

The Protection Ranger



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Moving the Profession Forward

We believe that the time is right now, if not long passed, for officers of federal land management agencies to be promoted to GS-11 across the board. NPS commissioned rangers, BLM rangers, Fish & Wildlife Service refuge officers should be given the base grade of GS-11 without further delay.

The US Customs Service, reacting to the events of September 11, 2001, put into motion the needed administrative work to promote all their officers to GS-11; the promotions took place in July of this year. The head of the Customs Service noted that homeland security had made the position of Customs Officer even more critical to the nation and felt his employees should be compensated for the extra work load imposed upon them. Officers of land management agencies have had the same stresses and responsibilities handed to them and so far, there is no movement in the agencies to increase pay. Officers of these Interior agencies are now among the lowest paid federal officers in the 6[c] retirement system. We work in close association with Border Patrol officers and Customs agents yet they are GS-11. An argument could be made that our jobs are more demanding and varied yet management uses the old "generalist" concept to keep salaries at the lowest possible level. The Lodge will step up its

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September 9, 2002

Kris,

I know you have probably just got done with a ten mile run and not even broken a sweat, but I just wanted to say thank you for the "wookie cookies", the long drives every Sunday morning to church, watching the Lord of the Rings, the practice shoots, the many "mini ops", the hike through Kino Pass, the long days with out complaining, having my back in the field on numerous vehicle stops and spikings, for not being selfish, for sharing your Oreo Cookies, for sharing your food when I was hungry, for not being arrogant in an arrogant profession, for spending time with Ajo's youth and being a role model, for waking me up at FLETC your last day to see the sunrise, for providing warmth in the bone chilling desert tracking illusive smugglers, for running with me and kicking my butt, all the memories in the house, for your advice, for being a role model and a leader among leaders, for being kind and courteous, Brother, Partner, NPS1207, My Friend, I will see you when I get there.

Brian Fields

2 Timothy 4:7 vs 7

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith...

efforts to achieve these raises which in fact will only be to seek parity. The NPS, among other Interior agencies, is losing the battle to retain its professional officers. Why work for an agency where it's obvious that management does not appreciate the efforts and sacrifices of its commissioned staff? What does it say about wanting to retain the services of experienced commissioned officers when you appreciably increase your annual income by transferring to another agency and do the same type of work? And remember: Which ever agency you choose, you will be working in a safer environment with a professional chain of command.

Nothing Seems To Change

It's been only two years since the Lodge printed the essay "ENOUGH", by Paul Berkowitz. That first release, precipitated by the murders of two U.S. Park Rangers in just the two previous years, generated a lot of hot debate and played a key role in forcing the Service to contract the I.A.C.P. to conduct its review of the NPS law enforcement program. Since that time the DOI-Office of the Inspector General launched its own investigation into the NPS (and other Interior) law enforcement

program(s), resulting in the release of their report, "A Disquieting State of Disorder".

One would think that all of the attention drawn to the many deficiencies of the Service's management of the law enforcement function over just the past few years (not to mention the various efforts and studies conducted over the past few decades) would have had the effect of forcing the NPS to implement the many structural and programmatic changes that have repeatedly been called for by virtually every outside entity that has looked at this issue. Regrettably, this has not been the case, as the NPS has successfully blocked, stalled, and "studied" every credible report, quite literally, "to death".

It is therefore appropriate to once again make a strong statement about the reluctance the Service has shown to adopt recommended changes; to embrace the law enforcement role of our Rangers and Special Agents; and to remove the obstacles (and people) who steadfastly impede the attainment of a professional law enforcement program. Otherwise, as has been proven time and again, **Nothing Seems To Change.**

ENOUGH?

As we find ourselves in the new millennium, mourning the loss of yet another Ranger, struck down in the line of duty, it is particularly appropriate to reflect on the following statements made more than a quarter of a century ago:

"...The major share of the responsibility [for the Ranger's death] must rest with the Service. It is the Service, who by omission, neglect, or inattention, operates an inadequate or sub-standard enforcement program..."

"...There appears to be a general reluctance in the Park Service to readily accept and visibly support the fact that effective enforcement services are vital to the successful operation of the Parks and their enjoyment by the many visitors."

Consider the popular Park Service terms such as "soft image", "low profile", "resource education", "resource stewardship", "visitor and resource protection", upon which the Service relies in concerted effort to avoid the use of more clear and commonly understood terms such as "law enforcement" or "police duties":

"...The most serious problems with such general descriptive terms are they leave many unanswered questions as to actual operating procedures. Thus, officers on borderline cases will try to maintain a "low profile" and get themselves involved in incidents which can escalate into dangerous situations for themselves and/or others they are trying to protect."

ALL OF THESE COMMENTS WERE MADE IN THE OFFICIAL REPORT FROM THE BOARD OF REVIEW ASSESSING THE AUGUST 5, 1973 MURDER OF A RANGER AT POINT REYES NATIONAL SEASHORE. At that time this was the fourth U.S. Park Ranger to be feloniously killed in the line of duty; though the NPS, itself, pronounced him to be the first, having "forgotten" about the three others before him. Since that time four other U.S. Park Rangers have been murdered in the line of duty...a significant number of law enforcement officers murdered for an agency of our size. Many others have suffered serious injury in

assaults and "accidents" resulting from improper equipment, inadequate training, and poor candidate screening. This does not even include the killings, assaults, and kidnappings, of other NPS employees who were targeted because they were readily identifiable as federal employees, indistinguishable from their law enforcement counterparts in the same agency.

THE SERVICE HAS LEARNED NOTHING in the nearly thirty years that have passed since the murder in 1973...or the others that came before and followed. These same comments cited above, and many of the other criticisms made by that board (i.e., substandard communications, inadequate staffing, lack of back-up, lack of access to proper equipment, and ambiguity over ranger "image", etc.) could easily be applied to the subsequent murders of U.S. Park Rangers in 1990 at Gulf Islands NP, June 21, 1998 in Great Smoky Mountains National Park, December 12, 1999, in Hawaii, and now just this past August 9, 2002 at Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument. Dozens of other Rangers have suffered serious injuries and/or narrowly escaped death or injury as a result of these same and other unmitigated deficiencies in the way the NPS manages its "protection" program.

With every Ranger killed there has come the predictable declarations that "...safety comes first"...and "...any lessons we can possibly learn...[from these killings]...we will certainly implement..." Yet nothing really changes, because it is fundamentally contrary to NPS culture and tradition to recognize law enforcement as a legitimate professional endeavor, and to change the way our law enforcement program is managed through the establishment of a separate chain of command and mandatory national standards that might diminish the autonomy and discretion superintendents have exercised over law enforcement for nearly a hundred years.

We cannot even say that the Service has "failed" to learn its lessons. That characterization is too kind and forgiving.

The Service has *refused* to learn any lessons from the literally hundreds of serious assaults, murders, shooting incidents, and

wrecks through which U.S. Park Rangers have suffered over their nearly hundred-year history; having summarily *rejected* the legitimate efforts of many dedicated individuals and organizations to seize upon the lessons of the past (including the findings of our own review boards) in attempts to apply those lessons to affect much needed change to NPS policies, procedures, organizational structure, and management practices.

Perhaps it is time to respond to those who, in their resistance to change and the professionalization of our law enforcement program, have asked: ***"Do we really have THAT many Rangers killed?..."***[that we need to change the way we run our law enforcement program?].

This very question was rhetorically posed by a superintendent and senior member of the DO/RM-9 workgroup during a heated discussion, as justification to (successfully) whittle away at the mandatory standards and procedures that had been proposed by "the wrong people" in the draft policy they had prepared. Similar sentiments and statements have been echoed over the years by other managers throughout the Service, whether over the budget table or in passionate resistance to the adoption of policies and procedures that would reflect compliance with standards and practices of the broader "law enforcement" community.

So let us now respond, in kind, with the question: **HOW MANY RANGERS NEED TO DIE IN THE LINE OF DUTY BEFORE IT IS, ENOUGH?"**

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Concepts and Tactics

September 11, 2001. What does it mean? Is the NPS ready to be proactive, or reactive? History has demonstrated that the NPS generally lags behind other agencies in effecting positive change. Lip service to Officer Safety has been prevalent, yet our administration has already ignored the deaths of Jarrell and Kolodski. And then there is the question of the Thomas Bill, the IACP report, then the Office of the

Inspector General's Report. So what do we do after 9-11?

Many of our NPS icons (including my area, the Golden Gate Bridge), Stature of Liberty, and others, have been identified as possible future terrorist targets. Law Enforcement Rangers nationwide are still understaffed, their budgets still the targets of administrators who fail to see the big picture, and re-program budgets to serve personal projects. So, what do we do about 9-11? Business as usual? Traditional thinking?

A quick review. By now we are all familiar with the 1997 FBI reporting that rangers are the most assaulted Federal Officers. In 46% of the cases involving officer assaults, the offender was in the company of others. In 98% of the shootings, the offender fired first. And the offender had a 90% accuracy rate, compared to a 46% accuracy rate for officers. The report indicated that 54% of perpetrators practiced with their weapons at least once a month. We also know that under stress vision can be reduced by 70% (tunnel vision). The report indicates most shootings occur between 6 pm and 6 am. And then there is the issue of reaction time. And this is for "traditional" bad guys.

So what about 9-11, what are we doing differently? Are we still shooting stationary 50 yard qualifications with the AR-15s (M-16s)? And only 25 yard handgun ranges? Conventional qualifications may be needed, but practical shooting exercises at longer distances with handguns, shotguns and rifles should regularly be incorporated.

And what is our frequency of night shooting? Do we practice with flashlights during reduced light qualifications? Have we practiced shooting into windshields and inside buildings (simunitions)?

All of our training, antiquated as it is, brings up some other questions. We have patterned our training after traditional perpetrators. What about Al Qaida?

Recent FLETC intelligence suggests Al Qaida routinely train in unconventional combat tactics, using explosives, assault rifles, and are utterly ruthless, seeing women, children, and civilians in general as acceptable targets. There are those

administrative pessimists that say we are over reacting. Tell that to the victims of the WTC. Or the recent videos recovered in Spain suggesting several NPS targets around the country. Or targets in proximity to NPS areas where Rangers may be called in to assist. We do have interagency MOUs around the country. Consider Dam Security with BOR.

We are currently detailing Rangers, including seasonal staff, to provide Security Details to BOR Dam sites. By now there should be some alarm bells going off.

Consider this. Most Dams are designed to withstand great stresses, even nuclear blasts in some cases. With that in mind, and if we are serious in our security concerns, we need to consider the possibility of trained terrorists (assault teams), getting inside dams to disrupt and/or destroy them internally. Or the power they generate. Are rangers, especially seasonal staff, trained and prepared tactically to deal with these potential threats.

It's not enough that we are understaffed, under-equipped, underpaid and under-trained (Cheto's Special Operations Training is an effective course, but we all haven't been through it. If you haven't, now is a good time to start thinking about it). Now we have to consider terrorism.

First, I don't have the answers. Nor do I mean to disrespect those of our supervisors and few administrators who have so staunchly supported Ranger Safety and development. What I would suggest, is that since we can't count on our administration to keep us safe (NPS history always repeats itself), we need to keep each other safe! I would recommend four books, one I have pushed before. You can bet Bin Laden has read it, his maneuvers and tactics thus far are classic to the book. "The Art of War" by Sun Tzu. Surprisingly, Tom Clancy's "Shadow Warriors", (mostly written by retired General Carl Stiner) provides factual insight into Special Forces (Instructors in Cheto's School), but more importantly, a historical account of terrorism in the middle east as it relates to modern day terrorism, and some of the key players. Last, but not least, are two books offered through Calibre Press, "Advanced Patrol Tactics" by Michael Rayburn, and "Handgun Combatives" by

Dave Spaulding. I found Rayburn's book to be intriguing and challenging. He addresses a variety of techniques we have all been taught that may be virtually useless under stress, with issues on holsters, use of flashlights, reaction time, quick draw and point shooting, and winning vs surviving, to name a few (Todd Swain's Resource Law Enforcement at San Luis Obispo covers many of these issues). Traditional firearms instructors may be offended, but careful reflection should convince you. If you read what he has to say, refer to the above FBI information and Al Qaida training techniques and mentality, and think again. What about 9-11?

The chances of an NPS Ranger encountering Al Qaida suspects, or other unorthodox suspects may be remote, but are you willing to bet your life on it?

What else can we do? I recommend that we lobby our politicians to support NPS Rangers in the manner recommended by the three above studies. Referring them to the current terrorist threats (to public areas, their public), understaffed Rangers and park areas, might generate support.

Next we need to create dialogue with our administrators, one-on-one if need be. Every Superintendent (and NPS LE Ranger) should be shown the FLETC video on Al Qaida terrorist training, and reminded of the recovered videos in Spain. Communication, by definition, means/requires two or more people. And a little Verbal Judo might go a long way.

Finally, liaison with other state, local, and federal agencies can provide intelligence, training, and credibility and enhance security to NPS areas. History indicates we can expect little help from our administrators. We need to prepare ourselves, be proactive, use modern (LE and military) tactics and open minds, and think outside the box. Stay Safe

Norm Simons-Park Ranger LE Golden Gate NRA Defensive Tactics Instructor, Field Training Officer

How Much More is Enough Revisited

Bill Tadych, Indiana Dunes

Despite potential under-the-table, subtle, obverse, and even unprovable managerial retaliation, or vindictiveness that may result, I still believe in the First Amendment and have something to say. It is needless to point out that since Sept 11, 2001 America has changed, drastically. It will never be the same as we knew it. Both innocent and heroic lives were lost. Our homeland has been scarred with tragedy from the actions of cowardly terrorists.

What else I am seeing is also tragic, although in a different sense. Past insurrections are seemingly being forgotten. Tabled in lieu of paving parking lots and adding more facilities that are, from the start, unmanageable, and inadequately protected. Insurrections we have set the stage for and perpetuate. Yet again, possibly preventable events have taken more dedicated officers away from us. Being a National Park Officer is becoming a very dangerous profession. The old adage prevails...."if you build it, they will come." And come they do, no matter their intention. Recreation is becoming an ever increasing diversion to daily events. It is a very welcome solution from listening to constant media perpetuated paranoia reports. However, I for one choose not to be a visitor to most of the areas I patrol because I do not want to become a victim. I know very well how unprotected many of our national parks have become. Yet we send out a message that instills naivete to the everyone.

Those us who have been charged with protecting our national treasures will never forget those that have given the ultimate sacrifice in their dedication to the job they love. Whether it is in the Virgin Islands, Guam, Yellowstone, Gateway, DC Mall, The Arch, Big South Fork, Blue Ridge Parkway, or wilderness Alaska our hearts have been permanently etched by the events that have taken place over the past several years more than enough to make us cry.

Ok, to the point of this note. I want to bring out a term that is being constantly used to illustrate the state of the nation. Homeland Security. What does this mean to all of America? I don't know, but I do have an opinion. Is there such a thing as Homeland Security...now and in the future? Maybe. Maybe not.

We have all seen and read the IACP and IG reports on the status of law enforcement in the NPS. Yet still very little or nothing is being done to implement either. I have seen editorials stating that the federal government will allow for attrition and retirement to resolve the commitment to reduction of the federal workforce. Much of this will occur within the next 5-7 years! Especially if our long-overdue 6(c) coverage is finalized. (Another issue). I have heard that a 35-75% loss in the ranger workforce will occur as a result of retirement in the next 5-7 years. Is anything being done to prepare for this? We may be looking at 1 person on duty per week!

This is not what I want to see happen, especially to the NPS or any other land management agency. We are the guardians of history and providers of safe havens of recreation. We protect everything from President Lincoln's birthplace cabin doorknob to the Liberty Bell, Native American ceremonial sites, Civil War battlefields, waterfalls, icebergs, toads, bats, bears, butterflies, cactus, and mountain goats, not to mention hordes of unsuspecting visitors from far, wide, and internationally, who become prey to criminals while in their illusions of pristine and safe environments. What is forgotten is that we also have to protect ourselves and each other.

We are and have been allowed to become extremely short staffed to the point that our daily routines have become unsafe. This often goes unnoticed to the visiting public unless they are directly affected by lack of adequate patrol staff. One person on duty, no matter which park is referenced, with or without adequate radio communications, is intrinsically unsafe. Dwindling statistical data of crimes reported does not mean things are becoming better, it simply means crimes are going unreported, solved, or even investigated. Those that make these scheduling and staffing decisions to put one

person on a shift are not affected. They go home each night after working 8:00-4:30 without care or concern that the existing patrol is expected to rely on local agencies for backup, even though that backup is well beyond even knowing where we might be at any given time. Do we actually expect our local deputy to know where "Howard's Alley", "Stern's Cove", "Spider Dune", "Abbott's Wash" or "The Crow's Nest" is located? Can we hope our Dispatcher knows these nicknamed locations? Not to mention the local agencies are busy with their own jurisdictions and are usually a long ways away.

We are currently dedicating mandated resources to providing security for some of our national treasures and icons. This is resulting in an even greater shortage of staffing at the home parks. My opinion is that if Al-Qaida, or anyone else were going to do something again, by now, they would probably not even know/care that we even have a Liberty Bell, for example, let alone consider it a viable target! Sorry if this is offensive. I am not meaning to single out anything. Maybe it should be safeguarded in the Smithsonian Institution? It is most likely the lack of a patrolling ranger presence that would preclude an attack at some of these sites. Rangers are not security guards. We are highly trained and motivated. Bringing our workforce back up to a safe level of numbers may not prevent catastrophe or loss of dedicated lives, but it certainly would make those of us on duty feel like we mean something, and at the very least a bit safer.

We have had enough of the overtime. The extra money it brings in will never make up for repeated weeks away from our friends and family. Not to mention that taking us away from our meager home staffs to do something that an adequately trained security guard can do is costly to the American taxpayer. Taking one ranger away equals one less ranger on patrol. How many more millions or billions of dollars will be spent on flights, per diem, motels and meals? It seems to me that after a year we would have in place a security guard force to rival any possible event they would possibly encounter at considerably less cost of sending GS-09 rangers on 3 week details. A willing security guard can supervise a metal detector with much

greater motivation than a ranger forced to do so. Besides, if/when a problem arises....call a ranger! We are better suited to our primary reason for hire....that being out in the parks. Morale is also suffering the more we continue to be away from what we signed on to do.

Think of the millions and billions of dollars that could be better used to hire and train GS security guards or at least contract the tasks out to the citizen workforce and keep rangers out "rangering." People are out of work. Parks are suffering. Visitors are suffering, although many are not aware. It was said that we will participate in security details until further notice even at the sacrifice of safety to the public and resources. Even Fire details have been cut back to 14 days. It seems that the logistics of sending rangers to security details is too complex to cut them back also. Fire staff is not subject to repeat fire prevention details even though we all remember the events leading up to Los Alamos.

How is that Homeland Security?

My point in all this is when are we going to stop abusing the meager staff we have left and start actually doing something to improve conditions for all concerned? I apologize if I have offended anyone but I had to vent.

Corps of Engineers Update

The Lodge has asked management at Georgia's Lake Sidney Lanier to comment on reports that they actually changed their written security plan to prohibit rangers from carrying weapons at Threatcon Delta (the highest terrorism alert) just before going to Threatcon Delta last fall. The lake's Buford Dam, which controls the water supply for the Atlanta area, was considered a terrorist target on a par with nuclear power plants. There has been no reply to our request so far. To refresh your memory: Corps of Engineers were assigned to protect this dams and other structures but were prohibited from carrying defensive equipment on pain of removal. To us, and we thing, to any one objective, this rendered the Rangers ineffective and unsafe. Federal employees were asked to be on the front line of homeland security

without the means to either protect themselves or deter the terrorists.

Letter to the Editor

Editor, Protection Ranger

I am a former seasonal LE ranger and currently a Border Patrol Agent in the Tucson Sector. The murder of Ranger Kris Eggle (or any other law enforcement agent) in this area was not unexpected. There had been several incidents in the 'plaza' controlled by 'El Zarco' including twice that Border Patrol Agents having been shot at. The first time was in May and involved possibly Mexican Military shooting at a BPA from the south side. The Agent's vehicle was struck a couple of times. There was another incident about 2 weeks before Ranger Eggle was killed. It involved a 5 vehicle drive thru. An Agent responding 'turned back' the five vehicles and was able to see at least one was loaded with dope. As the vehicles crossed the International Boundary, a truck hidden in the brush started firing on the pursuing Agent with a rifle. The Agent pulled a U-turn and was chased approximately a mile north by the rifleman in the truck. His vehicle was hit 2x by rifle fire. There had also been a warning that 'El Zarco's' men were staking out the bars in Lukeville and Sonoyta, Sonora, Mexico in order to injure or kill US law enforcement.

The events of August 9th vary in the details. It has been reported that Mexican Authorities had crossed the International Boundary in pursuit of El Zarco. That is a major no-no, I would lose my job if I did such a thing. I would also be facing arrest by Mexican Authorities on the south side. It is definitely an international incident. The suspect was carrying an AK-47, which happens to be the same weapon that the Policia Judicial de Estado (PJE), or State Judicial Police carry. Early reports said that Ranger Eggle might have been killed by gunfire from the southside, the suspect most definitely was. Again, firing across the International Boundary is a big no-no. Where is the outcry?

Areas such as Big Bend NP, Coronado NM and Organ Pipe NM will continue to be very dangerous until which time securing our southern border becomes a priority. The

money involved in drug and illegal alien smuggling makes it a lucrative business and sometimes very cutthroat. It is sad to see that the problems are being ignored, staffing for NPS law enforcement is not a priority. It is similar with the Border Patrol (but not as bad as NPS).

I ask that if you post this message, that you not post my name or email address for safety and fear of reprisal by management.

Joe Wegener, Part 2

This incident occurred over 30 years ago and guess what, more than one Ranger has been injured or killed in the line of duty, in a park where money was not acquired and used for a real life saving radio system that would have let them know they were going to be killed if they approached a vehicle or an incident.

And the sad thing is, being a betting man who has bet his life several times in the National Park Service, I am willing to bet on a sure thing: Another Ranger will lose his or her life because of a half-ass radio system (or no radio system at all) for which money was, or could have been, made available.

It is not hard to acquire more money for any Park from Congress if a Park can show they need it to protect the visitor. I personally know of two parks that have gotten large sums of money to hire Permanent Law Enforcement Rangers; 15-20 Positions and then only 4-8 positions are filled. The rest of the money just "disappears" and when the 4-8 Rangers move to other Parks that money also "disappears" and the positions are not filled. I have heard rumors that the money goes into other Divisions: for pay grade increases for people in the Head Shed, but I am sure this cannot be true! Why, that would put the blood of the dead Rangers on the heads and hands of the people who authorized the increases, and those who diverted the funds. This could not be, or could it? A real audit of where did the money go would lay the question to rest.

The money will either be spent on something more important than a Ranger's life or not spent to show them who the real head of this Park is - the Boss - the person

they better learn to respect, or they will become dead if they try to do their job. Are there any naive fools out there that will take this bet?

AUG. 20TH. 2002 1500 HR.

A News Paper owner in Texas telephoned me , wondering if I knew the Ranger he had read about. His account was very close to the account I read, the official one, off the Internet.

I told him I had also read an E-mail written by one of the many bewildered, grief-stricken, tormented, distraught, distressed fellow law enforcement officers, wondering what happened, how could this happen, could I, we, any of us have done anything?

I told him most of the Rangers and other employees that I have talked to were tearful and felt the anguish and pain of the writer.

He asked how I felt about it and told him "MAD AS Hell".

Many years ago when Ken Patrick was shot and killed I cried for days, knowing why he was working under circumstances that got him killed and not found right away.

As Rangers and others in the Park Service are killed on the job and at home I don't cry anymore. I just EXPECT IT TO HAPPEN. I am hoping that some day someone will be held accountable for the lack of Rangers and the misuse of funds that would stop this practice so this will not happen to another park ranger.

My goal was to spell out for the caring employees of the Service what to watch for and how to work around the "I don't care", I am only in this for the MONEY and quitting time" employees.

Next month it will be finished I hope. I am totally ashamed of the "outfit" I put 25 years into. Not the employees that give and try to make up every day for the "want to be's", and "who cares about the NPS" until he or she has given their all!

Lodge Member Shares Letter to NPS Official

Dear Mr. Ring:

I recently received your reply letter to me regarding the National Park Service proposed reorganization of its law enforcement program. I appreciate your response. I have decided to write to you again about the issue because I feel it needs to be the Department of Interior's top priority.

As you know, this past weekend saw the National Park Service lose two law enforcement officers in the line of duty -- a law enforcement ranger in southern Arizona and a US Park Police officer on the Washington-Baltimore Parkway. Both deaths were tragic and both officers were very young.

As I stated in my previous letter, the National Park Service's law enforcement program is in critical need of a massive reorganization. The reorganization that was proposed by the "Task Force" was cosmetic at best. It is imperative that changes be more fundamental or more rangers and officers will lose their lives. Several credible reports have been offered to NPS management with little or no consideration to any of their recommendations. This is unacceptable. These reports are far more objective and reasonable than internal NPS personnel.

So, again, I strongly urge you to implement very simple, but significant changes to the NPS law enforcement program:

1) immediately implement a line authority for all law enforcement personnel and fill those line authority management positions with dedicated and committed law enforcement personnel. Do not simply rearrange current NPS managers into these positions. NPS needs new progressive thinking personnel who are professionals committed to law enforcement, and;

2) establish a law enforcement only budget for public safety purposes only where only law enforcement managers have access to those funds. Superintendents and regional

managers with different ideas, priorities and motivations should not have access to such critical funds.

Mr. Ring, it is imperative that NPS take this task seriously and implement changes, such as these, that have been suggested by other parties and reports. In 1866, when Galen Clark became America's first park ranger, his sole purpose was law enforcement. That's it. That is how it all started. Put an end to personal motives and politically-driven policies. Restore a sense of confidence and display genuine commitment to America's park law enforcement personnel. NPS law enforcement park rangers sole purpose must be public safety and nothing less.

Again, I thank you for your time and look forward to your decisive action on this matter and response to my letter.

Sincerely,
John Pfahler

When Is Unsafe, Unsafe?

Here's what one of our enterprising members sent to Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument two weeks after Kris Eggle's murder and the response he got back.

Names have been omitted

++++
Dear Ranger

I will be visiting your park in October. Is that a good time? Are the Bugs bad? Will I need any bug spray? Are there any dangerous things to worry about? Snakes? Lizards? or anything else?

Thanks.

Dear Camper,
October is a good time to visit Organ Pipe. Temperatures are cooling down and becoming very pleasant. It's always a good idea to carry bug spray - you never know when it might come in handy. As of now, we are so dry that there are few bugs. Don't worry about "dangerous" snakes or lizards. If you use common sense and don't approach too closely, they will not bother

you. They become defensive only when other creatures (including humans) invade their personal space. Never provoke an animal or reptile, and never put your hands or feet where you cannot see.

Camping here can be lots of fun; look forward to the adventure! In addition to the recent murder of a park ranger and the continuing illegal activity including gunfire, the park official says its totally safe to visit Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument.

Here's an official statement from the House of Representatives Appropriations Committee:

The perilous situation prompted a recent study for the House Appropriations Committee to conclude, "certain federal lands in southeast Arizona can no longer be used safely by the public or federal employees due to the significance of smuggling undocumented aliens and controlled substances into the United States."

The Lodge has been busy sending out news releases and working with reporters from media outlets. So far, stories have appeared in such diverse papers as the Arizona papers: Daily Sun, Star, and Republic; the Washington Post and Washington Times; TV stations in AZ; and smaller outlets serving neighboring national parks. The Lodge executive director was interviewed live on an Oklahoma City radio station. We have given background interviews and are hoping stories will appear in magazines. We are gratified that PEER cooperated with us on the story of assaults on NPS officers and sent out the message on their sophisticated network.

We are disappointed that there has not been a national story on the situation within the National Park Service but there yet may be. Please do two things: circulate these press releases to your local outlets; and, contact the Lodge telling us where and when a story on park rangers appeared.

Monday, August 12, 2002 - **MURDER OF PARK RANGER AT ORGAN PIPE CACTUS NATIONAL PARK**

The US Rangers Lodge of the Fraternal Order of Police is saddened upon hearing of the murder of park ranger Kris Eggle while on duty at Organ Pipe Cactus National Park. Ranger Eggle paid the ultimate price to the American people while working to protect the visitors and resources of this large, remote and dangerous national park. Sadly, a violent death of a park ranger in this park is not unexpected.

We believe that the NPS law enforcement program has become so unsafe that we call for:

1. A Congressional investigation in to the conditions that contributed to Ranger Eggle's death
2. Congressional oversight hearings covering the NPS law enforcement program
3. An OSHA investigation of NPS law enforcement.
4. An end to supervision of law enforcement at the park level by non-law-enforcement staff.

The National Park Service has known for several years about the dangerous working conditions at Organ Pipe Cactus, including the severe drug and illegal alien trafficking problem that plagues the park and the shortage of park rangers that have made working at Organ Pipe so dangerous. Our Lodge has named Organ Pipe Cactus as number one on our list of the 10 Most Dangerous National Parks, both in 2001 and 2002, yet the NPS has done nothing significant to ease the staffing crisis at the park.

Even more tragically, the NPS has identified Organ Pipe and other border parks as dangerous on its own. NPS Associate Director of Operations Dick Ring, along with Brian Waidman, Chief of Staff to Interior Secretary Gale Norton, met with park managers and law enforcement experts last year to discuss the safety issues at Organ Pipe and other border parks. Yet no substantial changes were made as a result of this meeting. A recommendation that rangers never work without a partner, drafted in a memo from Gary Allen at the Department of the Interior, never became implemented.

The NPS has a history of ignoring known dangers to park rangers, writing reports, and failing to implement them. The following reports on the crisis in NPS law enforcement have been written:

1. The "Thomas Report," documenting a severe shortage of NPS rangers nationwide. Recommendations implemented: None.
2. The IACP report. A study of the NPS law enforcement program by the International Association of Chiefs of Police. Reports in both 1999 and 1970 have been ignored by the NPS.
3. The IACP Implementation Report. Develops a plan to implement the Thomas and IACP reports.
4. Inspector General's report (2002).
5. Secretary of Interior's LE reform proposal (2002)

No changes affecting law enforcement rangers have been implemented, despite all these government reports. In July of 2001, the Dept of Justice issued its report on law enforcement in the federal sector. The Justice Department noted, "Based on 1995-1999 LEOKA data for agencies with 1000 or more officers, the National Park Service had the highest average annual assault rate per 1000 officers". "When only assaults that resulted in death or injury are considered, the National Park Service had a rate of 15 per 1000, about 3 times the next highest rate of 5.1 per 1000 at the US Customs Service".

The Inspector General of the Dept. of Interior in his January 2002 report to the Secretary of Interior, described management of law enforcement at the National Park Service as existing in "a disquieting state of disorder" and found that professional studies of the way NPS managers conducted affairs were "just gathering dust on the shelf". Senator Chuck Grassley of Iowa called this IG study, "One of the most damning indictments of a federal law enforcement agency I have ever read."

Protecting the nation's most treasured natural, cultural, and historic resources should not have to be the most dangerous law enforcement occupation in the country. The reason it is is that the NPS allows amateurs to manage the law enforcement program; to direct and curtail the investigations carried out by its rangers, while ill equipping the officers, and diverting funds appropriated for law enforcement safety.

According to Randall Kendrick, Executive Director of the Lodge, "the NPS is not able to administer its law enforcement program in a manner that is both safe and efficient. We call for congressional oversight hearings to see to it that professional law enforcement management is instituted in the program, and that changes are made immediately."

Founded 15 years ago, the U.S. Park Rangers Lodge of the Fraternal Order of Police is the largest organization of NPS law enforcement rangers in America.

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Monday, August 26, 2002 - WHY ARE NATIONAL PARK RANGERS AMERICA'S MOST ASSAULTED COPS? RANGERS ASK FOR FBI STUDY.

August 24, 2002- Fancy Gap, Virginia -- National Park Service Rangers and U.S. Park Police officers are the federal law enforcement officers most likely to be assaulted, according to FBI statistics, and rangers want to know why.

The US Park Rangers Lodge of the Fraternal Order of Police has formally requested an FBI study of why National Park Service rangers and park police officers have been consistently assaulted more often than other federal officers, including the DEA, FBI and Border Patrol at a rate which is triple the rate of the next highest agency. The request was made in a letter sent to Secretary of Interior Gale Norton on August 22, 2002. According to the US Department of Justice in a study published in 2001, when assaults on officers that result in injury or death are tabulated, the officers of the National Park Service suffer these injuries at a rate triple the next federal agency, the US Customs Service.

According to Randall Kendrick, executive director of the US Rangers Lodge, "We don't know why Rangers are identified by crooks as easy targets, but it's been open season on us. It's time to find out what's going

on, and stop it." The call for the study comes in the wake of the murder of Park Ranger Kris Eggle earlier this month, the third killing of an NPS ranger in the last 4 years.

Kendrick said that insufficient training, lack of supervision, and a lack of an "authoritative presence" may make rangers out to be targets. "Our hunch is that there are problems in training, where rangers fail to react appropriately to dangerous situations. National Park Rangers do not have a field training program - so they don't learn basic survival skills on the street. They are understaffed, and often work without backup. They are usually supervised by managers with little or no training or background in law enforcement. They often have poor radio communications without access to NPS dispatch service; and, they often have to wait an hour or more for law enforcement backup to arrive.

The FBI is the agency responsible for compiling statistics on officers killed in the line of duty. The ranger organization said they should be the first choice to conduct this study. Other recent studies of NPS law enforcement, including those done by the Inspector General of the Dept of Interior and the International Association of Chiefs of Police have called for major changes in the way the NPS manages law enforcement, but none focused on why rangers were targets. Few if any of the potential safety-related recommendations in these reports have been implemented, according to Kendrick, and the Inspector General himself noted that all these previous studies are " . . . just gathering dust on the shelf".

Why rangers and park police officers suffer these assaults at such an horrific rate has not been studied before and the Fraternal Order of Police feels that the time has come for such a study.

"Police officers around the country could learn from a study like this," said Kendrick. "If you want to survive on the streets, don't do the things we are doing that are making us targets. When we find out what these are, it will save lives."

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Monday, August 26, 2002 - CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT HEARINGS OF NATIONAL PARK SERVICE LAW. ENFORCEMENT MANAGEMENT CALLED FOR

The Park Rangers Lodge of the Fraternal Order of Police is calling for congressional oversight hearings into the continuing crisis of management of law enforcement in the National Park Service. The Ranger organization wants Congress to look into these issues:

- Why the Thomas Report, the Booz-Allen report, the International Association of chiefs of Police report and the report of the Inspector General of the Dept of Interior have not been acted upon? As far as we can tell, no reorganizations at the field level and no reallocation of funds have taken place in spite of the fact that all of these studies have exposed severe deficiencies in the way law enforcement is managed.
- Why the US Park Police officers and commissioned park rangers suffer injuries and death from assaults at a rate triple the next most assaulted group of federal officers, according to the US Dept of Justice?
- Why the National Park Service allows managers with no background and training in law enforcement to manage law enforcement and direct and curtail investigations, and refuses to answer the basic question: "Why does the agency think this is a safer and more effective way to manage law enforcement when virtually no other law enforcement agency, federal, state or local, does business this way?
- Why the National Park Service has not complied with federal law in converting all its radio systems to the narrow band required by Congress and has not asked for funds to accomplish this task?
- Why the National Park Service, as a matter of policy and practice, allows local managers to divert funds Congress has appropriated for law enforcement personal services and equipment to other non-law enforcement, non-Congressionally approved purposes

We believe the DOI Inspector General understated the problem when he said that law enforcement management in the National Park Service exists in a "disquieting state of disorder". The National Park Service apparently will not come clean on this: It is up to Congress to mandate changes that will professionalize the management of law enforcement and to protect the visitors, the park resources and the officers who are charged with protecting same. We cannot wait any longer.

Lodge Website

Brother Duane Buck has built and maintains the Lodge website. We keep it updated with notices and links to other sites that we think are interesting and/or helpful to resource based law enforcement officers. Visit it often between issues of the Protection Ranger to keep current on things that affect you and your job. The address is www.rangerfop.com

Application for Membership

I, the undersigned, a full-time regularly employed law enforcement officer, do hereby make application for active membership in the U.S. Park Rangers Lodge, FOP. If my membership should be revoked or discontinued for any cause other than retirement while in good standing, I do hereby agree to return to the lodge my membership card and other material bearing the FOP emblem.

Name: _____

Signature: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

DOB: _____

Permanent Rangers: \$52/year

Seasonals and Retired Active Members: \$35/year

Associate (non-Commissioned) Membership (Newsletter only): \$35/year

Renewals: You do not need to send in this form to renew. Enclose a copy of your Commission (new members only).

Agency and Work Unit: _____

Mail to: FOP Lodge, POB 151, Fancy Gap, VA 24328

Phone: 1-800-407-8295 10am-10pm Eastern Time or email randallfop@ls.net

U.S. Park Rangers Lodge
Fraternal Order of Police
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