



Office of Inspector General County of Los Angeles

Reform and Oversight Efforts: Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department

July to September
2019

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INTRODUCTION

This report describes a portion of the Office of Inspector General’s monitoring, auditing, and review activities related to the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department (LASD) that occurred from July 1, 2019, until September 30, 2019.¹

The OIG continues to work to increase the amount of data provided in each *Quarterly Report*. By providing quarterly updates, the OIG’s goal is to keep the public, the Board of Supervisors, and the Civilian Oversight Commission aware of recent trends and changes in LASD policies, procedures and practices.

ACCESS

During this quarter LASD has continued to significantly restrict OIG access to critical information in violation of law.² These restrictions were described in detail in our August report, “Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department Compliance with Transparency Law,”³ and are ongoing. The Sheriff has reported that he has cut back background checks in his hiring to fill vacancies but prevented the OIG from evaluating the impact of this change.⁴

MONITORING LASD OPERATIONS

Service Comment Reports

In accordance with LASD policies, LASD accepts and reviews all comments from members of the public about departmental service or employee performance.⁵ LASD categorizes these comments into three categories:

- External Commendation: an external communication of appreciation for and/or approval of service provided by LASD members;

¹ The report will note if the data reflects something other than what was gathered between July 1, 2019, and September 30, 2019.

² See Los Angeles County Code section 6.44.190.

³ See the Office of Inspector General’s August 2019 report, “Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department Compliance with Transparency Law.”

⁴ The OIG requested access to these documents in May. After the period covered by this report and after the Board directed OIG to assist the Auditor-Controller in a report back related to LASD cost overruns, LASD has indicated a potential willingness to allow the OIG’s review of hiring packets to move forward. However, the review has not happened and the Sheriff has since indicated a different position.

⁵ See Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department, *Manual of Policies and Procedures*, 3-04/10.00, “Department Service Reviews.”

- Service Complaint: an external communication of dissatisfaction with LASD service, procedure or practice, not involving employee misconduct; and
- Personnel Complaint: an external allegation of misconduct, either a violation of law or LASD policy, against any member of LASD.⁶

The following chart lists the number and types of comments about each station or unit. It is important to note that some of these service comments may have originated prior to this quarter. If the comments are based on conduct that occurred in previous quarters, they may still show up as active in the LASD’s database as the department continues to work towards resolving/investigating the issues in the complaints. Also, there may be comments that do not yet appear on the chart below as they have still not been entered into the system as of the date this information was run on LASD’s computer system.⁷

Station/Unit Supervisory District (SD)	Commendations	Personnel Complaints	Service Complaints
ACCESS TO CARE BUREAU	0	1	0
ADM: CW SRVS ADM HQ	1	2	0
ADM: EAST PATROL ADM HQ	0	1	0
ADM: SOUTH PATROL ADM HQ	1	0	0
AER: AERO BUREAU	3	0	0
ALTADENA SD-5	6	4	1
ASH: OFFICE OF THE ASST SHF I	2	0	0
AVALON SD-4	4	1	1
CAF: COMM & FLEET MGMT BUR	0	0	1
COMMUNITY COLLEGE BUREAU	7	2	0
CENTURY SD-2	17	11	0
CERRITOS SD-4	14	9	3
CIVIL MANAGEMENT BUREAU	15	5	3
COURT SERVICES CENTRAL	2	6	4
COMPTON SD-2	3	13	2
COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP BUREAU	8	3	1
CENTURY REGIONAL DETENTION FACILITY	0	3	0
CRESCENTA VALLEY SD-5	13	2	1
COUNTY SERVICES BUREAU	2	7	2
CARSON SD-2	6	9	0
EAST LOS ANGELES SD-1	5	11	6
EMERGENCY OPERATIONS BUREAU	2	1	0
COURT SERVICES EAST	0	3	0
FRAUD & CYBER CRIMES BUREAU	3	0	0
HOMICIDE BUREAU	2	1	0
HUMAN TRAFFICKING BUREAU	1	0	0

⁶ It is possible for an employee to get a Service Complaint and Personnel Complaint based on the same incident in question.

⁷ This data was obtained from LASD’s Performance Recording and Monitoring System on October 2, 2019, and reflects the data provided as of that date.

Station/Unit Supervisory District (SD)	Commendations	Personnel Complaints	Service Complaints
INTERNAL AFFAIRS BUREAU	0	1	0
INTERNAL CRIME INVESTIGATION BUREAU	1	0	0
INDUSTRY SD-1, 4	8	11	0
INMATE RECEPTION CENTER	0	3	1
INMATE SERVICES BUREAU	0	1	0
LANCASTER SD-5	10	19	2
LAKESWOOD SD-4	8	13	3
LOMITA SD-4	9	4	2
MARINA DEL REY SD-4	6	3	1
MAJOR CRIMES BUREAU	3	1	0
MEN'S CENTRAL JAIL	0	1	1
MALIBU/LOST HILLS SD-3	21	13	1
METROLINK	0	1	0
NARCOTICS BUREAU	1	0	1
NORTH COUNTY CORRECTIONAL FACILITY	1	1	1
NORWALK REGIONAL	13	11	2
OPERATION SAFE STREETS BUREAU	0	3	0
PARKS BUREAU	3	2	1
PALMDALE SD-5	30	20	2
PICO RIVERA SD-1, 4	1	4	2
TRAINING BUREAU	1	0	0
SANTA CLARITA VALLEY SD-5	24	13	4
SAN DIMAS SD-5	7	12	3
OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF	0	0	1
SHERIFF INFORMATION BUREAU	1	0	0
SOUTH LOS ANGELES SD-2	7	8	3
PITCHESS SOUTH FACILITY	1	0	0
SCIENTIFIC SERVICES BUREAU	3	0	0
SPECIAL VICTIMS BUREAU	0	2	1
TEMPLE CITY SD-2	8	10	6
TRAP	1	0	0
TRANSIT SERVICES BUREAU	2	5	1
TWIN TOWERS	1	1	0
WALNUT/SAN DIMAS SD-5	3	10	1
WEST HOLLYWOOD SD-3	7	12	2
COURT SERVICES WEST	7	6	2

Comments and Complaints Received by the Office of Inspector General

Conditions of Confinement

The OIG received 146 new complaints in the third quarter of 2019 from members of the public, prisoners, prisoners' family members and friends, community organizations, and County agencies regarding conditions of confinement in the Los Angeles County jails. Each complaint was reviewed by OIG staff. Forty-four of these complaints were related to conditions of confinement within LASD's custody facilities, as shown below:

Complaint/ Incident Classification	Totals
Personnel Issue	
Rude/Abusive Behavior	1
Use of Force	1
No Discernable subject	2
Medical/Dental Issue	7
Mental Health Services	4
Housing	3
Other Service Issue	26
Total	44

Other service issues have historically included issues such as air conditioning, plumbing, and access to items such as underwear and personal hygiene products.

Field Encounters with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department

Fifty-eight complaints were related to civilian contacts with LASD personnel by persons who were not in custody.

Complaint/ Incident Classification	Totals
Personnel Issue	
Failed to Take Action	6
Rude/Abusive Behavior	8
Use of Force	3
Unlawful Arrest	3
Unlawful Search	1
Unlawful Detention	3
Off Duty Conduct	1
No Discernable subject	6
Service Issue	27
Total	58

Service issues frequently involve LASD practices, such as response times, which are not related to the conduct of individual employees.

Four complaints were not about the LASD or LASD personnel and were referred to the appropriate agency or the complainant was directed to seek legal advice.

Taser Use in Custody

The OIG has compiled the number of times LASD has deployed a Taser in custodial settings from January 2018 through August 2019. The numbers below were gathered from the LASD’s *Monthly Force Synopsis*, which LASD produces and provides to the OIG each month.⁸

Month	Number of Taser Deployments
January 2018	5
February 2018	2
March 2018	7
April 2018	7
May 2018	0
June 2018	4
July 2018	6
August 2018	7
September 2018	3
October 2018	5
November 2018	3
December 2018	1
January 2019	9
February 2019	9
March 2019	5
April 2019	4
May 2019	1
June 2019	2
July 2019	6
August 2019	9
September 2019	6

Use-of-Force Incidents in Custody Division

The OIG monitors LASD’s Custody Support Services Division data on use-of-force incidents, prisoner-on-prisoner violence, and assaults by prisoners on LASD personnel. LASD is still verifying the accuracy of the information for incidents which occurred after April 2019. LASD continues to provide the OIG this data, upon completion of LASD’s internal reviews, to ensure the data is accurate.

⁸ The OIG is not opining on whether the use of the Taser in each of these incidents was permissible under LASD’s policies and/or if the Taser was deployed lawfully.

Prisoner-on-staff Assaults:

1 st Quarter of 2018	144
2 nd Quarter of 2018	173
3 rd Quarter of 2018	131
4 th Quarter of 2018	115
1 st Quarter of 2019	122

Prisoner-on-prisoner Assaults:

1 st Quarter of 2018	871
2 nd Quarter of 2018	905
3 rd Quarter of 2018	988
4 th Quarter of 2018	881
1 st Quarter of 2019	769

Use-of-force Incidents:

1 st Quarter of 2018	546
2 nd Quarter of 2018	592
3 rd Quarter of 2018	530
4 th Quarter of 2018	452
1 st Quarter of 2019	501

LASD Use of Unmanned Aircraft Systems

LASD reports it deployed the Unmanned Aircraft System two times between July 1 and September 30, 2019. On August 15, 2019, LASD deployed the system to assist Lakewood Station deputies in locating a kidnapping suspect who had barricaded himself and the victim in a building. The Unmanned Aircraft System was used to get a visual on the suspect and the victim. The event ended with the suspect's arrest and the rescue of the victim.

On August 21, 2019, LASD deployed the system to assist LASD with searching for a suspect after reports of an active shooter. The Unmanned Aircraft System searched the vicinity for signs of an active shooter and found none.

DATA REVIEW

Deputy-Involved Shootings

LASD categorizes deputy-involved shootings by the tactical circumstances of the shooting, not the outcome. The definitions of each of these categories can be found in the *Manual of Policies and Procedures (MPP)*, section 3-10/300.00. LASD defines “hit shooting” as one where a deputy fired his/her weapon intentionally and hit one or more people. A “non-hit shooting” is defined as an event where a deputy fired a deputy’s weapon intentionally but did not hit anyone. If a person was unintentionally struck by gunfire, the shooting is categorized by LASD as an accidental shooting (for example, if a shot was intentionally fired at an animal and struck a bystander, the shooting would be categorized by LASD as accidental).

The OIG reports all deputy-involved shootings in which a deputy intentionally fired a firearm at a human being or intentionally or unintentionally fired a firearm and a human being was injured or killed as a result. From July 1 to September 30, 2019, there were six incidents in which people were shot or shot at by LASD personnel. OIG staff responded to each of these six deputy-involved shootings. Four people were struck by deputies’ gunfire, one of them fatally. A fifth person, as described below, was fatally injured by gunfire, but the source of the gunfire is not yet available.⁹

LASD provides some data regarding these shootings on its public data website at: http://lasd.org/deputy_involved_shootings.html. Because LASD does not publish narrative descriptions on its website, despite previous recommendations by the OIG, the following summaries are provided:

Compton: LASD reported that on July 3, 2019, at approximately 11:19 p.m., two deputies in a marked patrol car initiated a pursuit of a Cadillac Escalade in order to detain the driver for reckless driving. The occupants of the Escalade shot at the deputies, disabling the patrol car, and wounding one of the deputies. The deputies returned fire through their front windshield. Two assisting deputies pursued the Escalade. The Escalade veered directly toward the assisting deputies who saw a rifle barrel sticking out of the rear driver’s side window. The deputies fired shots at the Escalade, which sped off.

Aero Bureau deployed a helicopter to aid in the pursuit. The occupants of the Escalade shot at the helicopter, but the helicopter was not hit. The Escalade was

⁹ The investigation into the July 3, 2019, shooting described herein is still pending and the coroner’s report has not yet been released. If the decedent was struck by a deputy’s bullet, the decedent would be the fifth person hit and the third to die as a result of a deputy-involved shooting.

pursued to the city of Inglewood, where the suspects abandoned the car and fled on foot. Assisting deputies apprehended one suspect, an African American male, who was not injured.

As detectives investigated the scenes of the shootings, they discovered that an African American male bystander had been killed by a single gunshot wound. An autopsy is being performed to determine the source of the bullet. The deputy shot by the suspects sustained a graze gunshot wound to his right hand and left shoulder and was treated and released from the hospital.

Malibu: LASD reported that on July 26, 2019, at approximately 4:45 p.m., Malibu-Lost Hills Station deputies responded to a domestic violence call involving a Caucasian male with mental health issues assaulting his mother. The Mental Evaluation Team unsuccessfully attempted to coax the suspect out of his bedroom and deescalate the situation. Eventually, the deputies broke into the bedroom where they found the suspect in the corner holding a kitchen knife in each hand. The son charged at the deputies. One of the deputies deployed his Taser but was unsuccessful in subduing the suspect. When the suspect again charged at the deputies, two of the deputies shot one round each at the suspect. The suspect suffered one gunshot wound to his torso and was transported to the hospital and was listed in stable condition. The two knives were recovered from the scene.

South Los Angeles: LASD reported that on August 1, 2019, at approximately 1:00 a.m., a South Los Angeles Station deputy was working a one-man car, when he conducted a traffic stop of a SUV occupied by two African American males. When the SUV pulled over, the passenger got out of the car and fled despite the deputy's commands to stop. As the deputy focused on the passenger, the driver of the SUV fled the scene in the car. The deputy chased after the passenger who turned toward the deputy and fired one round, missing the deputy. The deputy returned fire, firing 20 rounds at the passenger. The passenger died as a result of multiple gunshot wounds to the upper torso and face. The suspect's firearm and the expended shell casing from his round were recovered at the scene.

Lakewood: LASD reported that on August 2, 2019, two deputies responded to Lakewood where fellow deputies were in pursuit of a pickup truck being driven by an African American male kidnapping suspect. As the pursuit continued into South Gate, one deputy positioned a patrol vehicle in the median to set up a spike strip. A South Gate police officer joined the deputies. As pursuit continued, the suspect drove towards the deputies and the officer, steering the pickup in their direction. The second deputy fired three rounds at the suspect. The suspect continued driving, striking the other deputy with the front of his truck, injuring the deputy by causing deep bruising to the deputy's thigh and shoulder. The pursuit continued to

the suspect's home where the suspect eventually surrendered. The suspect sustained a single gunshot wound to the chest but survived.

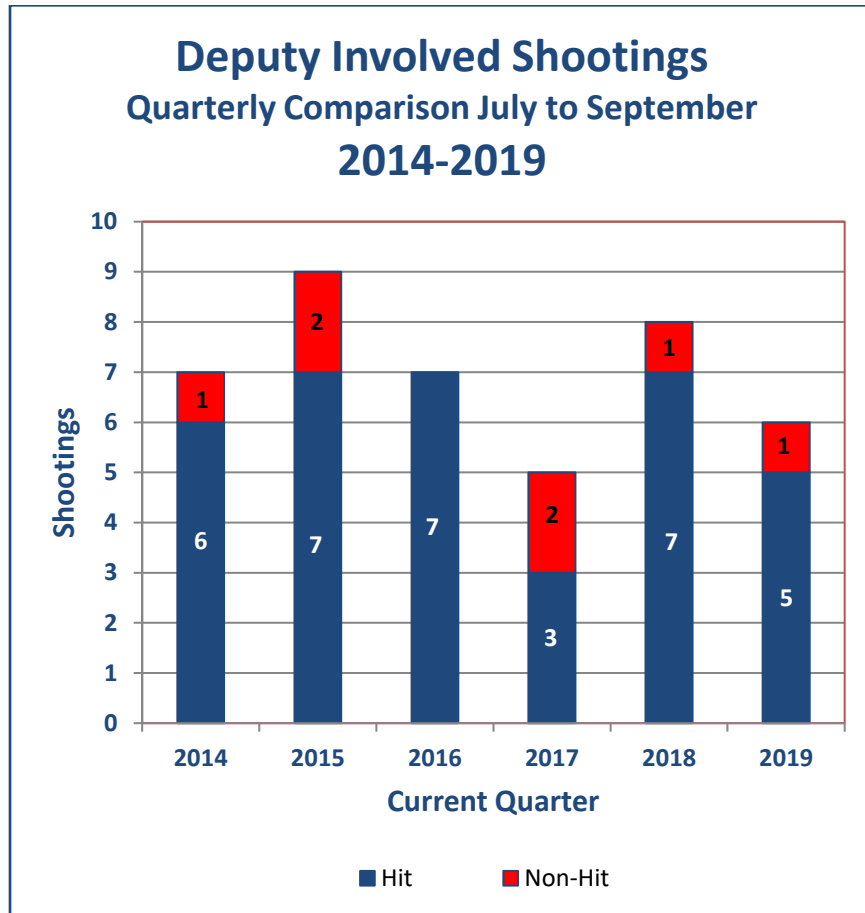
East Los Angeles: LASD reported that on September 2, 2019, at approximately 2:06 a.m., East Los Angeles Station deputies received a call that suspects in a blue Volkswagen Beetle were smashing the windows of parked cars. LASD's Aero unit located a car matching the description and broadcast its location to the deputies. The deputies stopped their patrol car in the middle of the street in the path of the suspect Volkswagen. As the Volkswagen approached, the passenger deputy exited the patrol car and stood in the space between the door and the frame. The driver deputy activated the emergency lights and exited the car as well.

The suspect car stopped approximately ten feet in front of the deputies' patrol car before accelerating toward the passenger side of the patrol car. As the Volkswagen drove around the patrol vehicle, it hit the passenger door of the patrol car, pinning the passenger deputy between the door and the frame, causing the deputy to scream out in pain. Upon hearing his partner's screams, the driver deputy moved to the rear of the patrol car but from that vantage point could not see his partner; he believed that the passenger deputy was being dragged by the suspect's car. The driver deputy fired six rounds at the driver of the Volkswagen but the vehicle did not stop. Assisting units pursued the vehicle and were eventually able to take its two male Hispanic occupants into custody. Neither suspect was injured by the gunfire. The passenger deputy was injured and medically treated for those injuries.

Santa Clarita: LASD reported that on September 12, 2019, at approximately 12:30 p.m., the Santa Clarita Station received a call of a suspicious person shouting and screaming in front of a building. A deputy from the station responded to the call. At the location, the deputy saw a shirtless male Hispanic shouting and screaming. The deputy got out of his car to talk to the man. The man rushed towards the deputy and a struggle ensued. During the struggle, the man managed to take the deputy's radio and Taser, causing the deputy to retreat to his car to call for back up. The man pursued the deputy to his vehicle and smashed the patrol car windshield with the deputy's radio. The man then retreated from the patrol car.

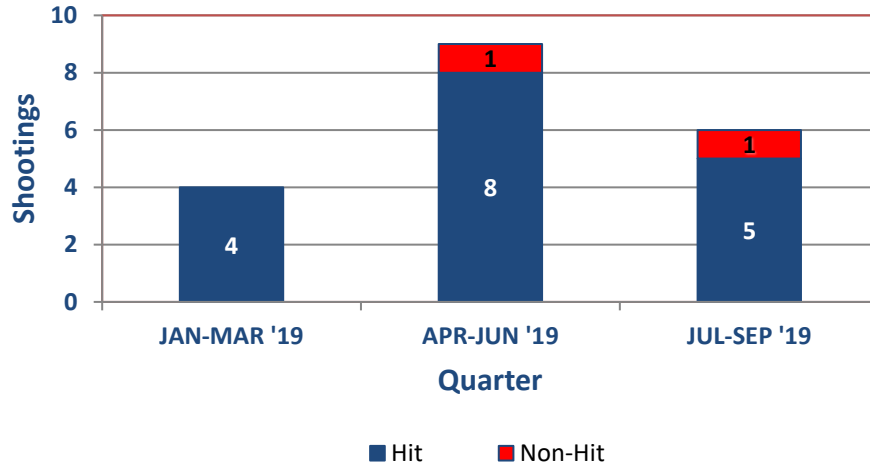
Three deputies arrived to help. As the three deputies formulated a plan to use less lethal weapons to subdue the man, the man advanced at them with a two-foot wooden stake. An altercation occurred between the man and the three deputies during which the man hit one of the deputies with the wooden stake. That deputy took out his gun and shot the man three times, hitting the man in the chest and the arm. That deputy rendered aid but was unable to resuscitate the man, who was pronounced dead at the scene. The injured deputy was taken to the hospital where the deputy was treated for minor injuries.

Comparison to Prior Years¹⁰

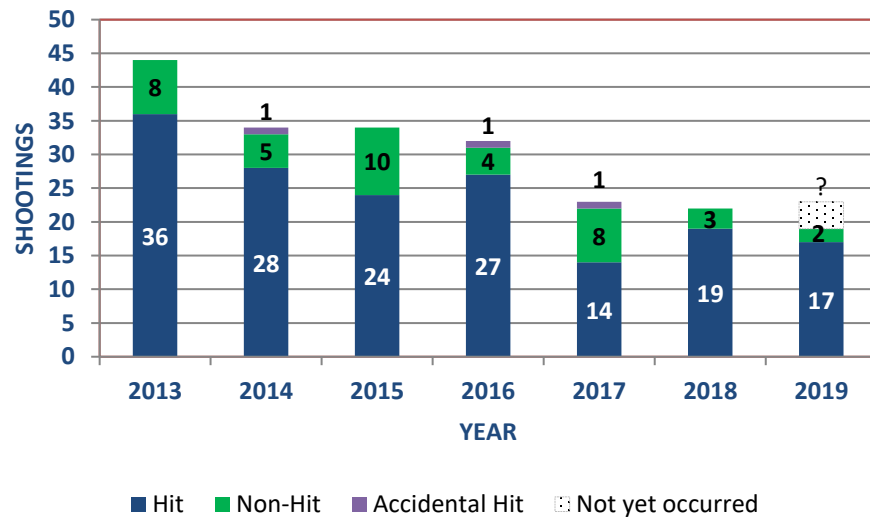


¹⁰ At this stage of the investigation involving the July 3, 2019, shooting, an autopsy report has not been issued which establishes whether the bystander was killed by the gunfire from the suspect or the deputies. This report has included the shooting as a “Hit” shooting for the purpose of this chart.

Deputy Involved Shootings 2019 QUARTERLY COMPARISON 1st through 3rd Quarter



Deputy Involved Shootings Annual Comparison 2013-2019



District Attorney Review of Deputy-Involved Shootings

LASD's Homicide Bureau investigates all deputy-involved shootings in which a person is injured, regardless of shooting category. The Homicide Bureau submits the completed investigation of each deputy-involved shooting in which a person has been injured and which occurred in the County of Los Angeles to the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office (LADA) for review and possible filing of criminal charges.

This quarter, the LADA issued one finding involving LASD personnel; in a letter dated August 20, 2019, the District Attorney's Office declined to file charges in the [November 2, 2017](#), fatal shooting of Ricardo Cendejas, writing there was insufficient evidence to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that the shooting was unlawful. The District Attorney's findings may be found at the District Attorney's web site at: <http://da.lacounty.gov/reports/ois>.

Homicide Bureau's Investigation of Deputy-Involved Shootings

The Homicide Bureau is responsible for conducting the investigation of all deputy-involved shootings, regardless of category, in which a person is injured or killed. After completing its investigation, the Homicide Bureau submits its investigation to the LADA for consideration of filing criminal charges. Until a decision is communicated to LASD, the IAB investigation is suspended and the Police Officer's Bill of Rights of any involved employees are tolled.

If the LADA declines to file the case, LASD's Internal Affairs Bureau (IAB) completes LASD's force review to determine whether department personnel violated any departmental policies during the incident.

For the present quarter, the Homicide Bureau reports 21 shooting cases involving LASD personnel are currently open and under investigation. The oldest case is an August 17, 2018, shooting in the Lennox area of South Los Angeles. This shooting is described briefly in the OIG's [October 2018 Reform and Oversight Efforts: Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department](#) report.

This quarter, LASD reports it has sent one case involving a deputy-involved shooting to the LADA for filing consideration.

Internal Criminal Investigations Bureau

LASD's Internal Criminal Investigations Bureau (ICIB) reports directly to the Sheriff and Undersheriff. It is responsible for investigating allegations of criminal misconduct by members of LASD.

As of September 30, 2019, LASD reports ICIB has 75 active cases. LASD reports sending six cases this quarter to the LADA for filing considerations. The oldest open case ICIB has on its books is from 2015.

Internal Affairs Bureau

The Internal Affairs Bureau (IAB) is responsible for conducting administrative investigations of policy violations by LASD members. It is also responsible for responding to and investigating deputy-involved shootings and significant use-of-force cases.

From July 1 through September 25, 2019, LASD reports IAB opened 90 new cases. In the same period, IAB reports that it has closed 87 cases. There are 300 pending cases on IAB's caseload. This number does not reflect all of the open cases. The OIG has knowledge that certain cases are designated as "IAB Private." LASD has declined to provide the OIG direct access to these files. The OIG does not know how many cases are being concealed and whether these concealed cases are administrative investigations, criminal monitors, or force reviews. The OIG is aware of at least one case which was concealed from management decisionmakers who were charged with determining whether to discharge an employee.

Civil Service Commission Dispositions

From July through September 2019 (latest information available is September 13), the Civil Service Commission issued a final decision in three Sheriff's Department cases. Below is a brief synopsis of the cases in which the Commission issued a final decision and the Commission's finding.

Inmate Reception Center: The subject deputy, a supervisor, had directed or witnessed force used by custody personal against an inmate. LASD charged that the deputy failed to complete a report detailing the force used or report witnessing the use-of-force. LASD also alleged that deputy also failed to take appropriate action when responding to the incident. LASD had recommended discharge. The Hearing Officer had recommended that the deputy receive no discipline and the Commission adopted the hearing officer's recommendation. The deputy received no discipline.

Compton: A police officer from a different department conducted a traffic stop on a deputy. An investigation determined the deputy was under the influence of alcohol. The deputy made false statements in the internal investigation. The deputy also failed to cooperate with the other department's criminal investigation. When the deputy was stopped for driving under the influence, he had a firearm in his

possession. LASD had discharged the deputy. The hearing officer agreed with LASD's decision and the Commission sustained the discharge.

Lakewood: A deputy created on the deputy's personal cellphone 38 videos which depicted the deputy engaging in unprofessional conduct and using derogatory language while on-duty. LASD had discharged the deputy. The hearing officer agreed with LASD's decision and the Commission sustained the discharge.

Custody Division

Handling of Prisoner Grievances

LASD is still in the process of installing iPads in all jail facilities to capture information related to prisoner requests and, eventually, prisoner grievances. There are now 187 installed and operational iPads, an increase of one iPad since the last quarter. There is now a total of 57 iPads at Century Regional Detention Facility (CRDF), 48 iPads at Men's Central Jail (MCJ), and 82 iPads at Twin Towers Correctional Facility (TTCF). As previously reported, LASD completed the Wi-Fi upgrades at TTCF and CRDF. The Wi-Fi connection issues at MCJ have resulted in the need for LASD to place the iPads off-line until the Wi-Fi upgrades are completed. The implementation plan for iPads at Pitchess Detention Center North (PDC North) is still in development.

LASD has reported that iPads have automatically responded to 3,274,363 requests for information from January 1 through September 30, 2019. As previously reported, LASD continues to expand the types of information that can be accessed from the iPads and will continue to add information as feasible.

As reported in the OIG's January 2018 *Quarterly Report*, LASD implemented a policy restricting the filing of duplicate and excessive prisoner grievances. LASD reports that the Custody Automated Reporting and Tracking System was not functioning for a portion of the quarter, and as such, the number of prisoners restricted from filing grievances and the number of grievances restricted under this policy for this quarter is unavailable. LASD stated that it will be able to provide the requested data to the OIG on October 29, 2019. The information will be included in the OIG's next quarterly report.

In-Custody Deaths

Between July 1 and September 30, 2019, six individuals died while under the care and custody of LASD. Of these six decedents, two were pronounced dead in MCJ and four were pronounced dead in the hospitals to which they had been transported.

OIG staff responded to the scene of one death that occurred at MCJ. OIG staff also attended the Custody Services Division Administrative Death Reviews for each of the seven in-custody deaths.

The following summaries, arranged in chronological order, provide brief descriptions of each in-custody death:

On July 6, 2019, an individual at MCJ was reportedly discovered unresponsive in a cell during a Title-15 safety check. Emergency aid was rendered, paramedics were called, and the individual was pronounced dead at the scene.

On July 5, 2019, an individual was reportedly discovered by deputies in a holding cell at Century Patrol Station lockup. Deputies rendered aid until paramedics arrived and transported the individual to the Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Hospital's Hope Emergency Center. On July 6, 2019, the individual was transferred to Los Angeles County/USC Medical Center (LCMC) for a higher level of care. The individual died on July 7, 2019.

On July 23, 2019, deputies at CRDF were alerted to an individual experiencing a medical emergency. Deputies and medical personnel rendered emergency aid until paramedics arrived and transported the individual to St. Francis Medical Center. The individual died approximately one hour after being transported.

On July 26, 2019, a custody assistant at MCJ was alerted to an individual in medical distress. Medical personnel evaluated the individual and provided medical care. The individual was transported to LCMC by paramedics approximately one hour later. The individual died approximately one hour after being transported.

On July 29, 2019, an individual died at LCMC after being transported from TTCF's Correctional Treatment Center on June 27, 2019, for a higher level of care.

On September 28, 2019, an individual at MCJ was reportedly discovered unresponsive in a cell during a Title-15 safety check. Emergency aid was rendered, paramedics were called, and the individual was pronounced dead at the scene.

Other Deaths

Between July 1 and September 30, 2019, three individuals died under circumstances which do not fit within the current categorical definition of in-custody death but who were under the care and custody of LASD when the condition which resulted in their deaths first became apparent.

The following summaries provide brief descriptions of the circumstances surrounding these deaths:

On September 19, 2019, an individual in the Palmdale Patrol Station lockup was transported to the Palmdale Regional Medical Center for a medical concern. The individual died within a few hours of arriving at the hospital.

On September 17, 2019, deputies at TTCF were alerted to an individual experiencing a medical emergency. Deputies and medical personnel rendered emergency aid until paramedics arrived. The individual was transported to LCMC and was subsequently released from custody on September 19, 2019. The individual died on September 22, 2019. One month prior to the medical emergency, the OIG was contacted by the individual's family member who was concerned about the healthcare the individual was receiving. OIG staff visited with the individual, communicated with LASD and Correctional Health Services personnel and were present at the Custody Services Division Administrative Death Reviews.

On September 24, 2019, deputies conducted a traffic stop and subsequently arrested the driver of the vehicle. The individual began to experience a medical emergency. Deputies removed the handcuffs and rendered lifesaving measures until paramedics arrived. Paramedics pronounced the individual dead at the scene. OIG staff was present at the Critical Incident Review.

Office of Inspector General Site Visits

OIG staff regularly conduct site visits and inspections at LASD's custodial facilities to identify matters requiring attention. All site visits result in follow up. In the third quarter of 2019, OIG completed 35 site visits and logged 55 monitoring hours inside seven of LASD's jail and lockup facilities. During those visits, OIG staff spoke with prisoners and met with LASD personnel of all ranks, including custody assistants, civilian staff, clergy, and volunteers. As part of the OIG's jail monitoring, OIG staff attended 41 Custody Services Division executive and administrative meetings and met with division executives for 46 monitoring hours.

OIG staff also continued to meet with prisoners housed in general population modules, administrative segregation units, disciplinary units, and medical and mental health units. OIG monitors met with and received input from individuals at cell front, during recreation and treatment group time, and in private interview rooms when necessary to ensure confidentiality. The following chart represents LASD facilities visited from July 1 through September 30, 2019:

Facility	Site Visits
Century Regional Detention Facility (CRDF)	2
Inmate Reception Center (IRC)	3
Men’s Central Jail (MCJ)	9
North County Correctional Facility (NCCF)	3
Pitchess Detention Center North (PDC North)	1
Pitchess Detention Center South (PDC South)	1
Twin Towers Correctional Facility (TTCF)	16
Total	35

OTHER UPDATES

CCJV Recommendation 3.12: The Department should purchase additional body scanners

LASD continues to operate body scanners at CRDF, PDC North, PDC South, NCCF, and the IRC.

As previously reported, the final body scanner that will be assigned to MCJ was purchased in February 2019 and delivered on July 23, 2019. The manufacturer provided training for the MCJ staff that will be assigned to use the machine. The machine will become operational once it is connected to LASD’s server and network.

According to LASD records, from January 1 to September 18, 2019, less than one percent (1%) of prisoners refused to go through the body scanners across all applicable facilities.

CCJV Recommendation 5.4: The Department should adopt a dual-track career system whereby deputies would be recruited separately for Custody and Patrol and would have the opportunity to have a career in Custody.

In addition to this recommendation by the CCJV, the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) has preliminarily endorsed a true dual track approach to hiring (permitted under California’s Penal Code section 830.1) which has a high probability of limiting the need for excess overtime and budget overruns.

Notwithstanding the CCJV recommendation, the IACP's endorsement of this approach and LASD's own recruitment material (see <https://careers.lasd.org/dual-track-career-path/>, last accessed October 9, 2019), the Professional Peace Officers Association (PPOA), which represents sergeants and custody assistants, reports that it was notified in May 2019 "of the Department's intention to revise the job specifications of Sergeant and Lieutenant, thus eliminating the Dual Track promotional process in the future." The PPOA subsequently filed a lawsuit to enjoin LASD from doing this.

Because, to date, LASD has ignored requests by the Inspector General to be notified of proposed changes, additions, or deletions to LASD policies, practices or procedures at the time such proposals are submitted for consideration, the OIG learned of this proposal through media reports.

We will continue to monitor and report on LASD's handling of this issue.

CCJV Recommendation 7.14: The grievance process should be improved to include added checks and oversight

See "Handling of Prisoner Grievances" in Monitoring section above.

CCJV Recommendation 7.15: The use of lapel cameras as an investigative tool should be broadened

As previously reported, LASD opted for an alternative implementation of this recommendation and embarked on a five-year program to install fixed cameras in the jail facilities. LASD continues to install Closed Circuit Television cameras at PDC South. LASD had already completed installation of 190 cameras throughout the PDC South compound, including classroom buildings and the visiting area. PDC South reports that 34 new cameras have been installed in the laundry area, and the system is online and connected to the LASD's network. The cameras in the vocational shops are installed and will be ready to go online once the last fiber cable is installed to connect to the LASD's network. PDC South reports that they are in the process of having this final step completed but they are unable to provide an accurate date of completion at this time.