



June 24, 2011

*Celebrating 25 Years!!*



*Andre Clansy, L.A.P.D., Metropolitan Division*

**1. When were you in the Corps and for how long?**

I was in the Corps from 1988 to 1990. I participated in Clean & Green every weekend – my title was Assistant Supervisor. We would go into the inner-city and clean up fields, alleys and vacant lots, and my job was to help out with the younger kids. About once a month we would go out to the canyons – Santa Monica and Griffith Park to clean up the campgrounds and, sometimes to camp out.

**2. Please tell us about your life now, both professionally and personally.**

I was in the military for four years, after which I joined the L.A.P.D. I've now been a police officer for 15 years within the Metropolitan Division, where I provide personal security to the Chief of Police. I'm essentially the secret service for high-level officials within Los Angeles's government.

Personally, I graduated from Cal State L.A. where I majored in Criminal Justice. I actually had no idea I was interested in law enforcement until I got to the military! I also work part-time for the LAUSD, where I perform job development activities for kids who want to go into law enforcement.

**3. How did the Corps influence who you are and what you are doing currently?**

I was in high school and looking for a part-time job when I noticed that Clean & Green was hiring. I didn't know much about the program at the time but I went to apply on Main St., at an old abandoned fire-station. Once I started, we would meet every Saturday at Markham Junior High in Watts and kids from Drew and Markham would meet us down there dressed in green shirts, khakis and hard hats. We would go through various alleys and clean up the community. Once I started to see the results of our work – how streets were cleaned and alleys were made accessible to vehicles – and the community's appreciation it was deeply inspirational to me. Clean & Green gave me my first experience doing community service and that experience was one of the indications for me in becoming a police officer. Those were my first experiences where people were really grateful for what we were doing and I have really positive memories of them.

Clean & Green gave me a sense of social responsibility and that drove me to give back to the community by allowing me to see the difference that work in the community can make. What inspired me about the program was that our communities were being served by people from those communities – it wasn't people from Beverly Hills coming to do community service in Watts. It was people from the inner-city owning up, being responsible and taking care of their own neighborhoods. It also helped build character and leadership-skills as a young man because they made me responsible for guiding and mentoring kids younger than me. In guiding them, mentoring them and giving them positive reinforcement, I actually became more responsible and a better leader.

#### 4. What do you most remember about your time with the Corps?

The most helpful project for me – this is a project that I remember to this day – was cleaning a small park on the north east corner of 96<sup>th</sup> and Central. The park was cluttered with trash, debris and all types of garbage. Because I grew up in the area, and had seen that piece of land covered in trash and debris ever since I was young, that was all that I knew it for. But one day Clean & Green went to that park and cleaned it up, and I was finally able to recognize that it was a park – until then I didn't even realize that that's what it was. That experience of seeing the results of our work and their impact on my neighborhood was truly fulfilling – it showed me why we were doing what we were doing. I still pass by that area almost everyday and each time I think back to that experience.

#### Young Adult Corps

The PECEI Crew continues to survey local convenient stores and supermarkets to perform energy audits and help Los Angeles business's conserve energy and save money.



*Corpsmembers Dahae Hwang & Omar Mizrahi surveying reach-in refrigeration units*



*Corpsmember Moises Robledo entering the horsepower of the compressor into the iPhone energy survey*

This past week, members from the Wildland Recovery Team (WRT) participated in a Fire Patrol Operator Class (NWCG S-216). This 5 day federal course is certified through National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG). Crews participated in both classroom and hands on training involving Type 6 Wildland Fire Engines operations. Corpsmembers were challenged with an off-road four wheel drive course involving technical creek crossings and boulder filled hill climbs. The WRT traveled over 100 miles all on rigorous dirt fire roads, with no serious damage to any vehicle. Members had the privilege to receive a workshop from Robwen Fire Pumps Inc., a fire pump manufacturer, which supplies fire departments worldwide with firefighting apparatus. Crews participated in hands on fire pump training involving mobile attack, drafting water from pools, class A foam operations, pump operations and hydraulics. Members concluded with an EVOC (Emergency Vehicle Operation Course) course, which involves high speeds maneuvers going both forward and backward, to prepare the operators for "Code 3" emergency response driving and the

use of the obstruction avoidance tactics. The success of the training was measured by completing the 5 day course with no injuries or damage to vehicles.



*Wildland Recovery Team participating in a Fire Patrol Operator Class (NWCG S-216)*

On Wednesday, June 22nd, a special guest, Drew Hayashida from Disney University at The Walt Disney Company, spoke to the members of the **Water Efficiency Job Training Program** about making presentations. He provided them with tips on how to engage your audience, how to present information visually in an effective format and answered their questions about how to overcome nervousness or problems that might arise. The crew is preparing for their first presentation about water conservation, which will take place at the Long Beach Community Action Partnership (LB CAP). Many thanks to Drew for sharing his insights and expertise!



*Drew Hayashida of The Walt Disney Company speaking to corpsmembers on how to give effective presentations*

## **RACLA**

RACLA crews once again will be busy recycling this weekend at 3 major venues. One crew will be present at Pasadena's Rose Bowl recycling at a Soccer Championship game. Another crew will be recycling at STAPLES Center, and the third crew consisting of RACLA contract employees will be recycling at Dodger games. If you're any of these events, remember to stop and say hi to our crews!

## **Graduation**

Last Friday, June 17<sup>th</sup>, our 15th Annual High School Graduation ceremony was held at LA Trade Tech College. It was a record number of graduates and a record crowd. Approximately 1,200 came out to cheer on the 180 corpsmembers who made up LA Conservation Corps' graduating Class of 2011. Since our inaugural Class of 1997, a total of 1,100 corpsmembers have now obtained their high school diplomas through our charter school. We look forward to continuing to work with and support these young people as many of them now move on to college.



*Graduation 2011*