

## **2000**

The Sheriff's Department entered a float in the Tournament of Roses Parade with the caption "Making Wishes Come True."

After 44 years as one of six contract cities being serviced by the Lakewood Station, the City of Cerritos came under autonomous command and began law enforcement services from their new Cerritos Station.

On September 17, the City of Compton began contracting services with the Sheriff's Department.

The Community Transition Unit was established to provide inmates with the tools and life-skills necessary to successfully reintegrate into the community.

V.P. Al Gore campaigned for President at STARS Center. (June 19)

The Aero Bureau replaced the Aging fleet of Sikorsky SK-58Ts with Military Surplus Sikorsky H-3 helicopters and modified them to Bureau requirements in our Air Rescue program.

The new Taser replaced the old version. The new version was 25 watts and worked up to 25 feet away.

Deputy Michael Schaap was shot in the head by automatic gunfire when he and his partner conducted a traffic stop. Schaap had a long, painful recovery, which included intense therapy to re-learn cognitive skills. (September 5)

**Deputies Jeanette Duran-Dingillo, Sonia Parra and sergeant Katherine Voyer were the first women to receive the Medal of Valor in LASD.**

**Community/Law Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program was established at Crescenta Valley Sheriff's Station. The program is a partnership between Neighborhood Watch Groups, Civilian Volunteers and the Sheriff's Department to prevent crime and prepare for disasters.**

Sergeant Mary Michal becomes the first woman SEB team leader.

**The Sheriff's Department began a pilot program called "Shotspotter." The program involved microphones mounted in Century Station's area to immediately detect and triangulate locations of gunfire.**

## **2001**

A new Mobile Recruitment Center was put into service, allowing personnel to administer entrance examinations for prospective deputy sheriffs at community events, college campuses, and job fairs.

Formalization of the Department's 30-year strategic plan, known as LASD2.

Establishment of the Office of Independent Review, which oversees internal investigations and citizen complaints.

Fresno P.D. requested SEB's assistance on a hostage rescue operation.

The Community College Bureau was formed when the security and law enforcement services for nine campuses of the Los Angeles Community College District became part of the Sheriff's Department. (January 21)

Deputy Brandan Hinkle was killed after his sheriff's motorcycle was struck head-on by another vehicle while he was on routine patrol. (February 14)

Creation of the Hate Crimes Unit and In-Court Release Program.

Deputy Hagop Jake Kuredjian was shot and killed after responding to backup another deputy and federal agents who were attempting to serve a warrant on a convicted felon. (August 31)

September 11 terrorist attack on World Trade Center.

## **2002**

Formation of the Office of Homeland Security. This Division will be responsible for the coordinated strategy of preparedness for Los Angeles County's first responders.

Deputy David March was shot and killed on a traffic stop. (April 29)

The Sheriff's Communications Center was remodeled.

Clear Out Gas which is a mix of pepper spray and CS gas was approved for department use in crowd control.

Los Angeles Sheriff's Department University (LASDU) was created making educational opportunities available for Department personnel.

Deputy David Powell was shot and killed after he and his partner responded to reports of gunshots and attempted to rescue a hostage. (November 30)

LASD flag was adopted from contest entries.

## **2003**

The contract for the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) was expanded to include the entire transit system, making the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department the second largest transit policing agency in the nation. (May 1)

Aero Bureau received seven new American Eurocopter A-STAR helicopters to upgrade the Bureau's aging fleet.

Cargo Criminal Apprehension Team (Cargo CATs) was resurrected by funding provided by the Port Authority for the City of Los Angeles and the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors.

A new Emergency Services Detail rescue boat was provided by special grant funding from the California State Department of Boating and Waterways, with motors donated by Honda Motor Corporation.

Five new search and rescue equipment trucks were obtained with drug asset forfeiture funds.

Laser sights were approved for use on duty weapons. The sight projects a red light onto a target.

"Simba," a new bomb detection canine was gifted to the Department by the Foundation to Combat Terrorism and Transnational Crime.

Deputy Stephen Sorensen was shot and killed after he responded to a trespassing call. (August 2)

A show entitled "10-8" debuted on ABC television. It featured a deputy training officer and his trainee as they handled calls for service. (September 28)

In the 2003, actress Lana Clarkson was shot and killed in Phil Spector's Alhambra, California home. In 2009, Spector was convicted of second-degree murder and is serving a prison sentence of 19 years to life.

## **2004**

The Rowland Heights Service Center was opened to better serve the community.

A new neighborhood Sheriff's Office was opened for business in the Athens area of unincorporated Los Angeles.

Compton Sheriff's Station received a free refurbishment from the television show "Monster House."

Deputy Michael Arruda was shot by friendly fire during a confrontation with an armed suspect. He succumbed from his injuries six days later. (June 15)

## **2005**

Deputy James Tutino was killed when a man parked his SUV on the railroad tracks causing the commuter train to derail. (January 26)

Construction began on the new state-of-the art Los Angeles Regional Crime Laboratory which will be located on the campus of the California State University, Los Angeles.

Deputies fire 120 rounds at an unarmed man during a pursuit through a Compton neighborhood. The Sheriff's Department policy on shooting at moving vehicles was changed. A training video was produced on the new policy.

Deputy Jerry Ortiz was shot and killed after knocking on a door during an investigation. (June 24)

Homicide Bureau establishes a website "LACountymurders.com" to inform the public and solicit information to solve homicides. (July)

## **2006**

The new San Dimas Station is dedicated. (January 28)

SEB moved to the new facility at Biscailuz Center.

Several deputies noticed that the locking block on their Berettas were cracked. The department replaced the locking blocks and recoil springs in all department Berettas.

Since the laser training equipment had become outdated and the department was now using simunitions to train deputies, Laser Village was renamed as the Tactics and Survival Training Center

Deputy Pierre Bain was killed in a motorcycle accident when he was attempting to pull over a speeding motorist. (March 23)

Deputy Maria Rosa was shot and killed by two robbery suspects after they identified her as a deputy during the incident. (March 28)

The Court Services Civil Management Unit evicted a group of protesters who chained themselves to trees and other protesters. (June 13)

Formal validation study of the SEB selection process.

Deputy David Piquette was killed in an automobile accident on SR-91 while en route to the academy where he was an instructor. (July 7)

Actor Mel Gibson was arrested by Deputy James Mee for driving under the influence of alcohol. During the arrest, Gibson made negative remarks about Jews. A copy of the original report which contained the exact dialogue was leaked to the tabloid news TMZ. An investigation was conducted to determine how the information leaked out. (July 28)

Pistol lights were approved for use on duty weapons.

On November 9, 2006, Sheriff Baca and Los Angeles District Attorney Steve Cooley issued a press release regarding their joint policy on early release, which requires all jail inmates to serve at least 25 percent of their sentence before becoming eligible for early release.

## **2007**

Deputy Raul Gama was killed when a vehicle went out of control and crashed into the unmarked van while he was inside conducting a surveillance. (May 1)

The Los Angeles Regional Crime Laboratory was occupied by the crime laboratories of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department and the Los Angeles Police Department.

Eotech Halographic Optical sight systems were installed on AR-15 rifles.

## **2008**

Deputy Juan Escalante was shot and killed when he was confronted by two armed gang members in front of his home as he prepared to leave for work. (August 2)

Urban Shield competition between SWAT teams from all over the country. SEB took first place.

Ithica shotguns were replaced with Remington 870 pump shotgun (2008 through 2011)  
Remingtons came with gun light, sling and extra ammo holder.

Deputy Randy Hamson succumbed to injuries sustained on August 16, 2004, when he was struck by a vehicle on Sierra Highway. He had been investigating an accident (October 24)

## **2009**

Sheriff's Digital Briefing Boards were installed in all stations and other sheriff's facilities to inform employees of current events occurring inside and outside the department.

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department joined Twitter in order to distribute warnings and important messages to the community. (June 11)

Los Angeles County implemented a mass alert system to notify numerous county residents during an emergency or disaster. (June 18)

The Station Fire was the largest fire in the recorded history of the Angeles National Forest. The fire was not contained until October 16. (August 26)

"Bait Car" T.V. Show began production. This show documented the bait car program conducted by (TRAP) Taskforce for Regional Autotheft Prevention.

Sheriff Baca implemented Education-Based Discipline which gave employees an alternative option for unpaid suspension days.

Mobile fingerprint scanners were distributed throughout the county to identify persons who may be deceptive by failing to properly identify themselves to deputies.

LASD began leasing electric-powered Mini Cooper cars for \$10 a month each. In exchange, Mini Cooper's parent company, BMW, requested feedback about the cars. One of the cars is currently being used at the Sheriff Substation at Universal City.

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department joined You Tube to allow the public to view informational and crime prevention videos. (November 2)