Deputy Chief Michael P. Downing is the Commanding Officer, Counter-Terrorism and Special Operations Bureau where he leads five operational divisions: Major Crimes Division, Emergency Services Division, Metropolitan Division, Air Support Division, and Emergency Operations Division. These divisions include the Anti-Terrorism Intelligence Section, Criminal Investigative Section, Organized Crime, Surveillance Section, Hazardous Devices Section, Operation Archangel, LAX Bomb K-9 Section, Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT), Mounted Unit, Underwater Dive Team, and Emergency Preparedness and Response. Deputy Chief Downing is also a member of the Executive Board of the Los Angeles Joint Regional Intelligence Center (JRIC).

Deputy Chief Downing was appointed to the Los Angeles Police Department in April 1982 and progressed through the ranks, promoting to Sergeant in 1987, Lieutenant in 1991, Captain in 1996, Commander in April 2005, and Deputy Chief in April 2007.

As the Commanding Officer, Hollywood Community Police Station, from July 1999 to April 2005, then Captain Downing led a command of 300 sworn and 40 civilian personnel providing service to a diverse residential population that exceeded 300,000 with an area that span 17.2 square miles.

Upon being promoted to Commander in April 2005, Deputy Chief Downing was assigned as the Assistant Commanding Officer, Operations-South Bureau, a command serving nearly 700,000 people, 4 service Areas, and 1,200 police officers in South Los Angeles. In this capacity he oversaw patrol operations, detectives, vice, and the administration of Bureau operations.

Since his assignment to Counter-Terrorism April 2006, Deputy Chief Downing has worked with the New Scotland Yard's Metropolitan Police Counter-Terrorism Command SO 15 during an eight-week attachment. Deputy Chief Downing has testified before Congressional subcommittees relative to intelligence, homeland security and information sharing. In April 2010, Chief Downing served as a member of the Department of Homeland Security Advisory Council working group on developing a national strategy for countering violent extremism. He is a strong advocate of State and Local law enforcement agencies relative to a more integrated National Intelligence Enterprise.

In October 2009, Deputy Chief Downing was appointed as the Interim Police Chief for the Los Angeles Police Department until the permanent Police Chief was appointed in November 2009.

As of May 2010, Chief Downing was elected the President of the Leadership in Counter-Terrorism (LinCT) Alumni Association. This association is working with alumni from the FBI's LinCT Program to develop a global enterprise of networked counter-terrorism practitioners from the United States, United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand.

Deputy Chief Downing has also worked with the Department of Justice, traveling to South America, Africa, Turkey, and Poland in an effort to transition large national police organizations into democratic civilian policing models.

Deputy Chief Downing attended the University of Southern California where he received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration in 1982 and completed POST Command College in 1997, the FBI's Leadership in Counter-Terrorism (LinCT) in 2008, and the Post Naval Graduate Executive Program in 2009. He is currently a senior fellow at the George Washington University Homeland Security Institute.

He resides in Southern California with his wife and two teenage daughters. Together the family enjoys the outdoors, water sports, sailing, and athletics.