

The LAPD SWAT Team started the L.A.S.T. Death Valley Relay in 1979, a 116-mile relay from Scott's Castle to Salabury Pass, to enter the Guinness Book of Records. They ran as partners and it was 17 legs. It was opened up to other agencies in 1980 and grew to 35 teams in 1985.



L.A.S.T. Death Valley Relay shirt

In 1981, the hiring, training and deployment of 238 Police Service Representatives (PSRs), a new classification, made it possible for 52 sworn officers assigned to Communications Division to assume duties in the field.



PSRs ←

In 1981, the Peer Counseling Program was started and 10 Reserve Specialists formed an Employee Assistance Program to aid the surviving spouse of an LAPD employee.

The Hillside Strangler - In October 1979, the 1977-78 murders of 10 young women were solved with the arrest in Bellingham, Washington, of Kenneth Bianchi. Bianchi plead guilty to five of the murders and implicated his cousin, Angelo Buono Jr., who was arrested the same day and charged with 10 counts of murder.

In 1980, the Taser and Chemical Shield were approved and put into use as alternatives to deadly force.

In September 1983, Chief Gates knew that in order for the Department to gain control over the growing drug problem on the streets of Los Angeles, a new approach was needed and it was called DARE, an acronym for Drug Abuse Resistance Education. It was designed to teach elementary school children to say no to drugs. DARE was the first program of its kind to be developed by a law enforcement agency in the United States. It has proven to be so effective that it is taught worldwide.



Northeast Station

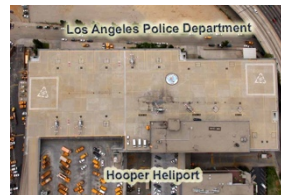
On April 4, 1983, Steven Wong was appointed as Commanding Officer of Fiscal Support Bureau. He became the first civilian in the Department to attain this level.

The Highland Park Police Station, the city's oldest surviving police station, was closed when the new Northeast Station opened on December 10, 1983. The Northeast Station was dedicated in March 1984.

1983

On January 3, 1979, two officers answered a radio call of a dispute in South Los Angeles were confronted by an angry knife-wielding woman. Prior to their arrival, Mrs. Eulia Love, 39, struck a gas company employee with a shovel and injured him. For several minutes, the officers attempted to persuade Mrs. Love into dropping the knife. They failed, and as she threw the knife at the officers, both fired, killing the woman. The killing generated widespread coverage in the local news media, and sparked public outrage, which led the Los Angeles Police Commission to conduct its own investigation of the shooting. The Commissioners called for revised training procedures and established a new policy on the use of force.

The nation's largest rooftop heliport was dedicated July 22, 1983, at Piper Technical Center, headquarters to Air Support Division. The Division was the world's largest airborne law enforcement agency at that time, deploying 16 helicopters and one fix winged aircraft, manned by 44 pilots and 26 observers. The facility was named after Jay Stephen Hooper, a former command pilot, who succumbed to cancer in 1979.



Five officers received special Department Chaplain badges from the Chief of Police on September 15, 1983, qualifying them to counsel sworn and civilian employees in time of personal crisis and to officiate at marriage and funeral services.



Marion Hellenkamp



Chaplain Badge

The Department's first female captain, Connie Speck, was promoted to captain on October 5, 1980.



Connie Speck

In 1981, Marion Hellenkamp broke the gender and color barrier by becoming the first female African-American Lieutenant.

LAPD Band
(←)

Full equality would not be achieved until the Fanchon Blake Consent Decree of 1980 opened up promotional opportunities and assignments became fair game for both genders. The Consent Decree ended seven years of litigation during which the Police Department was charged with discrimination in hiring of minority officers. Under the terms of the Decree, the Department agreed that 20% of all hired would be female, 22.5% Hispanics and 22.5% Blacks. The hiring requirements were to remain in effect until the female sworn strength reached 20% and the minority strength reached population parity with the minority civilian workforce. The Crime Prevention Assistant (CPA) program also evolved from this decree.