LOS ANGELES POLICE



VOLUME LIV NO. 3

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OFFICER RANDAL SIMMONS

he Los Angeles Police Department mourns the tragic loss of Officer Randal David Simmons, a 27-year veteran of the LAPD, who was shot and killed in the line of duty on February 7, 2008. Officer Simmons' untimely passing is the first LAPD SWAT fatality in the line of duty in the history of the unit.

Officer Simmons graduated from the Los Angeles Police Academy in January 1981. After beginning his first assignment at Pacific Area, he went on to work assignments including 77th Street Division, South Bureau, and Southeast Division before he joined Metropolitan Division in July 1986. He found a permanent home in January 1991, when he was selected to join SWAT, the Department's elite unit. On Christmas Day of 1994, he celebrated his promotion to Assistant Squad Leader in SWAT.

Bernardino, CA. Having an interest in law enforcement, he attended Washington State University and studied criminology. He also played cornerback on the school's football team. After his graduation, with the hope of playing professional football, Officer Simmons attended NFL training camp with the Dallas Cowboys, and played in a few pre-season games until he sustained an injury, whereupon he decided to pursue a career in law enforcement and turned his sights toward the LAPD.



Chief's Message ... William J. Bratton, Chief of Police

"COPS COUNT"

ne of the most formidable challenges facing the Los Angeles Police Department today is LA's generations-old gang problem. For decades, our residents have seen their quality of life impacted by gang violence and intimidation. In 2006, our city saw a 15.7% increase in gang-related crimes. Our response, in February 2007, was to announce the implementation of several strategically focused and coordinated initiatives for 2007. I want to focus on some of these initiatives and their results in this message.

In 2007, we saw an overall reduction in gang crime and a reduction in violent crime, in particular. In 1992,

the City of Los Angeles experienced its highest number of homicides ever: 1,092. Of those, 430 were identified as gang-related. In 2007, there were 216 gang murders. That number

represents a 49.7% decrease from 1992's gang killings. In 2006 there were 294 gang homicides investigated, so, between the two years, the men and women of the LAPD, in cooperation with our many law enforcement and community partners,

were able to reduce gang homicides by 26.5%. This is a great success, particularly for the first year of these initiatives. The good news is that your focused attention in 2008 is continuing

to drive these numbers down.

Our initiatives include Bureau and Area programs that address the unique needs of the communities they serve. In South Bureau, the Criminal Gang Homicide Group was launched in March 2007, uniting homicide teams from Southeast, Southwest, and 77th Street Areas under the leadership of Commander Pat Gannon. Personnel from the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, LA County District Attorney's Office,

County Probation, Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms, FBI, and Gang Intervention Specialists were dedicated to this assignment. Working with the officers of South Bureau, homicides

within South Bureau were reduced by 23.5%, for a total of 46 fewer homicides. At the same time, the homicide clearance rate increased from 52% in 2006 to 72% in 2007. In 2008, we intend to create a similar effort in Central Bureau.

The San Fernando Valley has its own very specific gang culture. This region has seen gang crime rise in recent years. As the Valley's overall population grew, there was a sharp increase of 44% in 2006. Strategies were designed in 2007 to specifically address this increase. I am pleased to report that these strategies, under the direction of Deputy Chief Michel Moore, resulted in a decrease of 5.3% in gang crime, or 76 fewer gang crimes in the Valley. Even more significantly, gang homicides are down 39.6% from 48 in 2006 to 29 in 2007. Shots fired are down 30.3% from 479 in 2006 to 334 in 2007. The number of victims shot is also down 27.1% from 247 in 2006 to 189 in 2007.

In February of 2007, we identified and targeted the city's 10 most problematic street gangs with the intention of generating political, media,

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In 2007, LAPD

reduced gang



The BEAT

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"COPS COUNT"

and community interest and participation in our efforts to reduce gang violence. This was met with skepticism and criticism, as it represented a break with tradition for the Department. The Los Angeles City Attorney's Office has since obtained permanent injunctions against eight of these targeted gangs, with one additional injunction pending. To date, the Department and City Attorney's Office have obtained 33 injunctions in 17 Areas, targeting 50 street gangs. Since the inception of the Gang Injunction Program, dating back seven years, 5,009 gang members have been served with injunction court orders and 3,227 gang members have been arrested for violation of those orders. This effective tool will be expanded upon in 2008.

We have applied the "Top 10" strategy to the most wanted gang members as well. Last February, we posted this list on the Department website, LAPDOnline.org, and have updated it regularly. Since then, we have arrested 7 of these dangerous individuals. Two are currently serving sentences in state and federal correctional facilities, with the other five

Continued from page 2 awaiting trial.

One of our most successful gang intervention and prevention programs is our Community Law Enforcement and Recovery Unit, or CLEAR, program. CLEAR is an effective model that combines comprehensive, coordinated resources to address and intimately focus on existing gang problems. It has been successful in empowering communities to reclaim neighborhoods from violent gangs. Currently there are 8 CLEAR locations, 3 of which we began in 2007, including the Imperial Courts housing project in Southeast Area, the Ramona Gardens housing project in Hollenbeck Area, and Baldwin Village in Southwest Area. All eight sites have shown significant decreases in gang crime, with Hollenbeck Area and Newton Area showing decreases of 17% and 11%, respectively. Mayor Villaraigosa's office is working on expanding intervention and prevention programs at all CLEAR sites.

Other methods have been proving successful as well and, overall, these results from the first year of our renewed and enhanced gang

Continued on page 4





"COPS COUNT"

Continued from page 3

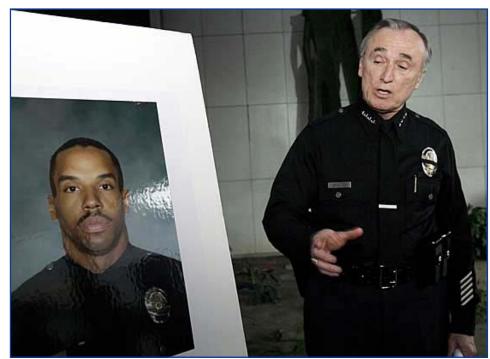
enforcement initiatives show that creative, focused, and properly resourced enforcement efforts can reduce the cycle of gang violence. Key to our suppression efforts are you, the cops, fighting gang crime on the front lines. For you, the cop in the neighborhoods, reducing gang crime is very dangerous work, as evidenced in the recent gun battle in Northeast Division. But, despite significant risk, you, the dedicated officers of the LAPD, are making a difference and proving, yet again, that cops count, that we matter.

On that note, I want to take a moment to remember Officer Randy Simmons. His respected stature within the Department, his church, and his community, along with his long list of accomplishments stand as reminders of what it means to be a true police professional and underscore my point that Cops Count. Officer Simmons embodied this. Not only in the field, where he demonstrated continuous prowess, bravery and courage, but also in his community, where he strove to make a difference. Affectionately known as "The Rock," he did make a difference: Officer Simmons changed lives by mentoring and offering a helping hand to his colleagues, whomever, whenever.

But as great a cop as he was, he was an even better human being. As husband and father, he was more than solid. He was the epitome of role model. He had a strong relationship with his God that was at the center of his existence. As a deacon in his church, Officer Simmons always carried the Bible with him, had a cross in his car, and even prayed openly before his Code-7 meal. He has been credited with bringing a former gang member into the church, and becoming the godfather of that man's young child. Of course we all know about his generous spirit, as evidenced by the

yearly toy drive he started for the children patients of Orthopedic
Hospital. Few people know he was almost a professional football player after he finished college. An injury early in NFL training camp brought his days as a Dallas Cowboy to an end. But that end was a beginning for the Department. Shortly thereafter, he joined the LAPD and the rest is now, sadly, history. But it is a history that we will cherish.

Officer Simmons lived and died a hero. He understood, that to make a difference, you had to be that difference.



CRIME WATCH CITYWIDE (YEAR TO DATE - 3/1/08)				
Homicide	24.1%		Burglary - 9.8%	_
Rape	- 2.4%		Burglary/Theftfrom Vehicle - 12.2%	The state of the s
Robbery	- 8.3%		Personal/OtherTheft - 10.7%	The state of the s
Aggravated Assault	- 2.4%	V	AutoTheft - 13.6%	<u> </u>
Total Violent Crime	- 5.1%		Total Property Crimes - 11.7%	
			Total Part I Crimes - 10.4%	

OFFICER RANDAL SIMMONS Continued from front cover

Officer Simmons' Christian faith was a strong central part of his character. He was the minister at Glory Christian Fellowship International Church (GCFI) for 13 years. Known to his congregation as Minister Randy, he was seen as a humble and totally selfless individual that shared the unconditional love of Christ with everyone he met, children and young people in particular. His tireless commitment to the youth of our city has been recognized throughout the state with numerous awards and honors. In his role as GCFI minister. Officer Simmons conducted regular and continuous outreach missions to housing developments located throughout South Los Angeles and Long Beach as well as local children's hospital wards.

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Mayor Villaraigosa and Chief Bratton were among the speakers who eulogized Officer Simmons at his funeral. In an unprecedented move by many local broadcasters, the funeral was televised live in Los Angeles, interrupting regular network programming and attracting a sizeable audience.

The Los Angeles community has

given an overwhelming outpouring of sympathy and support, mourning with the Department and the Simmons family. The public has turned out in droves for the many charity events benefiting Officer Simmons' family, the first of which was held at Burger King restaurant on Cesar Chavez Blvd. Others include the Albertson's market where Officer Simmons and his family do their grocery shopping and California Pizza Kitchen in Woodland Hills. Charity events have continued into the month of March, and there will

Mayor Villaraigosa has

likely be more thereafter.

Clearly, Officer Simmons life

and death have touched the

hearts of the people of Los

Angeles.

 $made\ a\ motion\ to\ rename\ Rampart\ station\ in\ honor\ of\ Officer\ Simmons.$

Officer Simmons leaves behind his wife Lisa and their two children. We will never forget him, his countless good deeds, or the indelible mark he has left on our Department. Rest in peace, Officer.



RECENT ACTIONS BY THE POLICE COMMISSION

JANUARY 8: Received briefing on the May Day incident in MacArthur Park. Approximately, 10,000 hours have been spent on this investigation thus far.

Requested that the Department investigate the possibility of providing basic fire science training to officers.

JANUARY 15: Received briefing from the Watts Gang Task Force. For two years now, this group has become an influential voice throughout the City and has encouraged entities to work together to create solutions to the gang violence in south Los Angeles.

Received annual report from the West Valley Area Community Police Advisory Board.

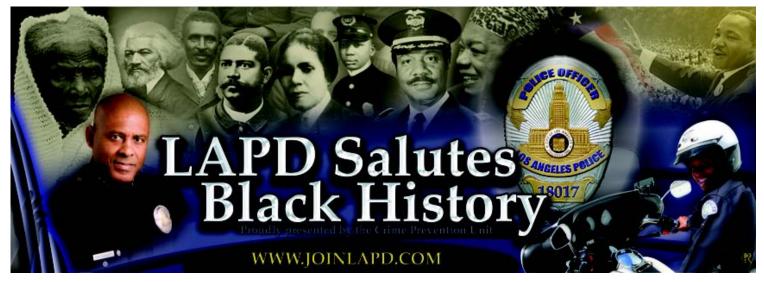
JANUARY 22: Received briefing on the May Day incident in MacArthur Park. Captain Jeri Weinstien stated that the investigation is complete and there are 72 allegations against 29 known officers and 139 allegations against unknown officers. The investigation will be presented to the District Attorney and City Attorney in one week.

JANUARY 29: Received annual report from the Central Area Community Police Advisory Board.





LAPD'S BLACK HISTORY MONTH



he men and women of the Los Angles Police Department proudly celebrate Black History Month every year. In 2008, we saluted the brave men and women whose actions contributed to the advancement of the nation's and Los Angeles' history. To honor these individuals, the Department's Crime Prevention Unit, Office of the Chief of Police, designed a banner that hung in front of Parker Center, other city buildings, and several community police stations throughout the month of February.

The images included in the banner and their corresponding descriptions are, clockwise from left-Assistant Chief Earl Paysinger—the highest-ranking African American officer in the Los Angles Police Department. He was promoted to the rank of Assistant Chief in August 2006. Chief Paysinger is currently the Director and Commanding Officer of Office of Operations. He oversees all four geographic patrol bureaus, including patrol and detective services, as well as Special Operations Bureau and Detective Bureau.

Harriet Tubman – known as "the Moses of her people." A slave, she escaped alone via the Underground Railroad in 1849, and over the next decade, she led nearly 300 Maryland slaves to freedom and safety, including several siblings and her elderly parents.

Frederick Douglass – 19th century abolitionist writer, public official, and statesman. Spoke out for other social reforms such as women's suffrage.

George Washington Carver – an agricultural chemist, educator, botanist, this famous African American scientist dedicated his life to Agricultural and industrial research.

Officer Robert William Stewart – in 1886 he became the first African American police officer of the Los Angles Police Department.

Officer Georgia Ann Robinson—in 1916 she became the first African American female police officer of the Los Angles Police Department.

Officer Charles P.T. Williams—in 1923 he became the first African American police officer killed in the line of duty.

Homer F. Broome, Jr. – joined the LAPD in February 1954. Rising

through the Department ranks, he promoted to Captain in 1969 and Commander in 1975. He became the first African American appointed to each of these positions in the Department's history. In 2006, the Southwest Community Police Station was renamed in his honor.

Dr. Maya Angelou – poet, educator, historian, author, actress, playwright, civil-rights activist, producer, and director. She is hailed as one of the great voices of contemporary literature.

Dr. Martin Luther, King Jr. –
Baptist minister and civil rights leader.
Dr. King is an icon for his furtherance of the civil rights movement. At the age of thirty-five, Dr. King became the youngest man to receive the Nobel Peace Prize.

Officer Bridget Robinson—on May 4, 2003, Officer Robinson became the first female African American motor officer in the history of the Department when she joined West Traffic Division.

Freeway Sign Unveiled in Memory of Fallen Officer Steve Gadja

freeway sign was unveiled today in memory of Police Officer Steve Gajda who was shot and killed in the line of duty 10 years ago.

"Officer Gajda was doing what every law enforcement officer does each and every day: protecting the residents of their city," said Police Chief William Bratton. "On this day, Officer Gajda gave the ultimate sacrifice for any law enforcement officer. He will always be remembered."

Officer Steve Gajda, 29, was killed on January 1, 1998. On the night of the shooting, Officer Gajda was assigned to a unit geared towards stopping citizens from shooting guns in the air to celebrate New Year's Eve. Officer Gajda and some of his fellow officers stopped at a party, which

seemed out of control, to issue a warning. While they were approaching, several gang members fled and the officers gave pursuit. Officer Gajda chased one man who appeared to have a weapon in his waistband. A struggle followed, during which he was shot and killed by the suspect. Two officers on the scene returned fire, killing the 17-year-old suspect who had been wanted

for murder since March 1997.

Officer Steve Gajda, a seven-year member of the Los Angeles Police Department, joined the department after a stint as a helicopter mechanic in the Army's 101st Airborne Division. Born in Park Ridge, Illinois, he moved with his family to the San Fernando Valley in 1978, and graduated from Cleveland High School in Reseda in 1986.

Officer Gadja is survived by his wife Belinda and his two children from a previous marriage.





LAPD Communicates with the 'Phraselator'

he Los Angeles Police Department's latest high-tech crime-fighting tool, the Phraselator, enables officers to translate and broadcast thousands of prerecorded phrases in a multitude of languages. Purchased by the Department last summer, the Phraselator can help officers

communicate in all 224 languages spoken in the city.

To operate, bilingual officers first load the Phraselator's computer memory with standard police commands and questions. The translations then can be retrieved and broadcast by its operator performing a simple memory search in text or by voice command.

Captain Dennis Kato said of the device, "when it comes to crowd control, natural disasters or medical emergencies, [the Phraselator] can be a lifesaver." An important use, Kato said, would be during natural disasters. "In Los

Angeles, we run into so many languages, and the ability to ask someone you are helping, 'Are you injured?' is so important," he said.

The Phraselator was developed with the backing of the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency and used in Afghanistan and Iraq by American soldiers communicating with people in Farsi, Dari, Pashto and other languages. During training sessions with officers after the incident in MacArthur Park, the federal monitor of the consent decree recommended the Phraselator as a way to communicate with non-English-speaking groups.

The devices have already been used at anti-war and immigration rallies in Koreatown and in downtown Los Angeles. To reach the crowds, officers send the translations through speakers that can broadcast sound about half a mile without loss of clarity.

The law enforcement version of Phraselator is brand new and currently being introduced. The Department has purchased four of the \$2,500 devices and a fifth is under consideration for use in Jail Division.

Jose Perez Promoted To Commander

hief Bratton announced the promotion of Captain Jose Perez to Commander on February 12, 2008. "I am always honored to be able to promote those in the LAPD who have clearly shown their commitment to excellence, their dedication to the community and to the men and women of this department," said Chief Bratton.

Captain Perez, currently the Commanding Officer of

Northeast Area, will assume the responsibilities of Department Employee Relations Administrator (ERA) for the Chief of Police. Captain Perez will fill the position left open by Terry Hara, who was recently promoted to Deputy Chief, Operations West Bureau.

Captain Perez was born in Chicago, Illinois. His career path was established while he was in second grade when he assisted a Chicago Police Officer with an



Commander Jose Perez

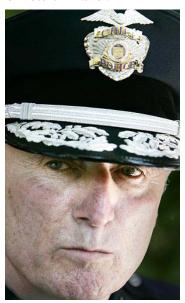
investigation. While in school one day, one of his teachers was a victim of a crime. 'Little Jose' translated information between the police and a fellow Spanish speaking classmate who had witnessed the crime. The officer was very impressed with Jose and spoke to him regarding a future career as a police officer. From there, the seed was planted.

Captain Perez was appointed to the Department in November 1983. As a Police Officer and Training Officer, he worked various assignments such as patrol in Rampart and Southwest, Southwest Area Vice and Special Problems Unit, West Bureau CRASH and Detectives. As a Sergeant, he was assigned to Hollenbeck Area for eleven years. Captain Perez promoted to the rank of Lieutenant in 2001. After promoting to Lieutenant, he was assigned to Rampart Area Patrol, Detectives, and the Gang Impact Team.

In May 2005, Perez was promoted to the rank of Captain where he was assigned to Northeast Area as Patrol

Chief Bratton Helps Deliver Favorable Election Results

os Angeles voters broadly endorsed Proposition S, the Citywide telephone users tax, on February 5, 2008, "Super Tuesday." With voter turnout buoyed by the presidential primary campaign, the City of Los Angeles saw the \$243-million telephone tax, a major defense against a faltering economy, winning by nearly 2 to 1, with about 66% of voters in favor.



Measure S reduces the tax rate from 10 percent to 9 percent, but expands the tax to include modern technology, such as Internet phone use.

Chief Bratton played a pivotal role in the campaign by appearing in television spots and campaign mailers encouraging voters to support the measure. The Chief said voters sent a message about the need to reduce crime and continue hiring police officers, two of his major goals for the Department in 2008. "This vote

shows that Angelenos understand the strides we have made in public safety," said Chief Bratton.

"Proposition S is critical to our efforts to keep crime at historic lows in this City, and we are encouraged the residents of Los Angeles are responding," said Mayor Villaraigosa.

At a mayoral news conference on Wednesday, February 6, 2008, Assistant Chief McDonnell thanked Los Angeles voters for voting in favor of Proposition S.

At the Police Commission weekly meeting on February 12, 2008, Commissioner Ordin thanked and congratulated Chief Bratton for his role in publicly supporting Proposition S. She said the result showed the public's appreciation for the Chief's involvement.

Commanding Officer. He was transferred to Commanding Officer of Rampart Patrol for a time before his promotion to Captain III and his return to Northeast Area.

Captain Perez's promotion will become effective April $1, 2008. \square$



THE FOLLOWING PERSONNEL WERE COMMENDED BY THE COMMUNITY IN THE MONTH OF JANUARY 2008

DEPUTY CHIEF

VOLUME LIV NO. 3

Michael Downing

COMMANDER

Debra McCarthy

CAPTAIN III

Horace Frank Greg Hall Joan Wakefield

CAPTAIN II

Fabian Lizarraga Ann Young

CAPTAIN I

Evangelyn Nathan

LIEUTENANT II

Lillian Alvarado David Dolan Carlos Islas David McGill Dennis Shirey

LIEUTENANT I

Nicholas Barbara Roger Mora

DETECTIVE III

John Bagnall
Heebae Cho
Michael Oppelt
Meliton Orozco
Robert Pulido
Mark Severino
Steven Takeshita
John Williams

DETECTIVE II

Joshua Cho John Fleming LuJuan Illsey Kevin Jackson Tyrone Jones Frances McBride Stanley Morishima

Rob Plourde James Redman Rocky Sato

Mark Wright

DETECTIVE IEugene Arreola

Debra Baca
Bradford Cochran
John Dunlop
David Holmes
Kevin Huff
Ryuichi Ishitani
Carrie Katsumata
Sherry Le
Kyle Lewison
Michael Ozaki
Maria Palmer
Robert Rowedder
Wayland Tam
Webster Wong

SERGEANT II

Sean Karmody John Russo Leland Sands

SERGEANT I

A.J. Kirby
Bryan Lium
Pedro Llanes
Chester McMillion
Martin Tennison
Edgar Villalta

POLICE OFFICER III +1

Victor Aguilar David Cordova Robert DeArmon Mark Griffin Roscoe Jolla Timothy Kim Spiro Roditis Charles Thomas

POLICE OFFICER III Paul Aeschliman

Kevin Ahn Alan Alderete Manuel Arreygue Adolfo Batres Maurice Brunel **Daniel Cota** Frank DePerno Hilda Garcia **Teddy Gonzalez Grant Hiramoto** Mell Hogg **Douglas Humphrey** Tony Im Robert Jaramillo Ryan Lee Fortunato (Tito) Mariscal Randall McCain Matthew McNulty Angelean Monteiro **Brent Phillips** Arturo Ramos Sam Shepard Scotty Stevens **Thomas Stone**

Cynthia Wapp POLICE OFFICER II

Romeo Tamparong

David Tango

Enrique Vaca

Mark Acquaviva
John Baker
Robert Chiu
Jose Cortez-Amaya
Matthew Eastman

Brian Espin Julio Estrada Nicholas Gallego Robert Hargrove Armando Hoyos Christopher Jongsomjit Jennifer Kim Adam Kownacki Wil Lopez James McCarthy James Mitterbauer **Edward Morales** Pete Ojeda Raymond Kim Cesar Rodriguez Jonathan Rosenblum Andrew Rowe Joseph Ruvalcaba Leslie Salinas Phillip Scallon Derek Vaughn

POLICE OFFICER I

Ossiola Cantrell David Gulley Erik Helmstetter Hector Mendoza Paulo Oliveira Jamil Qureshi Brenda Wilson

SENIOR POLICE SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE

Berta Ugas

POLICE SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE 3

Laura Cruz

VOLUME LIV NO. 3 WWW.LAPDONLINE.ORG MARCH 2008

ROLL CALL OF EVENTS

FRIDAY
APRIL 4, 2008
1200 – 1700 HOURS
LAPD Communications Division
2nd Annual Golf Classic

Knollwood Country Club 12040 Balboa Blvd. Granada Hills, CA 91344 213-978-6585

FRIDAY
APRIL 11, 2008
1800 – 2400 HOURS
LAPD CENTURIONS 30TH YEAR
DINNER AND AWARDS CEREMONY

Los Angeles Police Academy 1880 N. Academy Drive Los Angeles, CA 90012 213-473-6669 SATURDAY AND SUNDAY
APRIL 19-20, 2008
BAKER TO VEGAS 24TH ANNUAL
CHALLENGE CUP RELAY

Sponsored by the
Los Angeles Police Revolver
and Athletic Club
For details go to
www.bakervegas.com

SUNDAY
APRIL 27, 2008
0800 – 1300 HOURS
SIMMONS AND VEENSTRA CHARITY
CAR SHOW AND FUNDRAISER

Pierce College 6201 Winnetka Ave. Woodland Hills, CA 91371 Sgt. Darren Holst, 805-490-0555



1.1.3 P.O. Box 30158 Los Angeles, California 90030