

Up until the time of the accident, Randy resided in Simi Valley California with his wife and their three children. Randy is also survived by his parents Jim and Carolyn Hamson, who reside in Paso Robles, his brother Tim Hamson, who is a Los Angeles City Fire Fighter and former Los Angeles Police Department member, and his brother Mike Hamson, who resides in Washington. His wife Cindy said what Randy always wanted to do was protect and serve the public -- like many, he lost his life fulfilling that dream.
## Department Budget

<table>
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<th></th>
<th>Final Adopted Fiscal Year 2008-2009</th>
<th>Adjusted Budget Fiscal Year 2007-2008</th>
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### Budgeted Positions for the Department

**Budgeted Positions for Fiscal Year 2008-2009 (excludes student professional workers and student workers).**

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<th>RANK</th>
<th>EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF</th>
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<th>COURT SERVICES DIVISION</th>
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<th>OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY</th>
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<th>COURT SERVICES DIVISION</th>
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As of January 12, 2009
Budgeted Positions for Fiscal Year 2008-2009 (excludes student professional workers and student workers).
# Department Personnel Strength

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<td><strong>22</strong></td>
<td><strong>21</strong></td>
<td><strong>33</strong></td>
<td><strong>0</strong></td>
<td><strong>11</strong></td>
<td><strong>12</strong></td>
<td><strong>0</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL PERSONNEL</strong></td>
<td><strong>16,764</strong></td>
<td><strong>10,784</strong></td>
<td><strong>5,980</strong></td>
<td><strong>6,040</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,477</strong></td>
<td><strong>5,974</strong></td>
<td><strong>27</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,246</strong></td>
<td><strong>944</strong></td>
<td><strong>6</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As of January 5, 2009
2008 Part I Crime Clock*

CRIMES COMMITTED EVERY 24 HOURS

LARCENY THEFT 97
BURGLARY 44
GRAND THEFT AUTO 42
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT 30
ROBBERY 17
ARSON 2
FORCIBLE RAPE 2
CRIMINAL HOMICIDE 1

One Larceny Theft every 15 minutes
One Burglary every 33 minutes
One Grand Theft Auto every 34 minutes
One Aggravated Assault every 48 minutes
One Robbery every 1 hour
One Arson every 10 hours
One Forcible Rape every 14 hours
One Homicide every 34 hours

* 2008 Preliminary Data and numbers are rounded.
## Department Crime Activity Summary

### Synopses:
- 2008 Preliminary Reported Data
- Percent change based on preliminary 2008 data and is subject to change once 2008 data is finalized.

### Part I Reported Crimes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crime</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2008*</th>
<th>Percent Change**</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Criminal Homicide</td>
<td>277</td>
<td>261</td>
<td>-5.77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forcible Rape</td>
<td>607</td>
<td>617</td>
<td>1.64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robbery</td>
<td>6,483</td>
<td>6,119</td>
<td>-5.61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aggravated Assault</td>
<td>11,728</td>
<td>10,925</td>
<td>-6.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burglary</td>
<td>16,757</td>
<td>16,085</td>
<td>-4.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Larceny Theft</td>
<td>37,590</td>
<td>35,571</td>
<td>-5.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Theft Auto</td>
<td>16,606</td>
<td>15,331</td>
<td>-7.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arson</td>
<td>994</td>
<td>875</td>
<td>-12.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>91,042</td>
<td>85,784</td>
<td>-5.78</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Arrests

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>Percent Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adult Arrests</td>
<td>112,074</td>
<td>125,698</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Juvenile Arrests</td>
<td>13,393</td>
<td>12,744</td>
<td>-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>125,467</td>
<td>138,442</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Part I Crimes: Stolen and Recovered Property

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>Percent Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amount Stolen</td>
<td>$282,366,486</td>
<td>$310,455,225</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount Recovered</td>
<td>$78,612,108</td>
<td>$83,970,023</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent Recovered</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>27</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*2008 Preliminary Reported Data

**Percent change based on preliminary 2008 data and is subject to change once 2008 data is finalized.*
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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County of Los Angeles Sheriff’s Department
Crime Analysis Program (CAP)
9700 Ramona Boulevard, Monterey Park, California 91754-2196
562-345-4220

For additional information on the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department, please contact Sheriff’s Headquarters Bureau at 323.526.5941 or visit us on the web at www.lasd.org.