

Until May 16th, the Department had no knowledge that a group of heavily armed, fugitive terrorists of the Symbionese Liberation Army were in the vicinity of Los Angeles seeking to escape detection. Attempting to capture the kidnapers of heiress Patty Hearst, on May 17, 1974, police surround and storm a Southeast Los Angeles house on East 54th Street occupied by Symbionese Liberation Army members. After a furious televised gunfight, the house caught fire and burnt to the ground. One SLA member is killed by police outside the house and five other bodies are found in the ashes, having died from burns, smoke inhalation and gunshot wounds. Patty Hearst is not among them. The incident ranks among the most ferocious police gunfights in U.S. history with a total of 9,000 rounds exchanged (5,000 from police and 4,000 from SLA members). No police officers are injured.

Special Project Units were born out of a 30-day trial in Central's Skid Row, in 1977, where eight hand-picked officers wore inconspicuous clothing to blend into the environment and mounted 10-speed bicycles to patrol. The newly acquired hand-held Rover radio assured instantaneous communication with other Area personnel. The eight officers made so many important felony arrests during the 30-day test period that they were given permanent status.

The Los Angeles Police Centurions Football Team was established in 1979 with 48 officers.



Hollywood's new station was dedicated on November 29, 1979.



Hollywood Station

Honor Guard established in 1979.

Officer running with bullhorn at SLA incident →



In 1974, the City Council authorized a new badge for all members of the Reserve Corps on which the words "Reserve Officer" were changed to "Police Officer." This was done to eliminate the misconception that on-duty authority of Reservists differs from that of full-time sworn personnel.



West Los Angeles Station

In 1974, West Los Angeles Division moved into a new station.



Southeast Area, the Department's 18th geographic Area, was activated in July 1978 and was dedicated on September 20, 1978.

Central Facilities opened in 1977.



Central Station



Southeast Station



Dive Unit

The Underwater Dive Unit formed in April 1977.

1974

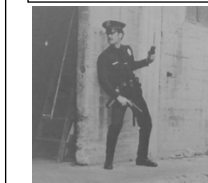
In 1974, Wilshire Division moved into a new station.



Wilshire Station

Venice Station →

Student Buy Program began in 1974 with the full cooperation of the Board of Education.



Officer with ROVER

In 1974, Venice Division moved into a new station. In 1982, in order to better reflect the community, Venice Division became Pacific Area.

A new device, the Remote Out-of-Vehicle Emergency Radio (ROVER) was issued in October 1976 to all uniformed personnel assigned to Central for testing under actual field conditions prior to City-wide implementation.

The Asian Task Force was activated in 1975.

Community Resources Against Street Hoodlums (CRASH) was implemented in February 1977 in all five Areas assigned to Operations-Central Bureau. It is also active in Southwest and 77th. By 1979, all 18 divisions had a CRASH unit assigned to it, whose primary goal was to suppress the influx of gang-related crimes in Los Angeles, which came about primarily from the increase in the drugs trade.

In 1974, construction was completed on the only firearm training simulator of its kind in the world. Full-time operation began in 1976.



Firearm Simulator

August 6, 1974, at 8:10 am, three people were killed and 36 others were injured when a bomb planted in a coin operated locker some 20 feet from the check-in counter of Pan American World Airlines in the Overseas Passenger Lobby at LAX exploded. The attack was perpetrated by 37-year-old Yugoslavian immigrant Muharem Kurbegovic, who was arrested two weeks after the bombing. Kurbegovic was nicknamed "The Alphabet Bomber" because of his alleged plan to attack places in an order that would make an anagram of Aliens of America.

In 1978, California voters overwhelmingly passed Proposition 13, which lowered property taxes for millions of the state's homeowners. However, its passage reduced tax funding to the LAPD, which meant that active police officers were required to dedicate their duty hours exclusively to enforcement, not as musicians. As a result, the band was dissolved. Shortly after the band dissolved, a group of civic leaders headed by theater owner, Bob Ahmanson, and Gene Roddenberry, formed an all-volunteer band under the direction of John Campbell. Throughout the 1980s the band expanded into the 75-member ensemble it is today.