

## AIRPORTS

## Officer Lopez Leads the Way

Female Airport Police Drill Instructor trains tomorrow's law enforcement officers.

Story by Airport Police Officer Karla Ortiz;  
Photos by Airport Police Officer Shawn Smith.

Airport Police Officer Adela Lopez, Club Member, became the latest Airport Police female drill instructor (DI) to oversee training and graduation of a Los Angeles Police Department Academy class Nov. 5. Although not unheard of, it is rare for an officer representing an outside agency to lead and mentor a class comprised only of LAPD recruits.

Under her leadership, the 31 recruits of class #5-10 were guided from the initial march onto the academy grounds to the swearing-in ceremony that marks successful completion of the training.

"Being a drill instructor is challenging because you have to be knowledgeable, strict and able to teach through discipline while also mentoring the recruits," said Officer Lopez, who started her career with the Airport Police in August 2006.

She added, "I am honored to have been selected for this great responsibility and feel proud and grateful to represent Los Angeles Airport Police."

Lopez started on patrol and quickly was promoted to field training officer, where she successfully trained and mentored many newly hired officers. Following this assignment, she underwent rigorous hours of class study and intense physical training in order to take on her current position as



Airport Police Officer Drill Instructor Adela Lopez, Club Member, during the graduation ceremony for LAPD class #5-10 Nov. 5.

a drill instructor at the LAPD Academy's Recruitment and Training Unit.

"I had great confidence in Officer Lopez' ability, and knew she would be a perfect role model to represent the high standards of the Los Angeles Airport Police," said Airport Police Assistant Chief Brian Walker. Fellow officers have lauded Officer Lopez for her command presence and commitment to her profession.

Under an agreement between the Airport Police and the LAPD, police recruits for both organizations undergo the same training at the academy in order to gain their California Police Officer Standard Training (POST) certificate.



Airport Police Officer Drill Instructor Adela Lopez marches the newly graduated LAPD officers of class #5-10 Nov. 5.

## FINANCE

## Walking, for Memories

Finance employees walk to raise funds to fight Alzheimer's.

Story and photo by Yvonne Liu, Office of Finance

Nov. 7, a team of City employees took steps to benefit educational efforts for those afflicted with Alzheimer's disease. The Alzheimer's Association's 18th annual Memory Walk took place at Century Park in Century City. More than 3,000 people from throughout Los Angeles County participated in this year's walk to raise awareness and funds to fight Alzheimer's disease.

Steve Edwards of FOX 11's "Good Day LA" celebrated his 15th year as host of the event, which included a 5-K walk, live entertainment, refreshments and a health-and-wellness expo. Memory Walk is the nation's largest event to raise awareness and funds for Alzheimer care, support and research, according to organizers – and it calls on people of all ages to take action in the fight. Since 1989, Memory Walk has raised more than \$300 million for the cause.

Ela Vallejo, Executive Administrative Assistant III, Finance, led the 11-member, purple-clad team called Team Hope in the 5-K walk in Century City.

Team Hope consisted of fellow Finance employees Personnel Analyst II Yvonne Liu; Revenue Manager Jeffery Whitmore; Sr. Administrative Analyst II Eva Bitar of CAO's Office; and seven other non-City-affiliated family members and friends, who joined them in the walk.

Together they raised more than \$2,000 for the cause.

"I felt compelled to participate in the Memory Walk because I have seen firsthand the pain, suffering and anguish that are caused by this dreaded disease, said Jeffrey Whitmore. "My mother and two of her sisters were afflicted with



Team Hope, back row, from left: Ela Vallejo, with grandsons Anthony and Isaiah; Greg Arthur; Eva Bitar; Ela's sister, Conchi; Jeff Whitmore; Yvonne Liu; and Conchi's friend, Jackie. Front: Yvonne's sons, Oliver and Ben.

Alzheimer's Disease, and I saw how the life was drained from formerly bright, intelligent, vibrant people. It is a horrible disease and I pray that Alzheimer's Disease is conquered in my lifetime."

"I did this to commemorate my mother, who died in February 2009," said Ela Vallejo. "It feels good to be able to do something active for her and for those afflicted with this illness. Team Hope is looking forward to doing this again next year and be able to raise more money and get more people involved."

All Memory Walk donations benefit the Alzheimer's Association, the leading voluntary health organization in Alzheimer care, support and research. The mission of the Alzheimer's Association is to eliminate Alzheimer's disease through the advancement of research; to provide and enhance care and support for all affected; and to reduce the risk of dementia through the promotion of brain health. For more information regarding how you can support the Alzheimer's Association, please go to: [www.alz.org/memorywalk/](http://www.alz.org/memorywalk/)

# REST INSURED



BY JEFF GELINEAU

Vice President of United Agencies,  
The Club's Auto and Home Insurance Partner



## Going to Mexico For the Holidays?

During the holidays, many people go to Mexico to visit relatives or maybe just for a vacation. Driving to Mexico carries some very specific insurance needs.

First understand that you have to purchase Mexican auto insurance. No standard U.S. policy will extend coverage to Mexico. It's best that you purchase your coverage in advance by calling our office, or finding a reputable company online. If you wait until the last minute and purchase insurance at the border crossing, you may find that the coverage you get is not what you expected. After an accident, a lot of people realize just how limited some of the Mexican insurance products are.

We can provide you with an instant quote, and give you a copy of the policy so that you can actually read about the coverage you are buying.

Here are some issues to consider when purchasing Mexican Auto Insurance.

**1. Will the Mexican insurance company allow you to repair your vehicle in the United States or Canada?**

Some Mexican insurance companies actually require your vehicle to be fixed in Mexico! So even if you only have cosmetic damage to your vehicle (and the car is still drivable), you will still be required to leave your car in Mexico to be repaired. Unless you live in Mexico, most people would much rather drive their car back to their home in the United States and get it repaired locally. Make sure to purchase a Mexican insurance policy that allows you to fix your vehicle in the country of your choice.

If you are allowed to repair the car in the United States, what labor rate will the Mexican insurance policy pay?

U.S. hourly labor rates are much higher than most hourly labor rates in Mexico, so it is not uncommon for some Mexican insurance companies to pay only the Mexican hourly labor rate (as low as \$20 per hour) for repairs made in the United States. If this is a concern, look for a policy that offers to pay whatever the U.S. labor rate is or up to a certain dollar amount per hour for U.S. labor.

**2. Does the insurance include legal service?**

Legal service, which includes attorney fees, court costs, and bail, is one of the most important coverages that should be included with every Mexican auto insurance policy.

In the event that there are serious injuries or fatalities, you will need an attorney to guide you through the Mexican court system. Without this coverage, you could spend days in a Mexican jail and pay thousands of dollars out of pocket. All ethical Mexican insurance providers should make this coverage mandatory!

**3. Does the Mexican insurance include medical evacuation and plane tickets home?**

Most Mexican insurance policies do not include this type of coverage, but some companies will add enhanced travel assistance coverages like medical evacuation – air or land ambulance. A typical air medical evacuation costs between \$10,000 and \$20,000, so it makes financial sense to have this coverage.

Plane tickets home – In the event that your car is stolen or is not drivable, this coverage will pay for you and possibly the rest of the people in your travel group to fly back to your home in the United States or Canada.

**4. Do you know what deductibles Mexican insurance includes?**

Make sure you know exactly what your deductibles are. Typically, Mexican auto insurance has two different deductibles.

Physical damage deductible: In most cases this is between \$500 and \$1,000. Most Mexican insurance offers deductibles based on a percentage of the vehicle's value. The most common is 2 percent of the vehicle's value, with a minimum of \$500.

Theft deductible: In most cases this is between \$1,000 and \$1,500. Most Mexican insurance offers deductibles based on a percentage of the vehicle's value. The most common theft deductible is 5 percent of the vehicle's value, with a minimum of \$1,000.

There are some Mexican auto insurance products out there that have deductibles of more than \$2,500 – so make sure you know what you are getting!

Feel free to call our agency if you have any questions about Mexican auto insurance, would like to get a quote for your next trip through us, or would like a question answered on any type of insurance.

Call Xavier Rodriguez at (888) 801-5522 for a quote on Mexican auto insurance!

**Be safe and have fun!**

United Agencies is the Club's partner in helping members with their home and auto insurance, and related products. We specialize in creating personal relationships with our customers, and serving their needs in a prompt, efficient and friendly manner.

Check out our City Employees Club page on the United Agencies Website at [www.unitedagencies.com/city-club](http://www.unitedagencies.com/city-club). This website lists the upcoming visits we'll be making to City Department meetings where you can ask us any question in person, and get an instant quote!

**Have a question?** Is there something about insurance that you've always wanted to know, but were too ashamed to ask? Maybe something that you've just always been curious about? Feel free to send me an email at [jgelineau@unitedagencies.com](mailto:jgelineau@unitedagencies.com), and I will try to answer your question in one of our monthly columns.

**Call United Agencies Burbank today at (888) 801-5522**

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