

On January 1, 1952, the LAPD adjusted the perimeters of its geographic police divisions to conform to Federal Census Tract boundaries. Formerly, each police division was subdivided into Radio Districts for purposes of deployment and crime reporting. The census tracts were renamed "Reporting Districts" to distinguish it as a geographic police area.



## 8 POLICE INDICTED IN BEATING CASE

Los Angeles Times Headline  
April 23, 1952

In 1950, the Bureau of Administration was created; Public Information Division was established, assuming the duties of the former Public Relationship Section; Planning and Research Division was established; and, Juvenile Bureau was formed.

On December 25, 1951, seven Mexican American youths are arrested and beaten by Los Angeles police officers in an incident that becomes known as "Bloody Christmas." Eight officers are later indicted and 36 others are disciplined.

The 1950 Annual Report of the Department was printed and for the first time was circulated among the citizens of Los Angeles, to help develop an interest in the Police Department.

In 1952, Civilian Employment Section of Personnel Division processed the hiring of 352 civilians. During this same period, there were 246 resignations and 53 vacancies due to other reasons, for a net increase of 53 positions. Worth noting is the fact that the police department hired three times more civilian employees in 1952 than police officers. This is in line with current policy of replacing policemen in office tasks with technically proficient civilians, releasing the officers to field duties for which they were originally trained.



A new combat range was added at the Elysian Park Academy with electrically timed silhouette targets in 1953.

New Combat Range

1953

In 1950, City was 453 square miles, with an estimated population of 1,970,358 and the Department had 4494 authorized sworn positions with 336 vacancies for an actual strength of 4158 sworn employees and 608 authorized civilian positions with 9 vacancies for an actual strength of 599 civilian employees.



Construction of the nation's largest intra-urban system of freeways continues at an accelerated pace, imposing additional demands on the Police Department in 1953. Additional motorcycle officers were assigned to patrol all freeways in an effort to promote more uniformed speed. Their efforts, coupled with widespread publicity, resulted in a reduction in the number of freeway accidents of over 40%.

September 1952, Los Angeles hosted the 59th annual International Association of Chief of Police (IACP) Conference, the first to be held in Southern California. This year and the following year, LAPD's traffic law enforcement program was recognized for its excellence by the IACP with a 1st place award for cities of 1,000,000 population and over.



Of the police officers 4494 employed with the Department in 1951, seventy percent were under 35 years of age, the average age being 33, with 7 years of police service. Over 1,500 police officers either attended college before joining the Department or are currently enrolled in university level studies. 72% are veterans of military service, mostly in WW II or Korea. Evidence of the caliber of men attracted to police service here may be found in their military background. Their 1,190 military decorations include 205 Purple Hearts, 41 Silver Stars, 79 Distinguished Flying Crosses, 637 Air Metals, and 180 Bronze Stars; two officers hold the Distinguished Service Cross, the nation's second highest military award.