

1990

Transit Services Bureau formed. LASD begins policing Metro Blue Line.

North County Correctional Center dedicated by President George Bush and Sheriff Block.

Night sights were approved for duty weapons.

Beginning with the 1990 Caprice, shotguns were now mounted between the two front seats attached to the prisoner screen.

Stingball grenades were approved for crowd control.

LOJACK Stolen Vehicle Recovery System went on line, enabling deputies to track and recover stolen vehicles equipped with a LOJACK responder. This was a joint venture between LASD, LAPD, and CHP. LASD ended up with the leading role because we had the most microwave towers. (July)

The stunbag shotgun was approved for department use.

1990 Sheriff Block initiated a contest to develop a department motto. Sgt. John Beaver won the contest and received \$4,000 for his entry, "A Tradition of Service."

All sworn personnel were subject to random drug testing.

Bomb robot "ANDROS" was dedicated.

1991

Office of Professional and Ethical Standards created.

Mobile Digital Communication System dedicated.

Lost Hills Station dedicated.

Judgment rendered in Bouman lawsuit, LASD begins making changes in personnel practices involving lady deputy sheriff's. (July 23)

The Aero Bureau developed a program for replacement of aircraft in the future. Helicopters were to be replaced with McDonnell-Douglas 520N NOTAR (No Tail Rotor) models. These new helicopters had the added capability of the FLIR (Forward Looking InfraRed) cameras to aid in night-time searches. Lo-Jack stolen car tracking devices added to the electronic packages of each helicopter. Moving Map Displays and Airborne radio systems expanded to include frequency scanning and multi-jurisdictional gave unlimited capabilities critical to coordinating natural disasters and multi-agency operations.

L.A. County Sheriff's Deputies shoot and kill a gang member at Ramona Gardens housing project, sparking long simmering complaints of police brutality against Latinos.

Sheriff Block appoints a citizen panel to recommend reforms.

Inmates can no longer smoke in Central Jail on the recommendation of Captain Dennis Dahlman.

First woman deputy to be assigned as a Narcotics K-9 handler, Cynthia Beck (wife of future LAPD Chief Charlie Beck).

1992

9-1-1 translation service began.

Metro Vice Bureau created.

Palmdale Station dedicated.

The Aero Bureau hosted the Airborne law Enforcement Association (ALEA) conference in Long Beach.

The Aero Bureau was combined with the Special Enforcement Bureau and the Captain transferred to Custody Division in a cost-cutting effort.

The "Kolts Commission" Report assessing excessive force, officer involved shootings and risk management efforts by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department is published.

Risk Management Bureau created.

By County decree, smoking became prohibited in all Sheriff's facilities and radio cars.

Deputy Nelson Yamamoto died two days after being shot when he responded to a man with a gun call. (March 31)

Metrolink contracted with the Sheriff's Department for security on their trains and platforms.

L.A. Riots. Department fully mobilized after Rodney King verdict. Riot ends with dozens of deaths and millions of dollars in property damage.

Deputy Richard Hammack was shot and killed while serving a high risk drug warrant. (May 11)

1993

Universal City Substation opened (formerly located in a trailer).

Professional Standards and Training Division created.

Headquarters moved to Monterey Park from Hall of Justice.

Hall of Justice Jail closed.

In 1992, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors through the California Vehicle Code imposed an additional fee on motor vehicles registered in the County to establish a vehicle theft curtailment program. In 1993, under the direction of the Countywide Criminal Justice Coordination Committee (CCJCC) with the Sheriff as the regional coordinator, the Taskforce for Regional Autotheft Prevention (TRAP) was established.

Lieutenant Irene McReynolds becomes the first woman to hold the position of Ombudsperson for the Department.

4 mobile ranges were purchased to move throughout the county.

Malibu suffers a major wildfire resulting in three deaths. The region is declared a disaster area.

Mira Loma Jail Facility closed.

1994

Los Angeles County Marshal's Department merged with Sheriff's Department.

Lynwood Regional Justice Center dedicated, followed by closing of Firestone and Lynwood Stations.

Nicole Brown Simpson, wife of football star and actor O.J. Simpson, along with friend Ronald Goldman are found brutally murdered. O.J. Simpson is charged with the double murder. (June 12) O.J. Simpson was confined in Men's Central Jail during his trial. Deputies transported O.J. Simpson to court and provided security in the courtroom during the televised trial.

Deputy Terrence Wenger and Volunteer Chaplain Bruce Bryan drove a "Drunk in Public" man to his boarding house. When Deputy Wenger let the man out of the radio car, the man struck him, knocking him unconscious. The man removed the deputy's gun and shot him in the face. The chaplain was shot above his ballistic vest, which was fatal. Deputy Wenger lost his right eye but did survive. .

First Annual SANE Camp. (SCV) (July)

World Cup Soccer held at Rose Bowl. Pasadena P.D. contracted with the Sheriff's Dept for additional personnel and resources.

Northridge Earthquake caused isolation of northern LA County because of downed freeways. LASD patrolled a portion of LAPD's area that was damaged.

1995

Construction completed on \$373 million Twin Towers Correctional Facility.

Deputy Jimmie Henry died of a disease contracted as a result of being exposed to burning jet fuel following a military plane crash on Santa Catalina Island. (May 12)

Deputy Steven Blair was shot and killed while attempting to contact two known gang members. (May 12)

The County Emergency Operations Center opens. EOB was moved into the new CEOC

Biscailuz Center closed.

Helena Ashby becomes the first woman promoted to the rank of Division Chief.

Deputy Antranik Geuvjehizian was shot and killed while attempting to apprehend a prowler in a neighbor's yard. (July 19)

O J Simpson acquitted of murder in the Criminal Courts Building. (October 3)

After the O.J. trial it was mandatory for all sworn personnel in the State of California to attend a 24 hour domestic violence training.

The Media Resources Unit produced a Homicide Crime Scene Preservation video to train deputies on how to preserve evidence based on testimony at the O. J. trial.

Deputies now responded to all domestic violence calls as emergencies by rolling code-3.

1996

Lancaster Sheriff's Station dedicated.

Lt. Cathy Taylor was the first woman assigned to SEB.

Due to misunderstandings of the unit name and numerous calls from the news media to the Media Resources Unit at the Training Bureau, the name was changed to Video Production Unit.

First Regional Civilian Academy graduation ceremony.

Top draw holster 280S for semi-auto weapons is approved for department use.

Surveillance Mode was adopted for pursuits that were considered too dangerous to continue. (December)

Sheriff's Department wins Webber Seavey Award for Quality in Law Enforcement for a West Hollywood Community- Oriented Policing Project.

1997

Consolidation of Custody Divisions North and South into a single Custody Division.

Twin Towers Correctional Facility Grand Opening.

Two heavily armed bank robbers wearing body armor engage police in a horrific shootout in North Hollywood. SEB assisted LAPD in searching for additional suspects. (February 28)

The Pico Rivera Barricade, which lasted 18 hours, was the longest barricade incident in the Sheriff's Department history. The shootout involved a suspect barricaded in a warehouse who fired continuously at deputies. SEB pulled the front door off the building and fired numerous canisters of tear gas into the warehouse. They shot out the surveillance camera so the suspect couldn't watch their movements. They also shot out the floodlights around the building so that when the sun set, the suspect could not see their movements. Eventually the special weapons team was given approval to enter the location. During the entry, 3 SEB deputies were shot. Sgt. Phil Yaw was shot in the left forearm, Deputy Julio Raya was shot in the right bicep and Deputy Phillip Martinez was shot in the right hand. The suspect was also shot and killed. (June 10)

Restoration of Pico Rivera Station to full service.

The Aero Bureau acquires a new MD 600 N helicopter as part of their up-grading of the fleet, complete with a down link capability to broadcast back to Central Emergency Operations Center.

Sheriff's internet launched (external)

Introduction of "Sheriff's Critical Incident Forum" (SCIF) which required command level personnel to stand before Department executives and explain risk and crime trends.

The Training Bureau was reorganized into the Advanced Training Bureau and Recruit Training Bureau (April)

Mira Loma Detention Center re-opened to house Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) detainees.

Sergeant Mary Michal becomes the first woman sergeant of SEB/K-9.

Because of the North Hollywood Shootout, AR-15 rifles were deployed in all Sheriff's sergeant cars.

Deputy Shayne York succumbed to gunshot wounds sustained two days earlier when he was shot by a robbery suspect after being identified as a deputy sheriff. (August 16)

Deputy Michael Hoenig was shot and killed by a suspect on a bicycle. (October 30)

MTA Police Department was dissolved into the LAPD and LASD. LAPD began policing 60% of the transit system, which was in their area, and the other 40 %, which was in county area, was policed by LASD (November 2)

1998

Sheriff Sherman Block dies while in office.

Sheriff Leroy D. Baca 1998 – present

On December 7 Leroy D. Baca was sworn in as Los Angeles County's 30th Sheriff. Sheriff Baca commands the largest Sheriff's Department in the world and supervises more than 13,000 sworn personnel and professional staff.

Rachel Burgess became the first woman appointed to the position of Assistant Sheriff.

LASD intranet (internal) launched.

LASD e-mail implemented.

CWTAPPS was implemented. (Computerized Timekeeping)

1999

Creation of the Deputy Leadership Institute.

Asian Crime Task Force created.

Captain Cathy Taylor becomes the first woman unit commander of SEB.

Deputy Sue Burakowski becomes the first woman SEB team member.

Columbine Shooting (April 20) – Because of this shooting, the Sheriff's Department began Active Shooter Training where deputies were trained to immediately enter a location when a gunman is actively shooting victims.

Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Bureau was formed.

Expanded the Vital Intervention and Directional Alternatives (VIDA) program.

Town Sheriff program expanded.

Biscailuz Recovery Center opened. (July 15)

Under the direction of Sheriff Leroy Baca, the SANE Program took a new direction. The name was changed to reflect a more positive outlook on prevention education. The new name became Success Through Awareness & Resistance (STAR).

Restored the San Dimas Station to full-service status.

Marina Del Rey Station restored to full-service status.

Formation of the LASD Charitable Committee, a year-long program to fund the first-ever float in the Tournament of Roses Parade and to raise funds for the Department's youth programs.

Scientific Services Bureau is now using the most advanced DNA testing procedure utilizing STR (short tandem repeats) technology. STR technology enables personnel to conduct "cold searches" from biological evidence collected at crime scenes to identify possible suspects.