

Sheriff's Capt. Dan Finkelstein Named Chief of Transit Police

By BILL HEARD, Editor

(March 21, 2003) Sheriff's Capt. Dan Finkelstein, a 27-year law enforcement veteran, has been named MTA's Chief of Transit Police – a first-of-its-kind arrangement that is expected to consolidate the agency's security forces and improve safety for employees and patrons.

Deputy CEO John Catoe announced Finkelstein's appointment, Thursday, during the Board's Operations Committee meeting. It comes as MTA is negotiating a full-service, five-year security contract with the Sheriff's Department.



Sheriff's Capt. Dan Finkelstein is named MTA's Chief of Transit Police at Operations Committee meeting.

Noting that Finkelstein will remain a member of the Sheriff's Department while serving as Transit Police chief, Catoe said he expects to see a greater security presence in the Metro system and at MTA facilities and "a creative use of law enforcement."

"This will improve security," he said. "Visibly and actually."

In addition to commanding a 448-member Transit Services Bureau that includes 342 deputies and 50 uniformed fare inspectors, Finkelstein also will be responsible for the MTA Security force.

One-voice operation

"The great thing about this is that we'll be a more seamless, more efficient, one-voice operation," said Finkelstein. "We'll be able to assist MTA security with training, communication and other issues. And they'll be an extra set of eyes and ears for the deputies who are working the system."

Finkelstein also will oversee an MTA counter-terrorism and threat assessment team headed by Paul Lennon, currently managing director of Systems Safety and Security.

Lennon will work with local, state, federal and even some foreign security agencies to gather counter-terrorism intelligence that will be useful in MTA's security planning and operations.

Finkelstein joined the Sheriff's Department as an intern in 1975. As a deputy, he worked in such assignments as the Men's Central Jail and at the Carson, Firestone and Lennox stations. He was promoted to sergeant in 1987 and to lieutenant in 1991.

Headed Metrolink Bureau

As a lieutenant, he commanded the Metrolink Bureau, providing security for the commuter rail network. Promoted to captain in May 2001, he was named to head the Sheriff's Transit Services Bureau at MTA.

Finkelstein earned an Associate's degree in liberal arts at Los Angeles

Harbor College and a BS in criminal justice from Cal State Long Beach. He currently is pursuing a master's degree in health sciences, with a specialization in disaster and emergency management.

Finkelstein and his wife, Ilene, a deputy sheriff assigned to court services in Lancaster, have a son Danny, 20, a sophomore at Cal State Long Beach.

In his spare time, Finkelstein and his wife enjoy raising and training quarter horses on their ranch. They compete as partners in team roping events throughout the West. In his leisure time, he enjoys running, cooking and riding his motorcycle.

[Back to MTA Report](#)