President's Message
John T. Waterman

Well I'm not sure about all of you, but the summer season has crept up on me faster than I had hoped. In the last newsletter I had put out a call for folks to get more involved. Several of you answered the call and have already begun to get their feet wet by joining the Board and participating in conference calls. I encourage more to get involved. Since the last newsletter, your Lodge Board has continued to move forward. Here are some of the highlights:

On May 13th, Brother Duane Buck and I attended the Candlelight Vigil in Washington DC. I have always wanted to take the time to visit the Law Enforcement Officers Memorial and each year something always comes up. This year, Duane and I were determined to go even after working late where Duane couldn't stay off the road and ended up with a suspect with a warrant. I was still trying to nurse a bad cold. After leaving the jail we drove at 1 am to Manassas to stay the night. We got several hours of sleep and met up with Sister Lynne Stokes, MANA, who acted as our host. Prior to attending a USPP dinner, we headed over toward the memorial and met up with hundreds of Police officers from all over the country. Several city blocks were cordoned off so that we could walk freely around the area. From there we headed to the USPP Hanger in DC where we enjoyed a catered meal and a very nice ceremony where several USPP Officers were given awards for jobs well done. I know for several years, folks have mentioned a separation between US Park Rangers and USPP. At this event I saw none of this. In fact, the hospitality shown by all of the USPP Officers was tremendous. Duane and I were approached by numerous Ranking Officers thanking us for participating and joining them for their event. We were made to feel very welcome by the USPP.

Perhaps one of the highlights for me was to finally meet Bonnie Eggle in person. She made it a point to talk to every Ranger in the room and thank them for all that they do. I was touched by her comments, her energy, and her sincerity. It takes a very strong person to move forward and not show bitterness after having your son make the ultimate sacrifice. From the dinner, we were given a ride over to the memorial by the USPP. Regional Chief Ranger Will Reynolds acted as our guide and gave us the rundown of the event. We spent some time walking by each memorial panel paying tribute to Rangers who died in the line of duty. It was very crowded. Perhaps the most touching thing to happen to me was a small boy came up to me, handed me a thank you card, and asked to shake my hand. I put my hand out and he said “officer thank you for all that you do.” As soon as he shook my hand, he was moving again holding on to the hand of his mother. I opened the card and in it was a
note “Thank you for all that you do; from the family of Officer James B. Gilbert, Norfolk PD, End of Watch Sept. 28, 2001.” By the time I looked up, the young boy was gone. I was truly touched by this action. Video screens were set up throughout the memorial so that you could see what was happening on the stage. Thousands of police officers were standing side by side participating in the Candlelight Vigil. The ceremony was wonderfully done. At the conclusion of the event, once again the USPP showed their hospitality and brought us back to the hanger. Although it was a very long day for us, I am ready to go again next year to pay tribute to those who gave the ultimate sacrifice.

Also during Police Week, Lodge Secretary George Durkee presented Pieter Sween with a FOP Valor Award for his involvement in a shooting at Crater Lake. We are continuing to urge WASO to develop and actually implement an award program at the WASO level for Law Enforcement Rangers that addresses and honors those officers that are involved in significant incidents, significant number of arrest, investigations, etc. The program should not only honor permanent Rangers, but seasonal as well. Too many times we hear about Rangers receiving awards from other organizations for a job well done, but yet nothing from management. Just recently, FLEOA held its 18th National Conference where it presented its Valor Awards to those who were killed in the line of duty. Two were presented to the families of Special Agent Daniel Paul Madrid and Seasonal Park Ranger Jeffrey A. Christensen. Although the Director of the NPS was invited, no one on behalf of the NPS attended. I encourage all Lodge members to contact a Lodge Board member and let us know of any Rangers you feel should be commended. I feel confident after talking with Cam Sholly, that WASO is still moving forward with implement-
can be of any assistance, do not hesitate to contact me at jtwaterman@yahoo.com or call the Lodge at 800-407-8295.

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**Conference Call with Cam Sholly**
May 29th, 2007 13:00 hours

Lodge Board in attendance: President John Waterman, Vice-president Duane Buck, Secretary George Durkee, Retirement Liaison Calvin Farmer, Lodge Activities Liaison Dave Rapp.

Retirement led off the call and John asked about the responsibility of position descriptions and who has the responsibility, WASO or the parks to see that these PD’s are update when the position is changed or modified or is found not to have been updated to the new 6(c) requirements.

Cam stated that the responsibilities lie with the individual parks to ensure that these PD’s are updated with FLERT. Unfortunately, some of the parks didn’t think the PD’s needed updating with FLERT and did nothing to make FLERT aware of any changes.

Cam’s office has had a human resources person look into this and has found that the problem is larger than previously thought. There was further discussion on this matter and there will be more to come in the next newsletter after further follow up.

The backlog of FLERT cases has dropped to approximately 40 cases. Cam went on to explain that the 6c retirement is in place and from a 1994 standpoint and forward he feels we are good, and that 6c is not going away. FLERT is continuing to work on the backlog of retirement claims. Some discussion was held about the dissolving of FLERT since they have met their mission of taking care of the backlog of claims which was suppose to be their only mission. The Lodge expressed its concern that FLERT seems to be trying to come up with further duties and responsibilities in order to continue to exist.

The lodge has learned recently that a small victory was won against MSPB out west. The lodge is going to go over the details of this case and see what the differences were on why this case was won.

The next topic was the current “Law Enforcement Officers Retirement Equity Act” introduced by Senator Barbara Mikulski (D-Maryland). This bill was put together for agencies looking to get retirement coverage, like the Internal Revenue Service.

We already have retirement coverage, so this bill may or may not help us with our retirement problems. Cam stated that this bill may help us for the future, but will not do anything to help with the backlog of retirement claims for time prior to 1994.

The 1800 series PD’s were mentioned as well. This issue is a double edged sword because this may cause FLERT to revisit PD’s from 1994 to the present and put those PD’s in question. The good would be that perhaps the career ladder would be better (5/7/9/11) for promotion and retention of law enforcement rangers.

The three-tiered payment system was touched upon and John reiterated that OPM is against this system.

The seasonal questions were brought up by George and questions regarding the quality of seasonals coming out of the seasonal academies not being up to par. Cam indicated that Greg Jackson has been working tirelessly on getting all 9 seasonal academies on the same page with a 340 hour curriculum. Right now they finally all have the same core classes. In the recent past all the academies had been teaching slightly different facets of the seasonal curriculum. This brought out seasonals strong in some areas and weak in other areas of the curriculum. Greg is continuing to study the 8 week courses at the seasonal academy levels.

A final seasonal curriculum review is pending and Cam strongly suggested that we get a seat on that review board. John asked how many seasonals are currently in the system and Cam stated approximately 375.

**FLETC**
Cam talked about all the new training money that FLETC got and that will allow new training classes to start. Selections for the basic FLETC curriculum are being made at the WASO level and not the park level. As far as any advanced training Cam stated that as more funding became available that courses would show up more. Right now most of those classes are still benefiting accounts.

A question regarding what the NPS was doing about retention was brought up. Cam stated that agencies like the Forest Service and BLM are keeping their folks and getting new ones with the higher journeyman graded positions. (GS-11) Another tool these agencies are using is the AUO. BLM has some fairly ambiguous 6c issues.

The NPS is looking at what’s working and what’s not at this point. A field career ladder is sorely needed to maintain those we already have and bring in quality rangers from the outside. Cam stated that a plan on retention is being looked at to help solve those
problems. What they are right now isn’t know yet.

Cam stated that WASO is looking at a pilot bridge course for FLETech for new personnel who have already had the basic FLETech class and want to get back into the NPS. A 3-5 week classroom academy followed by a 3-5 week field training program would be required initially.

If the new person passed both of these portions of the bridge class, then they won’t have to take the full FLETech training program again. If they failed the classroom section, then they would be required to take the full FLETech course again from the start.

RM-9
The final write up should be done by the end of the fiscal year. Cam stated that right now they are finishing up with the shooting policy. Again Cam suggested that the lodge have a board member to sit on the final review board for RM-9.

The plan is to make the final version user friendly and come out with a pocket guide for the field that will allow easy access to look up sections and reference. Other sections that are being updated were the taser policy and the internal affairs sections of RM-9.

Lodge Presents Valor Award to Ranger Pieter Sween
George Durkee

On May 15th, 2007, I was invited by Chief Randy Wickman of the Missoula Police Department to take part in their Police Memorial ceremony so the Lodge could present seasonal ranger Pieter Sween – who lives here in Missoula. lives here in Missoula. lives here in Missoula.

We all know how quickly things can go bad and how little time we have to react decisively. One moment you’re talking to a family about the best fishing spots, seconds later you’re facing an armed suspect in the darkness. The ability to successfully make that instantaneous transition, contain and control the danger, and go home at the end of your shift represents the best of our tradition of protection and service. Tonight we honor National Park Ranger Pieter Sween for exemplifying that formidable ability.

On the night of July 27, 2005 Rangers Pieter Sween and Peter Reinhardt responded to a report of a woman being assaulted at Mazama Campground in Crater Lake National Park, Oregon. Upon arrival, the 6 foot, 200 pound male suspect immediately threatened to kill the rangers and then vanished into the darkness. He reappeared moments later with a 26 inch long weighted club and advanced on the officers, threatening them as he came. In a rapidly evolving situation, both rangers quickly took up defensive positions and repeatedly ordered the suspect to drop the weapon. From cover, Ranger Reinhardt deployed pepper spray without effect. With the club held high over his head in a two-handed striking position, the suspect then charged directly at Ranger Sween. At six feet away, Ranger Sween fired two rounds hitting the suspect in center of mass and killing him.

From time on-scene to the radio call requesting medical help was one minute and 52 seconds.

In a dark campground crowded with family groups, both rangers acted tactically and decisively to contain and control a terrifying situation to the public. Their actions saved lives that night. The
Ranger Lodge of the Fraternal Order of Police is proud and honored to present National Park Ranger Pieter Sween its Valor Award in recognition of his heroic actions at Crater Lake National Park.

Lodge Awards Program
George Durkee

Unfortunately, many Parks don’t do a very good job of recognizing rangers for law enforcement work. I know of a number of times where rangers have been put in for Valor or even achievement awards, only to have them refused at a higher level because “that’s part of the ranger’s job.” This is an outrage and completely unacceptable.

Chief Wickman — and many other departments — make sure they give their people ‘attaboys’ for good police work such as a high rate of DUI arrests, an especially difficult case solved, recognition for saving a life and, of course, heroism in the line of duty.

The Park Service needs to do a much better job of recognizing the achievements of LE rangers. The Lodge has been advocating more emphasis on such recognition by supervisors. A recent proposal by Greg Jackson at FLETIC to create an award for distinguished service by seasonal rangers is apparently percolating its way uphill. This should correct a long-overdue need for recognition of seasonals.

Everyone should pay attention to what your colleagues are doing and, when someone is putting out some extra effort, make that extra effort to bring that ranger’s effort to the Chief Ranger’s attention and push for some level of ‘attaboy’ award.

If the person is a Lodge member, send us a paragraph or two on your colleague’s accomplishments and we’ll make sure the ranger receives recognition. Remember, this isn’t just for heroism, it’s for any solid ranger work that stands out.

New findings from FBI about cop attackers & their weapons

[From Force Science News provided by The Force Science Research Center.
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New findings on how offenders train with, carry and deploy the weapons they use to attack police officers have emerged in a just-published, 5-year study by the FBI. Among other things, the data reveal that most would-be cop killers:
--show signs of being armed that officers miss;
--have more experience using deadly force in “street combat” than their intended victims;
--practice with firearms more often and shoot more accurately;
--have no hesitation whatsoever about pulling the trigger. “If you hesitate,” one told the study’s researchers, “you’re dead. You have the instinct or you don’t. If you don’t, you’re in trouble on the street....”

These and other weapons-related findings comprise one chapter in a 180-page research summary called “Violent Encounters: A Study of Felonious Assaults on Our Nation’s Law Enforcement Officers.” The study is the third in a series of long investigations into fatal and nonfatal attacks on PoPs by the FBI team of Dr. Anthony Pinizzotto, clinical forensic psychologist, and Ed Davis, criminal investigative instructor, both with the Bureau’s Behavioral Science Unit, and Charles Miller III, coordinator of the LEOs Killed and Assaulted program.

“Violent Encounters” also reports in detail on the personal characteristics of attacked officers and their assailants, the role of perception in life-threatening confrontations, the myths of memory that can hamper OIS investigations, the suicide-by-cop phenomenon, current training issues, and other matters relevant to officer survival. (Force Science News and our strategic partner PoliceOne.com will be reporting on more findings from this landmark study in future transmissions.)

Commenting on the broad-based study, Dr. Bill Lewinski, executive director of the Force Science Research Center at Minnesota State University-Mankato, called it “very challenging and insightful--important work that only a handful of gifted and experienced researchers could accomplish.”

From a pool of more than 800 incidents, the researchers selected 40, involving 43 offenders (13 of them admitted gangbangers-drug traffickers) and 50 officers, for in-depth exploration. They visited crime scenes and extensively interviewed surviving officers and attackers alike, most of the latter in prison.

Here are highlights of what they learned about weapon selection, familiarity, transport and use by criminals attempting to murder cops, a small portion of the overall research:

Weapon Choice
Predominately handguns were used in the assaults on officers and all but one were obtained illegally, usually in street transactions or in thefts. In contrast to media myth, none of the firearms in the study was obtained from gun shows.

What was available “was the overwhelming factor in weapon choice,” the report says. Only 1 offender hand-picked a particular gun “because he felt it would do the most damage to a human being.”

Researcher Davis, in a presentation and discussion for the International Assn. of Chiefs of Police, noted
that none of the attackers interviewed was “hindered by any law--federal, state or local--that has ever been established to prevent gun ownership. They just laughed at gun laws.”

**Familiarity**

Several of the offenders began regularly to carry weapons when they were 9 to 12 years old, although the average age was 17 when they first started packing “most of the time.” Gang members especially started young. Nearly 40% of the offenders had some type of formal firearms training, primarily from the military. More than 80% “regularly practiced with handguns, averaging 23 practice sessions a year,” the study reports, usually in informal settings like trash dumps, rural woods, back yards and “street corners in known drug-trafficking areas.”

One spoke of being motivated to improve his gun skills by his belief that officers “go to the range two, three times a week [and] practice arms so they can hit anything.” In reality, victim officers in the study averaged just 14 hours of sidearm training and 2.5 qualifications per year. Only 6 of the 50 officers reported practicing regularly with handguns apart from what their department required, and that was mostly in competitive shooting. Overall, the offenders practiced more often than the officers they assaulted, and this “may have helped increase [their] marksmanship skills,” the study says.

The offender quoted above about his practice motivation, for example, fired 12 rounds at an officer, striking him 3 times. The officer fired 7 rounds, all misses. More than 40% of the offenders had been involved in actual shooting confrontations before they feloniously assaulted an officer. Ten of these “street combat veterans,” all from “inner-city, drug-trafficking environments,” had taken part in 5 or more “criminal firefight experiences” in their lifetime.

One reported that he was 14 when he was first shot on the street, “about 18 before a cop shot me.” Another said getting shot was a pivotal experience “because I made up my mind no one was gonna shoot me again.”

Again in contrast, only 8 of the 50 LEO victims had participated in a prior shooting: 1 had been involved in 2 previously, another in 3. Seven of the 8 had killed offenders.

**Concealment**

The offenders said they most often hid guns on their person in the front waistband, with the groin area and the small of the back nearly tied for second place. Some occasionally gave their weapons to another person to carry, “most often a female companion.” None regularly used a holster, and about 40% at least sometimes carried a backup weapon.

In motor vehicles, they most often kept their firearm readily available on their person, or, less often, under the seat. In residences, most stashed their weapon under a pillow, on a nightstand, under the mattress—somewhere within immediate reach while in bed.

Almost all carried when on the move and strong majorities did so when socializing, committing crimes or being at home. About one-third brought weapons with them to work. Interestingly, the offenders in this study more commonly admitted having guns under all these circumstances than did offenders interviewed in the researchers’ earlier 2 surveys, conducted in the 1980s and ’90s. According to Davis, “Male offenders said time and time again that female officers tend to search them more thoroughly than male officers. In prison, most of the offenders were more afraid to carry contraband or weapons when a female CO was on duty.”

On the street, however, both male and female officers too often regard female subjects “as less of a threat, assuming that they not going to have a gun,” Davis said. In truth, the researchers concluded that more female offenders are armed today than 20 years ago—“not just female gang associates, but female offenders generally.”

**Shooting Style**

Twenty-six of the offenders [about 60%], including all of the street combat veterans, “claimed to be instinctive shooters, pointing and firing the weapon without consciously aligning the sights,” the study says. “They practice getting the gun out and using it,” Davis explained. “They shoot for effect.” Or as one of the offenders put it: “[W]e’re not working with no marksmanship....We just putting it in your direction, you know....It don’t matter...as long as it’s gonna hit you...if it’s up at your head or your chest, down at your legs, whatever....Once I squeeze and you fall, then...if I want to execute you, then I could go from there.”

**Hit Rate**

More often than the officers they attacked, offenders delivered at least some rounds on target in their encounters. Nearly 70% of assailants were successful in that regard with handguns, compared to about 40% of the victim officers, the study found. (Efforts of offenders and officers to get on target were considered successful if any rounds struck, regardless of the number fired.) Davis speculated that the offenders might have had an advantage because in all but 3 cases they fired first, usually catching the officer by surprise. Indeed, the report points out, “10 of the total victim officers had been wounded [and thus impaired] before they returned gunfire at their attackers.”

**Missed Cues**

Officers would less likely be caught off guard by attackers if
they were more observant of indicators of concealed weapons, the study concludes. These particularly include manners of dress, ways of moving and unconscious gestures often related to carrying.

“Officers should look for unnatural protrusions or bulges in the waist, back and crotch areas,” the study says, and watch for “shirts that appear rippled or wavy on one side of the body while the fabric on the other side appears smooth.” In warm weather, multilayered clothing inappropriate to the temperature may be a giveaway. On cold or rainy days, a subject’s jacket hood may not be covering his head because it is being used to conceal a handgun.

Because they eschew holsters, offenders reported frequently touching a concealed gun with hands or arms “to assure themselves that it is still hidden, secure and accessible” and hasn’t shifted. Such gestures are especially noticeable “whenever individuals change body positions, such as standing, sitting or exiting a vehicle.” If they run, they may need to keep a constant grip on a hidden gun to control it.

Just as cops generally blade their body to make their sidearm less accessible, armed criminals “do the same in encounters with LEOS to ensure concealment and easy access.”

An irony, Davis noted, is that officers who are assigned to look for concealed weapons, while working off-duty security at night clubs for instance, are often highly proficient at detecting them. “But then when they go back to the street without that specific assignment, they seem to ‘turn off’ that skill,” and thus are startled—sometimes fatally—when a suspect suddenly produces a weapon and attacks.

**Mind-set**

Thirty-six of the 50 officers in the study had “experienced hazardous situations where they had the legal authority” to use deadly force “but chose not to shoot.” They averaged 4 such prior incidents before the encounters that the researchers investigated. “It appeared clear that none of these officers were willing to use deadly force against an offender if other options were available,” the researchers concluded. The offenders were of a different mind-set entirely. In fact, Davis said the study team “did not realize how cold blooded the younger generation of offender is. They have been exposed to killing after killing, they fully expect to get killed and they don’t hesitate to shoot anybody, including a police officer. They can go from riding down the street saying what a beautiful day it is to killing in the next instant.”

“Offenders typically displayed no moral or ethical restraints in using firearms,” the report states. “In fact, the street combat veterans survived by developing a shoot-first mentality.

“Officers never can assume that a criminal is unarmed until they have thoroughly searched the person and the surroundings themselves.” Nor, in the interest of personal safety, can officers “let their guards down in any type of law enforcement situation.”

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**Secretary’s Notes**

George Durkee

Needless to say, things get kind of busy in summer. I’m heading off into the Kings Canyon backcountry along with our hard-working Business Manager, Paige Meier. This means if you’ve got membership problems with delayed cards or other issues, we’ll be a little delayed in getting back to you. With luck, Brother Duane can solve most problems that arise. The Grand Lodge is still, alas, not doing as well as they could on membership cards. The turnaround time is improving, but a few members have slipped through the cracks. We appreciate your patience. If you need proof of membership for liability insurance or special FOP license plates, contact Duane and he’ll write you a letter confirming your membership.

Everyone have a safe summer!

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**Time to Renew?**

If you have recently received a notice of renewal (check your mailing label on the newsletter for your expiration date!), please send your dues in soon. You may renew using the envelope provided or go to our web site:

[www.rangerfop.com/join.htm](http://www.rangerfop.com/join.htm)

And, if your newsletter mailing label has a red dot on it, we’re about to cancel your membership. This will be your last issue of The Protection Ranger and your last chance to support our efforts to advance our profession. Avoid the guilt-send your dues in now! If our information is in error, write and we’ll correct it.

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If you’ve moved, please send us an email attfoplodge@sonic.net and tell us your new address.

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Call *only* between 10AM and 8PM Eastern Time.

Many thanks for your continued support.

George Durkee

Secretary
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The Lodge website is updated with notices and links to other sites that we