THE LOS ANGELES POLICE BEAT

VOLUME XLIV AUGUST 1998 ISSUE 2

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE

Is the Department becoming tougher on employees?

Holding Ourselves to a Higher Standard

Recently, the Department's new personnel complaint procedure has become a hot topic in the media, and conflicting reports abound. Is the Department becoming tougher on its employees? Are the new procedures helping or hindering our efforts to decrease misconduct and restore public confidence? The answers vary dramatically, depending on the source of the story. This topic has been raised periodically over the past decade, coinciding with high profile criminal cases involving Department employees. More recently, the focus of attention has been the role played by the new administration in discipline and the personnel complaint procedure process.

To illustrate and provide factual information regarding the issue of discipline, Internal Affairs Group was directed to prepare a statistical report (Statistical Report of Sworn Personnel with 22 Days or more of Suspension, July 21, 1998) involving sworn personnel who had received significant disciplinary penalities from January 1, 1997, to June 30, 1998. Attention was directed towards those individuals who had been suspended for 22 days or more, up through removal.

Despite headlines to the contrary, the actual number of sworn personnel involved in misconduct remains remarkably low, while the majority of officers remain productive and extremely dedicated. The statistical review indentified only 94 officers who had received penalties of 22 suspension days or more. When compared to a force of 9,740 sworn personnel, less than one percent of Department personnel were involved in serious misconduct.

A trememdous amount of attention has been directed towards those officers who have been removed due to misconduct. The report indicated that 29 officers were terminated for misconduct during the 18 month period under examination, 19 of whom were terminated in the first six months of

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Remembering Officer Cuesta

On Sunday, August 9, 1998, Officer Filbert Henry Cuesta became the 191st LAPD Officer to be killed in the line of duty.

Officer Cuesta's family, especially his widow Sylvia and two young daughters Samantha and Sierra Rose, have been encouraged by the extraordinary display of support shown by many, including the President of the United States, and the owners of a Hollywood Burger King, who donated one day's proceeds to benefit the Cuesta family.

The BEAT would like to thank Department members, City employees, and the community, who continue to stand by the Cuesta family in its time of need.

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First in a series of Articles about Rumors

Rumor Control

Mass Exodus or Mass Misinformation?

For the past several months, a rumor has been circulating throughout the Department that 800 Officers were scheduled to retire on July 1, 1998. Despite the rumor of a mass exodus, only 217 officers have submitted their intentions to retire between January through August 1998. Although the figure is double last year's number of 108 retirements, it is not out of line with previous years. In fact, during the same time period in 1996, there were 167 retirements; there were 176 in 1995, and there were 215 in 1994.

Is the Department discontinuing the .45 Caliber Pistols?

There are no plans for canceling the .45 caliber semi-automatic pistol as an authorized duty weapon. Training Division is continuing to do monthly transistion training. To date, 1,476 officers have completed the .45 caliber Transition Course. None of the .45 caliber pistols approved for on-duty use (Models 4506, 4566 and 4567) have been eliminated by the

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Crime and Arrest Comparison Report

City Year to Date through 8/17/98

Crime	YTD 98	YTD 97	Percentage Change
Homicide	252	363	-30.6%
Rape	835	839	- 0.5%
Robbery	9,739	12,957	-24.8%
Aggravated Assault	10,661	12,023	-11.3%
Burglary	16,486	19,165	-14.0%
Larceny	48,053	51,685	- 7.0%
Auto Theft	19,056	23,981	-20.5%
Total Part 1 Crimes	**105,082**	**121,013**	**-13.2%**

Arrest	YTD 98	YTD 97	Percentage Change
Homicide	333	415	-19..8%
Rape	269	222	21.2%
Robbery	2,977	3,283	- 9.3%
Aggravated Assault	4,151	4,105	1.1%
Burglary	3,021	3,108	- 2.8%
Larceny	7,443	8,112	- 8.2%
Auto Theft	2,286	2,443	- 6.4%
Total Part 1 Arrests	**20,480**	**21,688**	**- 5.6%**
All Arrests	**132,617**	**132,594**	**0.0%**

Dept. YTD through DP 5			
Traffic Citations	166,469	161,062	+ 3.4%
Officer Initiated Activities	344,382	329,746	+ 4.4%
Dept. YTD through DP 5			
Field Interviews	106,257	99,218	+7.1%

Source: Information and Communications Services Bureau, Crime Analysis Section

Rumors

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Department or discontinued by the manufacturer, Smith and Wesson. However, one of the compact pistols approved for plainclothes and off-duty use, Model 4516, has been discontinued by the manufacturer. Police Officers who own this model pistol are still authorized to use it. Training Division has evaluated and recommended for approval additional .45 caliber weapons for duty use that include models manufactured by Beretta. The Department will notify officers accordingly once the approval process has been completed.

What about the rumor concerning area jail closures?

There have been some recent rumors that the Department plans to close some area jails. In response, the Chief of Police has stated that there are no present plans to close any jails. A workload study will soon be initiated to determine if Jail Division can more efficiently allocate its personnel resources. The booking process will also be examined to determine if it can provide greater efficiency. While Jail Division has 22 vacancies in the various Detention Officer classifications and a large number of personnel absent on sick or IOD status, personnel are being loaned throughout the jail system to provide for safe levels of deployment and to provide the best service possible.

Is it true that gasoline sites are scheduled to be closed?

In 1989, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) passed regulations mandated by the federal Clean Water Act that required all underground storage tanks (USTs) to be of a

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A Higher Standard

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1998. However, an examination of the misconduct involved dispels the myth that there is unnecessarily harsh treatment in the current discipline system. The sustained allegations that resulted in their removal included domestic violence, sexual harassment, theft and bribery. No one can dispute that personnel who manifest this type of behavior are incompatible with the high standards maintained by the LAPD, and are a liability to the City.

Special Order No. 1, January 1, 1998 replaced existing procedures for investigating personnel complaints and established a new tracking system for all complaints. This procedure benefits the Department in two major ways. First, the system expands the Department's ability to track all complaints from simple service level complaints to allegations of misconduct. This procedure provides for the ability of the Department to retrieve information about the status of the complaint and to track its progress through the system. As a result, the public's confidence is increased because all complaints are being addressed in an appropriate manner.

The second benefit has a direct impact on Department employees. The new system provides a centralized means of documentation and retrieval to help protect officers from past allegations of misconduct determined to be frivolous and/or not misconduct. Each complaint, alleging misconduct or not misconduct, becomes an official Department record, easily identified by its Complaint Form or "CF" number, ensuring that the case can be retrieved when needed at some future date. Gone are the days when a fact sheet turns up missing, and the only source of documentation which disproves the alleged misconduct cannot be located. The ability of the new system to protect its employees cannot be undersestimated. Additionally, it provides the Department with appropriate documentation with which to defend the City against civil claims and law suits.

The new system has increased the number of complaints initiated. But keep in mind, the system monitors all complaints, whether they amount to misconduct or not. Although the number of complaints has risen, it does not necessarily mean a rise in misconduct, despite comments made in the media. In theory, the percentage of sustained or guilty allegations of misconduct should not vary. If this should occur, other factors may be responsible.

We are well served to remember that under the Mayor's Public Safety Plan, the Department has grown more than 25 percent in the last several years. Additionally, changes in philosophy have resulted in an even greater percentage of resources committed to field operations. Considering this dramatic increase in police officers, once again we take pride in acknowledging their outstanding professionalism when the percentage of officers involved in misconduct remains so low. It should be noted that as the Department does in all changes of significance, Special Order No. 1 is being evaluated. A committee, including representatives from the Los Angeles Police Protective League and the Command Officers Association, will critically assess/evaluate Special Order No. 1 and make appropriate recommendations.

Despite confusing and contradictory media coverage, the vast majority of men and women who represent our Department continue to uphold its high standards of conduct, both on-duty and off. All of us should continue to be proud to wear the LAPD Badge, a badge of honor and a symbol of one of the world's most respected police organizations.

Rumors

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specific design type. All USTs not of this type were required to be replaced by December 22, 1998. Unfortunately, the majority of the City's tanks do not meet the new regulations. The Department of General Services has been tasked with bringing all City tanks into compliance with the EPA standards and to improve Citywide utilization of fuel site resources. The Department operates 20 fuel sites. Of these, seven have been upgraded, eight are scheduled to be upgraded, and five sites will closed as part of a Citywide effort to improve resource utilization. The sites that will be closed are at Devonshire, Harbor, Southwest, West Valley, and Piper Technical Center. To offset the impact of the closures, either during construction or permanently, a multi-option plan has been developed to meet the needs of all departments.

The options include a permanent consolidation of City- owned fuel sites that all departments will share; temporary above ground tanks will be installed as needed and credit cards will be issued as needed to provide access to commercial fueling stations. Once all City-owned tanks have been replaced, the plan provides for at least three City fuel sites in each Area and the total storage capacity for these sites will improve by fifty percent.

Check out the "Beat"
on LAPD's Official Web Site

http://www.lapdonline.org

Call (213) 485-1750 for more information

JULY COMMENDATIONS

The Chief of Police received the following personnel commendations during July from outside the Department.

RANK	NAME	DIVISION
DET III	Kent A. Norman	Anti-terrorist Div.
SGT II	Gillispie H. Waldron	Metropolitan Div.
CMDR	Royal S. Lachasse	Criminal Intelligence Grp.
PO III	Kenneth A. Thatcher	Metropolitan Div.
PO II	Cheryl A. Cronin	Liaison Section
PO III	Edward Yee	Det. Support Div
PO III	Matthew D. Gares	77th Street
PO III	Kevin T. Grogan	Wilshire
PO II	Terence K. Tamura	Foothill
PO II	John J. Flowers	Wilshire
DET II	Johnny H. Garcia	Robbery-Homicide Div.
PO III	Adalberto J. Luper	Robbery-Homicide Div.
PO II	Eric A. Roger	Southwest
PO II	Christopher L. Blankenship	Southwest
DET III	Evangelyn Nathan	Governmental Liaison
DET I	Oscar R. Munoz	Central Traffic Div.
PO II	Kelly M. Mahon	Foothill
PO I	Nicholas J. Abbinanti	Hollenbeck
DET III	Robert A. Lopez	Northeast
SGT II	Mark Olvera	Personnel Div.
DET II	Thomas W. Thornton	Internal Affairs Grp.
PO III	John P. Jenal	Metropolitan Div.
PO III	David A. Peteque	Rampart
SGT II	Thomas E. Page	Uniformed Support Div.
DET II	Douglas C. Lemelle	Detective HQ Div.
DET III	Ronald H. Karlson	Robbery - Homicide Div.
PO II	Richard G. Smith	Scientific Investigation
PO II	Antonio Zamora	Newton
PO III	Gregory W. McKnight	Newton
DET II	Michael W. Whelan	Newton
DET III	Robert F. Smith	Juvenile Div.
SGT II	Glen Eric Hees	Hollywood
SGT I	Steven E. Vinson	Hollywood
DET II	Michael R. Pelletier	Hollywood
PO III	Fabian Ospina	Hollywood
PO III	Michael L. Rose	Hollywood
PO III	Patricia H. Batts	Hollywood
PO III	Michael C. Lopez	Hollywood
PO III	Stephen P. Nassief	Hollywood
PO I	Jesse M. Toribio Jr.	Hollywood
PO I	Alberto Martinez	Hollywood
PO I	Wendy L. Alvarino	Hollywood
PO II	Blanca A. Lopez	Hollywood
PO III	John A. Turner	Hollywood
PO I	Deann R. Rivard	Pacific
PO II	Derek J. Sledge	Pacific
DET I	Debbie A. Potter	Detective HQ Div.
PO II	John W. Bailey	Van Nuys
PO II	Teresa R. Hawk	Van Nuys
PO III	Pedro L. Llanes	Pacific
PO III	Heidi S. Llanes	Pacific
PO I	Felipe Pardo	Pacific
PO I	Osbaldo Camacho	Pacific
SGT I	John H. Richardson	Newton
PO II	Ann M. Nevarez	Newton
PO II	Peter F. Galan	Newton
PO III	Florence I. Talamantez	Newton
PO III	Jeffrey E. Ennis	Newton
PO III	Robert M. Quihuis	Newton
PO II	Timothy J. Olsen	Newton
PO III	Roger Argomaniz	Newton
PO III	Michael J. Reyes	Newton
PO II	Jack H. Schonley	Air Support Division
PO II	Melvin l. Stevenson	Air Support Division
PO II	Matthew J. Jaroscak	Air Support Division
PO II	John D. Harrell	Air Support Division
PO III	Michael E. Albert	77th Street
SRCLKTYP	Bernette Johnson	Personnel

RANK	NAME	DIVISION
PO II	Sophia M. Lee	Southwest
PO III	Mark J. Tico	Metropolitan Div.
PO III	Brian J. Ohara	Metropolitan Div.
DET III	Richard E. Crotsley	Robbery-Homicide Div.
FORPSP III	Emmette J. Braggs	Special Investigations Div.
FORPSP II	Virgilio M. Capati	Special Investigations Div.
FORPSP II	Efren S. Caparas	Special Investigations Div.
SGT I	Martha E. Moran	Detective Support Div
DET I	Debra T. Delgado	Detective Support Div.
PO II	Judah R. Ramirez	Detective Support Div.
PO III	Frank M. Ramirez	Crime Prevention section
PO III	Christopher Montoya	Newton
PO II	Terry G. Nutall	Newton
PO II	Douglas W. Kirkland	Newton
PO II	Cindy A. Brining	Newton
CAPT III	John P. Mutz	Newton
SGT I	Alexander J. Gomez	Newton
PO II	Gregory Parker	West Los Angeles
PO II	Victor H. Perez	West Los Angeles
PO II	David L. Alpers	West Los Angeles
PO II	Garth J. Hamelin	West Los Angeles
PO II	Karen Y. Garay	West Los Angeles
PO II	Bridgette R. Robinson	West Los Angeles
PO I	Elizabeth Quezada	West Los Angeles
SGT II	Terri L. Brinkmeyer	West Los Angeles
RPOT	Honey A. Lewis	West Los Angeles
DET I	Wayne J. Caffey	Detective Support Div.
DET III	Anthony R. Moreno	Detective Support Div.
DET II	Carolyn F. Flamenco	South Bureau Homicide
PO II	Chris M. Yzaguirre	Foothill
PO I	Matthew S. Garza	Foothill
PO II	Dana G. Adams	Pacific Division LAX
SGT II	James J. Cerniglia	Northeast
SGT I	Cynthia C. Chow	Northeast
SGT I	Zimmie Williams	Northeast
CT	Jackqueline D. Burrough	Personnel Div.
POL 3	Helen V. Mondy	Personnel Div.
PO III	Christopher C. Booker	Van Nuys
PO III	Donald E. Thompson	West Los Angeles
PO III	John C. Borquez	Pacific Division LAX
PO III	David Delgado	North Hollywood
PO III	Nancy Reeves	North Hollywood
PO III	Fred C. Starkey	Southeast
PO III	Michael L. Flanagan	Southest
PO II	Ralph E. Strand	West Los Angeles
PO II	Guillermo Fajardo	Rampart
PO II	Joel M. Espinoza	Rampart
PO II	Webster J. Wong	Employee Oppor. & Dev. Div.
PO III	John O. Hovhanessian	Northeast
PO II	Alejandro Vargas Jr.	Detective HQ Div.
PO II	Ernest J. Fischer	Devonshire
PO III	Clarence A. Massar	Uniform Support Div.
Psych I	Robin L. Greene	Behavorial Science Services
CT	Maria V. Rongavilla	Training Div.
MA I	Patricia L. Butler	Continuing Education Div.
MGT ASST	Julie D. Jaramillo	Continuing Education Div.
PO II	Lori L. Forman	Foothill
SGT II	Douglas G. Miller	Training Group
PO III	Ann V. Pickering	Hollywood
CAPT III	Cayler L. Carter	West Valley
PO III	Raul Zorilla	Community Relations Section
SGT II	Ralph A. Morales	Community Relations Section
PO III	Randall M. McCain	Central
PO II	Joseph Taylor	Central
PO II	Karena M. Rowan	Central
PO II	Gerald R. Jackson	Wilshire
PO I	Heather L. Trundle	77th Street

The Cicinelli Disability Pension

On December 14, 1996, 24 year old Police Officer, Jay Cicinelli, cleared from roll call and prepared to face the potential perils of 77th Street Patrol. Having graduated from the Police Academy only months before, Cicinelli was eager to put to use the skills he had worked so hard to attain. A traffic stop would challenge those skills and would ultimately change his life forever. It would also force the officer and the Department to make tremendously difficult decisions that would have a far reaching impact on all of its members.

Officer Cicinelli and his partner, Officer Addis Simpson, initiated a vehicular stop of three male suspects in the area of Western and Florence Avenues. Cicinelli approached the passenger side of the vehicle, as he had practiced and executed many countless times before. This time, however, Cicinelli was met by gunfire, striking him once in the face. The officer fell to the pavement seriously wounded, as the gunman shot him several more times in the upper torso. Officer Simpson returned fire, wounding one of the suspects, and protecting himself and his partner from further injury. The suspect vehicle fled, leaving Officer Cicinelli bleeding on the sidewalk. Despite his critical injuries, Cicinelli provided key information that aided in the identification and the apprehension of the men who attempted to murder him.

Among the five gunshot wounds that Cicinelli sustained, the most serious resulted in the loss of his left eye. The permanently wounded officer displayed exceptional courage when he was shot while serving the residents of Los Angeles. But perhaps his most courageous moment was when he fought for the opportunity to continue to serve as a field certified Police Officer, despite his medical limitations. It was ultimately determined that because of his injuries, Cicinelli no longer met the minimum standards of a peace officer as set forth by California Peace Officers Standards and Training (POST). One of the key principles cited by POST was that peripheral vision is one of the most important visual abilities for safe patrol officer performance. Although it pained the Department to conclude that Cicinelli could no longer serve as a patrol officer, it was an obvious and necessary decision to ensure the safety of all Los Angeles Police Officers and residents alike. In addition, Rule 5.26 of the Rules of the Board of Civil Service Commissioners does not permit a Police Officer to complete probation when in a restricted duty capacity.

On July 23, 1998, Officer Cicinelli received a 70 percent tax-free disability pension. Along with a lifetime pension, Cicinelli was provided the opportunity to enroll in the Worker's Compensation vocational rehabilitation training program. The program offers Cicinelli job skill training that will assist him in the private job sector. Cicinelli was also provided with the counseling and supplemental support necessary to assist him with the transistional and traumatic aspects of his life altering injuries.

As Officer Cicinelli separates from the Department that he served so briefly, he is recognized for his symbol of strength and he is deeply thanked for his example of selfless public service.

Kudos to Retiring Officers

Most Officers are grateful to have reached the age of retirement, and look forward to receiving commendations, well-wishes and a retirement party to commemorate their careers with the Department.

But Officers Kevin Coppin (Air Support Division) and Charles Lovold (West Traffic Division) used their joint retirement party as an opportunity to give instead of receive. They suggested that their guests donate money normally allocated for paying to attend the event to the Los Angeles Police Memorial Foundation.

This unselfish act by Officers Coppin and Lovold will ensure that the $5,395 collected will benefit Department personnel and their families in times of need.

Congratulations and best of luck to Officers Coppin and Lovold.

Medal of Valor

Luncheon and Awards Ceremony
Wednesday, September 9, 1998
Westin Bonaventure Hotel,
California Ballroom
404 South Figueroa Street
Downtown Los Angeles
Reception: 1100 Hours
Luncheon and Awards Ceremony: 1200 Hours

For ticket information, call Amy Arnold
Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce
(213) 580 - 7585

1.4.3
P.O BOX 30158
LOS ANGELES, CA 90030

UPCOMING FASTRAC TOWN HALL MEETINGS

The Los Angeles Police Department is currently hosting a new series of Town Hall Meetings that are scheduled throughout the City. The police-community events are held by bureaus, on a monthly and rotating basis. The general public is invited to attend the community gatherings which provide residents the opportunity to speak directly with the Chief of Police. Community residents also interact with their Area Commanding Officers, Basic Car Officers, and Community Relations personnel in attendance.

The key component of the Town Hall Meetings will be a presentation of our new command accountability system, known as Focus, Accountability, Strategy, Teamwork, Response and Coordination (FASTRAC), which will be introduced to the general public for the first time. FASTRAC is geared toward building effective performance and accountability into all LAPD systems.

Locations, dates, and times of upcoming Town Hall/FASTRAC meetings are as follows:

Operations-Valley Bureau	September 23, 1998 at 1730 hours
Operations-Central Bureau	October 29, 1998 at 1730 hours
Operations-West Bureau	November 16, 1998 at 1730 hours

For additional information, please call Lieutenant Fred Booker, Officer-in-Charge, Community Relations Section at (213) 485-4101.

The “BEAT” is published by Public Affairs Section, Community Affairs Group. Please direct suggestions or comments to Lt. Robert Cedillos or Flora Stewart, Editor, Public Affairs Section, Room 731, 150 North Los Angeles Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012. Telephone (213) 485-3281. FAX (213) 485- 1952. Reprinting of this article for educational and non-profit purposes is permitted.