

COMMANDER RALPH W. MARTIN
LOS ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT



Commander Ralph Martin and his wife of 32 years, Colleen, reside in Coto de Caza in South Orange County. Colleen is a Doctor of Optometry who owns and runs an Optometry practice. They have six children: Sean, 31, a United States Air Force Captain and physician; Ryan, 28, who lives in London where he is employed by an international investment firm; Kevin, 25, a stockbroker; Megan, 22, a college senior; Brendan, 18, a college freshman; and Michael, 14, a junior high student.

Commander Martin possesses a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice from California State University, Los Angeles, and a Master of Arts degree in Communications from Pepperdine University.

A native of Rochester, Minnesota, he moved with his family to Southern California as a small child. Commander Martin grew up in the Glendale/Burbank area. His parents, brother, and sister all live in Orange County.

Commander Martin began his law enforcement career with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department in 1973, when he attended the Sheriff's Academy in East Los Angeles. He worked various assignments as a deputy, first the Inmate Reception Center at the Los Angeles County Jail, later transferring to Firestone Patrol Station in the South Central Los Angeles area where he held assignments as a patrol deputy, training officer, and gang enforcement deputy. After 5 years, he was selected for an assignment at the Sheriff's Information Bureau where he worked as the Department's Police Information Officer (PIO), acting as a Department spokesperson. He served as a deputy for 10 years.

He was promoted to Sergeant in 1983, assigned to the Temple City Patrol Station. He was eventually selected for an assignment at Field Operations Region I Headquarters where he was the aide to the Division Chief. He later held the same position at Field Operations Region III Headquarters. He served as a Sergeant for seven years.

He was promoted to Lieutenant in 1990, assigned as Watch Commander at the Pitchess Detention Center in Northern Los Angeles County. He later transferred to the Antelope Valley Patrol Station where he worked as a Watch Commander and then moved to the Crescenta Valley Patrol Station as the Operations Lieutenant (Captain's administrative adjutant). He was selected as the executive assistant to the Chief of Field Operations Region I. He served as a Lieutenant for 10 years.

In January of 2000, he was promoted to Captain, assigned to command the Crescenta Valley Patrol Station. Crescenta Valley Station is responsible for providing law enforcement services to the city of La Canada-Flintridge, the unincorporated communities of La Crescenta, Montrose, Lake View Terrace, and much of the Angeles National Forest, policing a combined total population of over 45,000 people. He served as Captain for four years.

In April of 2004, he was promoted to Area Commander, assigned to the extremely busy and active Field Operations Region II. Field Operations Region II is the busiest of the three patrol regions within the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. As Area Commander of Region II, he currently oversees the patrol operations of Compton, Century, Carson, Lomita, Lennox, Marina del Rey, and West Hollywood Stations, as well as Avalon Station which is located on Catalina Island. He also oversees the security for nine junior college campuses under the Community College Bureau, is responsible for the COPS Policing Bureau and the Community/Law Enforcement Partnership Program and Operation Safe Streets Bureau, which provides 200 gang investigators for all of Los Angeles County. Currently, Region II has over 2,000 sworn and civilian personnel in patrol, detective bureau, and community relations-support programs. This region has approximately 200 Reserve Deputy Sheriffs and Volunteers assigned.

As a resident of Orange County, Commander Martin has watched with deep concern as the Orange County Sheriff's Department experienced a series of managerial crises culminating in the indictment of the current Sheriff. He recognized that a weak or corrupt core management team, poor managerial decision making, and inexperience were at the root of the difficulties plaguing the Department. In late 2004, he began to personally explore the possibility of running for Orange County Sheriff. In July of 2005, he announced his candidacy. He received nearly 18% of the vote during the 2006 election.

Commander Martin knows that he possesses the managerial experience, skills, and ethics to bring positive change and healing to the Orange County Sheriff's Department. He believes that positive change can only be made by an outside administrator who has no ties to the current administration, deputy unions, or county officials.

Commander Martin's priorities include: improving and enhancing public safety by reducing gang activity, drugs, and violent crime; protecting our children from sexual exploitation and predators; enhancing school safety; increasing homeland security and preventing terrorist attacks; realigning and reorganizing the Orange County Sheriff's Department to improve the delivery of law enforcement services in all areas; maintaining fiscal responsibility and accountability to the public; and restoring ethical and positive leadership to the upper management of the Orange County Sheriff's Department.