On February 25, 2003, Sharon Papa became the first female to attain the rank of Assistant Chief.

Officer Bridgette Robinson became the Department’s first female African American motorcycle officer in 2003.

Commercial Crimes Division was established in May 2003 with the merger of Burglary Auto Theft Division and Financial Crimes Division.

The Valley Communication Dispatch Center was complete July 2001 and opened on February 23, 2004.

On May 1, 2007, what began as a peaceful march and rally ended in confrontation - seemingly the result of a small group of individuals attempting to incite a disturbance, coupled with decisions made by Department personnel. The images of helmeted officers, using batons to push and strike members of the public and the media and firing less-lethal impact munitions at people in MacArthur Park, were disconcerting. As a result, Chief William Bratton apologized, the commanding officer was demoted, seventeen other officers faced penalties, and the LAPD paid more than $13 million in damages. Due to the large number of public demonstrations that occur in the City, Chief Bratton requested the development of a Department-wide Mobile Field Force and Crowd Control Training that incorporate all of the lessons learned from May Day 2007. The training was provided to all sworn employees in 2007-2008.

West Valley Area moved into a new police station that was dedicated on April 14, 2005.

Mission Area becomes the Department’s 19th police station, was dedicated on April 30, 2005, and began service on Sunday, May 1, 2005.

Introduced in 2007, the Smart Car was the evolution of numerous stand-alone systems integrated into one vehicle. With License Plate Recognition, Digital In-Car Video Camera, Facial Recognition Software, Pursuit Management Technology, Mesh Enabled Architecture and Dell Laptop Computers, this was the Department’s most technologically advanced patrol vehicle to date.

Following the June 23, 2004, Use of Force incident where an LAPD officer was captured on videotape hitting a car-chase suspect with a flashlight, the Los Angeles Police Commission approved a policy relative to the officers’ use of flashlights on January 11, 2005. Chief Bratton said he would direct officers to switch to smaller and lighter flashlights and the new flashlights would be 10 inches long or shorter, would weigh less than 12 ounces and, unless shorter than 6.9 inches, must be made of rubber or polymer.

In 2007, the Department tested a deployment of T3 Series Personal Electric Mobility vehicles in the Central Area to augment foot beats and cycle units.