

One of the most violent social upheavals to confront the Los Angeles Police Department occurred in August 1965. For seven days, the Los Angeles community of Watts was engulfed in rioting and looting. With the help of other law enforcement agencies and the California National Guard, rioting and looting were brought to a halt. In the end, 34 people were killed, 1,032 were injured, 3,952 were arrested, and 600 buildings were damaged or destroyed.



Officers taking cover during Watts Riots



Police Student Worker

The Police Student Worker program started in February 1967 for men between the age of 18-21 and enrolled in an accredited college.



Rampart Station

The 16th geographic area, Rampart Division, opened on October 23, 1966, and became Division No. 2.

Basic operational procedures to be allowed for restoring peace and normalcy to the City were set forth in the Tactical Manual in 1965.

Under conditions of civil disorder or natural disaster, the police must rapidly and smoothly adjust deployment to meet the crisis. When this occurs, a "tactical alert" is declared and 50% of the patrol force is automatically put on stand-by to assist if directed to the scene. This plan gives adequate coverage for almost any emergency and still maintains protection of unaffected areas of the City. These new theories of mobilization, communication, mass arrest and personnel control were tested by a simulated major earthquake exercise in 1967.

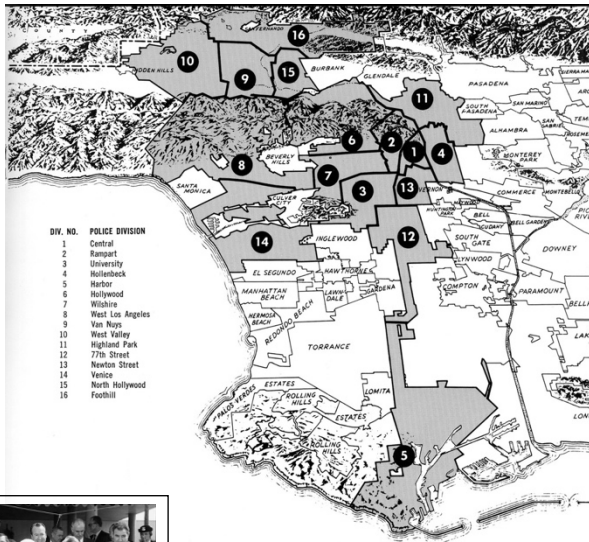
In 1967, Joyce Kano was the first female Asian Pacific Islander American policewoman.

Gary Murakami was the first Asian Pacific Islander American officer killed in the line of duty in 1968.

As a result of several sniping incidents against civilians and police officers around the country, Officer John Nelson presented the special weapons and tactics concept to a young inspector by the name of Darryl F. Gates in 1967. Inspector Gates concurred and approved the concept. The first Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) Unit consisted of 15 four-man teams, with each member having specialized experience and prior military service. In 1971, the SWAT personnel were assigned on a full-time basis to Metropolitan Division.

1964

In 1964, Valley Police Headquarters opened. The establishment of this headquarters in the San Fernando Valley was influenced by such factors as distance, population concentration, traffic density and geographical location and provided Van Nuys, West Valley, North Hollywood and Foothill Divisions with many of the staff and auxiliary services previously only available at the Police Administration Building. Van Nuys Division also moved into this facility.



LAPD Map from 1966

The first Police Olympics were held in San Diego, California in 1967. San Diego Police Officers Association would host the 1st Annual California Police Olympics. LAPD officers won 82 of the 210 medals awarded.



Behavioral Science Services came about in 1968.



Valley Police Headquarters



In 1966, Divisional Advisory Councils started to develop a mutual understanding between the community and the police. The councils, each consisting of approximately 50 citizens, meet with the community relations officer and commanders to exchange ideas and discuss problems.

(←) Following Chief Parker's untimely death in 1966, the Administrative Building was renamed Parker Center.

In 1968, responsibility of patrol of the City's freeways was passed to the California Highway Patrol.