

# THE ROTATOR

The Newsletter for LAPD Reserve Officers



Volume 11

Winter 2012

## ROTATOR INTERVIEW: JIM LOMBARDI

By Reserve Officer Michael Sellars

*If you are an LAPD reserve police officer, you should know of Jim Lombardi — unless you've lived under a rock. Reserve Officer Lombardi has lived and breathed the LAPD Reserve Corps, and California reserve law enforcement, for a very long time. It's unlikely we will see the likes of him again. He is the R9 of the Corps and, it seems*

*for just as long, the president of the California Reserve Peace Officers Association (CRPOA). At any given time, he is at his day job, or working Central Area, or in Sacramento, or at his home serving as a volunteer fireman or at his beach house in Mexico, his much-deserved refuge. The Rotator frantically caught up with him.*

**ROTATOR:** Jim, let's start with your R9 agenda. What's currently on your plate; what are the priorities that need to be addressed for the LAPD Reserve Corps?

**LOMBARDI:** We have a few things on our agenda. The management group has been accepted throughout its history differently sometimes by different administrations in the Department. It is a higher priority now under Chief Beck, and we are implementing programs that we've been working on for the last five years.

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Photo by Mitch Reiter, mitchreiterphotography.com

LAPD reserve police officers worked the incident at the Art Walk in July — some on duty until 2 a.m., some having to get up and go to their other jobs only a few hours later.



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# DEPARTMENT RESERVE COORDINATOR'S MESSAGE

By Police Administrator II Gloria Grube

Happy holidays! The year 2012 is rapidly coming to a close and we will soon be ushering in a new year. One major change that has taken place is that Lieutenant Craig Herron, the officer-in-charge of the Reserve Officer and Volunteer Section (ROVS), has left the section for a new assignment with the Abused Child Unit, at Juvenile Division. One of the accomplishments achieved by Lieutenant Herron and his staff this year included the Automated Stipend Program.

This program is a Department-wide tracking system that enables reserve coordinators to track reserve officers' hours, thereby making the process of stipend payments much more efficient. I thank Lieutenant Herron for his contributions to the reserve officer program over the last few years. He will be missed and we wish him well!

Sergeant Guillermo Galvan, who brings 26 years of meaningful experience, will be acting officer-in-charge and will continue to build on the

foundation Lieutenant Herron and his staff have established. I am confident that Sergeant Galvan will be a positive addition to ROVS.

The fiscal state of the city continues to be a challenge; consequently, your participation in this program has never been more important. In an effort to expand the program, during the last few

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See "Coordinator's Message"



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*Message from the President of the Reserve Foundation*

By Reserve Officer Melvin B. Kennedy

Dear Friends,

I hope this issue finds you all well and that you are all looking forward to the holiday season. Soon we will move into a new year and I know that there will be many challenges, but I am so encouraged by the consistent high level of support we are getting from the leadership of our Department and the city. Chief Beck has placed the Reserve Corps on his list of high priorities; you see, all available resources must be brought to bear when addressing the ongoing fiscal crisis and personnel cutbacks.

We all realize that the Police Reserve Corps and police specialist volunteers are not the only answer to the city's financial woes, but they are proven programs in the arsenal. When utilized to the fullest, these programs will go a long way to enhance public safety by freeing other resources to be reallocated in support of the Department's mission.

These programs have been proven throughout our history. Imagine today a city with 11,000 specialist volunteers as we had

in the Civil Defense Police Auxiliary during World War II. Imagine today an LAPD with 2,000 fully trained and certified reserve police officers as it was by the end of the war when 2,000 members of the Police Auxiliary were sworn into the Police Reserve Corps, officially authorized by the City Council in 1945 and made a permanent part of the LAPD in 1947.

In the first part of December, the Los Angeles Police Museum will open the new Reserve Corps exhibit. I had the opportunity to preview it and we have gone from a single picture on the wall to a room-size exhibit of our own. Reserve Officer and former City Councilmember Greig Smith's \$5,000 donation was matched by the Los Angeles Police Reserve Foundation to finance the exhibit along with funds provided by the Los Angeles Police Museum. They have done a fine job, and after a few finishing touches the museum will open the exhibit to the public. Reserves and their guests should simply ID themselves at the door and admission will be free. I encourage you to take time to go and see

this beautiful monument to the history of our Department and our contribution to it.

Imagine a modern effort utilizing thousands of volunteers, Neighborhood Watches, reserves and community supporters to meet the public safety challenges of this century. Let's do more than imagine. Let's do what we do best and let's make it happen.

Recruitment is a good place to start. Tell others about the good we do and how it makes you feel to do it. Tell them what it is like to be in the right place at the right time, fully trained and mentally prepared to handle a crisis or tragic event. Tell them how it feels to be a part of something greater than ourselves. Be prepared to participate in the restructuring and expansion of these programs. It is your time now, your place in history. Make your mark a great one with the Los Angeles Police Reserve Corps.

God bless and be safe,  
Melvin B. Kennedy  
President



# FULL-TIME OFFICERS RETIRING INTO THE RESERVE CORPS

A growing number of LAPD officers have joined the Reserve Corps after retiring from full-time service. Since July 2010, 42 officers have transitioned to the Corps. Previously, 20 officers were identified who had retired and entered reserve service.

In July, Chief of Police Charlie Beck congratulated his security staff officer, Police Officer Bob Donaldson, on his recent retirement and on becoming a reserve police officer. Officer Joe Buscaino, currently on leave from the Department as a Los Angeles city councilmember, has signed up for reserve officer duties. Councilmember Dennis Zine, a retired LAPD sergeant, is also a member of the Reserve Corps.

Officer Steve Whitelaw began his law enforcement career as a reserve officer in 1979

and went full time in 1982. Before retiring, he served as the reserve coordinator in West Valley Area for about five years. "After 33 years, the job doesn't just go away." It's a part of you, he says, just as it was when he was first inspired by *Adam-12*. And by transitioning back into the Corps, he will be able to work with his son, who is on the Department, and another son, who may be coming on to the job soon.

Currently, 63 out of the current 276 Level I reserve police officers (23 percent) are retired full-time officers. In fall 2009, *The Rotator* reported on the transitioning of officers between full time and reserve in the article "The Strength and Professionalism of the LAPD Reserve Corps." The LAPD is able to retain the valuable experience of these officers as they transition through the long arc of their career and life choices.

There are now three active LAPD reserve officers on the L.A. City Council: Officers Zine and Buscaino and Officer Mitch Englander. ☪

Save the Date:  
**Children's Hospital  
Los Angeles  
December 15**

This will be the 17th year that Chief Charlie Beck and LAPD reserve officers join Santa in visiting CHLA.

## COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Photo by Reserve Officer Ali Bashir



Approximately 40 to 45 LAPD reserve officers participated in the Sunshine Kids Code 3 Run. The kids were sworn in as honorary officers for the day and rode Code 3 — lights and siren — from Universal to Raleigh Studios in Hollywood. The Sunshine Kids Foundation is a nonprofit organization dedicated to children with cancer. This is the seventh year the LAPD and its officers have supported the annual visit by these very special kids.



Reserve Officer David Bush presents a Special Olympics athlete with a Jr. Police badge, Chief's coin and LAPD patch. ☪

## ROTATOR INTERVIEW - CONTINUED FROM PG 1

**ROTATOR:** What's the current status of LEOSA?

**LOMBARDI:** It became law, as a federal statute, that gave peace officers protections when they travel throughout the country (carrying their firearms), with the thought that the officers would also be able to protect citizens throughout the country, if the need arose. That took 13 years to get through, and when that was finally signed into law, reserves were included in the "active" section (926B), which gave reserves authority to travel throughout the country because of their peace officer status. We then amended that bill to address retired reserve officers (926C).

**ROTATOR:** Does the law still need to be adjusted at the state level, or is it a city issue as well at this point?

**LOMBARDI:** No, it doesn't have to be. This federal law, as the statute states, takes precedence. The "notwithstanding" language is very clear.

**ROTATOR:** Was California Assembly Bill 829 supposed to bring the state in line with the federal legislation?

**LOMBARDI:** AB 829 addressed two concerns. First, it corrected a poorly worded Section 538D of the Penal Code regarding the issuing of retired badges. Secondly, it clarified California Penal Code language to mirror the federal language of LEOSA. AB 829 failed in the Public Safety Committee of the Assembly. I will reintroduce this bill in 2013.

**ROTATOR:** Why did it fail in committee?

**LOMBARDI:** It failed in committee because the committee chairperson thought that reserve officers were just "pretend-to-be" police officers.

**ROTATOR:** Committee chair Assembly Member Tom Ammiano (13th District, San Francisco)?

**LOMBARDI:** Yes, he received a lot of letters from reserves stating their displeasure with his lack of knowledge.

**ROTATOR:** Does he still hold the same opinion? He said he had concerns about the legislation, and called reserve officers "alleged professionals."

**LOMBARDI:** That's right. I don't know if he realized his mistake. Everybody in law enforcement

was shaking their heads. The problem with some politicians is that they will never admit that they are wrong. They'll just run and hide if they are, and I think that is what he is doing.

**ROTATOR:** What happens when California reserve officers, or any reserve officer, carry outside of their state?

**LOMBARDI:** Federal law is in place, and it's legal under federal statute to carry that weapon. Reserve officers meet the criteria of that statute.

**ROTATOR:** What are the other priorities on the state agenda?

**LOMBARDI:** Of the approximate 58 classifications of peace officers in California, reserve officers are the only class of officers that were left out of Government Code Section 3300. This section is the Public Safety Officer's Procedural Bill of Rights [also known as the Peace Officers Bill of Rights]. Reserve officers need the protections of this bill. Remember, we can be included under Section 3300 and still be at-will employees.

**ROTATOR:** What is your opinion of the status, generally, of reserve law enforcement in California?

**LOMBARDI:** I think the state government realizes it's a very noble endeavor for one to become a law enforcement officer serving their community. They bring their private sector skills with them to their police duties.

**ROTATOR:** What other agencies impress you?

**LOMBARDI:** You know, I've had an excellent opportunity, because I travel around the state to different departments. The majority of the departments that have reserves utilize them in every aspect of law enforcement, the same as the LAPD. What impresses me is that there are many small departments in the state that wouldn't be able to operate without reserves.

**ROTATOR:** Let's shift gears a little bit. There is a story that a young Jim Lombardi, quite a few years back, butted heads once with Hollywood gangster Mickey Cohen.

**LOMBARDI:** I was in the restaurant business in downtown L.A. and maybe you should say "a young and crazy Jim Lombardi."

**ROTATOR:** Your family had the Lombardi's Restaurant?

**LOMBARDI:** No, my family was too smart to get into the restaurant business. I was the only



*He said, "You don't understand (accent); I'm Mickey Cohen. You gotta let me in." I said, "Nice to know you, Mr. Cohen, but the sign outside says Lombardi's Restaurant."*

one who ever did that. It was at 141 No. Broadway — mid-block and well-known. It was a building built by my grandfather in 1924. People lined up at lunchtime to get in because it was that popular. When Mickey Cohen came down the steps to the head of the line, where I was seating people, I told him he'd have to go to the back of the line and that it would probably take about 20 minutes. He said, "You don't understand (accent); I'm Mickey Cohen. You gotta let me in." I said, "Nice to know you, Mr. Cohen, but the sign outside says Lombardi's Restaurant, and I'm Jim Lombardi. But I'll let you ahead of these people if you ask them for their permission." He was so livid that he began to cry. I couldn't believe it.

**ROTATOR:** Did you think he might want to have you "sleep with the fishes"?

**LOMBARDI:** (*laughs*) I'm sure he did, but my main concern was his two bodyguards.

**ROTATOR:** What fond memories do you have of working with the LAPD?

*continued on pg 6*  
See "Rotator Interview"

# LAPRF HONORS LIEUTENANT CRAIG HERRON

The Los Angeles Police Reserve Foundation (LAPRF) Board of Directors passed a resolution this October honoring Lieutenant Craig Herron as he moved on to his new LAPD assignment. As the OIC of ROVS, Lieutenant Herron “worked tirelessly to improve training, performance and morale of the Los Angeles Police Reserve Corps.” It was noted that he brought “integrity, professionalism and dedication to his office.” The resolution was presented by LAPRF President Mel Kennedy at the October 10 Board meeting, which was held at the Academy in Elysian Park.

Lieutenant Herron thanked the Foundation, saying, “I sincerely appreciate this recognition. I have always said that all I am doing is following your lead. It’s hard to sum up these past four years in so few words, but I’ve met



*Pictured left to right: Lieutenant Herron and LAPRF President Mel Kennedy.*

some extraordinary leaders at LAPRF and in the Corps who serve with such passion and professionalism. And I look forward to these lifelong friendships.”

Sergeant Guillermo Galvan, who most recently worked on recruitment of candidates from the military, takes over the OIC duties. Sergeant Galvan said he was “looking forward to working with the Corps, focusing on best practices and building it up to its previous size and strength.” A Level III Academy was scheduled to start on December 2, as *The Rotator* went to press.

Lieutenant Herron is now OIC of the Abused Child Section, Juvenile Division. Reserve officers interested in helping in the section are encouraged to contact Lieutenant Herron at [26735@lapd.lacity.org](mailto:26735@lapd.lacity.org). ☺



## CAPTAIN'S MESSAGE

By Captain Rigoberto Romero

Greetings and happy holidays. The year 2012 is rapidly coming to a close and soon the new year will be upon us, bringing about many challenges for us as an organization. I want to personally thank you for your commitment and dedication as we end another great year.

This year, Lieutenant Craig Herron was hired as the officer-in-charge of the Abused Child Unit, at Juvenile Division. As you know, Craig served as the officer-in-charge of the Reserve Officer and Volunteer Section (ROVS) for several years, and he did so with commitment, dedication and goodwill. He will be missed. Sergeant Guillermo Galvan is now the acting officer-in-charge of ROVS

and is committed to continuing our work toward best practices.

I am pleased to report that on December 2, 2012, with the leadership of Personnel and Training Bureau, City Personnel Department and ROVS, I will be selecting 12 applicants for the Level III Reserve Academy. Over the last several months, ROVS has diligently worked to make this a reality and I am very pleased with their work. In 2013, the Department will be calling upon our Reserve Corps to provide support to the Department’s 21 areas, to assist us in maintaining the level of service that the community has come to expect and that we take so much pride in.

Training is the cornerstone of any professional organization and as members of the Reserve Corps, you are each responsible to meet all mandated requirements set by the Department and Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST). I would ask that each of you use the POST website, [www.post.ca.gov](http://www.post.ca.gov), and complete your required Continuing Professional Training by December 31, 2012.

Thank you once again for your continued loyalty and support of the Department. You make a huge difference in the way we police this city, and we are proud to have you on our team.

Sincerely,  
Captain Rigo Romero ☺



**LOMBARDI:** I have been lucky to be able to work with some interesting people in this Department. Marion Hoover was a footbeat officer who worked by himself on Main Street. In those days, officer protections were limited to a revolver, straight-stick baton and a game-well key, no vests, Tasers or radios. Game-wells were on almost every corner and footbeat officers had to report in every 45 minutes to the desk officer or patrol officers would come looking for you. Officer Hoover was a big man with big basketball hands and one of the toughest persons I ever met. He probably had to be tough growing up with a first name of Marion. If we were working on the same day, he would ask to have me assigned as his partner. I considered this a great privilege. Maybe the reason for this was that we always took our Code 7 at my steakhouse restaurant. During his career, he survived lethal encounters with felony suspects 10 times.

Another person of memory was Hector Garcia. Hector lost an eye in a shooting and returned to duty and became the first officer to be able to sketch a suspect's picture based on a witness's description. He was highly regarded in the law enforcement community for this talent.

Tenacity and perseverance best explain this next officer. Officer McDonald and his partner responded to a suspicious package call. The package exploded and McDonald lost his hand and lower arm. This happened to be his "strong" hand. Not giving up and after a long recovery, he was fitted with a prosthesis that I called a stainless-steel "hook." He was determined to return to patrol duties and taught himself to use and reload his revolver in the time required to qualify on the 30-yard line. This was before speedy loaders. Officers carried two pouches that contained seven loose cartridges each. One would dump a pouch's seven bullets into one hand and inject them into the weapon cylinder — seven instead of six because you always dropped one. How could you hold your weapon and reload with one hand? McDonald did it by firing his first six rounds, ejecting the spent shells, jamming the

revolver barrel between his belt and stomach — cylinder to the outside — and reloading as above. He mastered this technique and management cleared him to return to patrol duties in Central.

McDonald and I were partners for a time. Picture an officer in the front seat with me with a hook sticking out of his shirt sleeve, working patrol. Nobody ever challenged him twice. In altercations, all he had to do was put that clamp on you and you would go to your knees.

Next time we talk, remind me to tell you about another officer I worked with, T.J. Hooker. There really was a T.J. Hooker (*laughs*).

**ROTATOR:** When did you decide to take a larger leadership role? We heard there was a specific incident that motivated you.

**LOMBARDI:** When I first came on, we couldn't carry our weapons off duty. That was the law. This was an officer safety issue. I was working Central Division and getting into some pretty good activities and my place of business was in the same area that I policed.

**ROTATOR:** Running into people you had dealt with in the streets?

**LOMBARDI:** Yep, that happens, as you know. I became involved in an O.I.S. Someone thought I was off duty at the time but I wasn't. I was working undercover vice. So, we needed to change the law. And that got me interested in legislation. I have been successful in changing many code sections to benefit reserve officers.

**ROTATOR:** When a LAPD reserve officer is newly assigned to Central Area, we hear that some are introduced to the area by riding with you. What do you teach them?

**LOMBARDI:** We've always heard that when you come out of the Academy, your training officer says, "Forget what you've learned in the Academy, you're going to learn about police work in this front seat." Well, that's not all factual. I would never go down that road because it's really two different levels of training. But my main thrust is to be yourself and do not ever lose your sense of humor. Use common sense; you know right from wrong. Remember that you are going home after your shift. When you put on that uniform, there are

only two people to be thinking about: yourself and your partner(s). Everyone else is tied for 12th place.

**ROTATOR:** Chief Beck has said publicly that overall, LAPD reserve officers have shown fantastic judgment and that there are very few incidents where reserve officers get the Department into any kind of trouble. In addition to everything else you do, you have represented reserve officers in other jurisdictions who have faced disciplinary procedures. You may not be able to discuss specifics, but based on your experience, what general advice would you give reserve officers?

**LOMBARDI:** You're no different than any other officer, with the exception that in some departments the disciplinary process doesn't really apply equally to reserve officers in the eyes of some administrators. This is why defense representation is recommended.

**ROTATOR:** You mean in terms of a Board of Rights hearing?

**LOMBARDI:** Because we are not in the Peace Officers Bill of Rights, it gives administrators the right, some think, to just terminate the reserve. So we've seen reserves terminated where they get into the same problem as their full-time partner, where their partner just received an admonishment. And that's not fair. Reserve officers do not have a property interest in their job, although one of these days I think we'll show that they do. But they do have a liberty interest, and that is my big thrust in defending reserve officers.

**ROTATOR:** Or management concludes it's not my primary job; I don't need it, I'll just go on my way. But what the officer may not understand is that an LAPD termination can follow you the rest of your life.

**LOMBARDI:** Yes, because this information is available to others. If you get terminated by the LAPD, or any department, that's a stigma on you. If you get into a business that requires a security clearance, if you need a bond to carry out your personal business — you'd be out of luck. And if you ever want to go full time into law enforcement, you'll be out of luck there, too. (*Editor's note: For further discussion on this*

topic, see the article "Protecting Your Career" on page 10.)

**ROTATOR:** How did the Annual Reserve Peace Officers Conference go this year?

**LOMBARDI:** Good. We had 440 officers that we trained. We gave them over 26 hours of POST-approved training.

**ROTATOR:** If one is not a member of CRPOA, what are they missing?

**LOMBARDI:** You get a tremendous insurance package. You get life insurance, legal defense and disability insurance. You get access to us when you get into a problem, and this includes workers' compensation issues. We get quite a few workers' compensation problems where departments have denied workers' comp to their injured reserves. We've legislated this and reserves get 100 percent workers' comp when they are injured on duty. And you have access to your fellow reserves around the state to see what's going on through our publication on the Internet.

**ROTATOR:** What else is on your wish list for the Corps? What do you want to get accomplished?

**LOMBARDI:** The reserve management team is in meetings with Chief Beck's upper management to address issues that I hope to report to you in the near future.

**ROTATOR:** As if you didn't wear enough hats, we heard somewhere that you are also a volunteer fireman.

**LOMBARDI:** Yeah, last night we had a pretty good-sized brush fire up here in the mountains behind me, and I was on that all night.

**ROTATOR:** You must have a very understanding wife.

**LOMBARDI:** (laughs) Yes, she is very understanding. I am very lucky in that regard. In the community I live in, up here in north L.A. County, it doesn't happen as much as it used to, but I'm an engineer with Engine Company #279, and I've been doing that for 38 years. We used to get called quite often because we were the only company in the area, but now we have a full-time engine company, so now we just get called out once or twice a week, at the most. But I get to drive a big red fire engine!

**ROTATOR:** How long are you going to keep working for the Corps?

**LOMBARDI:** I feel comfortable doing it. I'm physically able to do it. I can still run up those stairs downtown with the full-time guys that are a little younger than me. I am not going to jeopardize them or me. So, hopefully, I will continue to do it.

**ROTATOR:** It goes without saying that there is probably no single person who can take your place.

**LOMBARDI:** Thank you, but I do not believe that. We have good people. I'm trying to leave it where someone does not have to step into that legislative bullring in Sacramento.

**ROTATOR:** Anything else you want to say to reserve officers or their families?

**LOMBARDI:** Christmas is coming up, and I wish everyone a happy holiday. The main thing is, maintain your proficiency. Don't think that you are not being watched; you are being watched by a friendly eye — people know the importance of reserve officers. The only thing we have to do is increase the ranks. Remember, the Chief of Police of the LAPD was a reserve officer. ☺

**IF YOU HAVE AN IDEA  
FOR AN ARTICLE FOR  
THE ROTATOR, OR WOULD  
LIKE TO CONTRIBUTE,  
SEND US AN EMAIL AT  
[MichaelSellars@sbcglobal.net](mailto:MichaelSellars@sbcglobal.net)**

## COORDINATOR'S MESSAGE CONTINUED FROM PG 2

months of 2012, Sergeant Galvan and his staff have worked closely with the Personnel Department to secure the required number of candidates to fill a Level III Academy class. It appears that a class will be scheduled by the end of this year.

Training is, without a doubt, an important aspect of being a Los Angeles Police reserve officer. It is our duty to ensure that you have the best training available. With this in mind, training was held at Burro Canyon and was offered by Reserve Officer Rick Lopez, whose

extensive knowledge and background in tactics and firearms is without question. The training emphasized weapons manipulation as well as tactical shooting.

Thank you for your continued support of the Sunshine Kids, Special Olympics and the "Twice a Citizen" Banquet. Many thanks to the Department chaplains and the LAPD Band, who, year after year, make themselves available whenever the need arises; and, finally, thank you to the Los Angeles Police

Foundation, which has remained unyieldingly supportive of the Reserve Corps.

In closing, it is anticipated that 2013 will bring about new and exciting possibilities to the Reserve Corps. We are committed to implementing our best practices so that the Reserve Corps will continue to perform a vital role in providing protection and service to the city of Los Angeles.

Gloria ☺

# INSIDE AN ADAM-12-ERA PATROL CAR

Jack Webb was a stickler for detail and authenticity in his television series *Dragnet* and *Adam-12*. For *Adam-12* (which ran from 1968 to 1975), the inside of the Rampart station was duplicated exactly on the Universal sound stages, right down to the doorknobs. Mark Galoustian, a specialist with the Corps, is equally meticulous when it comes to the refurbished *Adam-12*-era car he owns and carefully maintains.

He describes the inside of a “shop” during those days:

“The ‘Hot-Sheet’ (the latest off of the teletype at the start of the shift) would slide behind the Plexiglas and was illuminated by two small bulbs from behind at night. Your partner would scan the sheet for stolen or wanted license plate numbers. The shotgun was locked in front of the front seat and an additional shotgun rack was in the trunk. There were handheld spotlights and a four-channel Motorola radio (Ch. 1 — dispatch, Ch. 2-4 — ‘tac’ frequencies). You could not hear other officers talking to dispatch; you could not talk to other officers in the field without switching to a tac frequency; and you could not hear dispatch when switched to tac. At the time, there were no ‘rovers’ either. Officers would hang the mic out the window during stops in order to hear the radio. The batons



1A12 on display at PAB during the Reserve Appreciation Month BBQ last April.

## HOLLYWOOD RESERVE APPRECIATION DAY



Photo by Garth Pillsbury

Hollywood Area held its Reserve Appreciation Day in June, with a picnic at “HWD South” and a photo shoot of the division’s reserve police officers below the iconic sign. 📸



were slid into radiator hoses on both front doors that MTD installed. The supervisor cars had a second or third radio installed to monitor other channels at one time. It wasn't until the early 1970s that the standard patrol cars had 'cheater' radios installed. The cheater would allow officers to still hear dispatch while talking to other units on the tac (a second speaker was mounted on the rear deck above the rear seat).

"The two 'can lights' on the roof were used by LAPD from the early 1950s until 1978. The early lights were made by S&M Lamp Co. (Model 757) and were red/red. California did not adopt the rear amber light requirement until 1964. That year, S&M Lamp Co. went out of business, so Trio-Sales Co. made the lights for LAPD as Model T-2 lights with flashing

ambers to the rear and steady red to the front. To be 'LAPD correct,' the ambers flashed separately: They didn't want a shop to go out of service for a burned-out flasher, so each light had its own flasher. On *Adam-12*, the lights alternated the flash. These can lights eventually had to be replaced due to side warning issues. Also, the Olympic Games were coming to Los Angeles, and the international visitors typically recognized blue as emergency vehicle lighting.

Most of the old can lights were scrapped, making them hard to find and thus priced at a premium." The "Hot-Sheet" desks were also scrapped, and Mark says he knows of only four or five that are still in existence.

"This era car had no A/C, no power windows, a bench seat (bad news if the driver was shorter than the passenger), bias ply tires (no metal reinforcement) and no power steering." ☺

## Limited-Edition Commemorative Coins Still Available – While Supplies Last



Front



Back

The Los Angeles Police Reserve Foundation officially commissioned this limited-edition commemorative coin last year to honor Los Angeles police reserve officers and the Los Angeles Reserve Corps. There are still a few coins left. The cost of the coin is \$15, including tax. If you'd like one before they are all gone, contact [reservecoin@gmail.com](mailto:reservecoin@gmail.com).

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Editor: Reserve Officer Michael Sellars

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## LAPRF NOW ON FACEBOOK



The Los Angeles Police Reserve Foundation is now on Facebook, as part of our continuing efforts to reach out to our community and educate the citizens of Los Angeles about the LAPD Reserve Corps and how they can help support those who serve. Our Facebook page provides a channel for us to communicate regularly, in a format that encourages feedback and interaction. Join us at [www.facebook.com/losangelespolicereservefoundation](http://www.facebook.com/losangelespolicereservefoundation). If you have any content — photos, stories or info — that you think might be of interest to the public on the Facebook page, you can send it to us at [laprffb@gmail.com](mailto:laprffb@gmail.com).

# PROTECTING YOUR CAREER

By Reserve Officer Charles Nicgorski

The term “career” is one that some of us may not apply to our reserve police officer status. No matter how much we may love what we do, many may feel that if trouble rears its ugly head, all we need to do is simply walk away. If you’ve ever said to yourself, “What can they do to me?” or you figured that losing the \$50 stipend doesn’t affect your life that much, there are other things to consider.

The Reserve Corps is made up of folks from various walks of life and they serve for various reasons. We have younger folks that join in order to see how they like police work. We have some that are very successful in their own jobs and businesses yet want to serve their community. Then there are the retired and former officers that still want to be a part of the mix. No matter the reason, being terminated from the LAPD could be a game changer. It could be that security clearance that you need for your day job, that occupational license or that full-time position in law enforcement that is at risk. And what if none of those apply? You may face discipline, termination or even jail time. As a longtime friend told me, you may love the LAPD, but it’s incapable of loving you back. Yes, the Department is a mighty administrative entity with rules and regulations that can be daunting to navigate. That becomes apparent if or when you get drawn into a use of force situation. You will now become part of a lengthy administrative process that can be quite stressful. With that in mind, it would be best to take precautions and be prepared for the worst.

The following information came from a *Thin Blue Line* article written by League rep Officer Mark Cronin in May 2012. With Mark’s blessing and the hard work of the law firm of Fullerton & Hanna, LLP, I would like to present a condensed version of what you can expect in the event that you are involved in a serious use of force or an officer-involved shooting (OIS). **I would suggest keeping this information in the back of your notebook and having it available to you in the field.**

1. If you become involved in a categorical use of force, focus on officer safety, public safety and the identity and arrest of the suspect first.

2. You may have to provide a public safety statement. This statement is required if there are

outstanding suspects, a chance that evidence may be lost or if citizens are at harm. This statement is required under certain circumstances and supersedes your right to remain silent.

3. Take a deep breath. Do not speak to anyone else about the incident until your attorney or rep arrives. You may want to start thinking about what just happened and start to recreate the events in your mind.

4. If you are tired or cannot concentrate, let your attorney know. Tell your attorney every detail. There is attorney/client privilege, but no such privilege exists with your employee rep when it comes to criminal acts committed by yourself or fellow officers. The attorney and rep are there to help you articulate the details as to what occurred. They will never have you change your story. It’s always best to tell the truth instead of running the risk of being charged with making false statements. Ask yourself how your story would hold up if a video turned up. It’s very possible nowadays.

5. Now comes Force Investigative Division (FID). They are part of the Professional Standards Bureau. They will conduct the administrative investigation into your actions. They also may initiate a criminal complaint against you if criminal or other misconduct is suspected.

6. FID will also investigate any crimes perpetuated against you or your partner.

7. FID has three sections. The Administrative Division Section will interview all officers directly involved in the use of force. The Criminal Apprehension Section investigates suspects that have committed crimes against you. The Criminal Section investigates possible criminal actions committed by the officers involved. That means YOU!

8. Sometime after the incident, you will be asked to return to the scene for a walk-through. When you get there, review the scene with your counsel and use the time to re-familiarize yourself with the events. It will assist you in making the most accurate statements. Before the walk-through, FID will ask you if you want to make a *voluntary* statement. **Your answer should always be no.** You will then be given a command to cooperate which has the same effect as receiving the *Lybarger* admonition. **This makes your following statement compelled so that it may**

**not be used against you in a criminal action.** But the statement can be used against the suspect or any other officer.

9. The walk-through is designed primarily for positioning purposes so that FID can understand where and what happened. You will have to give a thumbnail sketch of what led up to the use of force. Your attorney and rep will accompany you. If you are unsure as to how to respond, review the statement with them. The questioning should not go into great detail as to tactics or your state of mind.

10. After the walk-through, you will return to the station and be asked to provide a detailed, recorded statement. If you were injured or were given any meds and you feel that you are not mentally or physically prepared to provide a statement, let your attorney know so a delay may be granted until you are fit. You will need to be prepared to discuss tactics before, during or after the use of force.

a. Tactics include communication with partners, the RTO, suspects and citizens. Was a tactical plan developed? If not, why? Did you go Code 6? Did you advise responding units?

b. Be prepared to articulate your probable cause.

c. Justify why you drew your weapon.

d. Articulate why the use of force was necessary. Your actions will be evaluated based on the “reasonable officer” standard. What would your peer officers have done in a similar situation?

11. FID will remove your weapon if it was fired and have it inspected by a Department armorer. If it cannot be returned to you by EOW, you will be provided a loaner.

12. After the interview, you will normally be ordered not to discuss the incident with anyone. Keep in mind that a civil lawsuit may follow and resist the urge to talk to others about the incident. Keep in mind that the district attorney or U.S. attorney may file charges against you and other officers. Keep discussions of your use of force to a minimum.

13. If you’re involved in an OIS, remember that you’ll be ordered to have an interview with the Department psychologist. The purpose of this meeting is to determine if you are fit to return to duty.

14. If you need or desire confidential psychological counseling, you may contact the

Managed Health Network, otherwise known as the Employee Assistance Program. This is a confidential service supported by the Protective League. The number is (877) 646-5275.

15. You may be called in for a future re-interview. Be sure to contact your attorney or the employee representative before consenting to additional interviews. Even though you must cooperate, it is important that you refresh your memory by reviewing your prior statements. If you fail to do this, you may make inconsistent or contradictory statements; therefore, there is a possibility you could be charged with making false and/or misleading statements.

16. Several months after the incident, you'll be asked to meet with a use of force review board. Your commanding officer will call you and will review the incident. The commanding officer may actually take you back and have you review the incident at the original scene. The commanding officer will do this because he/she will be representing you at the use of force review board. Normally, it is not necessary for your attorney or employee representative to be

present, but you may wish to call them if you feel the commanding officer is not being fair.

17. It's in your best interest to attend the use of force review board meeting. This will give you valuable insight as to why the board comes up with their decision. This may help you greatly in any future litigation.

18. Never speak to the press. Call your attorney about any press inquiries.

19. If you are contacted by Internal Affairs, the district attorney, the grand jury or the FBI to make any statement relating to your use of force, call your attorney immediately.

20. If you receive notice that you're being sued in a civil court because of your actions, immediately write a 15.7 to the city attorney requesting that they represent you. Most importantly, during the process try not to worry. Remember that even if you used bad tactics or if you made a mistake, or any other situations occur, you will likely be represented by the city attorney as long as you acted in good faith and in the best interest of the city.

In conclusion, we live in a very litigious society. The proliferation of cellphone videos and security cameras has made it even more important to be ever-conscious of our actions and reactions while engaging in our official duties as police officers. The most well-intentioned and honest actions can be twisted to fit into an anti-police agenda or make for a controversial sound bite. I encourage you to be smart, to be tactically alert and to be sound in all your dealings with the Department and the public at large. Please take advantage of the associate membership of the Los Angeles Police Protective League, their optional legal protection plan and, of course, the California Reserve Peace Officers Association and their corresponding legal plan. Continue to enjoy your police career, but do so with some peace of mind. Don't become a horror story. Be prepared. But above all, be safe.

*(Editor's note: This article reflects the views of its author and does not necessarily represent the policy or opinion of the Department or the LAPRF.)*

## Qualification Schedule

Cycle #	Qualification Cycle	Officers with Less Than 20 Years of Service	Officers with 20-29 Years of Service
1	January	Shotgun Level III Exempt	Shotgun Level III Exempt
2	February/March	Qualify Duty Ammo	Qualify Duty Ammo
3	April/May	Qualify Practice Ammo	None
4	June/July	Qualify FOS	None
	August	None	None
5	September/October	Qualify Practice Ammo	Qualify Practice Ammo
6	November/December	Qualify Practice Ammo	None

Officers with 30 years or more of service are required to qualify one time per calendar year at their convenience, during cycle 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6. Officers must qualify prior to the last week of handgun qualification cycles, unless exempted by their commanding officer. The last week of these cycles will be reserved for remediation and officers with the approved exemptions.





**LAPD RESERVE CORPS**  
In association with the  
**Los Angeles Police Reserve Foundation**

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Standard Mail  
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PAID  
Los Angeles CA  
Permit #12932

Los Angeles Police Department  
Reserve Officer and Volunteer Section  
100 West First Street, Room #270  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

## Join the Team: Become a Los Angeles Reserve Police Officer

Start the process of becoming a **Los Angeles Police Department reserve officer** by attending an orientation at the city of Los Angeles Personnel Department.

For more information, call a recruiter at **(213) 486-4730**.

