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## Airports

Story by Sgt. Belinda Nettles, Airport Police; Photos by Sgt. Belinda Nettles and Madeleine Flanagan, Airport Police

# Running For Tommy



Airport Police Officer Tommy E. Scott's Memorial is located on the north perimeter of LAX.

## Airport Police raises money for scholarships during Tommy E. Scott Memorial Ride.



Hubert Scott (Officer Tommy Scott's father) looks on as Airport Police Officer Tanansuk Chow and Assistant Chief Michael Hyams post the U.S. flag at Officer Scott's Memorial on the north perimeter of LAX.

Airport Police hosted the third annual Tommy E. Scott 5K April 30, beginning at 7:30 a.m. in front of the Airport Police Station. The annual run was held in honor of Airport Police Officer Tommy E. Scott, who was killed in the line of duty April 29, 2005. Proceeds from the event go toward the Tommy E. Scott Scholarship Fund.

Officer Scott was the first Airport Police Officer to be killed in the line of duty in the 68-year history of the force. He joined Los Angeles Airport Police in 2001 and was 35 at the time of his death. Officer Scott was killed after stopping a suspicious man in a vehicle near the LAX fence line. The suspect, William Sadowski, was convicted of carjacking and first-degree murder Nov. 16, 2009, and was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole.

"I am proud to be a part of an organization with a group of people dedicated to preserving the memory of a great man," Airport Police Chief Patrick Gannon said. "We will never forget his service to the aviation community and will always remember his sacrifice."

Officer Scott's parents, Hubert and JoAnn Carter-Scott, attended. He is also survived by a brother, Hubert Scott Jr.



Airport Police Bike Officers escort the group running in remembrance of Officer Tommy Scott.



Runners approaching the location of Officer Tommy E. Scott's Memorial.

## Airports

Story courtesy Airport Police

# Det. Cruz Honored

## Det. Claudio Cruz honored by Westchester Rotary.

Airport Police Det. Claudio Cruz, assigned to the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) LAX Narcotics Task Force (LAXNTF), was recognized for exceptional performance recently. He was honored May 7 at the "Guns and Hoses" Police and Fire Appreciation Luncheon hosted by Inglewood and Westchester Rotary Clubs at the Crown Plaza Hotel.

Det. Cruz, a 23-year veteran, was honored for his service and dedication to the aviation community, which has set him apart in the performance of his duties during the past year. His hard work, professionalism and commitment have been credited with the overall success of the Airport Police Division's participation in the LAXNTF, one of the first units of its kind in the United States.

The LAXNTF is comprised of DEA agents and detectives from the Airport Police Division, the LAPD, and the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department. LAXNTF is partially responsible for the apprehension and interception of domestic drug and money couriers at LAX. The LAXNTF interdicts numerous couriers attempting to transport large numbers of illegal drug proceeds through the airport, in an attempt to disrupt and dismantle the financial infrastructure that is paramount to drug trafficking organizations.

Det. Cruz is also collaterally assigned to the Los Angeles Inter-Agency Multi-Jurisdictional Police Apprehension Crime Team (LA IMPACT).

He holds a unique position in that he is also deputized federal DEA Task Force Officer.

During federal fiscal year 2013, LAXNTF, in partnership with LA IMPACT, seized more than \$7.2 million in U.S. currency, 320 pounds of marijuana, 4.6 kilograms of cocaine, and seven kilograms of heroin. In addition, 19 arrests were made. Det. Cruz has conducted

lengthy investigations, served multiple search warrants, conducted numerous interviews, and prepared cases for the City Attorney's Office, the District Attorney's Office and the United States Attorney's Office for prosecution and asset-forfeiture proceedings.

These cases led to the recovery and seizure of millions in U.S. currency and property, and resulted in the arrests and convictions of numerous suspects.

In July 2013, Det. Cruz was the lead case agent in charge of an investigation that resulted in an arrest and seizure of two pounds of marijuana, two kilograms of cocaine, 23,500 scheduled prescription drug pills, and \$375,644 in U.S. currency.

"Detective Cruz is a true testament of someone who is dedicated to making a difference in the community he serves," Airport Police Chief Patrick Gannon said. "His commitment to partnership and team work has made a tangible difference in protecting our communities from drug infiltration."

Congratulations to Det. Cruz from the Club! His photo is withheld for security reasons.

