

LOS ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT



**Response to the
Merrick Bobb Report**

2011

SUMMARY OF REVIEW

OF THE

MERRICK BOBB REPORT

We have reviewed Merrick Bobb's 30th Semiannual Report and identified several areas which appear fundamentally flawed. We focused on three specific segments of the report that Merrick Bobb identified as areas of concern, they are as follows:

1. In his report, Mr. Bobb indicates that there are a disproportionate number of minorities, specifically Latinos, being shot by Sheriff's deputies. Mr. Bobb used out dated census data, statistically flawed arrest statistics and ratios, and general (countywide) racial and demographic statistics to justify his conclusions which were isolated to a specific policing jurisdiction, Century Sheriff's Station.
2. The characteristics of our deputy-involved shootings are questioned by Mr. Bobb wherein he concludes that too many of our shootings are "State of Mind" or "Waistband Reaching" type shootings. His report offers the opinion that our deputies justify their actions in a conspiratorial manner by "Invoking" the justification of fear.
3. In the report Mr. Bobb alleges Departmental firearms training is inadequate, with members failing to meet the standards established by policy, then he concludes this shortfall in proficiency is somehow related to deputy-involved shootings.

Our response is divided into five section which incorporate the above areas of concern. Each section begins with Mr. Bobb's assertions. We then provide the Sheriff's challenge to the report's methodology, and concludes with data to validate our response.

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SECTION

I

DEMOGRAPHIC STATISTICS

Merrick Bobb's report claims that "***The majority of officer-involved shooting cases, about 61 percent, involved Latino suspects. Approximately 29 percent of incidents involved black suspects, and ten percent involved white suspects. When these rates are compared with overall LASD arrests rates, we see that Latinos and blacks are over represented and white suspects are under represented.***"¹

Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department's response:

- Merrick Bobb's report used blanket arrest statistics County wide, and doesn't account for arrests that are traditionally linked to violence and weapons. LASD's contention is that the arrests of gang members and other suspects commonly associated with weapons is a more accurate measuring tool for this type of comparison.
- Merrick Bobb's report used Census statistics from the year 2000 which is different than the 2010 Census. The number of Latinos accounted for in LASD's jurisdictions rose approximately 21% between the years 2000 and 2010.
- Attached in this section is a break down of the number of Hispanic gangs in Los Angeles County and more specifically, the number of Hispanic gangs in the Century, Compton and South Los Angeles Station areas. There are 61,096 documented gang members in Los Angeles County, but approximately 30% or 16,968 of them reside in the above three station areas.

Special Note:

In Merrick Bobb's letter to the Sheriff, he specifically states:

"It would be a serious error for anyone to conclude from this report that LASD deputies intentionally shot at any individual because that individual was black or Latino."²

¹ Merrick Bobb's 30th annual report, Page 3, 1st paragraph; Page 10, 2nd paragraph

²Merrick Bobb's letter to the Sheriff Baca, page 2, 1st paragraph

2000 Census Population by Sheriff's Station

REGION	Sheriff's Station	Total Census Population	White alone	African American alone	Native American alone	Asian alone	Pacific Islander alone	Other Race alone	Two or More Races	Hispanic or Latino
I	Altadena	43,667	17,606	13,513	222	2,149	67	746	602	8,762
I	Crescenta Valley	40,295	27,859	265	196	8,108	27	557	159	3,124
I	East Los Angeles	162,840	3,689	532	426	1,251	39	335	98	156,470
I	Lancaster	142,492	79,517	19,699	1,840	5,241	342	845	1,073	33,935
I	Malibu / Lost Hills	86,283	72,813	1,296	388	5,693	110	605	286	5,092
I	Palmdale	157,279	75,239	19,112	1,532	5,688	304	1,074	994	53,336
I	Santa Clarita Valley	200,907	133,880	6,983	1,451	13,128	372	1,400	912	42,781
I	Temple	185,900	41,643	4,313	681	60,081	153	989	1,181	76,859
	Region I TOTAL	1,019,663	452,246	65,713	6,736	101,339	1,414	6,551	5,305	380,359
II	Avalon	3,696	1,908	15	41	49	13	23	8	1,639
II	Carson	113,221	18,026	25,889	500	25,810	3,007	475	1,594	37,920
II	Century	182,440	3,461	32,430	288	710	325	240	436	144,550
II	Compton	113,580	1,261	44,780	216	265	1,150	192	593	65,123
II	Lennox/SLA	115,349	14,568	29,751	433	6,215	791	829	862	61,900
II	Lomita	74,428	45,549	2,032	364	16,139	210	633	449	9,052
II	Marina del Rey	25,984	8,322	14,746	64	1,139	31	194	473	1,015
II	West Hollywood	36,358	29,317	1,415	174	1,554	76	421	183	3,218
	Region II TOTAL	665,056	122,412	151,058	2,080	51,881	5,603	3,007	4,598	324,417
III	Cerritos	51,488	11,040	3,470	153	30,509	105	298	564	5,349
III	Industry	182,013	26,272	3,094	735	30,014	266	748	899	119,985
III	Lakewood	240,322	76,107	23,939	1,558	26,395	1,727	1,497	2,083	107,016
III	Norwalk	214,812	60,450	6,410	1,331	21,349	638	1,168	948	122,518
III	Pico Rivera	93,766	9,517	491	377	2,584	80	338	165	80,214
III	San Dimas	80,697	37,018	2,734	604	6,800	132	559	393	32,457
III	Walnut/Diamond Bar	138,887	31,647	5,330	373	68,012	272	889	1,574	30,790
	Region III TOTAL	1,001,985	252,051	45,468	5,131	185,663	3,220	5,497	6,626	498,329

2010 Census Population by Sheriff Station

Region	Sheriff Station	Total Census Population	White alone	African American alone	Native American alone	Asian alone	Pacific Islander alone	Other Race alone	Two or More Races	Hispanic or Latino
I	Altadena	44,106	18,182	9,889	85	2,373	65	187	1,681	11,644
I	Crescenta Valley	41,440	25,189	254	50	10,576	17	81	1,067	4,206
I	East Los Angeles	190,519	3,322	630	285	1,267	42	246	283	184,444
I	Lancaster	187,985	69,334	33,263	869	7,046	354	672	5,260	71,187
I	Malibu / Lost Hills	89,170	71,997	1,414	151	5,818	68	209	2,617	6,896
I	Palmdale	196,799	61,677	23,443	687	7,045	256	484	4,304	98,903
I	Santa Clarita Valley	268,706	143,379	11,099	658	27,648	339	717	7,376	77,490
I	Temple	189,591	29,861	3,202	271	79,337	88	239	2,534	74,059
	Region I TOTAL	1,208,316	422,941	83,194	3,056	141,110	1,229	2,835	25,122	528,829
II	Avalon	4,096	1,813	12	7	53	10	4	46	2,151
II	Carson	116,011	12,362	24,639	246	29,851	2,600	323	2,798	43,192
II	Century	187,494	2,579	24,860	196	643	247	372	631	157,966
II	Compton	118,425	1,038	37,167	197	294	804	176	955	77,794
II	Lennox	117,224	11,630	25,539	209	6,085	757	443	1,772	70,789
II	Lomita	74,941	39,947	2,245	146	17,534	163	183	2,778	11,945
II	Marina Del Rey	26,694	8,033	14,366	50	1,200	15	104	1,096	1,830
II	West Hollywood	35,106	27,063	1,377	48	1,842	32	92	962	3,690
	Region II TOTAL	679,991	104,465	130,205	1,099	57,502	4,628	1,697	11,038	369,357
III	Cerritos	48,666	8,044	3,261	51	29,952	119	83	1,309	5,847
III	Industry	181,793	18,060	2,193	267	31,008	189	239	1,445	128,392
III	Lakewood	243,724	56,384	24,133	635	30,948	1,738	491	5,086	124,309
III	Norwalk	220,989	44,997	5,906	579	23,512	567	366	2,748	142,314
III	Pico Rivera	93,689	6,473	604	204	2,264	47	113	416	83,568
III	San Dimas	81,374	29,457	2,237	228	7,113	82	174	1,549	40,534
III	Walnut / Diamond Bar	137,522	21,653	3,875	140	77,421	183	171	2,790	31,289
	Region III TOTAL	1,007,757	185,068	42,209	2,104	202,218	2,925	1,637	15,343	556,253

Source: 2010 Census SF1 (Table P5)

Race percentage Statistics

Century Station total Census: 187,494

White: 1.4%

**African
American: 13.3%**

**Native
American: .1%**

Asian: .3%

**Pacific
Islander: .1%**

**Other
Race: .2%**

**Two or
more Races: .1%**

Hispanics: 84.3%

Los Angeles County Gangs

Los Angeles County

Gang(s) 1,151
Subject(s) 103,245

LASD - Century

Gang(s) 125
Subject(s) 18,562 18%

LASD - Compton

Gang(s) 89
Subject(s) 8,042 7%

LASD - South LA

Gang(s) 64
Subject(s) 10,846 10%

LASD - East LA

Gang(s) 44
Subject(s) 4,881 5%

Los Angeles County Hispanic Gangs

Los Angeles County

Total Gangs	1,151	
Total Gang Members	103,245	

Los Angeles County Hispanic Gangs/Members

Total Hispanic Gangs	592	
Total Hispanic Gang Members	61,096	59%

Century Station Hispanic Gangs/Members

Total Hispanic Gangs	54	
Total Hispanic Gang Members	8,721	8%

Compton Station Hispanic Gangs/Members

Total Hispanic Gangs	31	
Total Hispanic Gang Members	3,770	3%

South LA Station Hispanic Gangs/Members

Total Hispanic Gangs	20	
Total Hispanic Gang Members	4,557	4%

East LA Station Hispanic Gangs/Members

Total Hispanic Gangs	44	
Total Hispanic Gang Members	4,881	4%

SECTION

II

ARRESTS AND GANG RELATED CRIME STATISTICS

The Merrick Bobb's Report claims that "***When arrests statistics are taken into account, blacks and Latinos are significantly more likely to be shot than are whites and other groups such as Asians.***"³

The same report also claims "***That there is no clear correlation between the number of shootings and crime or arrests in general or for Part I crimes in particular. Nonetheless, we found that shootings statistics did rise and fall somewhat in tandem with the criminal homicide rates.***"⁴

Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department's response:

- The two above quotes from Merrick Bobb's report contradict their premise that arrests statistics are related to officer-involved shootings. The first quote states they do and the second quote states they do not.
- LASD's arrest statistics show that there is a correlation between violent and gang related felony arrests and officer-involved shootings. Merrick Bobb's report used County wide Part I arrest statistics that included crimes that traditionally do not involve weapons and/or violence.
- Gang members, both Latino and black, make up more than 88% of all documented gangs in Los Angeles County. There are 1,151 gangs and 103,245 gang members in Los Angeles County, but over 40% reside in the Century, Compton, and South Los Angeles station areas. The Merrick Bobb report failed to acknowledge or report this statistic in his conclusions.

³ Merrick Bobb 30th Annual report; Page 1, 2nd paragraph

⁴ Merrick Bobb's 30th annual report, Page 8, 1st paragraph

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT
VIOLENT CRIME ARRESTS**

YEAR	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	TOTAL
DEPARTMENT VIOLENT CRIMES												
HOMICIDE						254	203	280	244	231	196	1,408
RAPE						191	170	169	182	201	201	1,114
ROBBERY						1,850	1,964	2,046	2,248	2,105	2,041	12,254
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT						5,250	5,275	5,571	5,713	5,594	5,943	33,346
TOTAL DEPARTMENT						7,545	7,612	8,066	8,387	8,131	8,381	48,122
CENTURY STATION VIOLENT CRIMES												
HOMICIDE						28	24	21	30	33	20	156
RAPE						16	15	15	17	16	24	103
ROBBERY						207	208	275	253	264	302	1,509
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT						441	460	552	686	577	634	3,350
TOTAL CENTURY STATION						692	707	863	986	890	980	5,118
CITY OF LYNWOOD VIOLENT CRIMES												
HOMICIDE						12	1	4	5	4	7	33
RAPE						8	6	4	8	5	7	38
ROBBERY						67	73	80	82	85	81	468
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT						121	139	153	214	168	187	982
TOTAL CITY OF LYNWOOD						208	219	241	309	262	282	1,521

% of Overall Arrests
 11%
 9%
 12%
 10%
 10%

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT
VIOLENT CRIME ARRESTS**

YEAR	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	TOTAL
DEPARTMENT VIOLENT CRIMES												
HOMICIDE	165	207	224	232	228	254	203	280	244	231	196	2,464
RAPE	205	220	204	213	178	191	170	169	182	201	201	2,134
ROBBERY	1,562	1,735	1,724	1,795	1,868	1,850	1,964	2,046	2,248	2,105	2,041	20,938
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	5,374	8,432	5,745	6,365	5,312	5,250	5,275	5,571	5,713	5,594	5,943	64,574
TOTAL DEPARTMENT	7,306	10,594	7,897	8,605	7,586	7,545	7,612	8,066	8,387	8,131	8,381	90,110
CENTURY STATION VIOLENT CRIMES												
HOMICIDE	19	24	30	35	22	28	24	21	30	33	20	286
RAPE	24	21	26	27	14	16	15	15	17	16	24	215
ROBBERY	234	271	232	248	289	207	208	275	253	264	302	2,783
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	557	773	530	571	500	441	460	552	686	577	634	6,281
TOTAL CENTURY STATION	834	1,089	818	881	825	692	707	863	986	890	980	9,565
CITY OF LYNWOOD VIOLENT CRIMES												
HOMICIDE	6	5	6	4	7	12	1	4	5	4	7	61
RAPE	8	14	10	12	0	8	6	4	8	5	7	82
ROBBERY	80	105	80	97	79	67	73	80	82	85	81	909
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	190	295	210	217	159	121	139	153	214	168	187	2,053
TOTAL CITY OF LYNWOOD	284	419	306	330	245	208	219	241	309	262	282	3,105

LOS ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT
VIOLENT CRIME ARRESTS

YEAR	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	TOTAL	%
DEPARTMENT VIOLENT CRIMES													
HOMICIDE	165	207	224	232	228	254	203	280	244	231	196	2,464	
RAPE	205	220	204	213	178	191	170	169	182	201	201	2,134	
ROBBERY	1562	1735	1724	1795	1868	1850	1964	2046	2248	2105	2041	20,938	
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	5374	8432	5745	6365	5312	5250	5275	5571	5713	5594	5943	64,574	
TOTAL DEPARTMENT	7306	10594	7897	8605	7586	7545	7612	8066	8387	8131	8381	90,110	
CENTURY STATION VIOLENT CRIMES													
HOMICIDE	19	24	30	35	22	28	24	21	30	33	20	286	11%
RAPE	24	21	26	27	14	16	15	15	17	16	24	215	10%
ROBBERY	234	271	232	248	289	207	208	275	253	264	305	2,783	13%
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	557	773	530	571	500	441	460	552	686	577	634	6,281	9%
TOTAL CENTURY STATION	834	1089	818	881	825	692	707	863	986	890	980	9,565	7%

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT
CENTURY SHERIFF'S STATION
FELONY ARRESTS BY RACE
2006-2010**

YEAR	BLACK	HISPANIC	WHITE	OTHERS	TOTAL
2006	1,341	2,417	69	18	3,845
2007	1,794	3,080	85	23	4,982
2008	2,649	4,274	135	39	7,097
2009	2,499	3,816	130	61	6,506
2010	2,392	4,094	181	55	6,722
TOTAL	10,675	17,681	600	196	29,152

Numbers from AJIS BCS File, CAP# 11-057-LS

TOTAL NUMBER OF GUNS CENTRAL PROPERTY AND EVIDENCE RECEIVED
FROM CEN, CPT, AND LNX FROM
JANUARY 1, 2006 - DECEMBER 31, 2010

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
CENTURY STATION (CEN)	641	799	1139	664	662
COMPTON STATION (CPT)	571	672	778	720	562
LENNOX STATION (LNX)	484	567	842	522	375
TOTAL	1696	2038	2759	1906	1599

DEPARTMENT'S TOTAL OF GUNS CENTRAL PROPERTY AND EVIDENCE
RECEIVED FROM
JANUARY 1, 2006 - DECEMBER 31, 2010

2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
6128	6988	7859	5965	6413

SECTION

III

CHARACTERISTICS OF DEPUTY-INVOLVED SHOOTINGS

“Unarmed or State-of-Mind shootings are on the rise and deputies are invoking the justification of shooting suspects who reached for their waistband.”

Merrick Bobb’s report claims ***“That all but two of the suspects shot that were unarmed were Latino (62%) and black (34%).”*** The report also claims ***“That deputies invoke the justification that they perceived the suspect was reaching for his waistband.”***⁵

Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department’s response:

- An audit of the (43) 2010 deputy involved shootings where 15 of the shootings were determined to be unarmed was conducted. All of the 15 unarmed shootings involved suspects who were engaging in activity that was criminal in nature, non-compliant, or both.
- The 2010 Deputy-Involved Unarmed shootings involved the following stations:

Station	Total number	Percentage of unarmed
East LA	4	26%
Century	2	13%
Compton	2	13%
Lakewood	2	13%
Carson	2	13%
West Hollywood	1	7%
Santa Clarita	1	7%
Altadena	1	7%

DEPARTMENTAL FIREARM TRAINING

⁵Merrick Bobb 30th Annual report. Page 3 2nd paragraph.

State of Mind Shootings

Merrick Bobb's report states there were 260 Deputy Involved Shootings (DIS) between 2005 and 2010 and 21% of those shootings were considered unarmed or state of mind shootings.

Merrick Bobb's report also states in the year 2010, there were 43 Deputy Involved Shootings and that 1/3 (or 15 out the 43) of those shootings they considered unarmed, or "State of Mind" shootings.

We concur with Merrick Bobb's assessment that 15 of the 2010 shootings were unarmed.

8 of the unarmed shootings were Hit shootings and 7 were Non-Hit shootings.

The following is a summary of the actions by the deputies and the suspects during the confrontations that were considered "State of Mind" shootings:

DATE	STATION	CONTACT REASON	ACTIONS BY SUSPECTS
1/14/10	Carson	Observation stop of a suspicious person possibly involved in narcotics activity	Suspect in a high gang area fled on foot as the deputies approached to investigate.
3/24/10	East LA	Attempt suicide call	The suspect was bloodied and reached for his waist band in front of deputies.
4/13/10	East LA	Gang Disturbance call	Suspect fled when deputies arrived and tossed a bag of narcotics. Reached for a gun. Gun never recovered.

5/7/10	Lakewood	Burglary in Progress Call	Suspect fled on foot from the house he was burglarizing and jumped several fences attempting to evade deputies.
6/16/10	Lakewood	Shots fired call	Suspect near the shooting was uncooperative and reached for waistband after deputies tried to detain him.
7/9/10	Santa Clarita	Family disturbance call	Suspect uncooperative and had cell phone in hand. He was uncooperative when told to raise hands.
7/27/10	Century	Stolen Vehicle/LoJack hit.	Suspect fled from stolen car and on foot.
7/27/10	Century	Observation stop of a suspicious person	Suspect was looking into cars, saw deputies and fled on bike. Then fled on foot for several blocks and reached into fanny pack.
10/3/10	West Hollywood	Robbery In Progress Call	Clerk exited store, matching the suspect description and was mistakenly shot
10/19/10	East LA	Observation of a Stolen Car	Suspect was driving a stolen car, in hotel parking lot known for drug and prostitute activity.
10/28/10	Century	Burglary in progress call.	Suspect was seen jumping out of victim's house window, and fled on foot.
10/28/10	Altadena	Car jacking in-progress call.	Suspect was detained in stolen car, was uncooperative and would not stand still, and approached deputy in aggressive manner.

11/17/10	Compton	Observation of suspicious person	Suspect fled from deputies. Hiding behind car & uncooperative toward deputy's orders.
12/1/10	East LA	Observation detention re: a gang member gathering with possible alcohol and drug activity	Suspect with group of gang members, he had a gun fled on foot and was later detained.
12/1/10	Safe Streets Bureau	Domestic Violence Incident follow-up investigation	Suspect who was a known gang member per OSS and fled from deputies as they contacted him.

SECTION IV

DEPARTMENTAL FIREARM TRAINING

LASD deputies involved in Deputy-Involved shootings weren't sufficiently trained in Firearms Training within mandated time frames before the shooting incident."

Merrick Bobb's report claims that "***Each LASD deputy working patrol shall attend eight hours of training every two years provided by Tactical and Survival Training Unit (TAS.) We found that one third of all deputies involved in shootings between 2006-2010, had not been to TAS training within the two year requirement."***

Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department response:

- LASD counters Merrick Bobb's contention that if deputies don't attend Laser 1 training every two years, they are not in compliance. LASD's policies allow for the below listed training cycles to meet the firearms training requirements.
- Pursuant to POST requirements, LASD has three courses that fulfill those requirements:
 - TRS II #9300 (PSP - Formerly known as PPC)
 - TRS II #2010 (Patrol School)
 - TRS II #2910 (Laser 1 - Laser village)

Attached is a memo from the Chief of the Leadership and Training Division explaining the 3 training cycles in more detail.

SECTION V

DEPUTY INVOLVED SHOOTING DATA AND RECORD KEEPING

“LASD lacks basic internal integrity when it comes to keeping records of Deputy-Involved shootings.”

The Merrick Bobb report claims that our record keeping and data collection process in that area is flawed. LASD acknowledges that the areas that need improvement is in data entry and the Department will focus on remedies. LASD also acknowledges the P.P.I. data base was developed in 1992. This system requires an upgrade. A committee is being assembled to develop upgrades and protocols.