

The Protection Ranger



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The Newsletter of the U.S. Park Rangers Lodge, Fraternal Order of Police 15th Anniversary Vol. XIV • No.1 • 2003

Executive Director's Message

In this issue are several letters Lodge members have written to try and right things within the NPS. We are not alone: NAPA, the IACP and, most recently and thoroughly, the Inspector General of the Department of the Interior have lashed out against how upper management mismanages the agency's law enforcement program. We seem to be making headway, albeit on the lives of four fine rangers and the circumscribed careers of many others who have boldly stood up for what is right.

The message here is what we have always emphasized: Park rangers are respected for the work we do. As field rangers, we **can** influence issues that affect our safety and our ability to protect our parks. The Ranger Lodge continues to be the sole advocate for law enforcement field rangers. You, as members, know and appreciate this. We call upon our members to spread the word to rangers who are not members. Not only is there strength in numbers, but the Lodge benefits tremendously from the influx of new ideas, expertise and opinions.

You can help by actively recruiting your friends and colleagues. Get them to join the

Lodge. Leave a copy of *The Protection Ranger* in the office or coffee room so they can see what we've accomplished and what we have yet to do. Get involved in the issues we address by joining the discussion groups on the Lodge discussion web site (www.RangerFOP.com) or by writing letters and being available to talk to reporters or Congressional staff when we need field contacts.

We appreciate the incredible efforts our membership has shown over the years to improve our parks. We hope you'll continue this by staying active and recruiting others in our collective task.

Be prepared to continue to fight in the venue of public opinion as rangers before you have done. It will probably come down to that. The time may come to put your knowledge of corruption and unethical behavior before the forum of public opinion

The Lodge continues to hear that the NPS reaction to the Inspector General's report and the IACP report, among others, has not been found acceptable at the Interior level. Apparently a meeting will take place in a couple of weeks between department and agency officials to set the law enforcement agenda for the National Park Service

Help Turn Media Attention Into Action

We need you to contact your Congressional representative and two senators regarding the situation with NPS law enforcement.

Take either the article from the Washington Post, or better yet from your local paper (links on the lodge website) and mail it to your three representatives in D.C. with a letter expressing your views on the need for

Congress to look in to the NPS law enforcement program. Bring in your own insight if possible. If you don't see your local paper at the Lodge web site, search Google or Ask Jeeves and use key words like "national park ranger" "Randall Kendrick" or "Arches National Park" This AP story has appeared in literally dozens of papers in the USA and abroad. We have created the buzz that cannot be ignored if our membership follows up and contacts their three members of Congress.

Will this make a difference? Yes. All it takes is one letter reaching the right person at the right time. We've seen this happen before. Getting in the news is only half the battle. It's set the stage for what we need from all our members. Please write a letter today. If you get a good letter in reply, please share it with the Lodge so we can follow up with our personal letter to the member of Congress. Please give this your top priority . . . it can have a very positive impact on your working environment.

It is my intention to have all the membership cards mailed by Dec. 31, 2002. If you have not received your membership card by Jan 10, please contact the Lodge because a mistake will have been made. Email Randall Kendrick at randallfop@ls.net or call 800 407 8295.

Increase in Crime Endangers Park Rangers

By Robert Gehrke
Associated Press Writer
Saturday, December 28, 2002; 1:55 PM

WASHINGTON - National Park

Service rangers still guide nature walks and

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offer information and advice to millions of visitors each year. These days, they also frequently are called upon to put their lives on the line to stop drug smugglers and apprehend violent criminals.

A series of attacks on rangers, including the fatal shooting in August of a ranger at Arizona's Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, and a scathing report on problems in the Interior Department's law enforcement structure have officials looking at changes aimed at protecting rangers and park visitors.

Today's rangers are armed, in some cases with M-16s. They remain spread thin, however, with fewer than 1,400 patrolling 84 million acres in 387 parks, monuments and historic sites that attract more than 400 million visitors annually.

And while the National Park Service has had an increased budget in recent years, it's the bureaucracy that has increased, not the number of rangers in the field.

National Park Service Director Fran Mainella issued a set of directives this month to streamline the chain of command and patch holes in the rangers' ranks that she said were nearing critical proportions.

Problems with crime arise when staffing shortages force rangers to patrol wide expanses alone, with backup many miles away, said Park Service Deputy Director Donald Murphy.

And drug traffickers, smugglers of illegal aliens and potential terrorists that rangers are expected to arrest, particularly in parks along the borders and coasts, are more prone to violence than ever, said Larry Parkinson, a former FBI assistant director.

Interior Secretary Gale Norton hired Parkinson in July as a deputy assistant secretary to shape law enforcement across the department.

In the last month alone, park rangers helped chase down and arrest an armed felon at Arches National Park in Utah, helped arrest a suspected methamphetamine maker at Pea Ridge National Military Park in

Arkansas and made several drug arrests along the Mexican border.

"There's no doubt about it that criminals are getting meaner," said Randall Kendrick, executive director of the U.S. Park Ranger Lodge, a branch of the Fraternal Order of Police that represents park rangers. "But other agencies seem to have adapted or adjusted. The Park Service does not seem to be able to do this."

National FBI statistics indicate rangers are assaulted more often than any other federal law enforcement officers, but many people dispute the accuracy of park statistics because the Park Service does not have a standard reporting procedure.

Different parks have different reporting standards, so some incidents are not reported.

Earlier this year, the Washington-based group Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility released figures that the number of attacks, threats and incidents of harassment against park service employees had risen from 57 in 1999 to 80 in 2000 and to 222 in 2001.

A report by Interior Department Inspector General Earl Devaney said this year that the department's law enforcement was in disarray, its crime statistics unreliable.

Republican Sen. Charles Grassley, R-Iowa, called it "one of the most damning indictments of a federal law enforcement agency that I have ever read."

Adopting a standard reporting system is one of the changes the department is making. Others include a field training program, in which rookie rangers start out patrolling alongside veterans; and assigning to chief rangers at parks responsibility over investigations and law enforcement matters, rather than having them answer to superintendents. The superintendents often lack law enforcement training, said Murphy, former director of California's parks system.

The department also is preparing to ask Congress for more money to hire law enforcement officers, although the requests

are still being worked out with Bush administration budget officials, Parkinson said.

Kendrick said part of the fight is making sure more money means more rangers. A 2000 study by the International Association of Chiefs of Police said that despite a 56 percent increase in the Park Service's budget from 1994 to 1999, there had been an almost 9 percent decrease in the number of rangers.

Kendrick said along the Blue Ridge Parkway, where he worked, the administrative staff has doubled since 1970 while the number of rangers stayed almost the same.

The same 2000 study recommended the Park Service hire 615 new rangers. "That was several years ago, so obviously the need is there," Parkinson said.

This month, the Park Service said it plans to strengthen barriers along the border in Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, which rangers in Kendrick's group voted the most dangerous in the system because drug traffickers and alien smugglers often cut through it.

Kristopher Eggle became the third ranger shot to death on the job since 1998 when he was ambushed at Organ Pipe in August while helping Border Patrol agents catch two men suspected by Mexican officials in a drug-related killing.

His mother, Bonnie Eggle, said during a recent visit to Washington that if Congress had answered earlier pleas for more rangers, better equipment and a stronger border, her son might still be alive. "He didn't deserve a bullet from an AK-47. He didn't deserve a 6-foot grave," Bonnie Eggle said. "But that's what he got because he was not cared for enough by those who could have made a difference."

BLM Rangers to GS-11?

The Lodge is continuing its efforts to gain GS-11 as the base grade for commissioned park rangers. The rumor is that the BLM is seriously considering this step for its

officers. GS-11 will help with recruitment and retention and also recognize the fact that our jobs have changed since 9/11/01. Actually, they changed years ago with the increase in crime but 9/11 put the issue in dramatic perspective.

Lodge officers are still being sought after for interviews in the print and broadcast media. Stories have appeared in many parts of the country including the NY Times and this just released by the Washington Post. We think bringing our issues to the American people will help our cause. We will always remember the sacrifice of Kris Eggle and other fallen rangers and fight to prevent any more murders of commissioned officers of land management agencies.

Incident at Statue of Liberty

This article is based on published accounts written by journalists Kate Sheehy, Michael Weissenstein and Reginald Patrick. The stories were published in the Staten Island Advance and the Associated Press.

The Lodge expressly and publicly supports our brother officer USPP officer Dave Moen and we have made our views known previously. As published on November 13, 2002, Statue of Liberty superintendent Diane Dayson was riding in a personally owned vehicle driven by her husband Kevin when they were signaled to pull over by way of the emergency lights of a US Park Police cruiser. Officer Moen had "ticketed him [Kevin Dayson] earlier in the year" and "knew he was driving without a license". Kevin Dayson reported refused to pull over and continued to drive until he reached the NPS owned house he shares with his wife.

"In a published report, Mrs. Dayson said a park cop tried to stop her husband to check his identification shortly before 11 a.m. Monday morning, but her husband refused to halt the car until he reached their home. The officer had a history of harassing her family, Mrs. Dayson said.

A battle ensued at the residence. Police said Officer David Moen was pushed and his radio was knocked out of his hand when he tried to call for help.

The resistance was so violent, the complaint charges, that Moen suffered "a blood blister on his hand and a laceration on his wrist." Dayson kept flailing his arms and refusing to be handcuffed, the complaint said." After backup arrived, the Daysons were finally subdued, handcuffed and taken to jail.

Ms Dayson was quoted as saying, "I can't believe I was handcuffed . . . and taken to jail" by the parks cops, Dayson said. "Ultimately, I'm the one they report to."

Appearing Tuesday in Stapleton Criminal Court, Kevin Dayson was charged with assaulting an officer, resisting arrest, obstruction of governmental functions and driving with a revoked license and no seat belt. Mrs. Dayson, whose wrist was wrapped, was charged with resisting arrest and obstruction of government administration.

If convicted, Dayson could face a maximum jail term of up to seven years. His wife could face up to a year in jail. The Ranger Lodge is withholding comment on this matter other than to support the officers involved and to ask this question: What would happen to a park ranger who attempted to stop Mr. Dayson, known for not possessing a valid operator's permit?

Local Cooperating Officers Shot

By William McKinney

On December 12, 2002, two law enforcement officers were shot, one fatally.

This morning a fellow officer and park cooperator died from complications stemming from bullets entering her head and abdomen. Yesterday, she and the Dent County Sheriff Bob Wofford were shot. Her name if the news report made your local media was Joann Barnes.. One aspect of this tragedy of interest to park rangers is that Dent County, like so many other localities,

is a cooperating agency; with Ozark National Scenic Riverway in this case. Although they were assaulted just outside of the park, they routinely patrolled within the national park.

We, as rangers, usually get a lot more help from local agencies than we ever are able to offer in return and that's a shame. It makes their help even more important to us and their sacrifice all the greater. We usually are busy within our park areas and don't leave unless summoned by a cooperating agency and we count on their assisting us when we call. There are usually a lot more of them than there are of us so cooperation is often pretty one sided. That, to us, makes the sacrifice of Barnes and Wofford all the more tough to take.

We need to think about the officers - local, state, and federal - who come then called without hesitation or reservation to help a fellow officer; in our case, an officer in green and gray. The county taxpayers support Ozark River through their cooperating officers and rescue squads just as they do in parks like Blue Ridge and Zion and everywhere else where the NPS has proprietorial or concurrent jurisdiction. We need to remember that we are part of the law enforcement community and cannot shut ourselves away from neighboring locales and the officers that protect those communities.

Two fine officers who helped park rangers and park visitors regularly were shot, one fatally. Neither deserved it; both knew it was possible. One other fact remains: We must be prepared for the sudden assault. If we have learned anything from recent NPS shootings it's that they don't follow a pattern and seem to happen "out of the blue". Ask yourself when you go to work tomorrow:

- ◆ Take a step back and look inside yourself. When you go in-service, are you prepared to do law enforcement?
- ◆ Are you mentally and physically prepared for a fight to the death?
- ◆ Are you educated on the criminal, civil, and administrative actions associated with park rangers drawing, aiming, and discharging your authorized duty-carry

firearms?

- ◆ Are you willing to do it? Do you have it in you? How about for some park visitor suffering a psychotic episode over a misdemeanor offense?
- ◆ Are you proficient? Better yet are you currently qualified? When is the last time you had firearms training vs. qualifications.
- ◆ Are you ready to say "Lets roll"?
- ◆ Do you have fresh ammo? Is it a hodgepodge of mixed matched old cheap crap? How many rounds do you have?
- ◆ When is the last time you cleaned, function checked, and press checked your firearm(s)?
- ◆ When is the last time you had a certified armorer inspect your firearm(s)?
- ◆ Do you know the agency policy on this?
- ◆ Do you know what Law Enforcement Officer safety techniques are? Have you ever heard of the ten deadly errors? Do you visitor and resource protection park rangers live by them?

Study Officer shootings. Learn from them. Be safe. It's not disrespecting the dead. It's learning how to reduce your chances of being killed on the job. The fact is, it's not coming to work and patrolling. It's Law Enforcement and there's a life and death battle going on outside your office. Also, learn as much as you can about EMS and keep your certification current. It may save your life, or that of a fellow officer. This holiday season, let's remember those officers from other agencies who come when we call them and put their lives on the line in our jurisdiction. We owe them a lot starting with a prompt response when we are called. Happy Holidays and stay safe.

Two Letters to the *Wall Street Journal*

Mr. Fialka,

It is my understanding you are preparing an article for the Wall Street Journal. I would like to comment on "non-law enforcement" folks who are in command of law enforcement officers. I worked 14 years as a park ranger (law enforcement officer for the National Park Service). During this

time I worked at Assateague Island National Seashore, Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, and Big Bend National Park. My direct supervisors were law enforcement officers, but the person in charge was always a person without any law enforcement experience. I give you this information to show I have spent time in parks and feel I can give you an honest opinion.

At this time I work for an agency, the United States Forest Service, that has a chain of command with only law enforcement officers as supervisors. I am working as a Patrol Captain on the Tongass National Forest, for last 15 months, supervising only law enforcement officers. My supervisor and 2 levels above him are experienced law enforcement officers. During the time I worked for the National Park Service I had people who were in charge tell me to not enforce laws. The Superintendent of Big Bend National Park said: "You will permit illegal immigrants to enter the United States."

At this time I was a District Ranger supervising two law enforcement officers. I was watching illegal aliens enter freely into the United States and not permitted to do anything about it. While he did not directly supervise me, he controlled the budget, making it impossible to disregard his wishes.

I left the National Park Service and went to an agency with experienced law enforcement officers as supervisors. I watched the budgets for the law enforcement programs go down the drain to the point where there is not equipment and personnel to effectively protect the national parks. Anyone can look at the number of assaults and murders occurring to these rangers trying to protect the resources and see it is not safe to work as a law enforcement officer in some of our National Parks.

In order for things to change the Director must take charge and get non-law enforcement personnel away from supervising, or controlling the budget of, the law enforcement programs within the National Park Service before more people are hurt or killed! If you would like to

discuss any issues concerning protecting your resources in the National Park Service or the US Forest Service feel free to contact me.

Richard R. Shreffler

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Mr. Fialka,

I am writing at the request of Randall Kendrick. I have been a law enforcement ranger for a little over ten years. During that time I have consistently seen the best and brightest leave the job due to the working conditions that are created by the anti-law enforcement culture of agency management.

Throughout my career I have witnessed conditions that have suggested that law enforcement is bad and that the real problem is the rangers reporting the crimes rather than the crimes themselves. These conditions and attitudes would never be allowed by voters and constituents in a municipality. However, cultural and natural resources *do not vote*, therefore park management acts as if they are accountable to no one.

The attitude of management regarding the field ranger is "you can be replaced" since there are more applicants than funded positions. This is a stark contrast to the experience of a friend of mine who left the NPS after 13 years. During his orientation to his new agency the management there stressed how valuable the newly hired officers are and how seriously the agency viewed the financial commitment it had made in the hiring and processing of the new officers.

The NPS does not share this view, despite spending tens of thousands of dollars on hiring and training new rangers, after the background investigation, medical, basic training, in-service training, etc. In fact the NPS is not even concerned with retaining mid-career rangers who have the training and experience and are the best to protect the public and the park system resources.

The NPS consistently tries to downplay the

need for law enforcement, the seriousness of the crimes that occur in the national park system, and the ranger as a law enforcement professional. The agencies continued this even though three rangers were murdered since 1990.

I invite you to check the following website: The Officer Down Memorial Page, where you will be able to find details regarding NPS line of duty deaths. These murders were preventable, the information has been available to the NPS since at least the 1970s, when the IACP did its first study of NPS law enforcement.

I have personally experienced resources being cut year after year, having fewer rangers each year with visitation increasing every year as management has found ways to bring more people into parks (remember most of these people pay fees to enter or use parks), and expand park operations increasing operating facilities and hours. Fewer rangers are available to patrol or to answer calls for service, much less be proactive. At one time the park that I work at had an average of more than 12 law enforcement rangers assigned to a day tour during summer weekends. Now the **entire staff** to cover 24/7 is less than 11.

During the highwater mark rangers conducted marine patrol, mounted patrol, and plain clothes operations, in addition to regular road patrol, thereby being accessible to the public and having the ability to patrol areas of the park that road patrols cannot. This has been lost and now the on-duty rangers are tied to the car in order to answer calls for service leaving many areas of the park without any attention by law enforcement personnel. Especially alarming is that many of the areas that we are no longer able to routinely patrol are among those identified as having potential for terrorist activity, either as a target or as launch site for a strike against adjacent targets.

The law enforcement positions have been raided, often being removed from law enforcement ranks by non-law enforcement managers and placed in management, maintenance, and professional services positions by park superintendents. These

positions often have little or no public contact and are office jobs. Raiding such as this is routine among non-law enforcement management types who view law enforcement funds as a slush fund to pursue pet projects, including funding their own travel accounts. Concerned professionals who try to do the right thing are labeled as troublemakers and are denied training and promotion. Management obstruction of investigations and law enforcement action is rampant. Despite the overwhelming evidence in the studies of NPS law enforcement such as the OIG report, the IACP report the NPS is fighting reform tooth and nail like a spoiled child. The basis of this fight is despot managers who are afraid to lose some of their power and autonomy, and who may now have to face being accountable for their actions.

Thank you for your interest, the national park system and the public need attention brought to this system of mismanagement, abuse and obstruction. The NPS has demonstrated that it will not reform itself, therefore external forces must be made aware of the dangers that exist to the employees, the public and the nation's resources so that the NPS is made to reform.

Pete Tortorell
President
FOP US Park Rangers Lodge

Ranger Assaulted in the Smokies

Not only are National Park rangers sustaining more assaults (up to 40% more!) from the public than any other agency, the Lodge has now received information that a long-time ranger in the Great Smokies has been threatened, intimidated and physically assaulted by a **commissioned manager** there. In addition, the event was witnessed.

The information the Lodge has received concerning the allegations are alarming. Even more startling, we have learned that management of Great Smoky Mountains National Park has declined to investigate the report by the ranger. Not only are these allegations a criminal offense under both

state and federal law that require an investigation and provide due process and civil process of law, they are also a gross violation of the Department of Interior Workplace Violence Policy that requires an immediate investigation.

This is a perfect example of needed line authority and policies for internal and impartial investigations to eliminate the perceived ongoing cronyism of management and the continued abuse of National Park rangers. If true, this is definitely stepping over the line. Rangers should not have to be faced with this type of abuse by the public and most especially not by the management of the National Park Service.

The Lodge has prepared a letter with documentation of the allegations and has appealed to the Director of the National Park Service for an immediate investigation and inquiry. There are two issues to investigate:

1. Why was this ranger intimidated, threatened and assaulted?
2. Why were laws, regulations and policies ignored by management and no investigation conducted into a report of serious allegations of criminal and abusive behavior?

This is very disturbing and must be investigated and immediate action taken. Lodge members who have been intimidated and threatened by managers in the performance of their law enforcement duties or know of other rangers that have been threatened are encouraged to contact us immediately.

The New York Times Interior Department Struggles to Upgrade Its Police Forces

By Joel Brinkley
WASHINGTON, Nov. 3

The Statue of Liberty, the Washington Monument, the Hoover Dam and half of

the Alaska pipeline are all protected against terrorist attack and other threats by police forces that auditors have long described as ill trained, poorly managed, dysfunctional and, in some instances, corrupt. These forces are in the Department of the Interior, which has the third- largest law enforcement contingent in the federal government.

This summer, the department moved to address the problems after decades of damning reports. One of the most recent, a government audit published early this year, said that the department's police forces were so badly managed that it was unable to provide even "the number and location of law enforcement personnel that could assist" after the Sept. 11 attacks.

The department has more than 4,300 officers in seven agencies, including the United States Park Police, the National Park Service and the Bureau of Land Management. They are responsible for protecting most of the nation's historic icons, like Mount Rushmore and the Washington Monument, some of which have been the target of terrorist threats in the last year.

But few of the agencies have intelligence or terrorism offices, or the ability to gather crime and enforcement statistics. In July, Interior Secretary Gale A. Norton, a former Colorado state attorney general, directed an internal panel to assess the problems once again and proposed a list of law enforcement reforms. She also appointed Larry R. Parkinson, a former senior F.B.I. official, to a new position, director of law enforcement and security, to put the proposals into effect.

Mr. Parkinson's top priority, he said in an interview, is to ensure that the agencies take on domestic security responsibilities. His long-term goal is to see "that anyone with law enforcement authority is well trained, well supervised and understands law enforcement." But Mr. Parkinson, who has been in office only three months, has a skeletal staff and meager resources, and his ability to clean up the problems remains uncertain – particularly in the face of internal resistance. Donald W. Murphy,

deputy director of the Park Service, said that when he tried this year to appoint a manager in charge of law enforcement,

"We were fought tooth and nail to prevent that from happening." In a letter to Secretary Norton last month, Senator Charles E. Grassley, the Iowa Republican, said he had learned that "high-level managers" in the police forces were trying to "thwart your reform efforts" and in some cases were shirking their domestic security responsibilities.

Most of the territory the department must protect is uninhabited wilderness in national parks, preserves and other lands controlled by the federal government. But among the department's charges are nearly all of the major federal monuments, as well as the Hoover Dam in Nevada, the Grand Coulee Dam in Washington and almost 350 other dams. Officials view some of these sites as ideal targets for terrorists – particularly the dams. "Taking out a dam is not an insignificant act," said Stephen Flynn, executive director of the panel that issued a report on domestic security, sponsored by the Council on Foreign Relations, last month. "But the destructive impact is tremendous, with cascading consequences on the energy side," for hydroelectric dams and "of course for people downstream."

The Interior Department's Bureau of Reclamation, responsible for dam security, has only 13 officers. Until last year they had no law enforcement authority. After Sept. 11, Congress gave the bureau that authority. Now, a spokesman said, it contracts dam security out to other Interior Department forces or local police.

The Park Police is the nation's oldest uniformed law enforcement agency. The force originated in George Washington's presidency, when he created park watchmen to patrol the Capitol grounds. Since the early 1970's, the Park Police and the department's other police agencies have been the subject of highly critical auditors' reports, describing the forces as unsupervised, underperforming and, until this year, recalcitrant in the face of decades of bitter criticism. In defense, the department notes that officers in some of the agencies have other responsibilities besides

policing; Fish and Wildlife Service officers, for example, are also endangered species specialists.

Still, last year Congress ordered yet another study, by the National Academy of Public Administration, an independent organization chartered to work with government agencies to improve their efficiency. That report concluded that the police force "faces difficulties" in "management, leadership, accountability and communications." Its conclusions echoed others in reports by the International Association of Chiefs of Police in 2000 and the consulting firm Booz Allen Hamilton the same year. The police chiefs' 115-page report called "the total absence of field training" a "glaring deficiency" and noted that in recent years the Park Service had been able to solve only about 14 percent of crimes – about half the national average.

The National Academy of Public Administration's report was the one that caught Secretary Norton's eye. She asked the department's inspector general to carry out his own study. When it was completed early this year, it found "a disquieting state of disorder in the structure and operation of law enforcement throughout the department."

In May, 15 United States attorneys met with the inspector general and several Interior Department officials to say they were having trouble prosecuting cases brought by department officers because of deficiencies in management. The inspector general's report found that the police agencies were receiving little or no direction from the department. More than half of the agencies' supervisors had no law enforcement training or experience, the report said, and while the department offered training, there was little incentive to take it and no penalty for choosing not to. The report says special agents told of "countless instances in which they were precluded, by their non law enforcement managers, from pursuing potentially serious crimes," indicating possible "cover-up of potential criminal conduct."

It also spoke of cronyism in hiring. Several of the agencies have no intelligence, terrorism or domestic security offices, according to the report. Several have no internal affairs units. They have no capability to gather crime and enforcement statistics, and "therefore they cannot be held accountable for the crime rate, investigative clearance or response to calls for service." Some of the services have set no "goals or measures for their law enforcement components whatsoever," the report says.

Some officers reported that they never filed reports on their police work because, as one told the auditors, "nobody ever asked for them." The National Park Service, the report concluded, "suffers from extreme organizational dysfunction." With the appointment of Mr. Parkinson, the police forces do now at least have leadership at headquarters. Since taking office July 22, Mr. Parkinson said, his top priority has been to ensure that the agencies take on domestic security responsibilities. Training for that, he acknowledged, has been "fairly ad hoc." But, he added, "They did step up and agree to take this on."

Mr. Parkinson now has the authority to redeploy officers between agencies, something that could not be done before – but only if the secretary declares an emergency. His office, he said, remains "extraordinarily leanly staffed." About 10 people work there now, up from six last year. In the coming year, he said, he has authority to hire two or three more and to bring officers in from the field. A central mission, Mr. Parkinson said, is to implement the changes recommended by the secretary's internal panel in July, which generally mirror the inspector general's findings. Most of the changes are still in the planning stages.

FLRA Offers Protection for FOP Activities

I am a member of a collective bargaining unit in my park, although not a dues paying member of the union. However, I am a dues paying member of the Ranger FOP Lodge. Recently, I had occasion to be

involved in an Unfair Labor Practice (ULP) charge filed with the Federal Labor Relations Authority (FLRA) against the NPS in connection with a grievance that had been filed under the collective bargaining agreement. While the FLRA investigator was interviewing me in connection with the ULP investigation, I mentioned I was a member of the Ranger FOP Lodge. I was advised by the investigator that my actions on behalf of the FOP Lodge were considered protected activities by the FLRA for the purposes of the ULP, even if the Lodge was not an official bargaining unit. Lodge members who are active on behalf of the Lodge and suffer discriminatory treatment by the agency management as a result of those activities should explore this avenue of redress.

The FLRA website (www.flra.gov) offers some good advice on how to file Unfair Labor Practice charges, along with links to prohibited practices enumerated in 5 USC 7116. As with any government agency, speaking with the agency personnel can sometimes be difficult. I was fortunate to get in touch with an excellent and extremely helpful attorney with the FLRA when I first contacted them. We experienced some difficulty with an office manager when we first filed the ULP charge, but once it got in the investigator's hands, we found the service excellent.

Money Flows Both Ways

There has been considerable controversy that the ranger division cannot afford the money it would take to place park rangers in the regional offices as the LE specialist replacing the park police. What the NPS has conveniently forgotten is that the money originally came from ONPS funds years ago: In other words, ranger money, or at least, ONPS money, has been funding the park police in these positions since it was transferred to their organization. The Ranger Lodge supports a transition to qualified park rangers into these positions. Our agreement with the USPP union of the FOP supports rangers eventually moving into these jobs. Now that we all have been reminded where the funding originally came from, that

barrier should be eliminated as a viable excuse. Money flows both ways.

Members: If you need an extra FOP car decal, call or write the Lodge.
RandallFOP@ls.net
800-407-8295

FOP Legal Defense Plan: Important Changes

Effective January 1, 2003, the premium for the FOP Legal Defense Plan will go up to \$197 for Lodge members. *For those who have money deducted from your payroll and sent to the lodge we urge you to cancel this deduction and pay for the policy yourself.* It has been a big hassle to have Hylant McLean notifying us when your premium is due. Now, with a new premium structure, it'll be impossible to keep the money straight. The Lodge will no longer be able to advance you your premium as we have in the past and catch up with the outlay, pay period by pay period. In essence, you are responsible for your insurance. Sorry, but Hylant Maclean has forced this on the Lodge. Make sure you tell the FOP Legal Defense Plan you are a member of VA60; that way you pay \$197 not \$215. Questions? contact the Lodge at randallfop@ls.net

Submit Your Horror Stories

Dear Members: The Lodge is in the process of compiling stories from LE Rangers who have had to deal with unethical or incompetent LE supervision. Please send in all your "horror" stories, they will be kept anonymous, and you do not have to have your name used.

We are interested in hearing from the BLM, USF&WS, the NPS, and the COE. These incidents will not form the basis for criminal or internal investigations; rather, we want to document the unprofessional behavior of those who are managing law enforcement in the National Park Service and the other land management agencies.

At your park or work site, or a park known to you:

- ◆Has the money from lapsed commissioned ranger positions be used for non LE purposes?
- ◆Are ranger jobs lapsed for long periods of time with the money diverted to other purposes?
- ◆Does the superintendent or other managers use government equipment for personal use?
- ◆Have non commissioned supervisors or management taken over or directed criminal investigations?
- ◆Have non-commissioned managers cancelled ongoing criminal investigations that you think were about to bear fruit?

These are the types of incidents we want to document. You can email Randall Kendrick at: randallfop@ls.net - your name will be held in confidence. Or, you can call 800 407 8295 and tell your story, omitting your name but giving as many details about the incident as you are able. If you want to discuss a problem you know about or have had, then just identify yourself when you phone. If you would like to speak to another officer of the Lodge, phone Lodge Treasurer Tony Macri at 732 872 0677.

NY Finds Ford Crown Victorias Unsafe

Does your park or unit still drive Ford Crown Victorias? Be advised that they are subject to fire following rear end collisions and need to be retrofitted to prevent this from happening. Here's part of an AP story:

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) -- New York State Police troopers will no longer drive Ford Crown Victorias until they are retrofitted to prevent fires following violent rear-end collisions, officials said Thursday.

State Police Superintendent James McMahon said he has told supervisors not to send troopers out in Crown Victorias not fitted with fuel tank shields. Officials said there are enough retrofitted vehicles to comply with the order without reducing patrols.

US Army Corps of Engineers

This is from an active member of the Lodge. The incidents described seem to be typical of the problems many Corps projects are experiencing. Corps rangers are still expected to handle these law enforcement situation unarmed. "My project had a busy year, what with one arson, a restroom that is still out of commission, one statutory rape, one aggravated assault, and the killing of a bald eagle. Plus there were two shootings. One was an apparent case of 'river rage'; the other occurred when two parties agree to meet at one of our locks and settle a dispute with fisticuffs. One party cheated -- they brought guns."

"No one was hit in either incident but the case on the river underscores the fact that there is virtually no one to respond to a serious LE emergency on our Alabama end of our waterway. None of the three sheriff's offices do river patrols and the Alabama Marine Police no longer have anyone assigned to the Tenn -Tom. The state is said to be under a hiring freeze leaving two of the three counties without game wardens.

The Coast Guard visits the Tenn-Tom maybe twice a year and then only with a towboat and barge for buoy tending. Our biologists do some river patrols but in a boat without markings or blue lights. District policy prohibits them from going into the woods to search for hunters. What do you think will happen as drinking buddies note, 'Gee I haven't seen a warden or ranger in ** County in I don't know how long.'"

With meth labs, lack of defensive equipment, restrictive work rules, it seems to us that a tragedy will occur sooner or later. The Lodge has written unanswered letters to Corps managers. These rangers have a tough job that is only going to get tougher.

NYPD Memorial Bands to Benefit the Families of Slain Officers of 9-11

Tony Macri has about 20 NYPD 9-11 Memorial bracelets left. They are \$5 each and all proceeds go directly to the 9-11 survivors fund for slain NYPD officers. You get a blue metal bracelet with a missing NYPD officer's name on it.

Please help your fellow officers and buy a bracelet through Tony: Tony Macri
PO Box 531
Sandy Hook, NJ 07732

Thanks,
Tony



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
Washington, D.C. 20240

DEC 19 2002

Mr. Randall Kendrick
U.S. Park Rangers Lodge
Fraternal Order of Police
P.O. Box 151
Fancy Gap, VA 24328

Dear Mr. Kendrick:

I am writing on behalf of the Inspector General responding to your letter dated November 6th concerning the Fire & Law Enforcement Retirement Team (FLERT). Our office is quite familiar with FLERT and the history of the backlog impacting retirement decisions of those DOI employees eligible for (6C) retirement benefits.

Program Integrity staff conducted an assessment of FLERT nearly two years ago which included a number of recommendations to improve their administrative operation and reduce the backlog. A year ago we returned to FLERT to follow-up on our earlier assessment and concluded insufficient progress was being made to address our earlier recommendations. Both of our reports were provided to the Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management & Budget who acknowledged the Department needed to commit additional staffing to FLERT to adequately address the backlog that has been created.

The Inspector General is prepared to ask Assistant Secretary Scarlett for an update on FLERT in the near future. Hopefully his interest in this matter will prompt further progress in reducing the backlog in (6C) retirement claims. If I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at 202-219-0637.

Sincerely,

M. Douglas Scott
Assistant Inspector General
for Program Integrity

Enclosure

Lodge Website

Brother Duane Buck has built and maintains the Lodge website. We keep it updated with notices and links to other sites that we think are interesting and/or helpful to resource based law enforcement officers. Visit it often between issues of the Protection Ranger to keep current on things that affect you and your job. The address is www.rangerfop.com

Application for Membership

I, the undersigned, a full-time regularly employed law enforcement officer, do hereby make application for active membership in the U.S. Park Rangers Lodge, FOP. If my membership should be revoked or discontinued for any cause other than retirement while in good standing, I do hereby agree to return to the lodge my membership card and other material bearing the FOP emblem.

Name: _____

Signature: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

DOB: _____

Permanent Rangers: \$52/year
Seasonals and Retired Active Members: \$35/year
Associate (non-Commissioned) Membership (Newsletter only): \$35/year

Renewals: You do not need to send in this form to renew. Enclose a copy of your Commission (new members only).

Agency and Work Unit: _____

Mail to: FOP Lodge, POB 151, Fancy Gap, VA 24328
Phone: 1-800-407-8295 10am-10pm Eastern Time or email randallfop@ls.net



U.S. Park Rangers Lodge
Fraternal Order of Police
POB 151
Fancy Gap, VA 24328



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