

The Scientific Investigation Division (SID) Criminalistics Laboratory received its national accreditation by the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors/ Laboratory Accreditation Board in December 1998, reaffirmed SID its position as one of the nation's premier laboratories.

Around 4:00 p.m. on March 18, 1997, undercover LAPD officer Frank Lyga shot and killed off-duty LAPD officer Kevin Gaines following a case of apparent road rage. An investigation into the shooting found Lyga acted in self-defense, according to department policy and no action was taken against Lyga.

Formed in March 1999, the LAPD Y2K Ad Hoc Committee created a plan to address the various challenges from events relating to the millennium change.



Terry Hara

In 1998, Terry Hara became the first Japanese-American to hold the rank of Captain.



MTD

**Y2K**

The installation of the new Mobile Data Terminal (MDT) equipment in police vehicles was completed at the end of December 1999, replacing the old radio communication system from 1983, with 1,400 new MTDs.



Rampart CRASH Logo

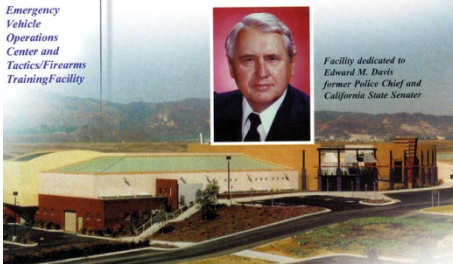
A new toll-free non-emergency number, 877-ASK-LAPD, was introduced in June 1999.

In 1999, the LAPD was hit by its worst scandal in 60 years when former officer Rafael Perez alleged that he and other Rampart Division officers engaged in illegal actions including perjury, staged shootings, false arrests, false evidence, witness intimidation, beatings, theft and drug dealing. Perez offers to cooperate on these allegations in exchange for a reduced sentence in his cocaine theft conviction. The L.A. District Attorney begins a review of hundreds of cases related to these allegations. The convictions of four men are consequently overturned and they are released from prison.

On March 2, 1998, an officer signed out three kilograms of cocaine for court in Frank Lyga's name. When the cocaine was not returned, the Commanding Officer of Property Division sent a notice to Lyga's commanding officer. Lyga disavowed any knowledge of the cocaine and the Property Officer who handled the original transaction verified Lyga had not checked it out. The investigation soon focused on Officer Rafael Perez, whom they suspected, at the time, of targeting Lyga in retaliation for the shooting of Gaines. Perez was assigned to Rampart CRASH but had been loaned to narcotics for six months just prior to the theft. In August 1998, LAPD internal affairs investigators arrested Perez.

1999

The Department's website, LAPDOnline, was launched on August 18, 1998. (→)



Davis Emergency Vehicle Operations Center and Tactics/Firearms Training Facility

On October 26, 1998, a new 44-acre state-of-the-art police training facility opened in Granada Hills and was named the Edward M. Davis Emergency Vehicle Operations Center and Tactics/Firearms Training Facility for former Police Chief and California State Senator Edward M. Davis.



Facility dedicated to Edward M. Davis, former Police Chief and California State Senator

**MTA TRANSIT POLICE MERGER PROJECT**

The MTA Transit Police Department has grown from a small and unheralded specialized police agency only a few short years ago into a widely respected and highly professional major law enforcement agency. We can all take a great measure of pride in what our police department has become and what it has achieved over the past several years. Staff analysis concludes that by merging the impressive skills and capabilities of the MTA PD into the LAPD and LASH the MTA and the partners would receive enhanced law enforcement service at a lower unit cost. This new organizational structure would provide the MTA with the very best in law enforcement capability and performance while at the same time enhancing the level of police protection for the regional transit system. Another very important aspect of this merger is that instead of a self-financed specialized police force the MTA and the entire community would be served by full service law enforcement agencies. This enhancement of service would be achieved with the Transit Policing Partnership while the MTA Board and management retain appropriate policy and functional oversight.

**MTA Merger with LAPD**

On November 23, 1998, the LAPD absorbed approximately 60% of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority Police Department.



Trauma Shooting Kit



Officer leading children from North Valley Jewish Community Center

Community Policing has effectively been institutionalized at the LAPD. Gone are the days of only one senior lead officer liaison per Basic Car area. The Department's new philosophy in 1998, "Ideal Basic Car in the Ideal Area," required every field officer to act as liaison to a community for any concern at any given time. The new system provided a mechanism for better accountability to the community's needs at all times.

In 1999, the Los Angeles Police Foundation bought 10,000 Trauma Shooting kits, one for every officer, making the LAPD the first police department in the nation to have this type of equipment issued to all its officers.