



**WILLIAM J. BRATTON**  
CHIEF OF POLICE

This month, I'd like to talk about the future, both my own and the Department's. First let me say that I made a pledge when I came to Los Angeles in October of last year to serve for at least five years, and I fully intend to fulfill my commitment. I stated on the morning I was sworn in, that I had "saved the best Department for last," and that statement rings truer the more I learn about this great organization. My commitment has only grown stronger over the past ten months due to the outstanding individuals I have met that make up the Los Angeles Police Department. Through your hard work and efforts we have come a long way in such a short period of time. Crime is down, activity levels and morale have increased, and there is a new energy level throughout the Department.

Over the next two months, we will conclude the reorganization process that so many of you have contributed to so significantly. At the end of October we will issue a comprehensive five-year plan of

## COUNTER-TERRORISM OPERATIONS

September 11, 2001 – September 11, 2003 - *Lessons Learned*

The City of Los Angeles has a long history of disaster response, recovery and planning. Long before September 11, 2001, Los Angeles had survived the test of earthquakes, fires, floods and any variety of crash or spill. Critical analysis of each response provided for a mechanism to ensure ongoing improvement. Terrorist acts, such as the embassy bombings in Tanzania and Kenya, the bombing of the U.S.S. Cole and certain other indicators around the world, activated states of heightened readiness in Los Angeles. One of the most critical observations in the history of law enforcement was made during the period known as Y2K or the passing of the millennium.

On December 14, 1999, the millennium celebrations were more than two weeks away. United States Customs Agent Diana Dean was near end-of-watch at the Canadian border crossing in Port Angeles, Washington. Other agents, waiting to go home, waited on Dean to check her last vehicle of the night. Something wasn't right. A male adult, later identified as Ahmed Ressam, was entering the United States. Dean said he was "hinky." It was cold and yet he was sweating. Another agent, now assisting Dean, guided Ressam to the trunk of the car and actually felt him shudder. Was it that cold or was Ressam thinking about the highly unstable cargo in the trunk? Suddenly Ressam made a run for it and for a short period of time eluded the agents. An investigation and a trial would reveal beyond any doubt that the Algerian-born Ressam had ties to Al Qaeda and had been on an assignment to

detonate a bomb at Los Angeles International Airport. The chilling reality was upon us; Los Angeles had been a target for terrorism.



Ahmed Ressam

Then came September 11, 2001. Men, women and children watched in disbelief as terrorists crashed jetliners into the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and a field in rural Pennsylvania. Weapons of mass destruction, anthrax, and dirty bombs became household terms almost overnight. After the initial shock, we all wanted to know who knew what, when did they know it, and could this have been prevented. It is the prevailing belief that key pieces of information were in the hands of law enforcement long before the attacks, and that the attacks may have been prevented if all levels of law enforcement and



## Chief's Message *Continued from page 1*

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action. It will guide our activities to meet our goals of reducing the incidence and fear of crime, particularly gang crime; full implementation of the Consent Decree; and refining what is already turning out to be a top-notch Counter-Terrorism Bureau. You may be asking, why five years? The answer is threefold. First, we need to obtain the technology to support the changes we have made, such as the technology to improve the COMPSTAT process. Second, we need to develop and improve our forensic, ballistic and DNA capabilities. Much of this is already in the works with collaboration between our Department, the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, and California State University, Los Angeles, to build a state-of-the-art crime lab, scheduled to open in 2005. And third, in order to be out from under the Federal Consent Decree by the expiration date of June 15, 2006, we must meet all of the interim compliance deadlines.

This plan of action will build on the incredible foundation of talent this organization possesses, both on the street and in administrative positions, including civilian and sworn personnel. It will clearly identify our priorities and what is to be done to achieve them. It will maximize our most significant resource, our people. The plan of action will help us to develop a system to track personnel, something we are not able to do now, and will help us to deal with the "on-loan" situation that often unnecessarily diverts experienced people away from critical assignments. It will allow us to assess whether we are using all of our resources to meet our identified priorities, and will help

us to get the right people in the right assignments, to achieve significant reductions in violent crime and make Los Angeles a safer place to live and work. In addition, it will clearly state what we believe are our current capabilities and capacities, while making a strong case for additional resources.

Although this plan appears to focus on the sworn component of the Department, it will also allow us to assess civilian support assignments as well. As in all police organizations, civilian colleagues are sometimes overlooked, but our seriously understaffed civilian workforce (we have almost 800 civilian vacancies) are truly the glue that holds this Department together. From what I have observed and fully appreciate, our civilian workforce is an integral and valuable resource that provides critical support to the sworn members of the Department.

On the issue of response time, we will be working to staff up our patrol forces and Detective Bureau to meet our 7/40 staffing standard. This staffing standard translates to a 7-minute average response time for a Code-3 call for service, along with an average of 40 percent of a patrol officer's time being available for proactive police work. This assumes that 60 percent of officer's time will be spent answering calls, making arrests, and doing paperwork. To help achieve this staffing standard is where the reorganization of Detectives comes into play. We need to get the Detectives to the crime scenes as quickly as possible in order to relieve patrol officers and

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## Message from Police Commission President David S. Cunningham, III



Recently, this Department has been through some of its toughest times, and it has emerged

stronger, more efficient, and more accountable. Our service to the people of Los Angeles has clearly improved: crime is down and arrests are up. The leadership image of the Department is back. Once again, high-quality recruits are looking to the LAPD as the ultimate career choice, and we are retaining the fine law enforcement professionals we have.

What is next for the future? We must keep our momentum going and that means to keep recruiting, keep morale up, keep retention up, and keep our service to the people of Los Angeles at an all-time high. I believe that our success is largely based on our resources, and for that reason, I will continue to champion budget, personnel, and equipment

requests that help you do your job. Obviously, we need more officers. Our ratio of officers per capita is still one of the lowest in the country, and I applaud each and every one of you for maintaining high standards of service. I know we could do even more with more officers.

I am very interested in bringing this Department to the highest level of technology. From the gun you carry to the radio you use, there is no reason why you shouldn't have state-of-the-art equipment.

A very important component of our success rests in our full compliance with the Consent Decree. While we are under the mandates of the Consent Decree until 2006, we must be in compliance by June 2004. If we are not, the City could face a lawsuit. But more importantly, the Consent Decree is a road map to where we want to go. By complying, we automatically embody some of the most comprehensive and effective

law enforcement policies in the country. Personally, I see the Consent Decree as a beginning, and as President, I will look for ways to harness the progress the Consent Decree has afforded us and take it further.

Huge improvements have been made in the area of Community Policing. I feel that Community-Police Advisory Boards are a big part of Community Policing. These Boards are designed to assist you in doing your job. The members of these Boards are there to provide information to you, and they are an extremely valuable asset. I will actively pursue the reinvigoration of the Community-Police Advisory Boards.

More than anything, I am looking forward to serving you, the men and women of this Department. I am always appreciative of the unbelievable work you do each and every day as you keep the people of Los Angeles safe. □

### Chief's Message *Continued from page 2*

to get them back proactively patrolling the streets. By assigning a larger number of detectives to night and weekend shifts, we also expect to increase our arrest and clearance rates. Detectives, like uniformed cops, need to be assigned when and where crime is occurring.

In looking back over the past ten months, I'll be the first to admit that unfortunately things have not always worked out the way I would have liked. We suffered some setbacks during the budget process with the City Council, including the

delay in hiring 320 more officers, and we are still in the business of responding to false burglar alarms. But even with these setbacks, I feel the opportunities here at the LAPD are greater than those presented at previous police departments where I have worked.

I believe in what we are doing as a Department, and that the police can make a difference in the lives of everyone that lives, works and visits this City. We are not the solution, but we are a major catalyst. I have come to understand the great pride

and the great devotion all of you have for this Department. Now is the time for us to seize the opportunity and work collectively to make the LAPD the kind of place we all want it to be, and know it can be. Working together over the next five years we can reach Mayor Hahn's goal to make Los Angeles the safest large city in America. If I were a betting man, my money would be on you – the men and women who proudly serve and represent the best police department in the country. □

## 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Metropolitan Division Mounted Platoon

By Lieutenant John Incontro

The Los Angeles Police Department's Metropolitan Division Mounted Platoon is celebrating the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year as a full-time law enforcement equestrian unit. Since 1851 the LAPD has had some form of mounted unit performing equestrian duties for the City. In a previous era, the Los Angeles Rangers patrolled the foothill communities of the San Fernando Valley and the volunteer Mounted Unit provided security during the 1984 Olympics. The volunteer unit was comprised of police officers from throughout the Department, utilizing their own horses, tack and vehicles to provide a mounted presence in the City.

From the success of the volunteer unit, the Department determined that a full-time mounted

contingent was needed. Through the hard work of the officers and the generosity of the Ahmanson Foundation, funding was obtained that provided the beginning of the

Metropolitan Division Mounted Platoon. In 1987, a two-acre site was selected in the equestrian community of Atwater Village that provided ample space for a 40-horse barn, an arena and other facilities necessary for the Mounted Platoon's operations. In honor of the support provided by the Ahmanson Foundation and Robert H. Ahmanson in particular, the stable is named the Ahmanson Equestrian Facility.

The Mounted Platoon is responsible for crowd control, crowd management, crime suppression, search and rescue and equine demonstrations at various public events. During the 15-year history of the Mounted Platoon, the unit has been involved in numerous significant events occurring in the

City. Among them include the 2000 Democratic National Convention, the annual Fiesta

Broadway, the Martin Luther King Parade, and numerous other public events.

The Mounted Platoon is comprised of 45 sworn and civilian employees. The

civilian employees provide the platoon critical assistance by caring for the horses, providing security, and administrative support for the officers of the Platoon. The Mounted Platoon also has a full-time equestrian trainer who is responsible for instructing both the officers and horses. New officers are selected from personnel assigned to Metropolitan Division. After a stringent selection process, the applicants are required to complete a five-week basic mounted school that provides the officers with basic horsemanship skills, tactics and knowledge of equine physiology.

Currently, the Mounted Platoon has 29 horses in the stable. Each officer is assigned to a horse based upon his or her skill and abilities. Some officers

have been riding the same mount for several years and have grown attached to their equine partner. The Platoon is responsible for obtaining new horses. The Los Angeles Equestrian Fund provides the financial resources for the purchase of horses and other special needs of the Platoon. It is only through the generous donations from the public that the Mounted Platoon is able to provide this service to the City.

Each year the Mounted Platoon opens the doors of the barn to the public for their annual open house. This year, a special celebration will be held on Saturday, October 11, 2003, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., to mark the Mounted Platoon's 15th anniversary. Tours of the facility and demonstrations, along with various other law enforcement displays, will be available to all visitors. □



Mounted Unit, circa 1959



## COUNTER-TERRORISM OPERATIONS - *Lessons Learned* Continued from page 1

government had been communicating and working together. In fact, one of the primary criticisms of law enforcement was that critically important communication between, and sometimes within, agencies was inefficient.

As September 11, 2003 marks the two-year anniversary of the terrorist attacks, we take time not only to remember but also to ask, "are we better prepared today?" The fact is that Los Angeles is substantially better prepared, primarily due to functional results of the creation of Counter-Terrorism Bureau (CTB). Under the newly created command of CTB, reporting directly to the Chief of Police, previously separate entities of the Department are now working and training together.

CTB overcame a major criticism of pre-September 11 policing by removing organizational barriers, thereby permitting a free flow of communications within law enforcement and the community. CTB is comprised of Anti-Terrorist Division and Emergency Services Division. Anti-Terrorist Division is now comprised of Criminal Conspiracy, Criminal Investigations, Intelligence Investigations, Surveillance, and Liaison Sections. Emergency Services Division is comprised of Field and Community Support, Emergency Planning, Operations, and Hazardous Devices Sections. In short, CTB is responsible for planning, response and intelligence.

Partnerships are key to the success of CTB. As a relatively small organization, CTB depends on the eyes and ears of virtually all law enforcement officers everywhere. Information flows from patrol, detectives, and the public to the Terrorist Threat Assessment Center.



The Terrorist Threat Assessment Center is the clearing house for information collected from within the Department, other governmental entities, and from private citizens.

The analysis conducted by trained Anti-Terrorist Division analysts assigned to the Terrorist Threat Assessment Center function provides key decision-makers with weighted



Bomb discovered in Ahmed Ressam's car

threat assessments. To date, many Terrorist Threat Assessment Center clues have resulted in intelligence and criminal investigations. Several clues have resulted in arrests. Sound analysis has prevented the needless

expenditure of resources on bogus information.

Contrary to some misconceptions, there is no stockpile of secret information. As evidence of post-September 11 thinking, CTB considers the dissemination of information one of its most critical responsibilities. Community members, both business and residential, must be informed to plan for and prevent an attack. To facilitate training and planning, disaster preparedness experts must have up to the minute information on terrorist threats and information. Managers of critical facilities and infrastructure must work with police to develop prevention and response plans. "That's the way we've always done it" is no longer an acceptable answer. There is still room for improvement. People, whether in law enforcement, government, private business or the community at large, are talking to one another. Even as this article goes to print, great strides are being made to get our computers to talk to each other.

Whether it is an earthquake or a terrorist attack, there is a disaster in the future for Los Angeles. In as much as it is possible, we are now better prepared and organized for prevention, education, intervention, response, mitigation, investigation, arrest and prosecution, related to terrorism and other disasters. □

## Alan J. Skobin Appointed as New Police Commissioner



**A**lan J. Skobin was appointed to the Board of Police Commissioners by Mayor James K.

Hahn in July of 2003, and was immediately elected Vice President of the Police Commission. He previously served as Vice President of the Los Angeles City Board of Transportation Commissioners.

Commissioner Skobin is Vice President and General Counsel of Galpin Motors, Inc., and has been in management with the Galpin organization since 1977. He has direct responsibility for, or is integrally involved with, a number of significant functions, including legal, information technology, risk management and insurance, real estate, investments and human resources.

With a record of community and civic service that spans more than thirty years, Commissioner Skobin's efforts have made a significant positive impact. His achievements have been recognized with commendations and awards from virtually every level of government, including city, county, state and

federal officials. Commissioner Skobin has also been recognized by a number of private organizations, including the California Peace Officers Association, which honored him in 2002 for contributions and dedication to public safety and the law enforcement profession; and Baseballers Against Drugs, which honored him with their Positive Image Award.

Commissioner Skobin has served as a Reserve Deputy Sheriff with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department for more than twenty years, reaching the rank of Reserve Commander. His experience includes patrol, detectives and administration. He has also served on the Department's Valor Awards Evaluation Committee, and has received the coveted Distinguished Service Award from the Sheriff's Department for his overall service. Prior to joining the Sheriff's Department, he served as a Reserve Police Officer with the San Fernando Police Department for eight years, attaining the rank of Sergeant. He is also a graduate of the Federal Bureau of Investigation Citizens'

Academy.

Commissioner Skobin received a Bachelor of Arts Degree from California State University, Northridge, and graduated cum laude from the University of LaVerne Law School, San Fernando Valley campus. He is a member of the San Fernando Valley Bar Association, the Los Angeles County Bar Association, the American Bar Association, the American Corporate Counsel Association, and is admitted to practice law in both state and Federal courts.

Commissioner Skobin is a longtime San Fernando Valley resident. He resides there with his wife Romi, a civilian supervisor with the San Fernando Police Department. They have two grown children. His entire family is actively involved in community and civic endeavors, including participation with a number of community-based Latino organizations. □

### Recent Actions by the Police Commission



- 7/29/03 - Elections were held for the position of President and Vice President. David S. Cunningham, III, accepted the post of President and Alan J. Skobin accepted the post of Vice President.

### CRIME WATCH CITY-WIDE

YEAR TO DATE - 9/06/03

Homicide	- 24.2%	▼
Rape	- 8.3%	▼
Robbery	- 1.0%	▼
Aggravated Assault	- 7.2%	▼
Domestic Violence	- 3.5%	▼
Total Violent Crime	- 4.4%	▼
Burglary	- 0.6%	▼
Burglary/Theft from Vehicle	- 3.2%	▼
Personal/Other Theft	- 8.1%	▼
Auto Theft	- 3.2%	▼
Total Property Crime	- 3.6%	▼

## The Following Personnel were Commended by the Community in the Month of July 2003

### PHOTOGRAPHER

Cornel Panov

### CHIEF CLERK II

Olivia Flores

### POLICE ADMINISTRATOR

John Miller

### POLICE OFFICER I

Jose Cardenas  
Brett De Oliveira  
Eric Hernandez  
Yolanda Villa

### POLICE OFFICER II

Leah Baxter  
Jorge Cruz  
Michael Dickes  
Kevin Gallagher  
Mariano Garde  
Sean Kinchla  
Tyler Lee  
Jamie McBride  
Joshua Ordonez

Robert Peters

Vicente Rico

Jack Schonely

Mark Wilbur

Erick Yepes

### POLICE OFFICER III

Francisco Alferez

Arno Clair

Andre Clansy

Christian Cooper

Edan D'Angelo

Ronald De Wyke

Daryn Dupree

Phil Enbody

Yvonne Enriquez

Joel Estrada

Austin Fernald

Daniel Fournier

Rodolfo Fuentes

Marc Furniss

Carlos Garcia

Claudia Gray

Guillermo Gutierrez

Ryuichi Ishitani

Jedd Levin

Stacy Lim

Lizette Makarenko

Randall McCain

Adrian Moody

Martin Perello

John Rice

Ralph Sanchez

Casey Sbabo

Theresa Skinner

Gerry Smedley

Michael Smith

Paul Williams

Janet Zumstein

### DETECTIVE I

Kelly Cooper

Carey Edwards

Benjamin Herskowitz

Jason Kwock

Eric Moore

Amy Sundquist

### DETECTIVE II

Ralph Morten

Debbie Potter

Mark Warschaw

### SERGEANT I

Brain Gallagher

Leon Mims

Kelly Shea

### SERGEANT II

Albert Kilgore

Steve Moore

### DETECTIVE III

Thomas Boyle

### LIEUTENANT I

Sandy Jo MacArthur

Charles Markel

Peter Whittingham

### LIEUTENANT II

Michael Felix

Art Miller

Patrick Shields

### CAPTAIN I

Patrick Findley

### CAPTAIN III

Vance Proctor

## Burglar Alarm Policy Update

In January of 2003, the Police Commission had plans underway to stop responding to unverified burglar alarms with a new verified alarm response policy. This was a part of Chief Bratton's ongoing effort to make the Police Department more efficient and effective. Statistics showed that within the City of Los Angeles, more than 90 percent of burglar alarm calls were false.

Despite vigorous opposition by homeowners groups, alarm companies, and some City Council members, the policy survived a City

Council veto effort on January 28. The City Council, however, asked the Chief Legislative Analyst to create the Burglar Alarm Task Force: a committee of community members, alarm industry experts, and Police Commission staff, to make recommendations to enhance the Commission's proposal.

In April, the City Council embraced the recommendations submitted by the Task Force that would replace the Department's policy with one more lenient than the original. The Task Force recommended a limit of three false

alarms per year, with increasing fees for each occurrence before police could stop responding.

On June 17, the Commission responded to the Task Force recommendations, but did not agree to allow three false alarms per year. Instead the Commission went back to the original policy of no response to unverified alarms, but amended the policy to a "broadcast and file" option where unverified alarm calls would be broadcast to patrol officers. If an officer is not available to respond, the call will be



## Thanks for the Memories, Mr. Hope

**B**ob Hope, Hollywood legend, was also a great friend to the Los Angeles Police Department. As a regular in the Los Angeles Police Show, he performed in the show and promoted the annual event on his radio program. The Police Show ran from the 1930s to the 1950s. Mr. Hope also supported the Los Angeles Police Memorial Foundation by golfing in the Annual Police-Celebrity Golf Tournament and by sending a contribution to the Foundation every year. □

## Burglar Alarm Policy Update *Continued from page 7*

filed. Additionally, on June 17, the Mayor's Office asked that they be given an opportunity to work on a compromise policy that would appease both the Police Commission and the Burglar Alarm Task Force. The "broadcast and file" policy was scheduled to be implemented on July 22.

On July 22, the Mayor's Office made their presentation to the Police Commission on a compromise

policy. The proposal suggested for the first unverified alarm, the Department would respond, but a \$95 fine would be incurred if the alarm were false. For the second unverified alarm, the Department again would respond, but the fine would increase to \$145 for a false alarm. The Department then would not need to respond to any more unverified alarms at that location for a year's time from the first false

**ROLL CALL OF EVENTS**

**SEPTEMBER 15 & 16 - 9:00 AM**  
**HOMES FOR POLICE OFFICERS**  
**and FIREFIGHTERS**  
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**OCTOBER 12 - 11:00 AM**  
**MARCH ON CRIME**  
 Police Foundation Fundraiser  
 Elysian Park Academy

**OCTOBER 18 - 8:00 AM**  
**LATINO RECRUITMENT EXPO**  
 Elysian Park Academy

**OCTOBER 27 - 12 NOON**  
**MEDAL OF VALOR CEREMONY**  
 Hyatt Regency Hotel  
 711 Hope Street, Downtown

**NOVEMBER 2 - 8:00 AM**  
**COPS FOR TOTS CAR SHOW**  
 Elysian Park Academy

Call Special Events Section  
 at (213) 485-3281  
 for additional information.

alarm. The Commission voted and adopted the Mayor's proposal, although no implementation date has been set. □



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