

# The Protection Ranger

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



Vol. XV • No.5 • 2004

## President's Report

by Greg Johnston

### Virginia State Lodge Conference

I had the pleasure to represent the U.S. Park Ranger Lodge at the Virginia 2004 Bi-annual Conference in Portsmouth, VA. In attendance and speaking in the Conference included National FOP President Chuck Canterbury, Virginia Secretary of Public Safety John Marshall (son of Justice Thurgood Marshall), and several state and local dignitaries.



Over the four-day conference, we covered many topics regarding the nuts and bolts of the Virginia State Lodge operation. A majority of the time was spent in discussion of and voting on Constitution and By-Law changes and State Lodge Executive Board elections.

I did have the opportunity to speak with President Canterbury regarding Lodge and Federal Officer issues. Among the topics

were HR 218, Law Enforcement Officers Equity Act, Federal Officers Coalition and recruitment of new members. President Canterbury is well versed and knowledgeable on our issues and concerns.

### Retirement Health Savings

Of particular interest during the conference was a presentation by Mr. Kelly Bush from ICMA. He presented and answered questions about Health Retirement Savings programs that his company offers. Many employers are teaming up with ICMA to provide their employees access to Retirement Health Savings program.

Retirement Health Savings programs are a tax-free contribution program similar to our TSP, but the account is accessible to cover insurance premiums, out-of-pocket expenses, or prescription drug expenses at retirement or an age determined by the sponsoring agency. As it was explained to us, this is a tax "loop-hole" that was left open to encourage employers and employee to contribute to this program to assist retirement medical expenses.

The benefit to this program is that it is tax free to contribute and is not taxed upon withdrawal by members, spouses, or qualified dependents for approved medical related expenses. Upon the death of the member, the fund is available to spouse/dependents and then to beneficiary(ies) until the fund is depleted. All is completely tax-free except for the beneficiary to use the fund.

President Canterbury is negotiating with ICMA to start a FOP sponsored RHS in which FOP members will be able to participate in. I will keep everyone posted as this develops. For more information, visit the ICMA website at <http://www.icmarc.org>.

### Associate Memberships

Are you looking for a good holiday or birthday gift for a friend or family member? How about a FOP Associate membership! A \$40 Associate membership will provide your loved ones with the Protection Ranger Newsletter, keeping them informed and up to date on Park Ranger issues. Involve your friends and family members in the FOP's grassroots effort to improve the safety and funding of the NPS Law Enforcement Program.

## Chief Chambers Meeting

(<http://chiefchambers.c.topica.com/maacAL3aa9vvUbntAKGeaeQBg1/>)

Chief Chambers Hearing: September 8, 2004

Dear Chief Chambers Supporter:  
Chief Chambers sends her greetings and wishes everyone well.

Things have been incredibly busy around here that it's difficult to know where to start. We are all working overtime to get ready for the September 8th hearing before the Merits Systems Protection Board (MSPB) to challenge the actions that the Department of Interior took against the Chief. We will let you know exactly when and where the hearing will be, so be on the alert for future emails!

In the meantime, we have had the leadership of the Park Service and Interior in the PEER offices, under oath, answering questions. It has been literally a rogue's gallery of "responsible officials," including--

- Steven Griles, Deputy Interior Secretary
- Craig Manson, Assistant secretary and his Deputy, Paul Hoffman; and

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- Fran Mainella, NPS Director, and her Deputy Don Murphy.

These depositions have been most illuminating and extremely valuable. These witnesses have repeatedly contradicted themselves, each other and the company "line" on why Chief Chambers had to be gagged and disciplined.

For those of you who contributed to the Honest Chief Fund, thank you. Your contributions made these depositions possible. We have more transcripts to produce, so please share this email with friends and co-workers and help support upcoming depositions.

Sincerely,  
Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER)

If you want to contribute to Chief Chambers Legal Defense Fund visit: <http://chiefchambers.c.topica.com/maacAL3aa9vwsbntAKGeaQBg1/>. The Honest Chief Fund is a separate effort set up by PEER to help pay the rising legal costs of the campaign to return Chief Teresa Chambers to work. Visit Chief Chambers' campaign page at <http://chiefchambers.c.topica.com/maacAL3aa9vwybntAKGeaQBg1/>.

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## Corps of Engineers News

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Visitation is booming at COE areas: visitation, fee collections, and boating are all up throughout the extensive waterways and impoundments staffed by COE Rangers. So why is next year's budget being cut? The Rangers aren't the only ones who want to know the answer to that question. Add into the mix the special Homeland Security risks and assignments and the budget cuts are even harder to understand.

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## Email to Karen Taylor-Goodrich

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*Sent to Karen Taylor-Goodrich via email*

Dear Karen:

We are concerned about the Service's lack of expressed support for rangers involved in a use-of-force incident at Point Reyes National Seashore.

Here are a list of recent media stories about the incident:

- [http://www.ptreyeslight.com/stories/aug12\\_04/ranger\\_investigation.html](http://www.ptreyeslight.com/stories/aug12_04/ranger_investigation.html)
- [http://www.ptreyeslight.com/columns/sparsely/sparsely0812\\_04.html](http://www.ptreyeslight.com/columns/sparsely/sparsely0812_04.html)
- [http://www.ptreyeslight.com/columns/sparsely/sparsely0805\\_04.html](http://www.ptreyeslight.com/columns/sparsely/sparsely0805_04.html)
- [http://www.ptreyeslight.com/stories/aug05\\_04/ranger\\_brutality.html](http://www.ptreyeslight.com/stories/aug05_04/ranger_brutality.html)
- <http://www.marinij.com/Stories/0,1413,234~24407~2360435,00.html>
- [http://www.ptreyeslight.com/columns/sparsely/sparsely0826\\_04.html](http://www.ptreyeslight.com/columns/sparsely/sparsely0826_04.html)
- [http://www.ptreyeslight.com/stories/aug26\\_04/pepperspray\\_confab.html](http://www.ptreyeslight.com/stories/aug26_04/pepperspray_confab.html)

In none of these stories does the NPS take any significant action to depict the rangers' side of the story. Through a lack of action, the NPS has allowed the situation to escalate to where the rangers are receiving threats from the community. We hope the Service is working with other agencies to investigate these threats. This lack of support for the rangers, in addition to allowing public discontent to fester with only one side of the story being out

As usual, this incident is typical of a larger problem within the Service -- the lack of a professional management training program for law enforcement managers. There simply is no requirement for any specific training to manage an NPS law enforcement program -- in park or nationally. Your decision to eliminate the Advanced Law Enforcement training program from FLETC is certainly not helping in this.

We urge you to take the following actions immediately to assure the safety of these rangers, and to show rangers service-wide that the agency will support their reasonable actions in public:

1. Obtain a consultant with previous media relations experience in dealing with law enforcement use of force incidents and have them teach NPS spokespersons, from Mr. Barna on down to the Superintendent, on how to handle these incidents. The "the

incident is under investigation" theme is not satisfactory against the type of "tried in the media" attacks.. Other agencies are able to effectively deal with these types of incidents, investigation or not. The NPS needs to learn from them.

2. Develop a policy for such media events.
3. Provide training to law enforcement supervisors, chief rangers, regional chiefs, and administrators, as well as those involved in media relations, on how to effectively deal with such incidents. We would like to see a trained spokesperson familiar with LE issues be on call from your office. This person should have a significant background in NPS law enforcement, and be trained in dealing with the news media. Mr. Barna and his "say nothing" approach doesn't cut it.
4. Rescind your decision to cut advanced law enforcement training in the NPS. Restore the Advanced Law Enforcement Program position at FLETC. Develop a professional training program for rangers after they leave FLETC, for law enforcement supervisors, Chief Rangers, and administrators. Dealing with serious incidents such as this should be a part of this training, and should be second nature to Chief Rangers, and regional chiefs.

We are stunned to see nothing come out of the regional office in the same area of the state as this park. The Service ought to be ashamed, and should do what's right to support these rangers. You are well aware of the assault rate on NPS rangers. If rangers hesitate in using reasonable force because they believe they will not be supported by their agency, it will lead to more dead rangers. It is time for the NPS to act immediately, and publicly.

Sincerely,  
Randall Kendrick  
Executive Director

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## Head in the Sand - The NPS Policy on Tasers

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Scan Morning Report stories and you will occasionally find mentions of Yellowstone rangers subduing suspects by means of Tasers. Speak to Yellowstone rangers and you'll hear praises of the Taser's ability to resolve violent and potentially violent



incidents without injury to rangers or offenders. It is an opinion backed up by law enforcement agencies throughout the country.

Yet try and implement Tasers in your park, and be prepared to run into a massive series of roadblocks having to do with interpreting policy. These roadblocks are a direct result of a law enforcement program suffering from a lack of leadership, a lack of ability to make a decision, and a lack of ability to accomplish change. Where do Yellowstone rangers get authority to have Tasers, while other managers don't see the policy the same way? There is no mention of Tasers in RM-9. RM-9 mentions "electronic contact" devices, but fails to mention any devices that propel any type of probe. RM-9 specifies a size requirement for these devices that would appear to exclude most Tasers based on dimensions.

RM-9 includes a provision for adopting new technologies, but relies on an "equipment manager" position to be involved in the decision process. This position never existed, so this section of RM-9 is more than unsolid as a basis for making decisions.

Try and get someone in a position of authority to say that Tasers are authorized under RM-9 in writing. Good luck. One regional chief had said Tasers were not authorized by regional policy. Never mind that nowhere in RM-9 is there any mention of regions being allowed to set policy on any type of defensive equipment.

In a healthy organization, this problem could be solved within two weeks. If Tasers were approved, RM-9 could be quickly amended to specifically allow them. If they were not approved, they should be removed from the field immediately. Since they have not been removed, and there is no national policy on them, are we supposed to assume that they are currently covered by policy?

If so, then nothing in policy requires any training on Tasers, any certification of instructors, and there is nothing that prohibits rangers from purchasing Tasers on their own. We aren't advocating this,

but clearly the policy is as dazed and confused as it would be from being Tased itself. And yes, we realize that using the words "RM-9" and "quickly amended" in the same sentence invites belly laughs.

We applaud leaders in the field who have exhibited the leadership, guts, and commitment to the safety that WASO is lacking -- those who have procured Tasers for their rangers. It is completely unjust for WASO to leave these people dangling in the wind in terms of liability by failing to fully authorize and develop policy for the Taser. Throughout the law enforcement program, senior managers will tell you that the leadership is suffering from micro management, and the inability to make a timely decision. This lack of leadership, by failing to deal with the Taser issue, through inability or disinterest, is directly affecting the safety of rangers in the field.

OK - So what is a Taser? A Taser is a self contained electronic device used for personal protection that is non lethal. It is manufactured by Taser, Inc, which is located in the state of Arizona. The unit fires two probes into an assailant and the electrical charge disables the person, allowing the officer to cuff the suspect. It is an alternative to chemical spray and batons. Is it safe for the assailant? Yes, because the amperage is so low that the heart ignores the signal while the rest of the non-sympathetic muscles stop functioning briefly.

Taser have been on the market for ten years now. For the first three years of sales, they were sold exclusively to non law enforcement people; citizens who wanted to protect themselves but not carry a gun. The Taser is not recognized as a weapon by most states. Orange County, FL, is one jurisdiction that has extensive experience with Tasers. They have equipped 700 deputies with them and the plan is to equip all patrol officers. They results have been excellent across the board for Orange County: injuries to deputies are down 80% since the first 500 Tasers were deployed; the use of firearms by the deputies has steadily fallen; the amount of money the county spends on workman's comp claims by the deputies has fallen dramatically; there have been very few citizen complaints. Basically, equipping each officer with a Taser reduces

the amount of force the department is required to use to arrest suspects annually. Tasers are not cheap: \$400 - \$800 per unit. When you factor in less injuries to officers, less use of deadly force, and less money paid out in workman's comp claims, Taser no longer seem expensive.

What the Taser is is more effective than chemical spray and does not injure a subject like a baton. Deputies in Orange County, FL, use it as their tool of choice in non lethal weapon arrest situations. It seems to the Rangers Lodge, that the Taser is ideally suited for a ranger who usually finds him/herself working and arresting suspects alone. If the perp does not have a gun or knife but wants to fight, the effectiveness of the Taser and the distance the ranger can keep between self and perp will eliminate many injuries.

If you are managing the federal agency with by far the worst on the job assault/kill record, how can you in good conscience ignore this proven technology?

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## **WASO Cuts FLETC Staff & Programs**

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In a move that will hurt ranger training, and ultimately ranger safety, Associate Director Karen Taylor-Goodrich has cut the NPS training program at FLETC.

The FLETC superintendent position has been downgraded to the GS-14 level from the GS-15 level. The effects of this cut are: 1. The NPS superintendent is now no longer on a par with other agencies at FLETC, and certainly not on a par with DHS staff with whom he is supposed to negotiate. In fact, he ranks only as high as a first-level FLETC supervisor.

Second, Taylor-Goodrich changed the classification of the Superintendent position, eliminating its LEAP pay.

What does this mean? Nobody applied for the position. Sources in WASO tell us that the number of qualified applicants could be counted on one hand, with fingers to spare. The new superintendent had to take a sizeable pay cut to take the position.



Taylor-Goodrich has also eliminated the Advanced Training position at FLETC. In addition to violating the No Net Loss pseudo-policy, this violates common sense. The Service needs a significant advanced training program. It's possible for a ranger to become a supervisor, chief ranger, regional chief, even a WASO employee with no advanced training other than an in-park 40-hour refresher. This is unthinkable in modern law enforcement, and standard in the NPS. Taylor-Goodrich has also cut the Field Training Program management staff by 50%.

The Lodge is also researching how it is possible for the new Superintendent to have a law enforcement commission. He has never been to a ranger academy, never worked in a park, and only been an 1811 for the Service, with minimum case experience. We can't find anywhere in policy that allows a person to obtain a ranger commission with USPP experience, plus an 1811 school. If this is allowed, will all USPP officers be allowed to become park rangers simply by completing 1811 school? Will the reverse hold true?

While we certainly don't have any reason to doubt the professional abilities of the new superintendent, we have massive concerns over WASO's ability to see ethical and policy issues in their decisions.

While parks in the field can't give seasonal commissions to candidates with prior federal law enforcement jobs without sending them through a seasonal academy -- its possible to become a fully commissioned ranger managing all ranger training without going through the basic ranger training program or field training program just by being a close associate of WASO.

Would the Park Police ever put a person who has never worked a day as a Park Police officer in charge of their training program? Would they take person with only a ranger training plus 1811 school and make them a USPP officer?

## Elections and Help for the Lodge

We will be having elections in 15 months and there will be several vacancies. These vacancies will need a few hours a week of your time and are critical to the functioning of your Ranger Lodge. Now is a good time to start thinking about serving. I am available to discuss officer-ships with any member via email [randallfop@ls.net](mailto:randallfop@ls.net) or telephone, 800 407 8295, 10AM to 10pm Eastern Time. The Lodge needs you to step up and serve and there's plenty of time to get comfortable with the idea. If you just cannot for any reason have your name on record as being an officer but still want to serve the Lodge, here's something to consider: We want to establish a formal advisory committee to help us officers set priorities and carry out the functions to improve rangers' professional lives. These can easily be anonymous positions. What is needed is a computer and email address and the ability to both check your mail everyday[or nearly so] and be able to articulate your opinions on the matters at hand. We want a wide variety of work experience represented so some advisors may have ten or more years of enforcing the law in land management agencies or you may only have been on the job ten days. If you're a member, you're eligible. We talk about the NPS more than we should, so I want to stress that we actively want members from the USFS, BLM, USF&WS, and/or State Parks Depts to be on the advisory committee. Your commitment will be to monitor your emails and give your advice and opinions on the matters of the day. One way or the other, we are hopeful you will find the time and the energy to serve our Lodge.

## The Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act of 2004 aka HR 218

The above has passed and is now law. Finding definitive information about the particulars has not been easy but what follows is what we know at present. Also, the article will quote from the law itself so that you can use your judgment about what it means and how it applies to you.

**BACKGROUND:** The Grand Lodge of the FOP has HR 218 as one of its top three priorities for a number of years now. Rep Sesenbrenner of Wisconsin is the chairman who has kept the bill bottled up for several sessions. This year, he was convinced to allow a vote on the measure for the first time. It is clear that without the FOP and its Washington office, this would never have become law: Rep Cunningham said, "The FOP has been absolutely instrumental in working with Members of Congress to bring this legislation to the floor. The FOP is an outstanding organization that has served their membership well in their tireless work to bring their number one legislative priority to the House Floor." Senator Leahy said, "I was honored to work closely on this measure with the former National President, Lt Steve Young, whose death last year was a sad loss for all of us. Steve was dedicated to this legislation because he understood the importance of having law enforcement officers across the Nation armed and prepared whenever and wherever threats to our public safety arise." The FOP's Jim Pasco of the Washington office named Senators McConnell, Frist, Reid, Hatch and "most especially" Leahy for the quick vote in the Senate after the roadblock in the House had been cleared.

### THE LAW

In part it reads, "Notwithstanding any other provision of the law of any State or any political subdivision thereof, an individual who is a qualified law enforcement officer and who is carrying the identification required by subsection [d] may carry a concealed weapon that has been shipped or transported in interstate or foreign commerce, subject to subsection [b].



Subsection [b] has two parts the first of which says private persons or entities can still prohibit or restrict the possession of concealed weapons on their property and, "This section shall not be construed to supersede or limit the laws of any State that -- prohibit or restrict the possession of firearms on any State of local government property, installation, building, base, or park" Subsection [d] states: "The identification required by this subsection is the photographic identification issued by the governmental agency for which the individual is employed as a law enforcement officer." Section 3 deals with retirees. [a] Notwithstanding any other provision of the law of any State or any political subdivision thereof, an individual who is a qualified retired law enforcement officer and who is carrying the identification required by subsection [d] may carry a concealed firearm that has been shipped or transported in interstate or foreign commerce, subject to [b]."

For retirees, subsection [d] states: [1] a photographic identification issued by the agency from which the individual retired as a law enforcement officer that indicates that the individual has, not less recently than one year before the date the individual was carrying the concealed firearm, been tested or otherwise found by the agency to meet the standards established by the agency for training and qualification for active law enforcement officers to carry a firearm of the same type as the concealed firearm, OR [2][a] A photographic identification issued by the agency....., and [b] a certification by the State in which the individual resides that indicates that the individual has, not less recently than one year before the date the individual is carrying the concealed firearm, been tested or otherwise found by the State to meet standards established by the State for training and qualification for active law enforcement officers to carry a firearm of the same type and the concealed firearm.

If there are any clarifications to this, we will pass them on via the Protection Ranger. So far, it looks fairly straightforward and if you keep your credentials as you retire and a copy of your last qualification you should be in conformance with the law. If you choose to

carry a different type of firearm than that on which you qualified, a state certification should bring you into conformance.

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## Police Unity Tour

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Long time Lodge member Gil Goodrich once again took part in the Police Unity Tour. This group of long distance bicyclists ride to raise money for the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial. 450+ officers took part this year from all over the country. Brother Goodrich rode from Virginia Beach, VA to Washington, DC, a distance of approximately 250 miles, in a little over two days. There were over 200 officers and support team members on this particular leg of the journey.

The group presented the director of the Memorial with a check for over \$600,000, a significant sum.[your Ranger Lodge again was able to make a small donation.] Gil encourages all members to visit the Police Unity Tour's website at [www.policeunitytour.org](http://www.policeunitytour.org) to learn more about the unique organization. There are also photos of this year's event. The Lodge salutes you Gil! Thanks very much.

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## Rangers Can Write?

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Lodge member Nancy Eileen Muleady-Mecham has had a book of hers published. It's titled PARK RANGER and consists of true stories from an NPS ranger's career. The trade paperback edition costs \$14.95 and can be ordered online at [www.vishnutemplepress.com](http://www.vishnutemplepress.com). Nancy: Your Lodge brothers and sisters are very happy you found a publisher for your book and we wish you much success with it. Hearty Congratulations!

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## Coronado National Monument: A Tale from Two Angles

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I think most of us remember a few months ago that NPS Director Fran Mainella made a special trip to Coronado NM to declare that all is well with the border in this Arizona par, and that management's efforts have succeeded beyond hope. There were photos and handshakes all around: The

media got the story Ms Mainella wanted them to get and everyone could forget about Coronado and its three mile long border with the Republic of Mexico.

Here's the view from another angle: The ranger angle. As you are aware, special teams come into Coronado to police the boundary and arrest illegal immigrants and drug smugglers. The permanent rangers work during the day and don't take part in the interdiction. Why should there be an indiction you might ask after Ms Mainella declared "mission accomplished?" Well, one commissioned ranger from southern Arizona who is in a position to know directly states that an average of 100 to 300 illegal entries by terrorist, narcotic and human smugglers are detected each night as they cross over from Mexico. That's each night.

Park Rangers have asked the regional management authority to allow joint task force operations with other federal agencies and have been turned down. When there are no special operations going on at Coronado, the criminal element has free rein. This lack of night patrols has left Coronado more dangerous than ever. Perhaps Ms Mainella would like to hold another press conference at Coronado; only this time, do it at night right on the main route into the park from Mexico and, of course, without the Coronado rangers who aren't allowed to work at night. The Lodge wishes to express its thanks to the officer who came forward to tell us of the situation here. The officer's name will not be divulged to keep Don Murphy from "doing a Chambers" on another NPS truth-teller.

### Lodge Patches And Pins For Sale

The Lodge web site is the place to purchase these Ranger FOP Lodge patches and pins. They are high quality, reasonably priced, and show your pride in our Ranger Lodge. Plenty are still available so there's one [or more] for you. You can even pay via PayPal right at the website. Point your browser to [www.rangerfop.com](http://www.rangerfop.com) to order yours now!



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## Joe Wegener's Next Installment

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1990: Barbara Vucanovich US Representative for NV, accused the NPS at Lake Mead of misuse of the moneys acquired for increasing the Law Enforcement Staff by 14. This story was documented in the Las Vegas Review Journal at the time.

I don't know what this money was used for. What it wasn't used for was to hire 14 law enforcement rangers, and the associated equipment to support them (cars, body armor, etc). Vucanovich was so angry that she vowed never to assist Lake Mead with any special appropriations in the future. She held this vow until her retirement.

2001: Lake Mead was not the only park to misuse funds appropriated for increasing law enforcement operations. After 9/11/01 Organ Pipe Cactus National Park received additional moneys to beef up operations by 3 LE rangers due to the high flow of illegal drugs, and illegal immigrants. With over 100 miles of coyote roads cut through the desert (Coyotes are those who smuggle illegal aliens into the US) to patrol they had allowed the ranger staff to dwindle to two field rangers. The additional money was intended to increase the number of rangers and provide them equipment to support the mission. Instead the money was spent to hire a new headquarters secretary, and build new buildings within the park. Only two of the budgeted rangers were hired instead of the full complement.

This has been going on for years at park after park. The ranger staffs have dwindled even when the IACP, the Secretary of the Interior's Inspector General and others have advised the NPS it needs to add a minimum of 614 rangers immediately. But, the number of rangers has continued to dwindle since the recommendations were published. Rangers leave, and the positions are lapsed; the position is done away with; or a person is put into the position in an acting capacity. "No net loss" on paper maybe, yet at Yosemite the current law enforcement staff park-wide is less than the Yosemite Valley day shift in 1983. Lake Mead NRA has received

money to expand the Boulder Basin district to a 24 hour operation, yet shifts go home at 1am (9pm in the winter) and there are fewer rangers in the field than ever. In 1983 more than 70 rangers were fielded at Lake Mead, in 2003 there were only 45 commissioned rangers in the entire park (including headquarters). No rangers live at Las Vegas Wash any longer, one of three housing areas in the Boulder Basin District, leaving only 7 rangers living in the busiest district in the National Park Service.

Don't blame the President, the Senate, the House of Representatives, or the tax payers. They did all they could to help acquire additional funds to improve the rangers lot. But the Superintendents, Chief Rangers, Personnel Officers, and others in the "chain of demand" (these are the 'little people' I've mentioned before, you could also use "bureaucrat" I suppose) have used the moneys for the erection of expensive outhouses, buildings, and other monuments to themselves. They reclassified positions to increase their pay grades (so they can have more Blood Money in their retirement years: Better golf courses, boats, cars, booze, and other necessities). But, it is a waste of time blaming them. This is just the way it is, and it's not going to change in the near future. The "little people" are in control and it will get worse before the decent people within the NPS can pick up the remains of our parks, and begin to rebuild the parks and the lives of the real caring, dedicated, good park service people who have held on to their principles, and know what the loss of our National and Natural Heritage means. This will be the challenge. One that I wish I could hang around to see.

The "little people" also look out for themselves, secure their positions, and remove problems. And since superintendents are "God" in the parks, very little is taken beyond that level. Some examples of the "little peoples" activities follow:

At Great Smokey Mountains National Park ranger Jerry Grubb was assaulted by his chief ranger when he reported that he believed that a law enforcement official at the regional office was using "hard drugs", and for reporting a ranger who had been handcuffing bad guys into a patrol car, and then not belting them in for the trip down

the mountain. This ranger ran high-speed down the mountain, slamming on his breaks at intervals forcing the suspects face against the wire screen. This was known affectionately as waffle time in the old days. Today you can't do it.

Grubb was struck in the face by a chief ranger. The NPS would not investigate the incident. The park has jurisdiction that would allow the local Sheriff's office or the FBI to investigate. The park refused to notify the agencies.

Grubb was also the ranger called to shoot and kill 2 bears that had attacked, killed, and were eating a woman in the park. Several people were witnessing this act. The first responding ranger advised Grubb that he could do nothing to stop the bears. He claimed that it was not a justified use of force. He couldn't shoot the bears, shoot a round into the ground to scare them, or fire a shot into the air or into the trees.

Grubb shot and killed both bears. Grubb later stated that he and the other "ranger" on the scene had both been instructed by NPS Firearms Instructors at FLETC, on the same firearm, and caliber. They were also instructed on "the proper method to kill dangerous bears" so they would not eat our park visitors.

Thank god I did not work with the first ranger, and need him for backup. He was afraid to use his weapon, and training to put down the bears. Could you count on him in a real fire fight where the bad guys shoot back?

Grubb got hammered by headquarters for killing the bears (that would most likely kill and eat the next easy 'human' meal walking down the trail at Great Smokeys).

The "little people" were most likely upset because Grubb did his job when the other ranger could not.

But, Grubb had put himself in a bad position with the "little people" when he spoke out. He also had reported a person in park headquarters who was using a government computer, on government time, to download pornography, and send it to other government employees.



What happened in the end? The ranger who couldn't shoot a killer bear was transferred to a new job. I just hope it's not one other people have to depend on him in life and death work. And, I wonder if he got a pay raise for not doing his ranger job, but for being one of the "good ole' boys" the "little people" need to promote to get rid of the real rangers that visitors need to protect them, and the good bears.

Grubb tried to sue the person that hit him, and the people that did not follow lawful procedure, but, he could not afford to hire a good attorney. So, he was forced to retire several years earlier than he intended to. He was forced out for being an honest, hard working ranger.

But, don't feel too bad. He was not the first, and he won't be the last to quit a service that has forgotten its mission, and leaders that are allowing it to continue.

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At Organ Pipe it finally caught up with them in 2003 when ranger Kris Eagle was ambushed and murdered by an illegal drug dealer who had illegally entered the US while being chased by the Mexican Federal Police. There were only two rangers on patrol in the park. Eggle was armed with a shotgun. The bad guy was armed with an AK47. (The NPS had purchased M-16s for every permanent ranger, and was supposed to issue them each ranger in the late 1990's).

NPS immediately assigned SERT teams to assist at Organ Pipe. That lasted for a while. Homeland security is taking so many rangers it couldn't be sustained. The park was given money to hire additional positions.

There are many good, decent NPS personnel who have had to quit the service, and hopefully when the decency of the NPS returns, so will they.

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1995-When enhanced retirement was granted to NPS rangers, the District Ranger at Echo Bay and his Sub-District Ranger (and ex park FMO)( me) were given 90 days to vacate Lake Mead NRA. We were

forced to retire because of our years of service, and both being over age 57. (Retirement at age 57 is mandatory for those covered under the LE retirement if they have at least 20 years of covered service). The District Ranger and I both had submitted documentation requesting coverage under 6c in 1989.

The District Ranger at Katherines Landing was able to keep his position for 5-6 more years, even though he was over 57, and had well over 20 years of service. (It should be noted for those of you who started working after 1989 that every ranger was told by their personnel office, and by region, and by WASO that we should not submit these packets. They emphasized how we would never qualify for enhanced retirement, and it was an act of futility to even try). He believed them and did not submit a packet.

I believe that these disparate actions, and many more during this period were taken due to the personal preference of the Chief Ranger, the Superintendent, and others.

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I mentioned that I would tell you about Malcolm. Malcolm had been a ranger for over 30 years. He had acquired brucellosis while assigned to Everglades National Park in the '70's and he eventually developed hepatitis from this infection. Malcolm came to Lake Mead NRA in the 1970's and performed well, and was an excellent investigator. Near the end of his career Malcolm began to develop serious health problems. He had always been over weight but he did the ranger job, and received outstanding evaluations for years. When Lake Mead got a new Chief Ranger, the CR authorized plain clothes investigators in the districts. Malcolm put in for and got the investigator slot at Boulder Basin. He made his cases, he convicted bad guys, had fantastic relationships with the local PD's, ATF, FBI, DEA, and you name it.

Then ranger futures came along and Malcolm couldn't meet the physical requirements, even after given time to prepare. His doctor documented his fitness for duty, but to no avail. He was told that he wasn't fit for his job and he would have to retire within several months (a time frame had been agreed upon).

Malcolm started suffering from his hepatitis, and was actively fighting to keep healthy. He had been put on the liver transplant list at UCLA medical center. That is when he was notified that he was being retired earlier than agreed upon, and someone else was being placed in the slot. The person placed in the position had never been to CI school and couldn't attend FLETC's CI refresher training. Qualified applicants throughout the service never heard of the vacancy until after it was filled.

Malcolm was destroyed. He quit taking his medication, took himself off the liver transplant list, and disappeared into his home. He wouldn't take calls, he wouldn't see people, and within a few months he was dead.

Malcolm's death was a result of the unintentional consequences of thoughtless policies, and actions that affect people in serious ways. And the Park Service managers are famous for lying to people, and changing agreements arbitrarily. They are also famous for taking advantage of perceived weakness, and using weakness to remove people who aren't "part of the team".

Words have meanings. And every manager needs to remember that. Those who lied to Malcolm will live with it for the rest of their lives. So be it.

## Donations

When you send in your annual dues, please consider making a donation to the Lodge. We have had a positive effect on the working lives of our members and more resources may just translate into more progress. Thank you!





*U.S. Park Rangers Lodge*

Fraternal Order of Police  
PO Box 151  
Fancy Gap, VA 24328  
randallfop@ls.net  
1-800-407-8295

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE -Monday, August 30, 2004

Contact: Chas Offutt, PEER (202) 265-7337

Randall Kendrick 800-407-8295

## **ATTACKS ON NATIONAL PARK LAW ENFORCEMENT REACHES ALL-TIME HIGH** **UNDERSTAFFING AGGRAVATED BY INTERIOR DEPARTMENT DIVERTING OFFICERS,** **MONEY & TRAINING**

WASHINGTON, D.C.-Threats, harassment and attacks against National Park Service rangers and U.S. Park Police officers reached a record high in 2003, according to agency records released today by Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER). At the same time, an already chronically understaffed NPS law enforcement is increasingly unable to protect visitors, national icons and wildlife, according to representatives of both rangers and U.S. Park Police officers.

National Park Service commissioned law enforcement officers were victims of assaults 106 times in 2003; more than one-quarter of which resulted in injury. This figure tops the 2002 total of 98 assaults but parallels the 2001 previous high of 104 violent incidents. The National Park Service is the only land management agency that refuses to track violence directed against its biologists, naturalists and non-commissioned rangers, according to PEER which maintains the country's only database documenting violence against federal resource protection employees.

Nationally, two parks, Yellowstone and Grand Teton, experienced a disproportionate number of incidents (35). The District of Columbia was next with 15 incidents, with 3 additional assaults in neighboring Maryland and Virginia. Rangers in California had a small increase in violence, with 12 incidents. Other states, including Arizona, Nevada and Pennsylvania, also registered multiple attacks. "Law enforcement officers in the National Park Service are 12 times more likely to be killed or injured as a result of an assault than FBI agents - a rate triple that of the next worst federal agency," stated Randall Kendrick, Executive Director for the U.S. Park Rangers Lodge of the Fraternal Order of Police. "The Park Service has failed to provide law enforcement personnel to prevent further violence; despite its own projections that an additional 700 rangers are required, the number of rangers is down 9 percent."

Aggravating this growing shortfall are not only new Homeland Security duties but also significant diversions of resources ordered by its parent Interior Department, which has-

- Added millions of dollars to the training cycle for new rangers while eliminating specialized ranger courses;
- Reassigned scores of Park Service law enforcement personnel to operate a 24-hour "Watch Office" for the Department of Interior that has no dispatch responsibility and whose sole function is to keep Interior brass informed; and
- Asked for only minor budgetary increases that are well short of its own internal estimates of need.

"Park police and rangers are being asked to do more for less by political appointees who appear tone deaf to the reality of the challenges," commented PEER Executive Director Jeff Ruch, whose organization is representing U.S. Park Police Chief Teresa Chambers who is fighting her termination for speaking out against the dangers posed by understaffing to the visiting public and to the national icons, such as the Lincoln Memorial and the Washington Monument. "A large part of the problem is that, in the Park Service, the law enforcement professionals are excluded from budget preparation and needs assessments."

Read the summary of 2003 incidents

Find out about the more expensive but less effective ranger training program ordered by DOI

View the Fraternal Order of Police's 2003 "Most Dangerous National Parks" list at <http://www.rangerfop.com/danger03.htm>

See how the Park Service is chronically understaffing its law enforcement program

Look at the violence statistics for other resource agencies

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Press Release

For immediate release: Tuesday, August 31, 2004

Contact: Chas Offutt, PEER (202) 265-7337

Randall Kendrick, FOP (800) 407-8295

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*Read the summary of 2003 incidents*

[http://www.peer.org/PARK\\_SERVICE/NPSviolence.pdf](http://www.peer.org/PARK_SERVICE/NPSviolence.pdf)

*Find out about the more expensive but less effective ranger training program ordered by DOI*

<http://www.rangerfop.com/rangeracad.htm>

*View the Fraternal Order of Police's 2003 "Most Dangerous National Parks" list at*

<http://www.rangerfop.com/danger03.htm>

*See how the Park Service is chronically understaffing its law enforcement program*

<http://www.rangerfop.com/newsrel4-6.htm>



### 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](http://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: \$60/year

Seasonals and Retired Active Members: \$40/year

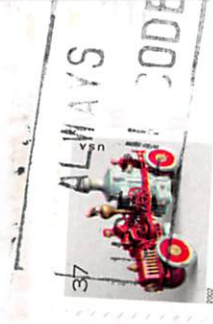
Associate (non-Commissioned) Membership (Newsletter only): \$40/year

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](mailto:randallfop@ls.net)



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