

Law Enforcement

In Brief- Immigration overloaded, LAPD brutal and high-tech, jails overcrowded.

INS- The INS (Immigration and Naturalization Service) aka 'La Migra', is a large part of law-enforcement in L.A. INS agents conduct raids on factories and cheap apartment buildings looking for immigrants without valid visas. Yet no matter how many illegal immigrants they capture they can't dent L.A.'s 2 million illegal immigrant population. The L.A. jail system is also supposed to hand over criminal suspects who are illegals. The INS has a major problem housing these suspected illegals until they can be dealt with. Lately the INS has had to contract out to private companies to turn old motels and apartment buildings into mini-jails to hold illegals. From the outside they look like regular motels or apartments, but inside hundreds of illegals are held under lock-down conditions.

LAPD- More than any other police force in the country, the LAPD uses technology rather than manpower to deal with L.A.'s significant crime problem. High crime areas are patrolled on a regular basis by LAPD helicopters using spotlights and infrared cameras. Helicopters also swiftly deliver LAPD SWAT teams, armed with body armor and automatic weapons, to any situation where LAPD patrol officers feel they don't have the enemy completely outgunned.

The LAPD has one of the most hostile relationships with non-White communities of any police force in the nation. See p.161 of History for more on why. The LAPD have not made any significant improvements to their race relations. There are a few officers (mostly gang task force detectives) can converse freely with any member of non-White communities, even hard-core cop-hating gang members, because they have learned the 'secret' of showing at least a little respect to the people they talk to. LAPD gang experts are in a very nice position: they get to appear on TV a lot and when they retire early they can make a lot of money acting as expert witnesses in gang-related trials.

Many new projects (public housing units built to house poor people) are like little police states. Residents have to carry identity passes, LAPD officers have their own substations there, fences funnel anyone entering or leaving past checkpoints where police officers can frisk them, check their identities and ask where they're going and why.

Jails- The L.A. county jail system is the largest in the nation. This is where prisoners are kept who are awaiting trial or who were sentenced to sentences too short to be sent to state prisons.

L.A.P.D. S.W.A.T. Team

