

The Protection Ranger



The Newsletter of the U.S. Park Rangers Lodge, Fraternal Order of Police
www.RangerFOP.com

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President's Message Pete Tortorell

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the Lodge officers who participated in our recent visit to the Nation's Capitol. This includes the support and assistance of those officers who did not travel to DC but provided so much assistance with providing information, making contacts, and offering moral support.

While in Washington, we met with the staffers of a number of members of Congress, Deputy Director of the NPS Don Murphy, NPS acting Associate Director for LE Karen Taylor-Goodrich, DOI Deputy Assistant Secretary for Law Enforcement Larry Parkinson, DOI Inspector General Earl Devaney and his staff, Chief Ranger detailed to WASO/RAD Rick Obernesser, and several other at the WASO office. We also made a group visit to the National

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Law Enforcement Officers Memorial, which served as a powerful reminder of the need for reform in the National Park Service.

*"I have never seen an
organization more unwilling to
accept constructive criticism or
embrace new ideas."*

**DOI Inspector General
Earl S. Devany**

The purpose of the visit was for the Lodge to reiterate its support for the recommendations in the IACP and OIG reports on NPS law enforcement and to foster relationships that will hopefully allow the Lodge and our members to have input into future policy decisions that effect our careers and lives. Our message was very well received. It seems that, except for a small few in the NPS, everyone recognizes the need for reform.

We received several powerful commitments for continued support. Several Congressional aides emphasized that recommendations for law enforcement reform will not "just go away."

In the midst of critical security planning, Deputy Director Don Murphy was able to find time to meet with several of us. It was clear from our conversation he was very aware of our concerns and was making efforts to achieve compliance with the findings of the IACP and Thomas reports. Mr. Murphy invited us to address the National Leadership Council in the next couple of months. We accepted his invitation and will follow up

on this. Although the NPS has not asked for significant numbers of new ranger positions in any recent budget requests, the Deputy Director said he will ask for increased staffing based on Needs Assessment surveys currently out in the field. These requests could come as early as the 04 budget requests. He also encouraged the Lodge to work with Congress to emphasize the need for more rangers in the field. Among other topics Mr. Murphy covered:

- Encouraged the Lodge to introduce legislation to have LE rangers specifically covered by 6(c) retirement. This would be retroactive and cover the staggering backlog of cases being individually decided. Currently, rangers are granted 6(c) as a matter of administrative policy, not by law. The Lodge had already asked Passman & Kaplan to draft such legislation and we will work with the National Lodge to seek a member of Congress to introduce it.
- Said that funding is in place for a budget tracking system that would follow money based on the activity it was programmed for thus increasing Administrative efforts to hold parks accountable for LE programmed monies.
- Said he supports the wearing of the LE badge to distinguish LE rangers from others. He is working to implement this change.

The Deputy Director was very encouraging about holding future meetings among LE rangers and the Lodge to make sure our concerns are

heard. In fact, everyone we met at DOI and WASO suggested regular meetings be held in the future. The Lodge feels strongly that there is currently a critical mass of people in position at DOI, WASO and Congress who strongly support LE reform in the Park Service. As such, we will now start a concerted effort to travel to Washington on a regular basis to talk to these people, to encourage them and offer our help in implementing reform.

One of the strongest supporters of LE reform we met with was DOI Inspector General Earl Devaney and his staff. At recent hearings before the Senate Finance Committee, Mr. Devaney said of the NPS: "I have never seen an organization more unwilling to accept constructive criticism or embrace new ideas." In those same hearings, Senator Grassley said: "Forget your turf and power, and think about people's lives." Senator Grassley specifically aimed his message to bureaucrats "who stand in the way of law enforcement and border security."

At these hearings, Devaney criticized the superintendent of Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument for diverting money from law enforcement activities to non-law enforcement activities. "Law enforcement is a dangerous full-time job and those superintendents and chief rangers who do not understand this fundamental principle of modern policing should not be approving, supervising or managing law enforcement officers" he said.

Both he and a staffer for Senator Grassley asked field rangers for continuing information about dangerous practices and irregularities in the NPS's administration of its law enforcement program. The IG's office has hired a new person responsible for whistleblower protection and Mr. Devaney made a point of introducing our Lodge Board to him. We ask all members to continue to forward their concerns and examples of mismanagement to Randall or any Board member. We will then pass them on to the appropriate contacts we've made in Washington.

Get in on the Discussion

The Lodge website discussion board is where you go for a lively discussion of NPS issues from rangers around the country. News breaks here, and members get a chance to comment on what's going on. Your comments are also read by people at DOI, NPS and Congressional staffers. Make your voice heard!

Visit: www.rangerfop.com

Finally, we met with Larry Parkinson, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Law Enforcement and Security. He has been another strong backer of LE reform throughout DOI. We thanked him for his efforts and offered our help to further progress. Mr. Parkinson encouraged us to set up regular contact with him in the future. His office will soon be making a six month review of reform efforts so far. Future recommendations will be made based on progress – or its lack.

It was shocking to find that one of the reasons some in the NPS oppose reform is that they fear that if the law enforcement chain of command was "stovepiped" that rangers will not perform such duties as SAR, EMS, or others. Of course, nothing is further from the truth. We made every effort to assure both WASO officials and Deputy Director Murphy that this is in no way a Lodge position. Rangers have always been diverse in our duties and will remain so, but we need a system that will provide us with the manpower and resources needed to perform ALL of our duties safely and effectively. Throughout the nation there are thousands of examples of law enforcement agencies that have a "stovepiped" chain of command and perform diverse public safety duties.

We were also shocked when we were told that despite being well aware of the shortage of rangers, the NPS has not asked Congress for funding for additional rangers. Both the Office of the Inspector General and the IACP report strongly

recommended at least 600 more rangers are needed to do our jobs safely. We were told that, if asked, Congress would most likely provide the needed support to add the additional rangers.

An immediate result of our meetings with Congressional staffers was being asked by Congressman Souder's office to testify about NPS preparedness to deal with border security issues. As many of you know, National Park lands comprise 35% of our country's border with Mexico, yet the Park Service currently has only about 13 permanent LE rangers in the seven parks along the border. This, combined with the death of ranger Kris Eggle last August, has several Congressional committees questioning the Service's commitment to the security of our borders and the safety of its rangers.

Another surprise was finding how many people at DOI, Congress and WASO said they read the Lodge web site – especially the discussion board. Our web page continues to be an excellent place for field rangers to have their concerns seen directly by administrators and Congressional aides. Make sure you join the discussion there often.

Despite the Lodge's successful track record over the last 15 years, we hadn't previously been invited to the table by NPS management for input or support in reforming the law enforcement program. I think that we have taken an important first step to being an even stronger voice in this process by making face-to-face contacts in Washington.

Our work is just beginning. We intend to regularly visit with NPS, Interior, and our representatives on Capitol Hill to ensure that rangers have the safest and most effective working conditions. We ask that you continue to provide us with your comments and concerns; we also ask that you stay involved by contacting your elected representatives. The importance of hearing directly from field rangers was stressed to us by many congressional offices. We also ask that you help us help you by recruiting your co-workers who are not currently members. Be Safe.

Lodge In Action: NPS Upper Crust Caught in Travelgate after Lodge Complaint

A recent GAO report on NPS travel expenses found:

- NPS managers traveling first class at government expense,
- Spending on NPS travel up 9 percent a year for the last several years,
- NPS violating rules requiring accounting for travel expenses.

The study originated from a Lodge request for an investigation into NPS management subsidizing the Association of National Park Rangers by sponsoring training and conferences to coincide with its annual “rendezvous” fundraising session. ANPR leadership has been made up of top managers in the NPS for years. Three years ago, the organization was dumbfounded when fewer than 25 people (less than 15 of them actual park rangers) showed up for its annual rendezvous. A decision was made to get the government to pay for travel to the event by putting on training and locating dual meetings at the rendezvous site.

The current issue of the ANPR newsletter states that the ANPR board voted to develop agreements with NPS, one of which was to “clarify existing ethical constraints that must be observed by NPS employees serving on the ANPR board and make allowances for incidental use of govt. resources...in the pursuance of ANPR business.”

If the NPS was following proper accounting procedures, it would have been simple for investigators to find the money spent to attend such conferences.

However, investigators determined that the NPS was not following proper rules for travel by accounting for money spent to attend conferences, and wasn't following its own rules for processing travel vouchers. An expanded

investigation followed, showing NPS managers flying on junkets first class in violation of travel rules.

The Lodge has often made the point about the arrogance of power in the NPS elite. Had this been a GS-5 firefighter traveling to a fire, the firefighter would be gone before the fire was out. However, the NPS managers responsible for the first class travel are still safe in their offices.

While ranger staffing rates have been declining from 3 to 5 percent per year, the NPS budget for travel has been skyrocketing at 9 percent per year!

Read the full report at:
www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-03-354

Battle Heats Up Over Safety of HLS Assignments

Discussion is hot and heavy regarding the safety of rangers on assignment to protect icon parks. Currently, rangers are assigned to protect areas from possible terrorist attack. The probe – rangers haven't been trained or equipped to defend against a terrorist attack, and haven't been given appropriate rules of engagement.

Scenario: You're defending a famous national icon and are standing in an enclosed space. A man pulls out a spray can, says “Allah Akbar” and begins spraying the area. Do you: Run? Use deadly force? Put on your gas mask? Oh, wait, you don't HAVE a gas mask. Yes, rangers are sent on an assignment where chemical or biological weapons have the potential to be used, but aren't being given training or equipment to deal with it. In the wildland fire program, firefighters have the right to refuse an assignment that is too dangerous. Is this true for HLS assignments? One regional manager has stated that he would support any ranger who refuses to go on such a mission without training and equipment. Everyone going to a fire is issued nomex and a fire shelter. Go to a HazMat incident and wear a respirator and Tyvek

suit. Go fight the war on terrorism and wear a flat hat and carry a pistol! Rangers deserve better. We deserve to be able to defend ourselves from the anticipated threats. Since chemical and bio weapons are anticipated, we deserve protective equipment. Since terrorists are going to use weapons of the highest firepower they can find, we should be deploying with M-16s. And now wouldn't be a bad time to break out the law enforcement badges, either. The Lodge will be looking at ways of motivating NPS management to give rangers the protection they deserve.

No Net Loss to LE

The good news is some regions are paying attention to the “no net loss” memo from Director Mainella:

Memorandum

To: Superintendents, ANTI/MONO, CATO, CHOH, HAFE, MANA, PRWI
From: Regional Director, National Capital Region
Subject: Basic Law Enforcement Staffing Levels, National Capital Region

In order to ensure a safer environment for our protection rangers and to provide for better visitor and resource protection, we need to increase our law enforcement staffing levels. The following are the basic/minimum law enforcement staffing levels that I am setting for your parks. These numbers represent my commitment to you to assist you in reaching these staffing levels. The following staffing levels were established based on your revised needs assessment, law enforcement activity levels, staff input, regional homeland security responsibilities, and a reality check as to what can be achieved. The numbers represent the number of full-time permanent personnel who perform law enforcement duties and not necessarily FTEs. In some parks, these numbers will be similar where rangers are focused mostly on law enforcement duties. At the appropriate time, you should revise your OFS submissions to reflect these

new basic staffing levels. Mr. David Linderman can provide you direction in this regard. I will be using these numbers to set my priorities for establishing new positions when funding permits. However, I also expect you to contribute to this effort by making increasing your support for additional positions.

BASIC LAW ENFORCEMENT STAFFING LEVELS NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION

Park	Staffing Level
ANTI	6
MONO	3
HAFE	10
PRWI	7
CATO	13
CHOH	18
MANA	9
NCRCC	9
(includes 1 intermittent dispatcher)	
NCRO-ORS	4

I look forward to working with you to making these necessary improvements to our law enforcement and protection programs. Please contact Einar Olsen, Regional Chief Ranger, at 202-619-7068 if you have any questions.
Terry R. Carlstrom

Thoughts on NPS Law Enforcement Following a Ranger Involved Shooting by Derek Anderson

*Hello everyone,
I just wanted to let you folks know that the Grand Jury was presented my shooting incident on Thursday. They returned with a finding of "justifiable homicide". I wanted to thank the lodge and members for their support. Now, the fun part starts...the family has already contacted the Montgomery county police, through their lawyer to request the information for a lawsuit. The suspects family retained Johnny*

Cochran's firm .. now, we'll see what the agency does! I'm doing well, working with the status quo...be safe out there...D.W. Anderson

Date: 25 January 2003
To: Rick Obernesser, Chief Ranger of the National Park Service (Acting)
From: D.W. Anderson, U.S. Park Ranger (Law Enforcement) Intake, C&O Canal, NHP

Thankful for the concern, support, previous training, and experience.

I want to start by saying that I am very thankful for the support and concern that you have offered to my family and me. I am amazed at the support from rangers throughout the National Park Service. I was very lucky in this incident; it could have very easily gone the other way. I'm very thankful to God, my training, and experience. Having said this I would like to address some of my concerns with you.

I have spent only a short time with the National Park Service, I came to the Service through the Service-wide Intake program in August of 2001. Prior to working for the Service I spent 9 years working in Federal and local law enforcement. I was very surprised at how the Service conducts law enforcement, understaffed, poorly outfitted, and lacking support. I hope to address the following issues;

- The "Necessary Evil" of law enforcement in the National Park Service
- Generalist rather than protection specialist
- Unsafe law enforcement practices

Law Enforcement a "necessary evil" in the National Park Service

I do believe that it takes a team concept for the National Park Service to accomplish it's mission of "conserving the scenery and the natural and historic objects...." Having said this, I also believe that the park ranger (law enforcement/protection) is the backbone of the Service. Without the law enforcement ranger the Service has no way of enforcing the law passed to conserve the parks, monuments, and

objects. Over the years visitation has increased, criminal incidents have increased, other career fields have grown, while the law enforcement rangers are asked to do more with less. There is a true sense that law enforcement is a "necessary evil". What I mean by "necessary evil" is that management realizes that law enforcement is needed, but doesn't want to pay the cost to have law enforcement. Law enforcement is an expensive asset, often without measurable benefits. Without law enforcement our National Treasures will become havens for criminals, with career criminals like I encountered on 17 January 2003 victimizing the visitors and the parks. This would surely lead to a drop of visitation and loss of wildlife, historical and natural objects, with an overall inability of the National Park Service to accomplish its mission.

Generalist or protection specialist?

The second theory I would like to address is the agency's description of park rangers as generalist. This description does a great disservice to the professional men and women of the U.S Park Rangers (Law Enforcement/Protection). I believe that this theory of generalist puts law enforcement rangers at a disadvantage, because it says that the agency doesn't view you as "real law enforcement". This is a real danger in the fact that this description has drawn people to this profession that don't feel that they are law enforcement. They carry guns, badges, and handcuffs, but don't take themselves as "real law enforcement". This is very dangerous, especially if a person that has this view encounters a criminal like I did on 17 January 2003. This criminal attacked me and decided that he was going to kill me to escape being arrested. I view myself as a Law Enforcement professional, with 10 years of experience and numerous hours of training invested in law enforcement. While employed by the Service, I have talked to many rangers that have told me that they only accepted the job for a permanent position, earlier retirement, and because rangers don't really do law enforcement. I would submit to you that ranger in the protection/law enforcement

field are specialist, specializing in the protection of people and resources.

Unsafe law enforcement practices alive and well in the National Parks

With the murder of Ranger Kris Eggle in Organ Pipe this past August, most of us would believe that the National Park Service would do everything within its power to correct problems within the Service to prevent future tragedies. The truth of the matter is that meetings continue to meet and discuss the problems, while non-law enforcement managers continue to guide the law enforcement program. Law enforcement rangers are being placed in situations that are fatalities waiting to happen, due to lack of backup, communications, and equipment.

In my situation, one ranger and I were working the Palisades district of the C&O Canal, NHP. The Palisades district stretches from Georgetown, D.C. to Ferry Hill, Maryland, approximately 60 miles straight-line distance. This equates to a backup response of 30 to 60 minutes. Rangers all over the Service work in situations similar to this on a daily basis. This practice is dangerous and will result in the loss of more lives. The National Park Service does know how to manage a law enforcement program; the U.S. Park Police are an internationally recognized agency. The U.S. Park Police have a comprehensive plan for managing law enforcement. The Park Police would never consider placing its officers in situations like rangers are placed on a routine basis.

Change is needed in this very dangerous job

When I decided to pursue a career in law enforcement, I realized that it was a dangerous one. Over the past 10 years I have worked many dangerous assignments to include gang and narcotics investigations in Washington D.C., but my current position is by far the most dangerous I have ever held. There is no doubt in my mind that I will return to law enforcement, but my safety as a law enforcement rangerI do question.

If I can assist in the positive development of the law enforcement program contact me.

In closing, I would again like to thank you for your show of concern and support. I am very glad to have survived this incident. If I can be of any assistance in the future development of the law enforcement program, please contact me.

A Silent Witness Hiding in Your Car: You Probably Don't Even Know the EDR

Exists

*By John Steinbachs
Ottawa Sun, 02/10/2003*

In early November, OPP collision investigator Robyn Howard arrived on the scene of a vehicle rollover south of Sharbot Lake. A GMC van lay on its roof in a ditch on County Rd. 38. The crash left the 70-year-old male driver dead. After finishing the standard investigation, including speed and tire track measurements and taking a witness statement, Howard downloaded information from the vehicle's event data recorder – a little-known device that has the ability to revolutionize crash investigations and provide vehicle engineers with new life-saving data. An EDR acts similarly to flight data recorders on aircraft – the so-called black boxes – recording information about the last few moments before a catastrophe. A day after the crash, Howard used the little box and a laptop computer to download the information from the van. After analyzing the data, she determined the driver was going only slightly faster than the speed limit allows and was not wearing his seatbelt. “I think it's a great asset for us as an investigative tool,” says Howard. What this does is support or back up what our investigation has told us. It's just a secondary backup.” EDRs are being used more and more by police traffic collision investigators throughout Ontario. Here in Ottawa, police have trained one traffic investigator to use the system to retrieve data and the OPP are considered leaders in the field.

Millions Installed

Law enforcement's interest in the devices and the data they record has grown primarily because so many Canadians have some type of EDR installed in their cars – millions by the estimate of General Motors Canada, which began installing EDRs in the 1990s. The devices are about the size of a video cassette and are usually installed under the front passenger seat. In the event of a crash that causes the air bags to be deployed, the device in newer model GM vehicles will record the last five seconds of activity in your car. The EDR tells an investigator how fast the vehicle was traveling before the crash, the engine speed, brake activity and whether or not the driver had his foot on the gas. It can also determine whether the driver was wearing a seatbelt, among other things.

Printed Onto Graph

Once the device is retrieved, the information can be downloaded and printed onto a graph for the investigator or crash reconstructionist. The list of GM vehicles with EDRs on board has grown year by year, with virtually all new GM vehicles equipped. Ford installs a similar device on some of its vehicles and Honda installs a similar device in all of its new models, but neither of them has proven to be as useful to police. And unless you've spent some time flipping through your owner's manual lately, you probably don't even know the EDR exists. The recorders, which are part of the airbag deployment system, were first developed to provide manufacturers and researchers with data on crashes, says GM product expert Bill Davies. Laboratory tests that hurtle cars into a wall with a crash test dummy behind the wheel just can't replace a real crash on a real road, he adds. “When the first air-bag-equipped cars started hitting the streets in 1989-1990, we wanted some way to verify (that) the way the vehicle performed during a crash out in the field was also the way that you had designed it to do. “I think the important point, from a law enforcement point of view, is an EDR sits in a car and it's an objective bystander. So, depending on what the situation is, it will shed light where no

light could be shed," says Davies.

The devices also alert GM to vehicle problems that need to be fixed. "In 1999, we actually had a recall campaign to recalibrate the air-bag modules on our Cavaliers and Sunfires and we did that because we had access to this information," says Davies. "We realized that you could get in a situation where if you were on a really rough road ... that you could actually fool the system into thinking you were in a collision. "If we did not have the capability to be able to read those boxes, we would have never understood what the problem was and we would have never been able to call all those cars back in and recalibrate them." It's clear the recorders can provide invaluable information to the automobile manufacturer and safety researchers, who can use it to determine driver reactions and behaviours and vehicle performance. But nagging questions about privacy and how the information is used has some critics concerned. "I don't want to hear anybody say that this is some kind of a safety device, says Ottawa lawyer Lawrence Greenspon. "Because if it was a safety device, then the consumer would know that it was in their car – and right now I venture to say the overwhelming majority of drivers have no idea that this recorder is in their passenger seat." Instead, he believes the device was developed and installed in order to cover manufacturers in cases where vehicle defects are the focus of lawsuits

Lawsuits Dropped

The company that builds the EDR retrieval system agrees the devices are useful in legal cases. "A lot of lawsuits are dropped because of it. A customer will claim a vehicle didn't function properly in a crash, but then the law enforcement officer or someone else shows them that they were going 180 km/h," says James Kerr, a spokesman at Vetronix. Greenspon, a civil and criminal lawyer, says he has never come across a case in court where the EDR has been used, but he believes the devices will become more regulated by authorities and more popular in police investigations. He sees a time when the

devices will become a mandatory standard, such as breathalyzer tests, and failure to have and maintain an EDR in your vehicle could be an offence. Greenspon says he's concerned people can incriminate themselves without even knowing they're doing it. "There are literally thousands if not hundreds of thousands of Canadians driving around with these ... bugging devices and they don't even know it. "We're already on the slope with the cameras at the red lights. These devices are in cars and people don't even know about them and the warrants are being issued to obtain the information about them. It's a small hop from that to being in all cars and for the police to be able to access them whenever they want."

Misgivings

The Canadian Automobile Association also has some misgivings. "If you look at it overall from the safety point and a research point, I think it's a good thing. It's like the black boxes in a aircraft," says Rosalinda Fischer, a spokeswoman for CAA. "Our major concern with them is that, first, people don't know that they're in their car. They don't know what they're going to be used for. They don't know if they can be used in court against them. Which is not to say that's a bad thing, I mean, if it's evidence of what happened, that's good," she says

"People have the right to know, and just because it's printed in your vehicle owner's manual, how many people actually read it and know that the thing is even there?" Ottawa police Const. Steve Desjourdy was sent on a training course to learn how to operate Vetronix's data retrieval system, but the Ottawa Police Service doesn't yet own its own software kit, which sells for about \$2,500 US. Desjourdy says while the information that EDRs can provide does interest police, the recorders have only been able to complement investigations and have not yet provided pivotal information. "It's a complement to the investigation. We don't just download the EDR for the fun of it," he says. But he says the device could be especially useful when dealing with accidents where there are no witnesses. While taking the course, he learned of an Eastern Ontario collision

between a car and train that left an elderly man dead in The man died instantly when his rented late-model GM vehicle was hit by a train near Monkland. The initial investigation left relatives fearing that the man's death was actually a suicide. But when investigators accessed the EDR in the man's car, they found he had been braking before the crash. While the matter was still tragic, it did provide police and family with some answers. To access the EDR in an investigation, police need to get a warrant, says Desjourdy. "We don't use the event data recorder as a fishing expedition," he says. The investigation still needs to occur. I haven't used an event data recorder to charge somebody. It hasn't happened so far."

Need a Warrant

Ottawa police have used the EDRs in only a handful of cases, says Sgt. Bill Murrell. While police need a warrant, the nature of the crashes has sometimes made the warrant unnecessary. "If the (suspect) is the guy that's dead, then we don't need a warrant because there's not going to be any charges, so it's really an investigative tool. And in most cases, that's what has happened." Vetronix sees Canada as a growing market for its product, says Kerr. "It helps law enforcement do their job better. So it is quite helpful and actually Canada has accepted it a little more rapidly than the U.S., in terms of accident reconstructionists," he says. "There's possibly more in Canada than in the U.S. They accepted this technology right away." In Canada, several accident reconstructionists own the retrieval software kit and a handful of police agencies also own it, he adds. "It's definitely catching on and possibly some Canadian insurance adjusters have purchased this, I believe, so it's definitely a growing product," he says. The Vetronix software can also read EDRs from Ford vehicles and the company is planning to expand the list of manufacturers by year's end. By the end of 2003, Vetronix will expand vehicle coverage to include 1994-2003 GM vehicles and select 2001-2003 Ford vehicles. The company anticipates that other vehicle manufacturers will also

release this type of information in the near future. For Davies, the EDR is only a silent witness that has much to offer in the fight to keep roads and highways safer. "The box just sits there, it's objective," he says. "So if you're thinking from the perpetrator's point of view, yes, that's a bad thing. If you're thinking from the victim's point of view, it's a good thing."

Regional Brass Gets Testy

The following is a memo sent by Regional Director Bob Arnberger following comments made by Doug Scott of the DOI Inspector General's Office. The staffers at the IG's office are all former LE officers with a lot of street time among them. Mr. Scott made his remarks at the new FLETC Law Enforcement for Managers course – two week course intended to familiarize managers lacking a law enforcement background with the problems specific to LE rangers.

Mr. Arnberger's remarks indicate a general lack of success of the intent of the course, as well as a breathtaking lack of understanding of the requirements of an independent Inspector General's Office.

Superintendents and Directorate:

Please be familiar with this issue. A presentation by Doug Scott, IG's office, brought the roof down with a series of inflammatory and irresponsible remarks in his presentation to the Law Enforcement for Managers training course. The presentation at FLETC went through that class like "unmentionable" through a goose. This class was told by this senior Departmental official "on behalf of the Secretary" that all law enforcement personnel in the Department, including 025 Rangers, were going to be stovepiped directly under the control of the Department, and that "senior NPS officials had known of this for 6 months and were keeping the truth from the field". The class, composed of senior superintendents and regional people (including 4 of our own people) asked a

series of probing questions and statements - almost embarking upon a full mutiny (god love'm!). Within minutes all of us regional directors and the deputy director was called with the news, luckily about 15 minutes before our scheduled NLC coordination phone call. Extremely heated discussion followed, in this phone call, with denials of any knowledge of this by our senior leadership. Furthermore, the Director left the phone meeting and went upstairs to chat with the Inspector General and Chief of Staff, and the new DOI chief of law enforcement. In those discussions the IG continues to maintain that they support the prescription in the IG Report - which calls for the very thing that Doug Scott, office of the IG, presented to the class. However, the Secretary through her other line of authority offices maintain that is not the case and that the language presented in her recommendations to the NPS continue to be the operative decision. That language is attached. In a second phone call to the RD's a full explanation and reading of the attached language underscored the NPS commitment to the Secretary's decision which DOES NOT call for stovepiping park rangers, like it does for 1811 Criminal Investigators.

I do not believe Mr. Scott's remarks were accidental, nor do I believe any excuse for his remarks should be allowed by anybody in the chain of command. In discussions with the Director who spoke directly to him he seemed to not take any responsibility for the "miscue" alluding that this is a "big to-do about nothing" and that it was just another example of the National Park Service ducking its responsibilities and superintendents working behind the scenes. None of us are a stranger to the fact that the DOI office of Inspector General harbors no sympathies or objective understandings about the NPS. In fact, strangely it seems to me, they are allowed to trash the NPS seemingly at will (even before a Congressional Hearing also attended by the NPS), and use their "semi-autonomous" status in the DOI (they are a DOI agency) with seemingly unfettered disrespectful and denigrating impunity to pursue their narrow, almost ideological interests. I am still very

suspicious of the derivations and motivations of this "mistake".

The National Park Service continues to move forward in progressive fashion to implement NPS law enforcement reforms. Please assure all Chief Rangers see this message and carry this information to all commissioned personnel.

Rob Arnberger Regional Director NPS,
Alaska Region

The Frequency of Assaults on COE Rangers

Are NPS rangers assaulted more often than rangers of other land management agencies? Compared to the Army Corps of Engineers rangers, nobody knows because nobody keeps score.

Managers of the Corps' Visitor Assistance Program suggest that rangering is riskier in the NPS because "people will fight to keep from going to jail." Officially, there have been only 12 prosecutions under Title 18 USC in 22 years for assaults on Corps of Engineers personnel. However, at the Corps' South Atlantic Division Ranger Conference in February, lead Visitor Assistance instructor Charles L. Burger admitted that he had "no damn idea" how often his agency's park rangers were attacked *without* Title 18 charges being filed. According to Burger, anecdotal accounts could mean that COE rangers are being assaulted as often as once every six days.

Burger noted that the truth is probably somewhere in between the two extremes. It is possible that many attacks on COE employees are prosecuted in state courts. No doubt that many less serious cases are handled under the corresponding Title 36 CFR section. The point is that no one knows for sure. Burger promised to try to get to the bottom of this and encouraged those present to send him case histories.

On a related note, the Lodge has contacted the national headquarters of the Corps to urge improved access to NCIC for Corps rangers. While much progress has been made, many of these rangers still have no access to this database because they "aren't law enforcement." Those rangers who do have access are often limited to running inquiries on vehicles, not individuals, meaning they are going into many situations blind.

Rangering and Remembrance

by Joe Weggoner

Joe recently retired after a rough and tumble 30+ year career with the Park Service. Here, his unedited no-holds-barred and from-the-hip reminiscence – both good and bad – about those years.

FIRE

My fire background began at Padre Island National Seashore with a long handled flapper that spread as much fire as it put out. (1965\1966). With marginal training in Wildland and Structure Fires.

I will get back to fire, total miss management of gross amounts of money and man power by power hungry Little People, some with no real background in FIRE or FIRE MANAGEMENT and others with just enough to make them, very, very, dangerous to the public/home owners, animals and habitat in our parks.

1967 Grand Canyon Training Center. All general Park Ranger duties, no fire training, no Law Enforcement Training during basic school.

1967: Worked out of the Phoenix SOAR Office, in Parks to The City, taking inter city kids to the National Parks so they could understand what they were set aside for. Spent a couple of weeks working undercover with Ken Patrick, trying to keep the so-called "Indians" (Who destroyed the real Indians homes) from cleansing, Mount Rushmore. What three of us did would have SCARED THE HELL OUT OF THE AVERAGE SUPER-INTENDENT? The so-called Indians

understood the message and nothing happened at Rushmore while we were there. The point here is a few Rangers had a background in L.E. Most did not as none of the Rangers had any Real, Viable, L.E. training from or through their employer, THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE. Those that came with NPS issued handguns had been shown which end to point at the bad person, but I can safely say few would HAVE USED THE weapon, to save themselves or ME. One Leader a District Ranger showed up with the "prettiest" HOT PINK patent leather Gun Belt. The Park Police LT., in charge of the operation, sent him home. (Could be one of the reasons the U.S. Park Police looked at Park Rangers as untrained liabilities.) I could go on and on and I will but not here only to say this was the first time I heard the PP refer to PR's as PPR's.

A few weeks later, when Ken Patrick was murdered and they had to hunt for his vehicle location and body some things changed in the NPS.

"I don't think Ken was the first to be killed or injured trying to protect the parks and the visitors, but I do not know how many, for these things were kept very quiet, so the image of the NPS would not be tarnished???. (That way the Tax Paying VISITOR to the park would think their family was safe in the National Parks 30 years ago.)

Well, that has not changed, if my friend who owns a newspaper in Texas had not called and a Ranger I have worked with had not told me about the murder of another Ranger, trying to do his job. I would be uniformed, just like most park visitors.

But, before I get into Ken's murder I am ready to make another BET, (that I would like to lose), to any naïve fool out there that will take it.

To CTA, and ease their conscience, those directly and indirectly responsible for this last young Rangers death and the ones before and the NEXT ONE have / will do some creative writing in the comfort of their well lighted 76 degree office at their leisure.

It will be so well written, pointing out what the Ranger may have done wrong, could have done wrong and what others in the field should have done, etc. That the ones really at fault will get away with another cover up.

ANY TAKERS ????

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 keeping Hylant McLean having to notify us when your premium is due and 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?

(Morals, integrity, self-esteem and being a real decent human being go out the window when they may lose their job, money or freedom. But we know this cannot happen, even if L.E. funds are spent on pay raises for all division chiefs in the head shed, trips to meetings and training sessions set up so the [IN GROUP] does not have to spend their money to get to a party. The other side of this is, some of the half A. Retires might have a small turnout. So...it must be a conscience-easing thing???)

So, before I go into Kens murder, let me throw out a fact that will screw-up the conscience easing of the folks that set this young Ranger up, to die trying to do his job.

No one will ever know all the thoughts/scenarios that went thru his head as he set out to do his job.

But here are some of them;

- The bad guys have to be stopped before they:
- Kill or injure the L.E. personal trying to catch them
- Kill or injure campers or visitors in the Monument
- Kill or injure any of the illegal aliens entering the U.S. thru the Monument
- Take any of the above hostage, etc.....

The fact is this and other Park Service areas, [where the people in the head shed do not care about the visitor, park employees or Park], are setting up those who work for them, or visit these Parks.

The BIG difference in this area and other NPS UDA entrance areas is, this one has been on National TV because it is the best / easiest area to enter the USA, (ILLEGALLY) Law Enforcement wise.

If the bad guys had not thought they could stroll through the area like hundreds do each year they would Not have been there and the tragedy would not have occurred ...

WHY BIG TIME MONEY was not acquired before the T.V. exposure is sad but, after the show, any one could have asked for and received Permanent money and man hours to stop the flow and agonizing heat related deaths occurring in this Park.

Had the bad guys known that some one cared enough to have a realistic number of Rangers stopping the flow of UDAs through the Park they would not have attempted to go with the flow.

Lets go back again, 25 + years to Ken's Murder.

First of all if a poacher in a low profile off the beaten path Park had killed Ken, I do not believe his death would have changed anything and more of us would have been killed. Secondly, I do not know exactly what happened only hearsay and official documents. Hearsay sometimes is more accurate. Official documents are sometimes written by good honest folks that have very little on the ground knowledge. Over 25 yrs. of reading the ones that directly involved me or those that I had direct knowledge of, sometimes I had trouble recognizing what took place (and I was there.) I quit buying and reading

newspapers 25 years ago and if I am given one I skim the comic strips, (laughing is good for the soul) political comics are sometimes more accurate. A live report on T.V. is accurate, most of the time, because the P.R. person for the Park has not had time to meet with the folks in the Head Shed. [An example would be the Channel 3 News report at 1700 hrs. on 01/06/03. The TV Reporter was interviewing/showing the many reasons visitors go to Lake Mead NRA on Holidays and weekends. Hiking, Boating, USING METAL DETECTORS, Relaxing, Sail boarding, were some of the examples shown.

[Because of the lack of Rangers at Lake Mead on patrol, I guess they could not find one to interview.]

Ken told me, they had a poaching problem and he was trying to get a handle on the problem, but good informants were hard to come by. He was trying to stake out certain areas and find ways to stop suspect vehicles in those areas. But, because the poachers had scanners and the people he worked for required so much radio traffic when he called in, the bad guys new his exact location all the time. He also stated the radio system was not the greatest, so to get the bad guys he may not have called in or could not call in! A coded call only he and the dispatcher understood might have been helpful. We laughed about the pathetic, dumb, stupid, etc. dress code rules we had to live with, if we wanted to try to protect the parks and the public. Some "good ole boy" trying to protect the image of the Park Service, not the Parks or the visitor, forced us to wear a long mid thigh length coat. This gives the

The Lodge is interested in sponsoring regional meetings this year to brief rangers on current issues, and Lodge actions. This is for members, and to recruit new members.

We need your help in coming up with locations to host these meetings.

Preferably, these would coincide with law enforcement refreshers or other training.

Please contact the Lodge by phone or email to let us know if you'd be interested in hosting a regional meeting.

bad guy the first shot or shots, very sporting. We speculated that if he missed, you could reach behind your back with your non gun hand as you unzipped your coat with your gun hand, pulling the coat off of the gun, so you could draw your 2"38 with the 5 soft nose lead bullets that might hurt someone if nothing was between you and the bad guy.

[Joe's account of Ken's murder and other reflections will be continued in the next issue of The Protection Ranger.]

Donations Needed

As noted in the President's Message at the beginning of this issue, the Lodge is aggressively expanding our efforts for LE reform at the Washington level. Lodge officers have been invited to meet and stay in regular contact with Congressional representatives as well as Interior and Park Service officials. Our goals are to have the reforms recommended by the IACP and Thomas reports implemented as soon as possible. There is a growing impatience on the part of some influential Representatives and Senators on what is seen as NPS inaction on these recommendations and we intend to support their efforts as much as possible. A number of new appointments at DOI have strong LE backgrounds and are very supportive of our efforts.

This will take more money to cover travel costs. We have not raised dues in many years because we've been able to pay for additional expenses through donations from members. We hope you'll support this new campaign by sending us a few extra dollars. To make our jobs safer. Please pull out your checkbook and send a donation to the Ranger Lodge today.

Thank you.

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



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