

The Protection Ranger

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2003: A Year of Accomplishment – and Frustration

Randall Kendrick
Executive Director

Your Lodge was busy this past year and has a lot to show for it. I believe in the areas over which we exercised control, we made the most of our opportunities. Among the pluses:

- The Lodge generated many positive and accurate stories in the media with our press releases and personal contacts. The CBS Evening News and ABC's 20/20 were the most visible media stories about the plight of the rangers and the NPS in 2003. The Lodge and its officers were also quoted in most of the major newspapers in the USA and even made it into the Manchester (England) Guardian, a national UK paper. The Lodge's Executive Director was interviewed live on eight radio stations serving large audiences. All of this was designed to gain support for the Inspector General's report and testimony and to try and persuade the Secretary of Interior to implement line authority for law enforcement park rangers and a separate budget for LE.

- The Lodge continued to assist members experiencing problems in their professional lives on a one to one basis. Our lawyers were kept busy researching members' problems and advising courses of action for them to take. As per Lodge policy, this was at no cost to the individual members.

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- Lodge officers traveled twice to Washington, DC, to meet with Interior officials to express support and to lobby for our proposed reforms.
- A big negative was FLERT. Not only was the IG unable to get them to clear up the backlog of cases and go out of business, but most cases were resolved to the detriment of commissioned rangers. The Watson decision of July, 2000, and the Piskar decision of December, 2002, erased the precedent set in the Jim Ferrier case. These are federal court decisions and show that 6(c) for rangers and special agents is precarious. Interestingly, the Piskar case significantly raised the 6(c) bar for investigators; park rangers, because of their outrageous assault rate and routine arrests, subduing, and transports, were relatively untouched by Piskar. It was Watson that has hurt park rangers.

- The Lodge membership experienced the biggest gain in membership in several years. Lodge officers are trying to give value for your support.
- The Lodge web site, thanks to its webmaster Duane Buck, continues to be upgraded and made even more useful. The discussion area remains lively and informative and the seasonal section has made information available to this long-abused group of dedicated officers.
- The Lodge has tried to publicize the plight of our members in the US Army Corps of Engineers who are forced to enforce laws and regulations without defensive equipment. This is a continuing effort that we are devoted to.

Our goals remain:

- Line authority for park rangers (stovepiping).
- A separate law enforcement budget.
- Staffing levels that allow safe and efficient operation.
- Park Ranger 6(c) codified into law.

Frustrations

Unfortunately, our letters to the NPS Director's office have been met only with pro forma, though pleasant, replies. In contrast to the often stated opinions of Interior IG Earl Devaney, there seems to be no sense of urgency in implementing professionalization of NPS law enforcement as it affects park rangers. In the past 18 months – as documented by Paul Henry at FLETC – the NPS has lost 175 commissioned rangers to other agencies. In the western US there are National Forests

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with the majority of officers former NPS rangers. Exit interviews are not done and the Directorate cruises serenely on, oblivious to the profound frustration and dissatisfaction of field rangers. Too many rangers feel their only effective protest is to vote with their feet and go to another agency.

For the near future I want to share with you my opinions: Ms Norton, when she was confronted at the White House by an ABC reporter armed with the information 20/20 gained from us, and others, said the national parks are in great shape and that the problems have been solved. Those who saw the 20/20 segment witnessed the disconnect between her words and the films and narration 20/20 provided. (As an aside, I do want to thank producer John Bilotta for his unstinting patience and willingness to hear our side of the story: I spoke with him, giving him tips and sharing my years of experience on the issues, several times a week for the better part of two months. The result was an impartial, professional, and embarrassing segment for upper management and its apologists.)

I am afraid that the administration line has been set and all efforts will be directed toward electing Mr. Bush to a second term. I don't see the promised increase in staff levels and other needed improvement happening until after the national elections of 2004, if then.

As you will see elsewhere in this issue, the Lodge is asking for an increase in dues. It's the first time in nine years we've been compelled to raise dues as expenses have outstripped our budget. To continue to be an effective voice for field officers of land management agencies we simply need an increase in operating funds.

As we go into 2004, keep this in mind: In the fifteen years the US Ranger Lodge of the FOP has been calling for specific reforms, we have seen time after time professional investigators endorse our proposals. Every time a journalist investigates a press release of

ours and writes a story that bears us out; when the Inspector General uses harsher language than we employ to excoriate management and call for the reforms we want and need; when a management-oriented outfit like the IACP endorses our stands; when National Geographic and other diverse publications like Outside and Gun World do supportive stories, we have corroboration that what we recommend is fully reasonable and mainstream and it is those in control of the NPS who are at variance to accepted national standards of law enforcement management and officer safety. The FOP will never accept the attitude expressed in my presence by a high NPS official that an on-the-job murder of a park ranger (or, by extension, an officer of any land management agency) is "part of the cost of doing business." Gloomy as our present state seems, though, it is worth remembering that almost every reform the Lodge has advocated since our founding in 1986 – from ballistic vests to pay for on-call to GS-9 as the journeyman grade – has been adopted. As always, we travel hopefully.

Finally, we salute the life and career of our member, the late Andy Artz, mourn his untimely passing, and will miss him greatly.

Post Traumatic Stress Disorder

Jon Peterson
Special Agent, DEVA

Sisters and Brothers of the FOP. After 25 years in the Park Business, I want to offer you the benefit of some of what I've learned about Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and how it affected me and the National Park Service. I considered writing a few pages of disclaimers about not being expert, but dammit, I am an expert. Here's my saga. Take it for what it is, one man's journey. My hope is you will come away with some new emotional armor or tools for

recognizing PTSD to help you and your co-workers in your careers.

I won't attempt to list signs and symptoms of PTSD because the list is quite long. What you need to realize is there is help out there – however, it may not be within your Park or the Agency. You may need to scrape and dig to find the help you need, depending on your individual situation. As of 2002, the NPS was not equipped to help law enforcement rangers find professionally trained health care providers who are experienced with treating PTSD-related issues. There are some individual exceptions around the Service, largely due to the persistence and guts of a few Sister and Brother Rangers who saw the problem and fixed it locally but it is not across-the-board. (More on this and the failings of the low bid Employee Assistance Program (EAP) system and the weaknesses of the Peer Counselor system later.) PTSD comes in many flavors: physical, behavioral, and emotional. PTSD may come on silently. In my case it was a very progressive illness that became increasingly severe after years of being left untreated. PTSD will eventually consume those victims who have experienced trauma beyond what their minds are able to comprehend or deal with at one time.

At some point in your ranger career the odds are you will be involved in situations involving death or major trauma. In my career as a State Park Ranger and NPS Ranger/Special Agent, I witnessed stressful situations long before I was called upon to shoot and kill a knife wielding attacker back in 1989. These include an aggregate of events, such as suicides, attempted suicides, fatal auto accidents and airplane wrecks, a multiple fatality helicopter wreck, drowning, burn victims, child deaths, a fatal bear mauling, rifle fights, arrests of criminals involved in murder and attempted murder... the list goes on. I am not unique in this sister/brotherhood of Rangers who have been routinely

exposed to these types of trauma and more. I worked in nine Parks from the suburbs of Atlanta to the North Slope of the Brooks Range in Alaska. I've had a great career, I love the lifestyle, and with a few exceptions, I loved the people I worked with. Mine has been a pretty normal, typical NPS law enforcement career.

I always thought of myself as a pretty tough guy, able to take a few knocks. I'm the son of a US fighter pilot who served in three wars. My military family consisted of six kids, four boys trained in judo and karate who broke a few bones (at home), as well as pieces of furniture, growing up. I've been described as a hardheaded Swede, and believe me the saying "You can tell a Swede, but you can't tell him much," is true. As we all know, boys (men) don't cry, and I was certainly trained under this believe. The John Wayne syndrome: "Life is tough. It's tougher when you're stupid." [Sands of Iwo Jima]

It only took me 50 years to realize a certain amount of crying is good for you, and perfectly normal. There comes a point where we as individuals, co-workers and supervisors need to train ourselves to identify those of us that need professional help. I've been to that point a couple of times with PTSD. The best advice that I can give to you is that if you think you need help, DON'T WAIT. Seek help now.

The Employee Assistance Program (EAP) has its role in our mental health and well being. It is a good thing: use the program when you or family members need them. However, take into consideration the limitations of the program, which are significant. I know this from firsthand knowledge. In the fall of 2002, I found I was becoming depressed after hearing about Brother Ranger Chris Eggle's murder in Organ Pipe National Park (ORPI). Ranger Eggle was a firearms student of mine at FLETC last year. I had been to ORPI several times and had some good friends that had worked there over the

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years. I found I began picturing myself in the desert in Chris's situation over and over again. How would I have reacted? I tried to take care of my problem on my own. After much agonizing, I called EAP. There are no professional Police Stress Therapists in our system. In addition to there not being any law enforcement (police) psychologists available in the EAP system, many of the mental health care providers in the EAP system are working at the Masters Degree level. While those folks are dedicated, helpful, caring human beings, they are not specialized in working with law enforcement professionals. I don't take my airplane to the boat mechanic for repairs, if you catch my drift.

In addition to the multiple, extremely emotionally draining telephone conversations I had with the EAP folks, I found out my Blue Cross Insurance carrier does not have a police psychologist under contract anywhere in the USA. (In contrast, the Los Angeles Police Department has 16 full time such professionals on staff!)

I told EAP I would not need their services. Then the phone calls started. Apparently, I opened the proverbial can of worms. Remember we are talking festering recurrent PTSD in my situation. One important function of the EAP phone-in system is to follow the check list and try and determine if the caller is a danger to themselves. EAP will run you through a list of questions, the trigger (no pun intended) will be: "Do you have guns in the home?" The contract telemarketer on the other end is just doing their job. I did tell them it was a law enforcement-related situation; that I was a firearms instructor, and a student of mine I had just trained was murdered. They didn't pick up on those clues. I told them I did not want to talk to them, and that I would seek the help of a specialist elsewhere. Still, EAP forwarded my information to a

generalist local health care provider (with a Masters Degree), with whom I was not interested in talking. I should have had the help of a police psychologist early on, thus avoiding the additional stress of navigating a frustrating, inadequate system.

If I still have your attention I'd like to give my opinion about the system that the NPS has developed. If you find yourself in the role of a Peer Counselor talking to a fellow Ranger that was in a shooting, do not be specific in your questions. If you are ever subpoenaed in the case, you are bound by your duty as a ranger to disclose what was said. Instead, basic support is much appreciated. For instance, after the shooting incident I was involved in, the two things on my mind were: A) My dog was in the back yard at home in the rain and, B) How was I going to tell my family I had killed a man? Supporting a fellow ranger is extremely important, and does not require that you fix all the problems at hand. It just means a shoulder to lean on, and basic support. It will probably be an extremely emotional time for everyone involved.

Lessons Learned

Here are a few mistakes that were made in the aftermath of the shooting incident I was in. There is no intention to place blame, we all did the best we could with the training we had at the time.

After the post-shooting interview with the Clark County, Nevada Detective Unit, I had blood drawn at the local hospital. Then some Rangers took the two of us involved out to supper. I remember having a few beers and not feeling any of the effects of the alcohol. Alcohol consumption is contra-indicated after the stress of a shooting. We didn't know any better at the time.

In hindsight, being alone and working alone after a shooting incident was not healthy for me. I was separated at the time, which contributed to an eventual divorce in less than a year. After the

shooting, I experienced various symptoms related to PTSD over time. I was too bull-headed about my emotional state. *If you think you need help, don't wait.*

Are you stressed out? If you experience any of these symptoms, PTSD may be starting to show its early signs: Headaches, fatigue, pounding heart, digestive upsets, teeth grinding, light headedness, lowered sex drive, irritability, short-temper, backaches, muscle aches, loss or gain in weight, insomnia, restlessness, muscle tics or drinking too much. There's information out there:

www.tearsofacop.com/police/ptsd.html is one such source.

In contrast to the NPS system of serious incident aftermath mental health care, the Los Angeles Police Department has 16 full time Police psychologists on their staff. On my own dime I worked with one of the LAPD Police psychologists last fall. It helped. Our own system couldn't figure out how to get off the mark.

I tried the Workman's Comp. route. Believe me, you do not want to try and recreate a PTSD claim that is over a decade old. The emotional trauma you expose yourself to is an experience most of us don't want. It left me bitter – chewed up and spit out. Only three things you need to know about a Workman's Comp. Claim: document, document, document. It is your responsibility as rangers to take care of each other.

After I paid for my own job related mental health care, I agreed to a screening evaluation by the Agency's choice of psychologists. Their findings were basically the same as the LAPD's psychologists: disabled from PTSD. The Government's choice was a forensic psychologist – and former LAPD staff Police psychologist.

The LAPD experience and the body of experience since the 1960's have shown that time and money spent up front

with their officers is cheaper in the long run. As an agency we need to come into the 21st Century and do right by our people. In your Parks, demand PTSD recognition training and see that you have the phone number of a licensed police psychologist in your wallet before you need their services. I repeat: You do not want to go through EAP for law enforcement related issues. Those of you in small staff Parks, do your homework ahead of time. Save yourself a whole lot of grief.

Where do I stand today? A few months after my PTSD experience I was diagnosed with a recurring rare form of cartilage cancer that metastized to my right lung. Last spring, I underwent my third thorax surgery in two years. I am still recovering from the removal of a sarcoma. There is no known environmental or hereditary link to my type of cancer. Does stress play a role in your physical wellbeing?

Take care of yourself and your fellow Rangers.

IMARS Incident Management, Analysis and Reporting System Project Summary

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The NPS deals with a diverse and complex range of reporting requirements and needs related to incidents. These include both law enforcement (patrol, investigations and targeted, pro-active actions) and non-law enforcement incidents (resource observations & actions, special events, employee safety and health, search and rescue, emergency medical services, structural and wild land fire, hazardous materials response and investigation, natural occurrences, hurricane, flood, ice storms, etc. and highway safety and traffic accident documentation). The

NPS is seeking off-the-shelf automated processes and software technology to satisfy legal and management reporting requirements within the Agency.

The IMARS (Incident Management, Analysis and Reporting System) project is in the early developmental stage, moving toward active pilot testing and implementation. IMARS will allow for the recording, analysis, sharing and management of information relating to a variety of criminal as well as non-criminal reportable incidents. Incidents are defined as any occurrence that requires documentation. The reporting and interface capability of the system will meet mandatory reporting and statistical requirement for the FBI (Uniform Crime Reporting Act) and the Department of Interior through the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) as well as other mandatory reporting requirements. Open-ended architecture will allow for interface and integration with other existing Agency systems.

Meeting User Needs

In the initial version of the system, emphasis will be placed on meeting the majority of requirements needed for law enforcement, security and emergency management. These areas have been identified by the Department as cross-cutting priority programs between the NPS and other DOI Bureaus. After testing of the initial system, additional versions will follow, and modules addressing the variety of NPS user needs will be included. This multi-year project will include implementation of a number of sequenced versions of the system. Each version will include additional prioritized requirements identified by the various user groups that will be validated and enhanced through pilot testing and review prior to national implementation.

IMARS will, in the long run, be expected to meet the majority of reporting and information sharing needs for all participating user groups.

These groups include visitor & resource protection, emergency services, special park uses, wildland and structural fire, natural and cultural resources, risk management, maintenance and concessions. Each participating function within the NPS is being asked to provide the following information:

- The names of Subject Matter Experts and Focus Team Members within their discipline. (These participants will assist in defining and documenting system requirements, assisting in the review of project information and helping to set project priorities).
- Identify incident information that is presently being collected or needs to be collected.
- Highlight key areas of concern for their particular discipline and interface/integration issues.

Request for Proposal

The Request For Proposal (RFP), which is being prepared for distribution to interested vendors, will include requirements previously identified in the Needs Assessment conducted in 2002 by contractor TRW, as well as new requirements identified by the Subject Matter Experts and Focus Teams. It is anticipated that a vendor for the initial pilot system will be selected during the second quarter of FY 2004. Within the NPS, the law enforcement and emergency services components are scheduled to be tested in 4-6 NPS park/areas (including USPP) during the spring/summer of 2004. As additional modules for the various user needs are developed and tested, they will be implemented on a nationwide basis.

Value of Data Collected

Data is an essential management tool, and is critical to identifying our problems, collecting and analyzing information for the purpose of recognizing trends, prioritizing threats, sharing information, developing mitigation plans and reporting results, measuring our performance, identifying

our weaknesses, allocating resources and reinforcing our strengths.

Within the law enforcement program, information to be collected will enhance criminal investigation and information analysis. Implementation of Computer Aided Dispatch System (CAD) will provide accurate tracking of incidents and subsequent actions, including court adjudications, within the law enforcement reporting process. The system will capture past investigative and incident information into the new system and allow intelligence and information sharing between federal law enforcement agencies. As a result, human and resource related criminal investigations will be enhanced.

The goal of the IMARS project is to provide a means for ensuring standardized reporting and data collection which can be used for analysis and identification of trends leading to targeted, management actions which will enhance public and employee safety and protect resources.

For additional information on the IMARS relating to Law Enforcement and Emergency Services, please contact Dennis Burnett, 202-513-7128.

Rangering and Remembrance by Joe Weggoner

Joe recently retired after a rough and tumble 30+ year career with the Park Service. We printed Part I of his reminiscence in the Spring issue. Here is Part II of his unedited no-holds-barred and from-the-hip reminiscence – both good and bad – about those years.

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 knew 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 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. (Like glass in a car door, a heavy coat or anything else that would stop or deflect the soft slow bullet.)

I remember laughing with Ken when he compared us to the Clint Eastwood and other Western movies, where the bad guys and the good guys pulled their rain slicker or coat off of their gun before the shooting started. We laughed about getting our gun or L.E. commission pulled if we exposed a weapon, before we needed it. We even talked about how we might hold our coat closed with our gun hand at waist level. Then if you needed the gun to scare the bad guy (as you retreated to unlock your trunk and get out the shotgun, if you had one) you could sweep away the coat and grab the weapon if the coat did not get caught. We really laughed hard to the point of tears, when we pictured ourselves turning away from the visitor and unzipping or zipping up our coat, [what would they think, we were about

to do?] We speculated that no Ranger would ever be issued a bulletproof vest, even after Rangers were shot. We laughed about the Bird Shot in the shotguns, (that would really tick off the bad guy if he was 15 yds. or farther.) MORE ON THIS LATER...

I related to Ken, my first, attaboy, we appreciate your dedication to duty, good job Letter to my file, was meant well, and I appreciated it because I Respected the Superintendent who signed off on the letter to the Regional Office. .

While visiting with some shark fisherman who I visited with as often As possible, at the request of Superintendent, they told me they had been asked if they would like to have sex with any or all of the six Females on a old hand painted, green school bus, parked in the Campground. {\$25.00 per. for what ever}

The next night I parked in the concession parking lot away from the Complex and walked across the dunes to the camp ground, in hopes I would be solicited and could make a case. It did not work, two of the Women recognized me, and they all packed up and left.

So, rejected and dejected, I headed back to my vehicle. As I Approached the beach side of the concession I could hear and see three, Very drunk men, in a two door hard top, parked on the sidewalk. Being the hard working, intelligent, committed to duty, Ranger that I was, I walked up to the vehicle and pulled out my shiny new badge and told them to move the car to the parking lot and sleep it off. I was on the passenger side of the vehicle, bent down looking at the Driver from, behind the front seat passengers' head. When I flashed the badge and made my statement the driver turned and He tried to grab the sawed off shot gun laying on the back seat at the same time the back seat passenger did and they got tangled up.

I lunged into the vehicle, striking the front seat passenger in the Side of his head with my right forearm and elbow. I grabbed the shotgun with my left hand opening the weapon as I stepped back from the Vehicle and seeing a live primer pointed the gun at the men and ask them to keep their hands insight and exit the vehicle, on my side.

They refused my request until I pulled the hammer back and explained How I was sure I could incapacitate both men in the front seat and Beat the crap out of the man in the back seat with the weapon in my Hand.

As I tried to get back up and a hand gun from the safe after working Hours, my education with the Park Service began. The radio worked and a, Off duty Ranger, after a lot of coxing came to me with a six shot Revolver that had seen duty in at least two wars. As he handed me The gun and looked at the men face down in the sand, he explained That he was going to have to write me up for pointing a gun at Visitors and mistreating/upsetting them.

The District Ranger, Jack Lanahan arrived, sent the Ranger home to write his Report and we transported the men to the county jail, where they had Radio contact, with the out side world. The men were on NCIC for a Burglary the night before, in which the owner of the shotgun was Murdered.

Ken and laughed, respectfully, knowing that with a real Law Enforcement agency I would have been given time off with out pay, instead of an " ATTA BOY"

Ken told me about a couple of incidents that happened in the Golden Gate Area that involved the Park Police that may have had a lot to do with some of them putting " P "in front of Park Ranger.

He stated that several times Park Police had radioed for back up and Park Rangers had responded to the incidents quickly, but with no firearms!

After two or three of these unarmed back ups, the Park Police ask the Park Service to not respond Rangers to these incidents, for they were more of a hazard than helpful. Another person for the Park Policeman to protect was not what they called back up.

Ken said the Park Police really got an eye opener when they were called to respond to one of the Ranger Stations. They arrived and found out the reason the Rangers were not armed. The Regional office had issued weapons to the Park, but, the Superintendent would not let the Rangers carrier them and kept them locked in the safe, [like most parks].

The Park Police had been ask to respond to the Head-quarters, because the building had been broken into and the intruders might still be in the building with the ALL of the Park Rangers weapons.

" O YEH ' WE LAUGHED LONG AND HARD, SEVERAL TIMES, AT HOW WE HAD AND WERE BEATING THE ODDS, JUST LIKE OTHER RANGERS THAT WERE TRYING TO PROTECT THE PARKS AND PEOPLE WHO VISITED THEM. I DO NOT REMEMBER ANY HARSH WORDS TOWARDS THE "Good Ole Boys", in Headquarters, the Regional Offices or Washington, D.C.

At that time Ken and I believed the District Rangers, Chief Rangers, and Superintendents, lived in a different unrealistic world. I compared their dream world to the inside of a Silenx coffee maker, a vacuum. We found it very difficult to understand the Park Service they had served /lived in for 15-20 years. When Rangers, helped visitors, rarely issuing a ticket. In fact they picked up trash, gave walks and talks, worked at the information desks, helped maintenance personal with projects, moved problem bears, marked boundary and no one carried a gun unless they were going on a stake out or poaching patrol.

You could not be to upset or mad at leaders that rode with you and were not afraid to walk among the visitors, even talk to them. You had to respect them, even if you thought they were NAIVE.

They respected the Visitor [their employer], the Parks [purpose for their job], fellow employees [who had same goals], had heard why Park Service areas were set aside and believed future generations should enjoy them.

A few weeks later, back in his home Park, Ken approached a suspect vehicle and was shot in the chest [I heard one bullet struck his badge] he attempted to draw his weapon to protect him self, [he had spotted the bad guys the first shots] clawing at the long nice looking coat, covering his only chance of survival. Not being able to protect himself and not ready to die he attempted to get away from the bad guys, but they followed him into the bushes and executed him, shot him in the back of the head.

Had they known/seen he was armed there is a 50-50 chance he would not have been shot in the first place.

Had the bad guys known he had a weapon when he tried to escape into the brush, they would not have followed him, 99.9%, of the time. During my 30 years in L.E. lots of things have changed. Back then very few bad guys wanted to die, now days a few want to be killed by the Police.

Both types are still basically the same, cowardly, that's why they have their line of work and we have ours.

But I want you to understand the real BAD GUYS are not the ones you face on the street or in the woods. Those you can be trained to take off the street to protect the Park and Visitor. It is the low life no CONSCIENCE, Leaders and followers, whose position on the food chain is just be low the Whale crap on the bottom of the ocean.

The ones that try to find something wrong with the men and women who give their all every day to do the job. The ones that made statements like, Ken Patrick was probable killed by a jealous husband, he should not have been where he was, etc.

[A stupid Piss Ant instructor, who knew nothing about Ken Patrick, made the above statement at a training class, while the FBI was doing its investigation. Hell, I would have believed he knew what he was talking about to, if I had not spent two weeks being jealous of Ken's home life. [A note in ever pair of socks, shorts, shirt and pants (I love you, hurry home).] Under HIS circumstances I would have called home every chance I got too.]

These are the people you better learn to deal with (I nearly put in, to fear) just like any other snakes in the grass. You cannot kill them as some other Federal employees have, so you must learn to deal with them.

I have lots of war stories, Drug Runners, Poachers, Homesteaders, etc., at Padre Island National Seashore.

Young Rangers put in high speed Patrol Cars, running RADAR with, 5 shot 2" Revolvers, under the FANCY COATS, shotguns locked in a locked trunk, WITH LITTLE OR NO TRAINING, in any of the above, at Natchez Trace Parkway.

Young and older Rangers, with little training, trying to stop, Grave Robbers [calling themselves Goodie Hunters], Poachers, Indian artifact and Civil War thieves, etc., at Shiloh National Military Park. I must, without going into the War stories, say we all worked very hard together to protect and preserve the Park. We all worked so hard that we started running down the GOODIE HUNTERS and putting them in jail and recovering the Artifacts. One Goodie Hunter wrote a book while he was in Jail and he sent me a copy. He probably made more Money off his Book about

Civil War Artifacts than he had digging them on Shiloh NMP.

Of course this cost us a REAL GUTSY Superintendent, who not only helped catch the diggers, but also backed the prosecution, knowing he would be removed. [One superintendent did not even unpack, before he was replaced]. Political "Hot Bed would be a gross under statement". Lots of \$\$\$ in a depressed area selling Artifacts, taken from Shiloh NMP.

I have always wondered if it was Luck, a wise Regional Director, or DEVINE INTERVENTION, that placed Superintendent, Zeb McKinney, at Shiloh. But, when the Goodie Hunters started calling my girls and threatening them with, Rape, Disfigurement and hung their dog from the cloths line, he called in the FBI . When I requested shotguns he got them, and he backed the locals down, so they had to stop and take a look at themselves. But that is several war stories.

The point here is there are "some" real intelligent Gutsy Head Shed folks. [With Balls to do the job right]. They work around the "LITTLE PEOPLE"

To be Continued...

The Other Border

With all the talk and action regarding the international border with Mexico, the border with Canada has not gotten the attention the Lodge feels is necessary. The NPS controls approximately 9% of the border in the north and has inadequately staffed these parks to handle the increase in number, type and severity of crimes. The *Arizona Republic*, following a recent long-term investigation, reported that "North Cascades National Park in Washington has more serious crimes per visitor than any park in the country..." The author went on to say: "... the national parks and forests that

butt up against the Canadian border have smuggling problems as well. High-grade marijuana and heroin come in from Canada the same way that low-grade weed and cocaine come up from Central and South America.”

How is staffing at these parks? Very scant, according to answers the Lodge received when we asked our members. In addition, the equipment needed to transport prisoners is limited in terms of both numbers and sophistication, putting commissioned rangers at risk of assault. In the winter, with the rivers and lakes frozen, snowmobiles have greater access to the USA than in the summer, yet with seasonals no longer on the job, there are fewer officers. Add to this having to work in deep snow and below zero temperatures, the Lodge recommends having more rangers available for backup rather than less. An accident or equipment failure in the desert southwest exposes a ranger to death from dehydration and heat stroke; an accident or equipment failure in the northern tier parks exposes a ranger to frostbite and death from hypothermia.

One other dangerous factor our fellow members have to deal with: falling through the ice early or late in the season. Being wet at -20F is an immediate life-threatening emergency. As the IACP reported: law enforcement staffing in the NPS is “patently illogical and erratic.” Having to deal with armed drug smugglers and potential terrorists in extreme cold calls for an immediate doubling of staff in the northern border parks and the purchase of equipment to allow those rangers to safely and effectively work in such extreme conditions.

Remember, the only so far publicly identified and bona fide terrorist stopped at a US border, happened in the state of Washington on the northern border. The Lodge would like to learn of conditions our members in the northern tier parks consider subpar and in need of corrective action so we can relay that information to both the NPS

and Interior Department. Please let the Lodge know what you're up against. Your identity will be protected.

Leave Donations Needed

The Ranger Lodge provides this section to advise members of rangers in need of donated leave. Please advise the Lodge if you need or know others who need leave donated for sickness or emergency.

Long time Lodge member Jon Peterson (DEVA) is still recovering from his third cartilage sarcoma surgery that metastasized to his lung. He is 8 months from retirement. He would like to try retiring with a full twenty years in a 6c covered job and has an opportunity to help out at FLETC from January to June of 2004. Any donated leave would be greatly appreciated. He is still recovering at his home in Bishop, CA and can be reached at 760-872-2298 or email: moxie@usamedia.tv.

You can get the Leave Share form from your park's personnel office or download it from the Lodge website. Fax the completed form to: Bill Malone, fax 202-371-2169.

Thank you.

Lodge Dues Will Have to Be Raised

It has been nine years since Lodge dues have been raised. We have fallen behind inflation and have had to curtail certain activities that would have benefitted Lodge members. Effective July 1, 2004, Dues will be \$65/year for permanent commissioned rangers and \$40/year for seasonals, retirees and Associate members.

Those who pay by payroll deduction will be asked to send a check for \$52 every fourth year to augment the \$2/PP they now pay. As a one-time benefit, members whose dues fall after July 1, 2004, will be allowed to renew for one year at the old rate IF their payment is postmarked no later than June 30, 2004. This special deal will not apply to those who pay by payroll deduction. It's a shame dues have to go up, but we cannot perform the way members deserve without



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

1849 C Street, N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO:

W34 (2460)

OCT 20 2003

Mr. Randall Kendrick
Executive Director, Fraternal Order of Police
P.O. Box 151
Fancy Gap, VA 24328

Dear Mr. Kendrick:

Thank you for your letter of concern regarding law enforcement reforms in the National Park Service. The viewpoints of the Fraternal Order of Police are important to us, and I appreciate you taking the time to express the concerns of your members.

As you know, we asked each NPS unit to complete a thorough law enforcement needs assessment (LENA). We have received most of these assessments, however, we are still coordinating with several parks and regions to ensure that all park units submit high quality and consistent LENAs. We are coordinating with the NPS budget office and the Department to determine the best way to proceed with an additional funding package. A final review of all LENAs will be conducted in Washington and a national summary of NPS law enforcement needs will then be prepared.


We are also currently evaluating which parks are not in compliance with the NPS "No Net Loss" policy. Based on the results of that evaluation, we will take action to ensure that policy is followed. We will make every effort to ensure that Superintendents and Chief Rangers properly use their appropriated funding for visitor protection operations.

In regard to law enforcement commissions for senior level managers, I have directed my staff to look into policy adjustments regarding commissions for senior level NPS managers who meet the requirements of DO/RM-9. Promoting to the Superintendent's level should not necessarily mean that a person should have to give up his/her law enforcement commission.

I recognize that law enforcement retirement is a big issue. I have directed my staff to work closely with the Office of Personnel Management and our Human Resources Specialists at the agency and departmental levels to ensure that these issues are properly addressed.

Once again, I appreciate you taking the time to express the views of your membership. We are dedicated to professionalizing the law enforcement programs throughout the NPS. This can only be accomplished through cooperative and coordinated efforts at all levels.

Sincerely,


Fran P. Mainella
Director