

The Protection Ranger

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The Newsletter of the National Park Rangers Lodge, Fraternal Order of Police



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President's Message

George Durkee

Good news, I have very little to say other than to welcome Greg Jackson back to the Lodge Board. Greg's retirement from FLETC allowed him to become involved in the Ranger Lodge once again. Along with Randall, myself and several others from Yosemite, Greg is one of the co-founders of the Ranger Lodge of the FOP, formed in the mid-80s. His career has been spent in assertive advocacy and support of the needs of field rangers. It is great to have him involved with the Lodge, once again.

We also want to welcome three new members to our advisory board. As is sometimes the case, they wish to remain anonymous but all are long-time LE rangers with a commitment to continued improvement of LE standards and training.

We got a number of thoughtful responses to Greg's *Second Century Rangers* after we published it last spring. As he notes below, we followed up on several of the issues raised in that document in our talk with Associate Director Cam Sholly. Note that we're asking for suggestions on issues important to field rangers to bring up with Cam on our next phone call.

Thanks to all who are getting involved by volunteering or making suggestions. We really appreciate it.

Vice-President's Message

Greg Jackson

Lodge board members recently had a conference call with Cam Sholly, the new NPS Associate Director, Visitor and Resource Protection. Cam had reached out to us and suggested a phone call to hear about issues important to field LE.

AD Sholly was quite forthcoming with his intention to establish and maintain regular communications with the Lodge. The Lodge Board discussed several concerns that members have raised recently:

Replacement of Aging Firearms Inventory

Although there have been no reports of serious problems, NPS pistols are approaching their 20th year in service. Soon they will be older than the rangers who carry them. The NPS hasn't replaced them with new weapons over the years. The NPS has acquired used weapons from other agencies, with unknown histories. A lot of the original NPS pistols when returned to the WASO armory at FLETC are taken out of service – many in such poor shape they can't even be used for NLTA conversion.

AD Sholly says the matter of replacing these firearms is widely supported and, although funding is tight, he expects it to be a priority. While it may not happen overnight, he expects it to happen sooner

rather than later. The Lodge will keep members posted as to any news that comes to light.

Support for Retired Rangers & Agents Carrying Concealed

We brought up an issue from several retired members. They were concerned that their local parks were unwilling to let retirees qualify at the park's qualification session so they could meet the requirements of the law allowing retired Federal LEOs to carry concealed firearms. This situation seems to be occurring at several parks, and comes from WASO guidance made long ago.

The Lodge believes that any NPS liability concerns are not substantial, that the intent of Congress in passing the law was that agencies support retirees, and that the NPS can enhance morale of current employees knowing that their agency will support them in this effort.

Training and Safety

We are concerned about proposed cuts to basic training, proposals to privatize basic training, and the long wait that rangers have to get the full basic training for their position. Specifically, the Lodge is concerned about the NPS's plan to lengthen seasonal academies and cut FLETC. We believe this places an undue hardship on seasonals.

The high cost of seasonal training also discourages disadvantaged citizens from applying. Not many

can afford to take the time to put themselves through a seasonal academy. The Lodge believes that this is unwise and counter-productive to NPS efforts to increase diversity.

We are also concerned that training at seasonal academies is not as good as training at FLETC. Neither their instructors nor their facilities match those available at FLETC.

AD Sholly agreed with the principle that the wait for basic training is too long and thought the proposal to decrease FLETC while increasing time at seasonal academies made sense. However, he likened the seasonal academies to POST academies that many states rely on.

The Lodge disagrees. First, no Federal agencies accept POST training, at least none that we know of. Second, POST is generally a recourse for agencies that cannot fund their own academies. The California Highway Patrol, for example, could use POST for their employees, but chooses not to. Why? According to former CHP Captain and professional risk manager Gordon Graham, because the academy is the single best method the CHP has to screen new employees. Delegating this to third parties creates a significant risk. Graham has said that such efforts by the NPS increase risks to the agency and employees.

The Lodge will continue to discuss this with the AD's office, while bringing our concerns to others. We believe that placing the cost for training on seasonals is not the way to go. Delegating the screening of new employees to independent schools is not the way to go either. Like all Federal officers, NPS LEOs should receive the full training they

need to perform their job when they start their job, not several years into their career. Perceptions of saving money have to be better researched, and balanced with issues of safety and performance.

One Type of Commission

Since the purpose of a law enforcement commission is merely to delegate arrest authority, we suggested that the NPS move to a single law enforcement commission. Since Type I and Type II commissions had equal arrest authority, there is no need for two types of commissions.

It is the Lodge's opinion that policy limitations on seasonal employees, and those permanent employees who have not completed field training, could be just as effective if placed in RM-9 and the position description. Having one type of commission would save the NPS both time and money, and would increase the security of commission documents. Most of the major limitations on Type II commissions were removed from policy several years ago.

The Lodge and AD Sholly agreed to talk again in the near future. With Superstorm Sandy taking up a large part of WASO's time, we haven't pressed for a follow-up conversation as of yet, but will do so soon.

Follow-up

What we need from our members are suggestions of the top issues facing LE rangers and ideas for solutions. We'll circulate a list in an *ePro* for members to consider and vote on. Then we'll present what we decide are the most important – and solvable – three to five ideas to Cam when next we talk. Please send your thoughts to the Lodge at rangerfop@sonic.net.

Tourism, Terrorism and Fiscal Cliffs - Oh My!

Bob Martin

With the recent guilty pleas of three anarchists who plotted to use a weapon of mass destruction on a major highway bridge within Cuyahoga National Park, the NPS was once again reminded that terrorists – both foreign and domestic – can bring chaos to a park near you. With all the talk about the deficit and the pending fiscal cliff, the author hopes that the National Parks and their protectors – specifically protection rangers – fare well in future budget decisions. There is much research that needs to be considered by the decision makers given the threats to the US, especially its icons and tourist areas, by criminals and terrorists – both foreign and domestic.

In his 2009 research paper, *Tourism and Terrorism: National and Interregional Economic Impacts*, Harry Richardson and his cohort of researchers estimated the long range impacts of a series of small terrorist attacks may have on major US parks and tourism areas. Conventional bombs could kill 20, injuring 200 and destroying structures at the parks.

The researchers estimated that the net result would be an \$11.85 billion loss that would last over an 18 month recovery period. The study looked at the terrorist activities in the Basque region of Spain which deterred 140,000 tourists from visiting the Basque region out of fear of being attacked.

The researchers also looked at terrorist attacks in other tourist sites at Egypt's Luxor and Sharma el

Sheikh (121 killed) and Bali (202 dead) both of which precipitated an immediate decline in tourism to those areas and visitation to pre-attack levels did not return until 18 months later.

In his 2008 article, *Tourism to Terrorism*, author Joe Brancatelli said: "Like it or not, acts of terror aimed at travelers and the places they frequent are very good business tactics indeed (for the terrorists)."

Tourism-related terrorist tactics include taking over airplanes, attacks on malls, ruthlessness at iconic places and even attacks on nodes of a nation's protection system, such as police stations, military bases and guard positions to create a sense of hopelessness across the country and region.

One need only look at the attacks on India's economic center, Mumbai, that included assaults on the iconic Oberoi and Taj hotels. Their moving assaults through the subway and malls resulted in over 200 killed. Brancatelli posits that tourism is the largest industry in many countries. Tourism, of course, is also a large part of the US economy. Statistics for 2010 show tourism accounts for \$1.7 trillion dollar and 5.5 million plus people employed in various tourism-related businesses.

A terrorist attack on US iconic sites would have a devastating impact on not just the US, but the world's tourism. If tourists do not feel safe in national parks, the ripple effect could easily extend across the planet due to the huge amount of international tourism the US attracts.

And the impacts within the US would be more than just economic. The American psyche would be deeply shocked should such national icons as Independence Hall, the Liberty Bell or the Statue of Liberty no longer exist. Sound farfetched? A manual was found in a computer in 2000 at an apartment in Manchester, England that belonged to a member of the terrorist group Al Qaeda.

The very first lesson in this Al Qaeda Training Manual was entitled *Military Studies in the Jihad Against the Tyrants* and calls for "Blasting and destroying the places of amusement, immorality, and sin..." and "Blasting and destroying the embassies and attacking vital economic centers." "Parks" are mentioned specifically in several areas of the manual.

Additionally, it should be noted that terrorists have a deeply-rooted interest in symbolism. The NPS is well known as the guardian for our national treasures, including the USS Constitution, the Washington DC Mall, St. Louis Arch, Mount Rushmore as well as such iconic sites as Yellowstone, Yosemite and the Grand Canyon to name but a few of the nearly 400 NPS units. Numerous terrorism plots have been interdicted that included attacks on icons.

As a small non-defense, non-homeland security agency, the National Park Service is only funded at \$2.6 billion annually for operations - roughly the price it would cost the nation to replace ONE B-2 Stealth Bomber. Compounding all this is the fact that two GAO reports have identified the NPS as deficient in its staffing planning as well in carrying out its icon security program.

The 2010 report *Building on Clues*, by Strom and fellow researchers, may shed some light on the need to ensure adequate law enforcement presence. Their research showed a positive correlation between the beat cop and the nation's counterterrorism effort.

They reviewed 86 planned terrorist attacks within the United States occurring between 1999 and 2009. The research revealed 80 % of these plots were uncovered and interdicted with all credit due to alert law enforcement personnel. About 40% of the cases were made with the assistance and tips from the general public.

The correlation between law enforcement and their communities was obvious in the report and recommends that efforts be enhanced to provide more opportunities for law enforcement to interface more closely with their communities - e.g. via community policing.

The authors also recommend the use of suspicious activity reports to possibly connect local suspicious activity and suspicious persons with the local, regional and federal intelligence network.

Such a "Clues" report identifies numerous terrorist incidents that might have been stopped had some clues been followed up on. Columbine High School, the 1999 North Valley LA Jewish Community Center shooting, the 9/11 attacks, the Shoe Bomber, the Christmas 2009 Airliner Bomber, the Fort Hood Shootings, and the 2009 Little Rock Arkansas Army Recruiting Office shootings are all examples.

If law enforcement officers are not available to interface with the public, neighbors and cooperating law enforcement agencies, the chances for criminal and terrorist actions to be detected – and the dots connected – are greatly reduced.

It is hoped that with the coming threat of the so-called fiscal cliff and associated austerity measures (one economist calls it the Austerity Bomb), the NPS needs to once again develop and enforce a No Net Loss program. This can ensure adequate levels of multi-talented protection rangers are given priority for retention and that vacant protection ranger positions will be filled as a Servicewide priority. This would be similar to the No Net Loss Policy developed soon after September 11, 2001, when huge numbers of protection resources were mobilized across the country to ensure our nation's critical infrastructure and key resources were protected.

“He who fails to plan is planning to fail” (Churchill).

References:

Bob included a list of references which were cut for space. However, you can view them on our website at: <http://tinyurl.com/fop-terrorism>

The Ranger Lodge: We're Now Everywhere!

Although the Lodge started a Twitter account when we redesigned the web site, we stopped updating it when Duane stepped down as webmaster. However, Greg Jackson – much more up on social media than I – is going to revive it: If you don't already, Follow us: [@rangerfop](#). There is also a link on our website.

We're also now on Facebook: facebook.com/rangerfop.

Our Twitter feed show up on our Facebook page: US Park Ranger Lodge, FOP. Please “Like” us on Facebook.

The Lodge is also a group on LinkedIn: US Park Rangers Lodge, Fraternal Order of Police. Use us to enhance your resume.

Greg is also tinkering with the Lodge website, rangerfop.com, to make it easier to navigate with information more obvious and accessible. If you find anything, such as safety or tactical information, that your colleagues will be interested in, send us the link and we'll either link to that information or embed it (such as YouTube videos) on our site.

State of the Lodge

We're happy to report membership is recovering after a few years of dropping a bit. When the economy tanked, we received a distressing number of letters from rangers saying they had to seriously cut costs and wouldn't be renewing. In all cases where this happened, we would extend their membership for at least a year, gratis, in the hope they'd be able to recover their reversal of fortunes. So far, most have and are renewing once again.

We also like to think getting a newsletter out a little more often and our emailed *ePro Ranger* is helping to tell members that we are working on their behalf, even if they're not always hearing from us. This is partly due to having only a few people to do the work here at Lodge Central. As noted in the

President's Message, though, we've now got several new people involved. So the combined result seems to be generating new members, stabilization of our finances and, we hope, renewed enthusiasm for dealing with issues and supporting the Lodge.

Finally, thanks to all who have both renewed at the voluntary membership level as well as those who have made generous donations to the Lodge – you know who you are! This keeps us from raising dues – something we haven't had to do in almost 10 years. The donations and voluntary higher dues help us pay per capita and other costs for those who were in temporary need as well as covering consultations with Passman and Kaplan when necessary.

Officer Stress Survey: Participation Sought by Grand Lodge

The Grand Lodge has entered into a cooperative agreement with researchers from Harvard Medical School's Cambridge Health Alliance. They're seeking people to fill out a survey to “study and better understand the stresses associated with the law enforcement profession.” To participate in the survey go to:

<http://tinyurl.com/Harvard-LE-Study>

At press time, this link was still active.



Understanding GIS and Coordinate Systems

George Durkee

Many readers will be aware of my interest in and advocacy for a better understanding of GIS for use in all aspects of ranger operations. Maps help us visualize what we do and can be a great asset in summarizing data in an easy to understand way. For instance, you can show several years of MVAs, SARs or medicals on a map to better allocate patrol and staffing resources. Such data can also help see patterns or clusters you might not otherwise have been aware of. Recognition might lead to mitigation efforts – signs or handouts to visitors to increase awareness of a particular problem.

The most important GIS educational need, though, is understanding coordinate systems: being able to find a point when given coordinates or find a location's coordinates from a location on a map. A huge number of response-delaying mistakes are being made when responders don't understand these basics (*see excerpt pg. 7*).

To meet this need Vanessa Glynn-Linaris and I have written: *Using GIS for Wildland Search and Rescue* published by Esri. This is available as a free PDF download from MapSAR.net. Although it's written for SAR, it's really an excellent primer for understanding all things GIS. Chapters cover:

- How to recognize and apply different coordinate systems used by different devices and responders.
- How to use a GPS then download the tracks and waypoints to a map.

- How to make a basic map using the free software ArcGIS Explorer Desktop.
- We even have a chapter on how to make a basic map using the more advanced program ArcMap 10, which is the standard for all NPS GIS use.

With only a little effort, it's also possible to map CAD calls. You can export specific classes of call from CAD then set up the table to have each point and record shown on a map. This is not quite ready for prime time but isn't that hard with some help from your GIS specialist. Write me directly on how to do this.

Use Care When Posting Online

Greg Jackson

If you check Facebook or Twitter for "Park Ranger," you'll find numerous profiles with rangers in uniform, many of them commissioned. One person thought enough to say "I'm a ranger at (big park) but my opinions are my own, not those of the NPS," even though they're photographed in uniform and identify themselves as an employee.

Bad news: that attempt at a disclaimer isn't going to get you off the hook for any questionable conduct, and your photo may turn otherwise acceptable conduct into misconduct.

Having paid attention to many of the cases involving suitability of employees to do law enforcement over several years, let me give you some advice: Don't identify yourself as an NPS employee in social media – and certainly not as a law enforcement officer.

From the applicant who jokes that they "can't wait" to using force on someone, to the person in uniform that gripes about their supervisor, it happens so often it's worrisome.

This may come as a shock, but your Facebook friends aren't necessarily real friends. They will turn you in in the time it takes to click "forward". And every defense attorney worth their salt is going to Google you prior to any serious trial. They will find your posts and bring them to the US Attorney. You won't testify on that case, but you will testify to internal affairs on their case against you.

Below is a draft of the IACP model policy on social media. If it isn't in NPS policy now, it's coming soon. Most of it applies now, anyway, but it will go into policy to make it even easier to deal with those with no common sense.

Save yourself a world of hurt. Don't do stupid things. And if you do stupid things, don't do it while displaying your name and your agency's name. These things are archived and last forever.

Think of all the prominent public officials that have been caught up in this. Just Google "officer fired for Twitter" or any other social media site to see your future. Don't do it.

The future gets even better. Thanks to facial recognition software, all those photos of you in your college party days may also catch up with you.

Yes, it's really cool to show the world that you're a ranger. But it isn't necessarily smart. Protect yourself, and your career.

Draft IACP policy on personal use of social media

Precautions and Prohibitions

Barring state law or binding employment contracts to the contrary, department personnel shall abide by the following when using social media.

1. Department personnel are free to express themselves as private citizens on social media sites to the degree that their speech does not impair working relationships of this department for which loyalty and confidentiality are important, impede the performance of duties, impair discipline and harmony among coworkers, or negatively affect the public perception of the department.
2. As public employees, department personnel are cautioned that speech on- or off-duty, made pursuant to their official duties—that is, that owes its existence to the employee's professional duties and responsibilities—is not protected speech under the First Amendment and may form the basis for discipline if deemed detrimental to the department. Department personnel should assume that their speech and related activity on social media sites will reflect upon their office and this department.
3. Department personnel shall not post, transmit, or otherwise disseminate any information to which they have access as a result of their employment without written permission from the chief executive or his or her designee.
4. For safety and security reasons, department personnel are cautioned not to disclose their employment with this department nor shall they post information pertaining to any

other member of the department without their permission. As such, department personnel are cautioned not to do the following:

- a. Display department logos, uniforms, or similar identifying items on personal web pages.
 - b. Post personal photographs or provide similar means of personal recognition that may cause them to be identified as a police officer of this department. Officers who are, or who may reasonably be expected to work in undercover operations, shall not post any form of visual or personal identification.
5. When using social media, department personnel should be mindful that their speech becomes part of the worldwide electronic domain. Therefore, adherence to the department's code of conduct is required in the personal use of social media. In particular, department personnel are prohibited from the following:
 - a. Speech containing obscene or sexually explicit language, images, or acts and statements or other forms of speech that ridicule, malign, disparage, or otherwise express bias against any race, any religion, or any protected class of individuals;
 - b. Speech involving themselves or other department personnel reflecting behavior that would reasonably be considered reckless or irresponsible;
 6. Engaging in prohibited speech noted herein, may provide grounds for undermining or impeaching an officer's testimony in criminal proceedings.

Department personnel thus sanctioned are subject to discipline up to and including termination of office.

7. Department personnel may not divulge information gained by reason of their authority; make any statements, speeches, appearances, and endorsements; or publish materials that could reasonably be considered to represent the views or positions of this department without express authorization.
8. Department personnel should be aware that they may be subject to civil litigation for:
 - a. Publishing or posting false information that harms the reputation of another person, group, or organization (defamation);
 - b. Publishing or posting private facts and personal information about someone without their permission that has not been previously revealed to the public, is not of legitimate public concern, and would be offensive to a reasonable person;
 - c. Using someone else's name, likeness, or other personal attributes without that person's permission for an exploitative purpose; or
 - d. Publishing the creative work of another, trademarks, or certain confidential business information without the permission of the owner.
9. Department personnel should be aware that privacy settings and social media sites are constantly in flux, and they should never assume that personal information posted on such sites is protected.
10. Department personnel should expect that any information created, transmitted, downloaded, exchanged, or discussed

in a public online forum may be accessed by the department at any time without prior notice.

11. Reporting violations: Any employee becoming aware of or having knowledge of a posting or of any website or web page in violation of the provision of this policy shall notify his or her supervisor immediately for follow-up action.

Membership Notes

Paige Meier

Membership Services Coordinator

Many thanks to all of our members who are actively participating in the Lodge by getting their dues in on time, letting us know when their address changes, and staying in touch. We always like to hear from you!

Thanks, too, to the many members who continue their membership once they retire. And a HUGE thanks to all of you that made a donation to the Lodge. You have been a great help to your fellow members in need and in day to day operations of the Lodge. Your generosity helps us help you.

And another big thank you to so many of you who renewed at the voluntary additional \$10 rate last year. Your generosity has helped the Lodge recover from increased expenses we've incurred over the last few years. For 2013, we are again asking members for a voluntary additional dues contribution of \$10. We have not raised dues in over 10 years. If you can spare an extra few dollars when you join or renew, we'd really appreciate it. We want to emphasize

that this is entirely voluntary. You may, of course, join or renew at the regular rate.

The 2013 membership cards will be sent out to all Active and Associate members the first week of January. If you've recently received a renewal notice, please send in your dues soon, to ensure that you receive your new card. If you haven't received your card by the middle of the month, check back with us to see the status of your membership.

You'll notice that the membership cards have a new look this year. They will be more like a credit card-they will feature an image on one side; your name, Lodge name, membership number and the year on the other.

Our records show that we still do NOT have valid email addresses for some of our members. If you receive a notice about this with your membership card, please send us your email address ASAP. The Lodge now sends 2nd and final renewal notices by email only.

We are also sending out important notices and occasional electronic editions of *The Protection Ranger* via email. If we don't have your address, you will not receive these. Thanks!

Happy holidays and have a safe 2013.



Technology Badly Confuses the Day

Excerpt from Using GIS for Wildland Search and Rescue. The book is available as a free pdf download from mapsar.net.

In June 2009, Kat, a young woman on a solo hike at 11,000 feet in the Sierra Nevada mountains of California, was rapidly losing strength and coordination as a result of hypothermia. She had a SPOT emergency locator device with her and decided her condition was critical enough that she activated the emergency button.

The emergency signal went to a satellite and then to the Geodetic Earth Orbiting Satellite (GEOS) International Emergency Response Coordination Center (IERC) in Houston, Texas. Per established protocol, IERC determined the signal was coming from California and called the California Emergency Management Agency (Cal EMA).

The Cal EMA duty officer established the location and gave IERC the contact number for the county sheriff's office responsible for SAR in that area. IERC contacted its SAR coordinator and gave the duty officer the coordinates received from the device. Those coordinates were plotted by the sheriff's SAR coordinator. A helicopter and ground teams were then sent to the location shown by the mapping software. After several hours of searching in the fading light, the helicopter and teams had found nothing.

There were multiple phone calls between IERC and the sheriff's SAR team to confirm that the coordinates were correct. No disparity with what was given by SPOT and what was heard by the sheriff's office was apparent. The numbers matched. The next day, Kat hiked out of the mountains, wet but alive. An interview determined that the search was carried out 20 miles north of her actual location.

An after-action review by two independent SAR professionals found the following contributing factors for the error:

- The SPOT IERC was contacted directly by the reviewers and asked to look up and read off the coordinates of the incident. The coordinates were given in decimal degrees, which the reviewer plotted and which correctly mapped to the location Kat said she was at when she activated the emergency button.
- The string of coordinate numbers given by SPOT and received over the phone by the sheriff's SAR coordinator were correct. It seems likely, though, that the coordinate type given by IERC in its default of decimal degrees (DD.dd) was read off in a string (for instance: 36.7758, -118.4267) but was not identified as being in decimal degrees. There's also the suspicion by the reviewers that instead of a verbal "decimal" to represent the critical separation between degrees and the decimal degree string, a pause may have been used. For example, "Thirty Six <pause> seven, seven, five, eight" instead of "three six *decimal* seven. . . .".

There are many cases the reviewers have found where this type of mistake has been made.

| Geographic Coordinate System: Format | Example | Common Users |
|---|---|---|
| GCS: Decimal Degrees (DD.dd)° | NAD 1983 for Charlotte Lake, Kings Canyon National Park, CA 36.77733, -118.42657 | SPOT, GeoPro Messenger (default), OnSTAR |
| GCS: Degrees, Decimal Minutes (DD MM.mm)° | 36°46.640"N, 118°25.594"W | Marine, Aviation |
| GCS: Degrees, Minutes, Seconds (DD MM SS.ss)° | 36°46'37"N, 118°25'35"W | Many MRA SAR teams, USGS maps |
| UTM | Zone 11N easting 4071120, northing 372697 | Standard coordinate system for some SAR teams and datasets, MapSAR tool |
| US National Grid | 19SLA7269971120 | Standard for all federal SAR and emergency services agencies, though implementation has been slow |

The sender of the coordinates assumes knowledge of coordinates by the person receiving them that may not be true. The receiver does not know the questions to ask to clarify the information.

- IERC had the capability to provide an e-mailed link to an online map to graphically show the location of the emergency signal but probably did not offer to send it for clarification.
- The sheriff's SAR coordinator did not ask, not knowing this was possible.
- The software the SAR team used had three boxes to enter coordinate values for each axis (that is, north-south and east-west). It was possible, but not clearly documented, that decimal degrees entered as one string in the first box would give a correctly plotted location.

It is quite likely that the SAR coordinator divided up the DD.dd string to fit the three boxes, which would give a latitude-longitude result for a degree, minute, second (DD MM SS.ss) coordinate value, thus: 36 77 58, -118 42 67.

When the reviewers entered the SPOT coordinates in this format on the same software, the results showed as the area where the team searched: 20 miles north of the actual location.

When the authors of this manual ran this story by other

SAR teams, almost everyone had a similar story of someone along the way not understanding coordinate values and not knowing enough to ask for clarification. This is at the heart of why it's critical that every member of a SAR team, as well as dispatchers and anyone in the chain of incident reporting, know how to report coordinates, what to ask for if presented with a string of numbers, what to ask if not given a datum, and how to use those numbers to find the correct location on a map.

The training and protocols in this book are designed to prevent such incidents from recurring.

Resource Protection

Special Agent Todd Swain

Most of us began our park service careers hoping to be outdoors and, in the process, do something positive for the environment. As we progressed from seasonal to permanent employee, from field trainee to supervisor, we were given more administrative duties. Staff meetings, IMARS and mandatory training requirements are but a few of the everyday tasks that now seem to make up the majority of our jobs.

It is important for all of us to remember why we entered into our profession and to reaffirm our commitment to protecting park resources from those who would harm them. Fossils, insects, mining equipment, Native American artifacts, reptiles and wood are but a few of the park resources plundered each year. Some of these are taken as "souvenirs," but sizeable percentages are taken by people who have specific knowledge about the resources they seek.

Various federal resource protection laws such as the Lacey Act, Marine Mammal Protection Act and Paleontological Resources Protection Act are now being taught in both seasonal academies and at FLETC. This is a great step forward, as many of the repeat offenders encountered in parks are not deterred by citations. Use of other federal laws such as theft of government property (Title 18 United States Code section 641) and destruction of government property (Title 18 United States Code section 1361) may also be appropriate and rangers should be aware of each law's elements.

To stem the removal and degradation of park resources, we must work together as a team. Holding archeological looters accountable for the destruction they cause requires us to work with archeologists for the local knowledge to know where the potential problems might be and to then make a successful prosecution.

Botanists may notice that a certain plant species is disappearing, but without an interdisciplinary approach, may not link the population reduction with commercial trade.

A maintenance employee may notice a car parked in the same area of the park each day, but without consulting other park staff, may not realize that an endangered species is living nearby.

Engage your non-law enforcement co-workers. For example, tell your friends in maintenance you're looking for:

- Cars parked in the same place over the course of days or weeks.
- Cars parked like they are trying to be hidden.
- People in places at odd hours.
- People with odd equipment in their cars.

Ask your colleagues in resources management to let you know if they discover a declining population of some organism in the park. This decline may not be natural, but the result of poaching activity. Discuss various potential resource threats with admin and interpretative staff. They may well overhear something in the supermarket checkout line that is of interest.

A crucial element to this interdisciplinary approach is information sharing. There are parks where resource staff will not provide rangers with the locations of threatened resources. This practice must be brought to an end if we are to protect those resources.

This is not to say that archeological or endangered species locations should be published for all to see. It does mean that rangers, who are typically the eyes and ears of the park, must have an idea what resources are where and what resources are at risk.

A discussion concerning this issue is held each year as part of the

FLETC Law Enforcement for Managers course, but ultimately, this must be worked out at the park level between division chiefs and perhaps the superintendent. Locally, you should work with resource specialists to show you maps of sites and ask them to give briefings at LE training.

Another portion of the information-sharing matrix involves the Public Information Officer (PIO) and interpretive staff. They should be continually sending messages to the public about the special nature of parklands. This resource protection message is also an important component of criminal prosecutions.

When we catch a looter or resource thief and successfully prosecute them, we must get the "biggest bang for our buck" and publicize our protection efforts. These press releases will help deter others from engaging in similar illegal activities and make the public aware of our protection efforts and challenges.

Whether you have been to a seasonal academy or FLETC recently or not, it is incumbent upon all park staff to maximize our protection efforts by working closely with employees in other specialties. Our collective mission with the National Park Service is to protect park resources for future generations and we must do this as efficiently as possible – the public is counting on us.

Todd Swain is a NPS Special Agent based in southern California. He regularly speaks to audiences throughout the country about resource protection issues. The ideas expressed in this article are his personal opinions and not those of the agency.

Lodge Website

The Lodge website is 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. Our address is www.rangerfop.com.

Application for Membership

You may also join, renew and pay your dues online with PayPal. rangerfop.com and choose **Join the Lodge**.

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: _____ Phone: _____

DOB: _____ E-Mail: _____

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).

Make Check Payable to: National Park Rangers Lodge.

Agency and Work Unit: _____

Mail to: National Park Rangers Lodge, POB 1481, Twain Harte, CA 95383

Phone: 1-800-407-8295 9am-5pm Eastern Time or email:

rangerfop@sonic.net

A member suggested we look into signing up for pro deals through *ProMotive.com*. This site consolidates pro deals from hundreds of equipment companies such as 5.11 Tactical, DeLorme, Marmot, Crismom Trace laser products and over 200 other law enforcement and outdoor equipment manufacturers. They accepted our application and set up a portal for Lodge members to access those manufacturers offering pro deals.

To sign up for the Ranger Lodge's ProMotive Team site, create an account at:
www.promotive.com/fraternalorderofpolicerangerlodge

On the left, click on **Have A Code?** Then paste in: AF0F-CF3A-DAED-F443. Fill in your email address and other information as you click through the screens. The Lodge will approve your membership so it'll take a few days for your account to become active. Please use the same email you use for your Lodge contact. We will **ONLY** approve current members in good standing.



National Park Rangers Lodge
POB 1481
Twain Harte, CA 95383

