

GSE 2006 Team to Los Angeles

2006-04-15

Departure Day, The adventure begins!

An incredible, informative and active week:

- Day 0:
 - An amazing reception at LAX with a follow up welcome party at the Santa Monica Mason's Lodge. The GSE Team met the upcoming District 5280 GSE Team to Vancouver Leader Hampton Cantrell.



- Day 1:
 - Free day with host families which meant bike rides, tour of the Santa Monica Pier and Promenade, drive up the coast to Malibu and Fire Hall 69, and an Armenian Easter Celebration.



- Day 2:
 - Santa Monica PD – live fire time at the range with the SWAT Team, tour of the state of the art SMPD Building and a ride-a-long with Santa Monica's finest.



- Welcome party at Judy Nuveau's
- Day 3:
 - Westwood FBI Bureau – presentation by the Joint Terrorism Task Force
 - Getty Security – tour of the inside security operations of the 2 Billion dollar Getty Center and Museum, which houses, restores and researches art (www.getty.edu).



- Day 4:
 - Los Angeles International Airport Police Department – tour of LAX (airport) and the police department operations, K-9 Unit who are trained specifically for explosives, and tour of airfield.
 - Weschester Rotary Club – Lunch meeting presentation by the GSE Team to an energetic club of forty Rotary Members. Presentation was well received with positive feedback.
 - Transport Security Administration (division of Department of Homeland Security) – met with Director of TSA (Retired Deputy Chief of LAPD).
 - Toured the Immigration and Customs Operation at LAX – provided information

on screening procedures, targeting and expedited removals of Terrorism suspects. Every agency is experiencing a heightened awareness of terrorism, actively planning prevention based upon risk and fully expect a terrorist attack in Los Angeles.



- Day 5:
 - Los Angeles County Sheriffs, Marina Del-Ray Division – tour of the marina, breakwater and nearby coastlines to Santa Monica Pier and Venice Beach. Observed marine wildlife, and operated the water cannon and jet boat. Harbour-Master very receptive to group and ensured a meaningful morning.
 - Impromptu Make-up Meeting at Shanghai Red's with the Marina Del-Ray Rotary Club – the GSE shirts provided the introduction as the rotary wheel drew attention to our group. By invitation the President of the Club invited the group to the meeting which turned out to be their 64th Anniversary Meeting. Dr. Earl Bubar, a charter member spoke to the club about their history.
 - Archangel – we can't talk about it. It's very secretive but it manages the critical infrastructure security issues for Los Angeles and area.



- Day 6:
 - Gates Security – tour of the Pacific Palisades and coffee with Spielberg, Hanks and Schwarzenegger.
 - University of California Los Angeles (UCLA) – campus Police tour of grounds, department and gift shop.



Regards,

Team Leader - Neil MacKay

Team Members – Jean Hamm, Michelle Hannah, Jody Akerman, and Robyn Waldron