

VOLUME 2 - CHAPTER 11

HOMELAND SECURITY DIVISION

2-11/000.00 HOMELAND SECURITY DIVISION

This chapter outlines the functions, responsibilities, and jurisdiction of the Homeland Security Division (HSD).

2-11/010.00 FUNCTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Homeland Security Division is comprised of Aero Bureau, Emergency Operations Bureau, Special Enforcement Bureau, Reserve Forces Bureau, and Operation Safe Streets Bureau. Additionally, HSD Headquarters maintains functional supervision of the Crisis Negotiation Team/Mental Evaluation Team.

The Homeland Security Division provides support to all units within the Department and mutual aid assistance to outside agencies via its various bureaus and details.

2-11/020.00 AERO BUREAU

The Aero Bureau performs aerial support services using various types of aircraft and is responsible for:

- investigating violations of regulations governing flight of aircraft and prosecuting offenders;
- investigating all fatal or serious aircraft accidents;
- granting permission to land aircraft on, performing maintenance on, and continuing the certification of all helipads under the control of the Department; and
- providing airplanes and/or helicopters and flight crews for:
 - aerial patrol and surveillance operations in support of ground law enforcement operations in Los Angeles County or required mutual aid situations;
 - search and rescue operations, medical evacuation and transportation missions;
 - transportation of personnel performing official duties using in-service aircraft;
 - transportation of prisoners;
 - emergency transportation of County employees;
 - transporting family members of critically injured Department members;
 - orientation training provided to members of law enforcement agencies;
 - training of Aero Bureau personnel;
 - aircraft maintenance;

- public relations displays;
- funeral “fly-overs;”
- flight requests initiated by the Sheriff; and
- flights for Aero Bureau operations and support.

2-11/030.00 OPERATION SAFE STREETS BUREAU (OSS)

This bureau is comprised of two details whose responsibilities are as follows:

Gang Enforcement Team (GET)

Responsibilities of this detail include:

- Provides uniformed personnel to work directed patrol in the most active or violent target gang areas;
- Gathers, disseminates, and exchanges information about street gangs and their associates with OSS investigators and other law enforcement personnel
- Provides in-service training for outside law enforcement agencies working gang suppression;
- Participates and prepares presentations for civic groups about street gangs and their activities.

Operation Safe Street Detail (OSS)

Responsibilities of this detail include:

- Investigates high-grade felonies of targeted gangs;
- Gathers, coordinates, and disseminates information concerning gangs and their related criminal activities;
- Maintains liaison with various local, state, and federal agencies concerning street gangs;
- Provides in-service training to bureaus and units within the Department;
- Provides technical expertise and expert court testimony to other law enforcement agencies;
- Conducts presentations to community groups concerning gangs and gang activities;
- Participates in street gang suppression efforts within assigned OSS team areas; and
- Node Administrator for Cal Gang.

Gangs Surveillance Unit (GSU)

Responsibilities of this detail include:

- Mobile, fix post, and electronic surveillance of wanted gang members;

- Assist station OSS teams with wanted suspects;
- Preparation of search and arrest warrants;
- Search and arrest warrant services; and
- Work with and assist state and federal law enforcement agencies.

Intelligence Unit

Responsibilities of this detail include:

- Gather, disseminate, and collect intelligence on gang members from the county jails;
- Disrupt influence of prison gangs on street gangs;
- Target command and control of gang hierarchy; and
- Partner with Department, state, and federal law enforcement agencies to track and disrupt distribution of weapons and narcotics to street gangs.

Hate Crimes Unit

Responsibilities of this detail include:

- Work with state and federal law enforcement agencies to track hate crimes committed by gang members;
- Investigate hate crimes committed by gang members;
- Assist with the prosecution of hate crimes at the state and federal level; and

Assist stations/units with any gang-related hate crimes.

2-11/040.00 EMERGENCY OPERATIONS BUREAU

The Emergency Operations Bureau provides a variety of specialized services throughout the County and is comprised of six Details/Units with responsibilities as follows:

Tactical Planning Unit

- strategic planning for emergencies;
- tactical planning for major Departmental events and governmental entities;
- inspection of the emergency management capabilities of Stations, facilities and Bureaus;
- maintenance, training and sustainment of Departmental Operations Center Teams;
- maintenance, training and sustainment of County Emergency Operations Center Teams;
- maintenance, training and sustainment of Departmental Incident Management Teams;
- management of the Disaster Communications Service;

- development, presentation and coordination of disaster preparedness training and exercises for the Department and other governmental entities;
- assisting and coordinating disaster preparedness planning with Mutual Aid Region I Law Enforcement Agencies on behalf of the Sheriff;
- maintaining liaison and coordinating disaster preparedness plans with federal, state, County and local governments;
- attending conferences and serving on committees relating to disaster preparedness planning as a representative of the Sheriff;
- coordinate out-of-county Search and Rescue Team requests from CalEMA;
- maintaining, staffing and operating all field command posts and support equipment;
- training of selected Departmental personnel in the operation of field command post equipment;
- maintaining a file of operations plans made by all Units within the Department;
- collecting and maintaining information on civil disorder incidents, nationwide, especially those that may result in police attention, i.e., rock concerts; parades; sporting events; protest demonstrations; events that may attract large numbers of people where alcohol may be consumed, or may attract large numbers of street gang members; events that in the past have caused problems for law enforcement; job actions or strikes where problems are anticipated; any event for which significant Departmental response is anticipated;
- gathers and evaluates information concerning the many aspects of labor-management relations and disputes in an atmosphere of strict neutrality and confidence;
- maintains close liaison with union officials, management personnel, government labor relations units and Federal, State, County and Municipal labor law enforcement officials prior to and during the course of a strike or labor dispute; and
- respond to strike scenes to render services as needed.

Joint Regional Intelligence Center (JRIC)

The JRIC is comprised of the following cooperating agencies:

- Federal Bureau of Investigation;
- Department of Homeland Security;
- State of California Department of Justice;
- Office of Homeland Security;
- Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department;
- Los Angeles Police Department;
- Long Beach Police Department; and
- Los Angeles Airport Police Department.

Working together, the above agencies collective responsibilities include:

- develop and maintain, a liaison and information sharing process, which includes

- law enforcement, public safety, and critical infrastructure sectors;
- serve as the intake center for tips and leads related to all crimes including terrorism;
- convert Information into operational and strategic intelligence;
- disseminate intelligence to prevent terrorist attacks and combat crime in the Central District of California; and
- act as Department liaison for INTERPOL.

Counter Terrorism Unit

- develop community, governmental and criminal sources of information to support ongoing Homeland Security Investigations - LASD and FBI;
- support the Joint Regional Intelligence Center with Human Intelligence products gained through intelligence or criminal investigations;
- support the FBI with surveillance, criminal enforcement and source development;
- support the DOC with human intelligence during activations;
- participate in task force operations related to Homeland Security (ICE, FBI, DEA);
- respond to patrol and detective requests for expertise/assistance;
- create relationships with foreign governments for intelligence gathering/ sharing;
- maintain Criminal Intelligence database in compliance with state and federal regulations;
- monitor websites, journals, blogs, chat rooms for extremist postings;
- monitor foreign newscasts, newspapers, periodicals, e-zines for events that may have relevance to the United States and specifically Los Angeles;
- provide training to public and private agencies and organizations in the field of terrorism indicators and funding streams;
- serve as Department liaison for the Law Enforcement Intelligence Unit (LEIU); and
- support Sheriff Stations with investigative support on issues of Homeland Security.

Arson/Explosives Detail

Investigates cases involving the following:

- arson;
- bombings;
- burglary where explosives are taken or a magazine is victimized;
- disastrous fires;
- explosions (caused by explosives);
- explosives (except fireworks);
- fires causing damage to public utility, public property or causing personal injury;
- fires causing \$7,500 or more damage;
- incendiary devices;
- illegal manufacture, sale or possession of fully automatic weapons, heavy weapons greater than 60 caliber and silencers;
- illegal manufacture, sale or possession of bombs, explosives, or destructive

- devices;
- illegal manufacture of fireworks (fireworks factories); and
- series and patterns of crimes related any of the above.

Responsibilities of this detail include:

- storing and disposing of found, abandoned or surrendered explosives, and explosive devices;
- processing requests to assign and stamping serial numbers on handguns and long guns;
- collecting, preserving, and analyzing evidence for presentation in court;
- acting as advisors to, and instructors for, the training academy staff regarding arson/explosives training for Deputies and Sergeants; and
- safe handling of large caches of illegal fireworks.

The Arson/Explosives Detail is authorized to have an underwater diving team.

Hazardous Materials Detail

Functional management of this detail is handled by the Arson/Explosives Detail Lieutenant. Responsibilities include:

- responding to potential acts of terrorism suspected of involving chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear (CBRN) weapons to detect, identify, sample and collect hazardous evidence;
- provide exclusion zone force protection;
- determine the appropriate personal protective equipment for Department personnel;
- acquire and maintain Department's CBRN personal protective equipment;
- act as assistant safety officer for law enforcement missions at major HazMat incidents; and
- act as liaison to the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Hazardous Materials Response Team.

The Hazmat Detail is available to assist other Department Units as well as other public safety agencies with CBRN as follows:

- detection;
- identification;
- sampling;
- evidence collection;
- technical reference; and
- exclusion zone force protection.

NOTE: Previous responsibility for hazardous materials incidents (such as illegal

dumping) have been transferred to the District Attorney's Task Force on Hazardous Substance Enforcement.

2-11/050.00 CRISIS NEGOTIATIONS TEAM AND MENTAL EVALUATION TEAM

Crisis Negotiations Team (CNT)

This team is responsible for:

- Establishing and maintaining communications with hostage takers, barricaded suspects, and other persons who pose an immediate, violent threat to themselves or the community;
- Intra/inter-Departmental liaison and training for the program throughout the county.

Mental Evaluation Team (MET)

The Mental Evaluation Team assists patrol deputies with contacts involving the mentally ill, suicide attempts, or gravely disabled persons. The MET will assist the patrol deputy with the individual by arranging placement or transporting the individual to the identified appropriate facility if the person qualifies under 5150 WIC. The MET deputy will prepare the "Application for Evaluation" (MH-302). The station's handling deputy will prepare a brief Incident Report (SH-R-49), alleged mentally ill person, and book any confiscated weapons.

The MET also:

- Responds to barricaded suspects/mentally ill individuals;
- Assist with a threat of suicide in progress, i.e., jumpers, self-inflicted injuries;
- Provides supplemental crisis intervention techniques to defuse potentially volatile situations;
- Prepares appropriate documentation to assist custodial agencies in the placement of the mentally ill;
- Acts as liaison to community and judicial agencies; and
- Gives court testimony regarding the mental health or emotional stability of persons.

MET consists of a deputy sheriff and a Department of Mental Health clinician, who respond in unmarked Sheriff's vehicles.

2-11/060.00 SPECIAL ENFORCEMENT BUREAU

Provides a variety of specialized support services throughout the County and is comprised of three details with responsibilities as follows:

Special Enforcement Detail

- maintains Special Weapons Team (SWT) availability on a 24-hour basis for handling barricaded suspect, hostage and active shooter situations, serving arrest and search warrants in identified high-risk or other hazardous situations, and for assisting Canine Services Detail with high-risk area searches;
- provides Tactical Entry Teams (TET) to assist any requesting Unit in the service of non high-risk search and arrest warrants;
- augments Station and Unit level enforcement efforts through saturation patrol, area or suspect surveillance, high-risk traffic stops, or other tactical services as needed;
- mobilizes to provide a law enforcement response at the scene of disorders and other man-made or natural disasters; and
- provides protection for designated dignitaries and jury, site or prisoner security dictated by special circumstances.

Emergency Services Detail

- conducts searches and rescues, including mountain and underwater operations;
- provides 24-hour law enforcement paramedic capability and services, including coverage for the Special Weapons Teams and Canine Services Detail during all high-risk operations;
- maintains law enforcement and rescue patrol capabilities in the Angeles National Forest;
- maintains law enforcement and rescue patrol capabilities in the waters surrounding and between Catalina and the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach, including staffing of the Ocean Rescue patrol boat;
- provides crew staffing for the Air Rescue 5 helicopter, which is available to respond to emergencies Countywide; and
- conducts investigations of all scuba related fatalities and accidents in the County's jurisdiction.

The Emergency Services Detail is authorized to have an underwater diving team.

Canine Services Detail

- provides 24-hour police dog services to assist field personnel with building and area searches for high-risk suspects, and to assist the Special Weapons Teams during all deployments;
- assists with canine tracking searches for felony suspects and related evidence in certain situations; and
- augments normal Station enforcement through high visibility patrol.

2-11/070.00 RESERVE FORCES BUREAU

Reserve Forces Bureau is responsible for providing support to the Department and local Sheriff's stations in the management of the Department's reserve deputy sheriff and explorer programs. Additionally, the following areas of oversight take place:

- Pre-employment background investigations for reserve applicants;
- Process Carry a Concealed Weapon permits for reserve personnel;
- Conduct annual inspections of station's/unit's reserve and explorer programs;
- Administer funding and procurement of equipment for the seven Search and Rescue (SAR) teams;
- Maintain training and certification for Department emergency medical technicians;
- Search dog program;
- Explorer Academy; and
- Civilian Advisory Councils.

Community Law Enforcement Partnership Program

- Oversight and coordination of all Department-approved crime prevention and community relations programs such as:
 - Neighborhood Watch and National Sheriff's Association Neighborhood Watch Tool Kit training;
 - National Night Out;
 - Safe Communities month;
 - October's National Crime Prevention month;
 - Disaster Preparedness month;
 - Child Safety month;
 - Community Mobilization;
 - Community Policing Town Halls;
 - Business Watch;
 - Station Community Advisory Committees; and
 - Station Clergy Councils;
- Training for Department and community members in:
 - Introduction to Crime Prevention;
 - Interview Skills;
 - Public Speaking and Presentations;
 - Diversity Training;
 - Introduction to Community Policing Practical Skills for Community Mobilization;
 - Community Policing Surveying the Community;
 - Volunteers in Police Service;
 - Terrorism Awareness Training (SLATT);
 - CERT (21 hour FEMA certified);
 - City/Town Council Academy;
 - Station Community Academies; and
 - Training for all volunteer coordinators and crime prevention staff (includes monthly training meetings);

- Oversight of the Civilian Volunteer Program throughout the Department which involves:
 - Membership on the LASD Volunteer Association;
 - Coordination of the Volunteer Interpreter Program;
 - FAIR (Family Abuse Intervention Resource) Program;
 - Drivers training for volunteers;
 - Emergency Services Index Program; and
 - Volunteers on Patrol Program;
- Acting as staff resource to the Sheriff and Department executive body in developing proposals for the use of volunteer and crime prevention programs;
- Coordinate and expedite activities of civilian volunteers when requested;
- Oversight for the Countywide LASD Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training which includes:
 - Station training;
 - Focus group training;
 - Regional and countywide drills; and
 - Refreshers;
- Oversee the training and planning for the disaster services workers;
- Coordinating and facilitating other special projects as directed by Department executives; and
- Serves as a countywide resource for all contract cities.

Mounted Enforcement Detail

- Provides mounted teams to assist station/unit personnel in crowd control situations;
- Supplements field personnel in preventive patrol of high-crime and high-crowd areas; and
- Provides search capability in difficult-to-access areas.