



**WILLIAM J. BRATTON**  
CHIEF OF POLICE

## CHIEF'S MESSAGE

**A**s we near the end of 2006 and begin the holiday season, I'd like us to reflect on the past year. While we have enjoyed many operational successes that reflect your hard work to make the city safer, we have also experienced losses...those who are not with us because they are serving overseas,

*Continued on page 2*

## Los Angeles Police Officers are Mourning the Loss of One of Their Own

**O**n Sunday, October 22, 2006, at approximately 1:20 A.M., Northeast Area Officer Landon Dorris and his partner, Officer Marc Fujiwara, were investigating a minor traffic collision at Riverside Drive and Hyperion Avenue. Officer Dorris was in the street, when a car heading west on Riverside Drive struck him. The force of the impact caused Officer Dorris to hit another car that was waiting to turn left onto the Golden State Freeway onramp.

The driver of the car immediately stopped and was very distraught over the incident. The driver was questioned by police officers at the scene, and there was no evidence he was under the influence of alcohol or drugs. The driver was not arrested or cited; however, the investigation is continuing.

Officer Dorris was transported to University of Southern California Medical Center in critical condition with major head trauma. Despite the efforts of the hospital emergency staff, Officer Dorris did not survive his injuries.

"The men and women of the LAPD are deeply saddened by the loss of a fellow officer. Our hearts go out to the family and friends of Officer Dorris during this difficult time," said Chief Bratton.

Officer Dorris was 31-years-old and had been with the LAPD for 3 years and 4 months. Prior to joining the LAPD, Officer

Dorris served 6 years with the California Highway Patrol as a motorcycle officer. He is survived by his mother, two sisters, fiancé and two sons, ages 3 and one-and-a-half.

*Continued on page 5*





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

**William J. Bratton**  
Chief of Police

**Mary E. Grady**  
Public Information Director  
Commanding Officer  
Public Information Office

**Steven E. Reifel**  
Managing Editor

**Lori Blackwell**  
Copy Editor

**Cornel Panov**  
Photographer

**Jim Ungari**  
Design, Typeset, & Layout

The monthly news publication serving sworn and civilian employees, and those interested in the activities of the Los Angeles Police Department, is published by the Public Information Office, Public Communications Section, Public Relations Unit. The Los Angeles Police Department does not endorse or warrant any products, services or companies mentioned within these pages.

*The BEAT deadline for material submission is the 4th of each month for the following month's publication.*

Submit your materials to:  
**Los Angeles Police Department  
Public Communications Section  
150 N. Los Angeles Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012  
Room 731 - Mail Stop 400  
Phone (213) 485-3281  
Fax (213) 485-1220**

This publication is available online at [www.LAPDOnline.org](http://www.LAPDOnline.org).  
Copyright © 2006 by Los Angeles Police Department

those we have lost due to illness and accidents and the loss of one who paid the ultimate sacrifice while in the line of duty.

As of the first of December, a total of 25 Los Angeles Police Department employees, 19 sworn and six civilians are serving in the U.S. armed forces deployed on overseas assignments. Of those 25; nearly half will be spending their second, third, even fourth Christmas away from family and friends.

While the Department offers financial and career support to our activated military personnel, the LAPD family should also offer emotional support to these employees who are our partners and coworkers. Please take the time to remember them and their families during the holidays.

This has also been a difficult year because for the first time in two and a half years, we have lost an officer in the line of duty. On Sunday, October 22, Northeast Area Officer Landon Dorris and his partner were investigating a minor traffic collision when a car hit Officer Dorris. The 31-year-old officer had been with us for just over three years. He served six years with the California Highway Patrol prior to joining the LAPD. Officer Dorris is survived by his mother and two sisters, a fiancé and two young sons, ages three and one-and-a-half.

We were also challenged this year by the deaths of several Department employees due to illness and accidents. Although this is not an all-inclusive list, due to the wishes of the families involved, I ask that you remember the 12 sworn officers, including 2 reservists, and one civilian employee no longer with us.

This past year presented a different set of challenges for several LAPD officers who suffered serious, life-altering injuries. In August, Hollenbeck Area Officer James Tuck was seriously hurt when he and his partner made a traffic stop in the Montecito Heights area. They had just pulled over a car when the passenger got out and charged the officers. He sprayed their patrol car with high-velocity rounds from an AK-47. Officer Tuck was shot three times, with one bullet nearly severing his left hand at the wrist. The news for this young officer is promising, his physicians believe he will regain about 85 percent of the use of his hand after a year of rehabilitation.

In late April, Newton Area Officer Jennifer Howlett and her partner Officer Daniel Calderon were involved in a traffic collision with an intoxicated motorist. Officer Howlett suffered multiple fractures to her left femur, right ankle and right foot. Officer Calderon sustained a compound fracture to his right femur. The officers were transported to a local hospital where they underwent surgery. Both officers are receiving on-going treatment for their injuries and remain off-duty.

Newton Area Officer Enrique Chavez was seriously wounded when his three-year-old son accidentally shot him in the back as they drove near their Anaheim home. Officer Chavez underwent surgery to have a metal rod placed in his spine and he remains paralyzed from the waist down. Officer Chavez is in rehabilitation and is progressing ahead of schedule.

In mid-June, West Traffic Division Officer Michael Toth was riding his

*Continued on page 5*

# Commission Investigation Division to Regulate Tow Companies

By Detective Tom Butler

**B**eginning on January 1, 2007, tow trucks in Los Angeles will once again be regulated, and Commission Investigation Division (CID) will be the regulator.

In 1995, the towing industry was deregulated by the federal government. While the majority of tow operators are honest business owners, some unscrupulous tow operators were functioning virtually unchecked during the deregulated period. Often, tow operators would “lie in wait” on private parking lots and ignore California Vehicle Code regulations. Terms such as “predatory,” “bandit,” and “rogue” tows became common and unfortunately tarnished the entire tow industry.

California Assembly Bill 2210, sponsored by Assemblywoman Jackie Goldberg, will change how tow operators function in California. This change in legislation includes several provisions, however the major features are as follows:

- Allow municipalities to license and regulate tow companies and their drivers. In Los Angeles, this process will be handled by LAPD’s CID. All tow companies and their drivers will be required to obtain permits from CID beginning January 1st.
- Require that the property owner or lessee provide written authorization for a vehicle to be removed, and that the tow company provide fact of the removal of a vehicle, the grounds for the removal, and the place where the vehicle has been removed.
- Require a tow company or its driver to immediately and unconditionally release a vehicle that is not yet in transit, upon the vehicle owner’s request.
- Require that tow companies accept credit cards.
- Require that tow companies notify the local law enforcement agency that the vehicle has been towed within 30 minutes of the removal.
- Require that a tow company’s California Highway Patrol approved rates be made available for inspection and copying within 24 hours of request.

In the last two years, CID has conducted several successful stings on “rogue” tow companies, and with the City Attorney’s diligence, numerous cases have been filed on these types of tow companies. The media has also

assisted greatly in bringing this issue to light, and actually brought it to the level of legislative change. In many ways, Los Angeles has led the way for this victory for California motorists. □



## Recent Actions by the Police Commission

- OCTOBER 3:** Commissioners participated in the Medal of Valor Ceremony.
- OCTOBER 10:** The Commissioners approved a Department report regarding training that officers receive following adjudication of use of force cases. Follow up reports were requested to ensure that training is occurring, when stipulated.
- OCTOBER 24:** A moment of silence was held for Officer Landon Dorris. The Hunter/La Ley 2005/2006 Annual Report was approved. Departmental organizations, such as the Oscar Joel Bryant Association and La Ley also provided input.

## CRIME WATCH CITYWIDE YEAR TO DATE - 11/25/06

Homicide - 6.3%	▼
Rape - 8.1%	▼
Robbery - 5.7%	▲
Aggravated Assault - 8.5%	▼
Total Violent Crime - 2.2%	▼
Burglary - 8.6%	▼
Burglary/Theft from Vehicle- 10.5%	▼
Personal/Other Theft- 10.1%	▼
Auto Theft - 8.9%	▼
Total Property Crimes - 9.6%	▼
Total Part I Crimes - 8.0%	▼

Source ITD, LAPD

## The Crystal Angel Awards and the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual True Blue Event

For providing outstanding service to their communities, four Los Angeles police officers were recognized Oct. 21 at the Los Angeles Police Foundation's Annual True Blue fundraising event at Paramount Studios. The officers were awarded the Crystal Angel Award, an acknowledgment earned for demonstrating superior work in community policing.

Central Area Officer Kathy McAnany and West Traffic Division Officer Gary Ross received the honor for launching a holiday campaign that benefits wounded soldiers and their families. In 2004, the two officers partnered to mobilize the initiative called *Operation Sleigh Trail*.

A year later, Officers McAnany and Ross surpassed the previous year's success by spearheading an effort that raised \$25,000. The two worked closely to secure corporate donations, gift cards and small monetary gifts for young soldiers who faced financial and medical trials. Additionally, the two officers organized a convoy to visit hospitalized soldiers at Balboa Naval Medical Center and extended their spirit of community service to families who have lost loved ones in battle.

Rampart Area Senior Lead Officer

Mandy Serrano received the award for creative use of conventional law enforcement resources. Committed to improving the quality of life of Rampart Area residents, Officer Serrano rallied City and County support to target a hotel plagued with perpetual narcotic, gang and vice activities. The scene of rape, robberies and murder, the

other riding gear for Rampart Area youth. She also ensured that the children learned applicable riding laws. Highly concerned for the welfare of seniors in the area, Officer Serrano also helped established a senior watch program to promote safety and organized several local trips and activities for the group.

### CRYSTAL ANGEL AWARD RECIPIENTS WITH CHIEF BRATTON



From left to right: Officer Ellen Kanda, Officer Gary Ross, Officer Kathy McAnany, and Officer Mandy Serrano

Holland Hotel gave refuge to violent community predators who preyed on the innocent. Because of Officer Serrano's persistence, the matter ended up in the Superior Court of Los Angeles where the court called for the closure of the property.

Officer Serrano was also recognized for her work with underprivileged children and low-income senior citizens. Over the last year, Officer Serrano solicited and secured 300 bicycles, helmets and

Central Traffic Division Reserve Officer Ellen Kanda received the award for her involvement in various assignments including bandit taxi details, Driving Under the Influence checkpoints, and pedestrian safety stings. As part of the Bandit Taxi Task Force, Officer Kanda transcribed statements of the Department of Transportation arresting officer reports. These documents will be valuable in future court cases against bandit taxi operators. A reserve

officer for 16 years, Officer Kanda possesses exceptional communication skills and years of experience and discipline which project a positive image for the Department.

The cast of TNT's hit police drama *The Closer* was also honored for their positive portrayal of law enforcement officers. More than 700 people attended True Blue this year and the event raised nearly \$500,000. □

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

Department motorcycle on his way home when he stopped to help officers from the California Highway Patrol conducting an accident investigation. As he was leaving the scene, a sports utility vehicle hit Officer Toth. He was rushed to a hospital and had extensive surgery on injuries to his face, chest and legs. Officer Toth is going through physical therapy and recently had more surgery to repair damage to his right foot. His goal is to be back at work mid-year 2007.

And finally, this summer Southwest Area Officer Kristina Ripatti was shot and paralyzed from the chest down while trying to arrest an armed man who had robbed a gas station. Now she spends several days a week in rehab and she works out in a gym to increase her upper body strength. As she learns to adjust to life in a wheelchair,

Officer Ripatti also fights to stay mentally fit to challenge conventional medical wisdom that she will never walk again. Kristina, her husband, Southeast Area Officer Tim Pearce, and their young daughter Jordan were

recently featured on ABC television's Extreme Makeover: Home Edition. Their home was "made over" free of charge by hundreds of volunteers to accommodate her disabilities.

This will certainly be an emotional

holiday season for her and the others I have mentioned. As you celebrate with your own loved ones, take the time to remember the men and women of the LAPD who are facing extraordinary physical and emotional challenges. Remember those who will not be home with their loved ones, and remember those that have gone before us. In this city noted for its angels, these are the LAPD's angels. May they always be in our thoughts, our memories and by our side, and even as you remember them, let me offer you and your families my best wishes for a safe, healthy and happy holiday season. □



### IN THE LINE OF DUTY

Ofcr. Landon Dorris  
Northeast Area  
End of Watch – October 22, 2006

#### NON-DUTY RELATED

##### SWORN

Ofcr. Michael Sagendorf  
Harbor Area  
End of Watch – Jan. 20, 2006

Ofcr. Dennis Taylor  
Devonshire Area  
End of Watch – May 6, 2006

Ofcr. Robert Young  
Central Area  
End of Watch – Jan. 23, 2006

Sgt. Thomas Joe Walker, Jr.  
Central Area  
End of Watch – June 5, 2006

Res. Ofcr. Ann Ray  
Wilshire Division  
End of Watch – Jan. 30, 2006

Ofcr. Eileen Staendner  
Foothill Area  
End of Watch – June 5, 2006

Res. Ofcr. Bill Mayhew  
Pacific Area  
End of Watch – Feb. 23, 2006

Sgt. James Joseph Cerniglia  
Northeast Area  
End of Watch – Sep. 9, 2006

Det. Raul Richard Reyna  
Force Investigation Division  
End of Watch – March 19, 2006

Ofcr. Nathaniel Warthon, Jr.  
Southwest Area  
End of Watch – Sep. 22, 2006

Ofcr. Marsha Brandt  
Narcotics Division  
End of Watch – March 27, 2006

##### CIVILIAN

Mr. Silvio "Ike" Blandino  
Senior Clerk Typist  
Records and Identification Division  
End of Watch – Oct. 15, 2006

Ofcr. Thomas Ducey  
West Traffic Division  
End of Watch – March 31, 2006

## Los Angeles Police Officers are Mourning the Loss of One of Their Own

*Continued from page 1*

Chief Bratton and members of the LAPD Command Staff responded to the scene of the accident and to the hospital. They met with family members and officers who gathered for Officer Dorris.

Funeral services were held on Friday, October 27, 2006 at Our Lady of the Angeles in downtown Los Angeles. Officer Dorris is the 200th Los Angeles police officer killed in the line of duty. □

See Page 7 of this issue for an additional story on Officer Landon Dorris, titled "Reflections of a Lieutenant,"

## Veterans Day and the Marine Corps Anniversary Celebration

The Los Angeles Police Department recently celebrated Veterans Day and the 231<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the founding of the United States Marine Corps at the November recruit graduation ceremony for the Class April 2006.

On November 10, the April 2006 graduating class, family, friends, and special guests attending were treated to military marches preformed by LAPD's all volunteer band, a Marine Corps Color Guard presentation, and patriotic comments by the Major General Michael R. Lehnert, Commanding General of Marine Corps Installations West. More than 60 LAPD employees, in their full military dress uniforms and representing various Department commands, were honored guests of Chief Batton.

Immediately following the graduation ceremonies, all in attendance were invited to the academy lounge to participate in a traditional Marine Corps cake cutting ceremony. Highlighting the event was the presentation of the Purple Heart to Police Officer Christopher Burke, 77<sup>th</sup> Street Area. Officer Burke, a Sergeant in the Marine Corps, was wounded while serving in Iraq when an Improvised Explosive Device, or IED, hit the vehicle he was patrolling in.

The Purple Heart is an American decoration and is the oldest military decoration in the world in present use. It is the first American award made available to the common soldier. The Purple Heart is awarded to members of the U.S. armed forces who are wounded by an instrument of war in the hands of the enemy and posthumously to the next of kin in the name of those who are killed in action, or die of wounds received in action. It is specifically a combat decoration.

Ever since Chief Bratton took helm of the Los Angeles Police Department, he has made a point of recognizing and honoring the unique services and sacrifices made by the 500 Department employees who are members of the United States Armed Forces Guard and Reserve. Chief Bratton, a combat veteran of the Vietnam War, feels a special kinship to those who serve this country in the military. □

## Centurion Football Team Tryouts

Since 1978, the Los Angeles Police Department Centurions have been playing football for kids. This unique fraternity of police officers practice, play, and travel off-duty to raise money for the Blind Childrens Center of Los Angeles.

The Centurion Football Team will be holding their annual tryouts at Salesian High School on Saturday, December 2, and Saturday, December 9, begin at 9:00 AM. Salesian High School is located at 960 South Soto Street in Los Angeles. Contact Detective Donald Payne, Southwest Area Juvenile Detective Section, at (213) 485-2585 or (213) 880-3334 for additional information.

Since joining the National Public Safety Football League in 1997, the team has had a strong winning record. The team has been the Western Conference Champions several years. In 2001 the team won the championship game over the Houston Gunners, earning them a number one ranking for semi-pro teams in the American Football Association for that year. The Centurions are one of 14 law enforcement and public safety football teams that travel nationwide to play football and raise money for charity. The LAPD Centurions are proud to be a part of this organization that puts so much emphasis on giving back to the community. □



Left to right: Chief Bratton, Officer Christopher Burke, and Major General Michael R. Lehnert

## Reflections of a Lieutenant *By Lieutenant Ruben De La Torre*

The residents, merchants and visitors to the City of Angels, along with the LAPD, experienced a major loss on Sunday, perhaps more than any of us can



Officer Landon Dorris  
1975-2006

comprehend. Those of us fortunate to have worked alongside Officer Landon Dorris knew him as a dedicated father, committed

law enforcement officer, and good friend.

Before transferring to my present assignment, I was assigned to Northeast Area where I had the good fortune to have Landon work for me on the morning watch. For those of you who don't know, it takes a special kind of person to work this watch. The majority of the time you are racing to calls, battling darkness, sometimes under harsh weather conditions, yet you must remain focused on the primary mission: achieving a society free of crime.

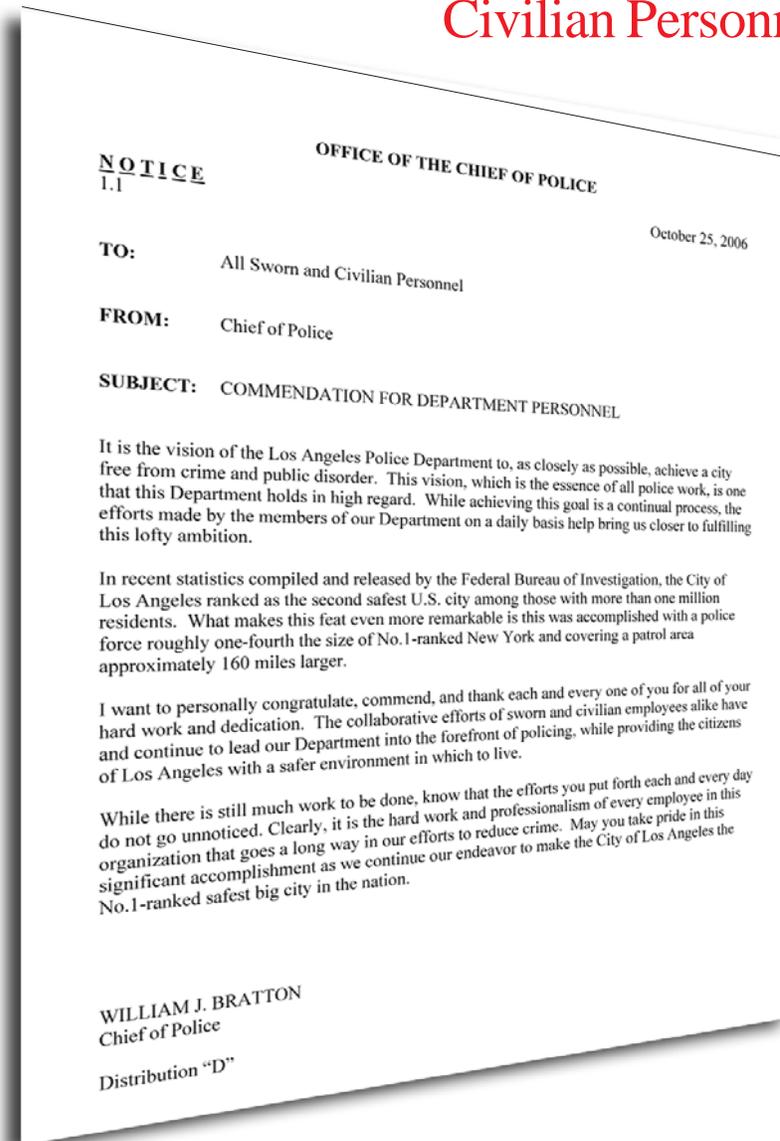
As supervisors we are expected to mentor, train, and lead those entrusted to our care. Sometimes however, we forget that we too can learn from those younger and less experienced. Landon left me with a lasting impression, which I will never forget and hope to pass on to my sons. Landon was a confident man in both his abilities and training. Reserved and quiet like the wind, he could erupt for the preservation of

peace. Many late nights and early mornings, Landon and I shared conversations about our profession, families, and friends. I came to understand that as a watch commander I was very fortunate to have Landon on our team, and Northeast Area was all the wealthier.

It was because of Landon's strong work ethic that I chose him to fill many critical assignments: working a patrol car, policing a major public event,

investigating serious crimes. To Landon, the nature of the assignment did not matter, all that mattered to him was that duty called, a character trait we can all learn from. God, I'm going to miss you a lot, Landon. My intent was always to work with you again. When you arrive in heaven, look down upon us from time to time and remind us of how you, with "dignity and pride," lived up to the LAPD motto: "To Protect and To Serve." □

## Commendation to All Sworn and Civilian Personnel



**THE FOLLOWING PERSONNEL WERE COMMENDED BY THE COMMUNITY IN THE MONTH OF OCTOBER 2006**

**POLICE OFFICER I**

Josue Merida  
Ellen Visosky

Sam Park  
Sheryl Rush  
Charles Schandel  
Maria Soto

Gilbert Pedregon  
Robert Perez  
Stephen Saletros

**SERGEANT I**

Carol Allen  
Mark Durrell  
Billy Gilbert

**LIEUTENANT II**

Freddie Booker  
Donald Hooper

**POLICE OFFICER II**

Juan Amacio  
Cid Camacho  
Dominick Colenzo  
Arlwin Flores  
Paul Duron  
Randall Garrett  
Gerardo Hernandez  
Travis Littlepage  
Wil Lopez  
Jose Martinez  
Mario Morales

Justin Thomas  
Rita Vallejo  
Chun Yim

**DETECTIVE I**

Ann Chavez  
Alonso Flores  
Joseph Linares  
William Longacre  
Paul Scire  
Anthony Verret

Ranald Holcombe  
Michael Lockett

**CAPTAIN I**

Jose Perez

**POLICE OFFICER III**

Danny Chao  
Christian Cooper  
Teresa Evans  
Richard Krynsky  
Kevin Lowe  
Dax Martin  
Gregory Parker

**DETECTIVE II**

Robert Felix  
Theodore Jones  
Lewis Parker

**SERGEANT II**

Jeffrey Bert  
Frank Mika

**CAPTAIN III**

Patrick Gannon

**DETECTIVE III**

Jeffrey Godown  
Charles Markel  
Steven Reyes  
Daniel Schultz

*Chief William J. Bratton and  
the Los Angeles Police Foundation*

*Cordially invite you to attend the*

*Los Angeles Police Department  
Annual Holiday Party*

*Join Friends and Colleagues in celebrating the joys of the  
holiday season for an evening of international dinner  
buffets, live music, dancing and great prizes!*

*Saturday*

*December 16, 2006*

*7:00 p.m. to Midnight*

*Los Angeles Downtown Marriott Hotel*

*333 South Figueroa Street, Los Angeles*

*\$50 Per Person*

*Dressy Attire - Black Tie Optional  
For group or individual reservations,  
please contact the  
Los Angeles Police Foundation  
at (213) 489-4636.*

**ROLL CALL OF EVENTS**

**THURSDAY**

**DECEMBER 14, 2006**

**11:00 AM AND 3:00 PM**

**PARKER CENTER HOLIDAY  
CELEBRATION ASSEMBLIES**

Parker Center Auditorium  
(213) 485-4082

**SATURDAY**

**DECEMBER 16, 2006**

**7:00 PM**

**LAPD HOLIDAY PARTY**

Sponsored by the LA Police Foundation  
Downtown Marriot  
(213) 489-4636

**FRIDAY**

**JANUARY 12, 2007**

**7:00 PM**

**FIGHT FOR LIFE  
QUIET CANNON**

901 N. Via San Clemente  
Montebello  
(213) 473-0309 or (626) 676-0182