



Los Angeles Police Department
Los Angeles, California

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LAPD Starts its National Counter-Terrorism Academy

Los Angeles: Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa and Police Chief William Bratton jointly announced the model for what is expected become a National Counter-Terrorism Academy (NCTA) for state and local law enforcement – the first of its kind in the country created by local law enforcement and its private partners.

“Police officers are out in the communities every day, gathering critical information and fighting crime. With the proper training, we can apply the skills we already have to the fight against terrorism as well,” said Chief Bratton. “This academy will offer standardized, counter-terrorism training that teaches us how to apply the crime-fighting and information-gathering strengths we already have to the issue of terrorism.”

The pilot program for the Academy, which starts today and runs through July 30, will bring world-class counter-terrorism training to nearly 70 students from more than 27 public agencies and private sector companies throughout the state of California and Nevada. Topics of instruction include homegrown radicalization, methods for interdicting terrorism finance and case studies of significant terrorism plots presented by the investigators themselves.

The pilot program is a public-private partnership between the LAPD and the Center for Policing Terrorism at the Manhattan Institute, a think tank with a long history of confronting the most challenging public policy issues.

“The Manhattan Institute welcomed the opportunity to contribute to a curriculum that will expose law enforcement and other public safety professionals to innovative thinking about the links between common crime and political violence, and to do so without losing sight of constitutional rights and civil liberties,” said Howard Husock, the institute’s vice president for policy research.

The pilot program was funded primarily by the Ahmanson Foundation. The State of California has provided additional funding for the further development of the academy.

Over the next year, the Academy will expand its course offerings, seek additional funding and grow to eventually include four components: a bricks-and-mortar location in Los Angeles; a virtual, or online, academy; a digital library; and mobile academic teams. Under the LAPD’s guidance and Chief Bratton’s leadership, a small staff of professionals will develop curricula, manage operations and outsource the instruction to the best and brightest.

The Academy will augment and serve as a focal point for existing federal training programs and strengthen the intellectual body of homeland security knowledge by adding the critical perspective of local agencies. The training will be tailored to the needs of the up and coming

leaders in state and local agencies and their counterparts in the public safety and private security fields.

Background

In the wake of 9/11, America's roughly 700,000 state, local and tribal law enforcers stand to play a critical role in homeland security as "First Preventers" of terrorism and other crimes. Despite this potential, there is no training academy where officers can receive basic homeland security education based on a standardized curriculum specifically tailored to their needs.

The Los Angeles Police Department, under the leadership of Chief Bratton, proposes the creation of a national academy in Los Angeles that will fill that void while serving as a vehicle to promote and teach the philosophy of Intelligence-Led Policing – a policing model in which operations are guided by intelligence gathering and analysis rather than the other way around.

If you have any questions, please contact Media Relations Section, at (213) 485-3586.

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