

■ Sheriff's deputies and MTA Security officers salute as Light Rail Manager Duane Martin (in suit) orders the raising of the long-awaited American flag over Metro Blue Line Division 11.



'Old Glory' Flying High At Metro Blue Line Division 11

By ERIC RAPP

(April 30, 2002) Duane Martin has been trying to get an American flag and flagpole at Metro Blue Line Division 11 for five years.

After the terrorist attacks last September 11, Martin, who is Rail Transportation Manager for Light Rail Operations, and Assistant Manager Henry Castaneda made it their personal mission to finally get a flag for the division.

But with flags in short supply throughout the nation, they had more trouble than they ever thought they would.

Martin searched high and low for a flag while Castaneda worked with Facilities Maintenance to order and install a flagpole. Finding the right spot for the pole proved to be no easy task either, since digging meant checking that there were no underground utilities in the way.

Martin and Castaneda persisted. A flag was eventually located at a "Mom 'n Pop" store in Long Beach. A vault was dug for the pole.

Now, nearly six months later, the Stars and Stripes flies proudly over the entrance to Division 11, where it is also visible to passengers on the Metro Blue Line.

Although it has been flying for several weeks, the flag was officially raised last Tuesday. MTA Security officers and deputies from the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department Transit Group, as well as members of the Division 11 family, attended the ceremony.

After the ceremony, Martin spoke briefly about what it meant to the division to finally have this symbol of America. "God bless America," he said, "and the employees of MTA."

[Back to Bulletin Board](#)

