



# TACOPS

## ROLL CALL BRIEFING SHEET

LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT

TACTICAL COMMUNICATIONS

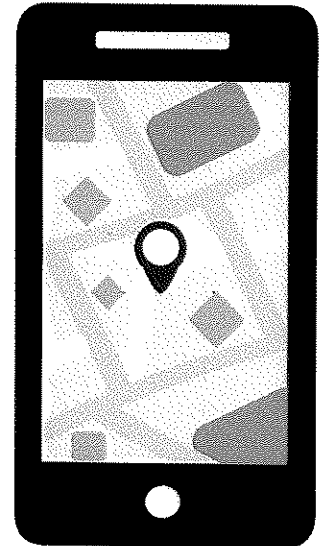
## SITUATIONAL AWARENESS

### KNOW YOUR LOCATION

Personal electronic devices such as cellphones and global positioning devices have become more and more prevalent in both our personal and work lives. The ease of use and near instant access to tremendous amounts of information have made them almost indispensable to us. Unfortunately, this ease of use and utility has resulted in some officers' over-reliance on them.

Officers are reminded that there is no substitute for maintaining awareness of one's location and surroundings.

One of the Department's greatest advantages is that we have the ability to summon a large amount of personnel, tools, and resources at any time of day or night to help us resolve a situation. However, these assets can only respond to your location if you are able to accurately describe where you are when requesting help.



There have been several recent incidents where officers became involved in critical incidents and did not immediately know their locations. In these cases, the officers were forced to use the map functions on their cellphones to determine where they were in order to request help. This over-reliance on cellphones caused a significant delay in putting out the help call. In one case, an officer's cellphone indicated that they were a full block away from their actual location, which delayed the response of additional personnel. In another case, an officer and his partner were involved in an extended use of force with a suspect where one of the officers had to utilize his cellphone to determine their location while his partner was still involved in the physical altercation with the suspect.

### CONCLUSION

While technology can be an incredible force multiplier, it can also result in an over-reliance on it, which has the potential for resulting in catastrophe. The practice of being aware of your location and your surroundings is one of the pillars of Officer Safety and should be maintained at all times, both on and off-duty.

**Take Care of Each Other and Stay Safe Out There!**