

Chief Bratton's Message: Remembering the Fallen

■ LAPD Chief William Bratton delivers his monthly message

As we near the end of 2006 and begin the holiday season, I'd like to reflect on the past year. While the LAPD has enjoyed many successes that reflect the hard work of our men and women to make the City safer, we have also experienced losses ... those who are not with us because they are serving overseas, those we have lost due to illness and accidents, and the loss of one who paid the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty.

As of the First of December, 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 holiday season away from family and friends. While the Department offers financial and career support to our activated military personnel, our LAPD family also offers emotional support to these employees who are our partners and coworkers.

This has also been a difficult year because for the first time in two and a half years, the LAPD lost an officer in the line of duty. On Sunday, Oct. 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 the Department 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. This past year we lost 12 sworn officers, including two reservists, and one civilian employee.

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.

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.



LAPD Chief William Bratton

In mid-June, West Traffic Division Officer Michael Toth was riding his 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 as she challenges 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 by hundreds of volunteers to accommodate Officer Ripatti's new 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 those men and women of the LAPD who are facing extraordinary physical and emotional challenges, those who will not be home with their loved ones, and those that have gone before us. In this city noted for its angels, these are the LAPD's angels. Let me offer you and your families my best wishes for a safe, healthy and happy holiday season.



From left: Paul Gomez (Public Relations Specialist), Raquel Jarel (Management Analyst) and Jimmy Tokeshi (Public Relations Specialist) have joined the Public Affairs Office of the Board of Public Works. Photo by Stephanie Interiano, Public Relations Specialist II, 1 year.

New to Public Affairs

■ Board of Public Works' Public Affairs team welcomes three new employees.

PUBLIC WORKS — The Board of Public Works Public Affairs Office announced the appointment of a management analyst and two public relations specialists to its staff. They are Paul Gomez, Raquel Jarel and Jimmy Tokeshi.

Gomez comes to the office from the public affairs arm of Major League Baseball's Los Angeles Dodgers. "I am happy to be working for the Board of Public Works and I look forward to serving the City of Los Angeles," he said. As supervisor of the Broadcasting and Publications Department, he managed various club publications including game programs, yearbooks and the club newsletter. He assisted in the areas of publicity, community affairs and served as the club liaison to the Dodgers Radio Network, which consists of 25 radio stations. A graduate of California State University Los Angeles, he holds a Bachelor's degree in journalism.

Jarel, as the newly appointed management analyst, began her career with the city in 1987 as a Clerk Typist with Building and Safety. "I am

glad to be back with the Board of Public Works and to see many familiar faces," she said. Within a year she was promoted to Legal Secretary and then progressed to Senior Clerk Typist, Commission Executive Assistant and to the Management Analyst series. She has worked for several departments including the City Attorney's Office, Los Angeles Police Department and Housing Department. She holds a Bachelor's degree in economics from California State University Long Beach.

Tokeshi said, "I appreciate the opportunity to start a new career with the city and the City has my commitment to doing the best job possible." He comes to the office from Murakawa Communications, a strategic communications and public affairs firm that supports government agencies in the building and planning of public works projects. As a consultant, he managed public participation, construction mitigation and crisis communications. His most recent project included the Southeast Water Reliability Project Construction Awareness Program in the southeast portion of Los Angeles County. A graduate from California State University Los Angeles, he holds an MBA with a concentration in marketing and a Bachelor's degree in Radio Television Broadcasting.

Crime Statistics – Citywide

Year to Date as of December 2, 2006

Homicide	Down	-6.2%
Rape	Down	-8.3%
Robbery	Up	5.7%
Aggravated Assault	Down	-8.5%
Total Violent Crimes	Down	-2.2%
Burglary	Down	-8.8%
Burglary/Theft from Vehicle	Down	-10.3%
Personal/Other Theft	Down	-10.0%
Auto Theft	Down	-8.9%
Total Property Crimes	Down	-9.6%
Total Part I Crimes	Down	-8.0%

Haven House

Helping battered women and their children on their way towards a life free of violence.

We need your help to help save lives. You can help in so many ways – cash donations, clothing, food, volunteering. Every little bit helps more than you'll know. Every donation is greatly appreciated – no matter how much. Contact us today at 626.564.8880 to find out how you can help.

For more information on how to donate, please visit our website at www.havenhousela.org or call us at (626) 564-8880.

If you or someone you know needs help, call us now at our **24-Hour Hotline – 1-323-681-2626**.

Haven House is the oldest shelter of its kind in the United States, founded in 1964 to shelter families of violent alcoholics.

Our services include counseling services for women and children in residence and counseling for community clients who are not residents of the shelter.

- Emergency shelter, food and clothing
- Bilingual counseling services for both adults and children
- Assistance with finding permanent housing
- Assistance with finding employment
- Court and social services advocacy
- Assistance with getting welfare
- Legal assistance (TRO's etc.)
- Medical Services

