



MUGGED-Transit Chief Tom Conner, center, presents LAPD Sgt. John Vanelli, left, and LASD Capt. Marc Klugman with tokens of appreciation.

MTA's Emergency Ops Center Calls it a 'Wrap'

(Oct. 19) Every morning during the transit strike a handpicked group of employees from many departments within the MTA gathered in the Emergency Operations Center to take the daily pulse of the work stoppage.

On Thursday morning, following the end of the agency's third longest strike, they assembled for the final time - at least the final time for this particular crisis.

"This has been a wild year for all of us," said MTA Security Chief Paul Lennon. "Starting with Y2K, then the opening of the North Hollywood subway line, then the Democratic National Convention and now the strike. Three of these major incidents have focused on the MTA."



EOC team met daily.

Everyone pulled together
Addressing a roomful of EOC staffers, Chief Operating Officer Allan Lipsky noted that "everyone pulled together and became a unified team." He also credited MTA Board members who "wanted the unions to be partners with us, but understood the long-term interests of this agency and acted with great vision."

Transit Operations Chief Tom Conner, who chaired the EOC, expressed his personal appreciation to everyone who served on the team. "We seem to have excitement brewing just about every month around here," he said, adding that this year's crises have helped prepare the MTA's emergency organization to handle a regional disaster.

Conner had particular praise for the MTA's Systems Safety and Security Department and its law enforcement partners.

"People have said this was one of the safest and most peaceful labor events," he said. "It's because of the teamwork we had and because of the individual work by the LAPD and Sheriff's Department."

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