

PLEA



JOURNAL OF THE PARK LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSOCIATION

President's Message......

Most of us have favorite places where we rest and refresh ourselves, leave pressures and worries behind and enjoy physical or mental exercise totally unrelated to our day-to-day pursuits. Places like the local golf course, a favorite spot on a riverbank, or an unchanging tavern in the old neighborhood where politics and religion are argued with a certainty and differences washed away with a premium brew. For longer-term respite, it helps to get away from home (far away works best for me) and, if not vegetate, at least move work-related thoughts as far to the back of the mind for as long as possible. Last month I was lucky enough to spend two weeks backpacking in the Grand Canyon on some more primitive trails from both the North and South Rims. I also had the opportunity to observe some of my kind of people doing my kind of work--rangers helping vacationers and assuring the opportunity to recreate.

While vacationing in parks around the country, I try not to identify myself as a park ranger to any of such local types as may be found for the selfish reason of not having shop talk intruding on my fun. Besides, it's fun to see how others deal with people from a citizen's point of view. Like the South Rim Backcountry Office Rangers who goodnaturedly answer the same questions time and again for hours at a stretch in a room full of hikers and backpackers, about half of whom are foreign visitors. Or Ranger Bruce Banker over on the North Rim who delivered three of the best interpretive programs I've ever seen. Sometimes I like to shut my mouth and listen (not often enough, according to some) to discover new facets of even the most familiar things. For me, it's simpler to do that sans the "park ranger" mantle.

Taking up the mantle again, as the NRPA Congress approaches, we are preparing for the mid-year meeting of the PLEA Board, several PLEA-sponsored educational sessions and our usual trade show exhibit. One major item the PLEA Board will discuss is the progress of the Professional Development Committee, chaired by Dr. Bruce Wicks. NRPA Executive Director Dean Tice has communicated his support for this project and furnished the necessary protocol and staff contacts to enable us to move forward, so more information will be forthcoming in the next *Journal*.

The upcoming education session that has received the most attention is, of course, "Getting Down to Basics: A Look at Nude Recreation." Several people have asked, "Why in the world would you want to do a session on that?" The answer is simple: PLEA explores controversial topics that concern park administrators and presents as complete an overview as possible in the time allotted. Attendance and ratings for past sessions on the occult, deviant sex, and gangs were very good. The goal is to present the people we work for with information needed in making decisions about policies, regulations and legislation that have a direct impact on our members. Since we in park law enforcement are the ones who carry out their decisions and work up close and personal with the controversial situations, it makes sense that we should be the ones to provide accurate information on these topics to our employers. At any rate, I bet we'll need a big room for this one.

Great news out of Minnesota and North Carolina! Captain William Jacobs of the Minneapolis Park Police and Ranger John Byrd, Sr. of Durham Park Rangers have agreed to serve as PLEA's Regional Representatives for the Great Lakes and Southeast Regions, respectively. Members who live in those regions (or other regions) and want to get involved should contact their Regional Representative. There is a lot to be done in setting up or working within existing state affiliates before the professional certification program becomes a reality. Your Regional Representative can help you get organized or put you in touch with others in your state who are of like mind and will get PLEA's State Association Development Committee in touch with you. Remember--if we don't have an organization in place in each state to handle

professional certification, someone else will.

D

Newell Rand and the Maryland-National Capital Park Police are preparing for PLEA's annual conference, set for March 2 - 5 in Andover, Maryland. The theme is "Dealing With Multicultural Diversity," and Maryland-National Capital has some very impressive plans for tours and activities. Watch for the brochure in November. You won't want to miss this one, so make plans now to attend.

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CALL FOR PUBLICATIONS

The Park Law Enforcement Association (P.L.E.A.), an affiliate of the National Recreation and Park Association (N.R.P.A), invites you to submit articles for consideration to PLEA: the Journal of the Park Law Enforcement Association.. P.L.E.A. was established in 1984 to improve park law enforcement, natural and visitor resource protection services in park, recreation and natural resource areas through professional development, thus ensuring "quality of life" leisure opportunities in local, state, and national park, recreation and natural resource settings. P.L.E.A. serves individuals and organizations interested in the advancement and support of park and natural resource law enforcement services. Membership includes park rangers, forest rangers, park police, park patrols, park security, game wardens, conservation officers, park and recreation board members, administrators, educators and other interested park, recreation and natural resource professionals.

PLEA is published quarterly and attempts to provide timely information to the membership concerning the association and articles specifically aimed at the park and natural resource law enforcement audience, with the goal of providing educational information for our membership, facilitating an exchange of ideas, and to generally promote professionalism within the field.

Articles should be from three to ten double-spaced, wide-margined pages and should include a short biographical sketch, listing the author's agency affiliation. Photographs, charts and tables are highly desired. Upon publication, the author will receive a copy of the issue his article is printed in for his/her records. Please submit articles to the Editor for review and consideration. Thank you for your interest in PLEA. We look forward to receiving your articles.

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CROWD CONTROL: POSITIVE POLICE ENFORCEMENT METHODS

by Sean A. Greenan, Long Island University/C.W. Post Campus and Captain Richard O'Donnell, New York State Park Police

On July 2, 1989, as the annual Greekfest party, which is referred to as a "fraternity event", at Jones Beach State Park was coming to an end bedlam broke loose as the 20,000 attendees heading towards the parking lots at the completion of a day that included the renewal of old friendships, sun and entertainment. As the participants started entering their vehicles shots rang out in the parking fields of the beaches at both west end two and field one. This was followed up by a number of skirmish and knifefights in several of the parking fields. While these incidents were transpiring, the 40 New York State Park Police Officers assigned to patrol this event were frantically attempting to help the injured, arrest suspects, protect crime scenes, and prevent any further violent confrontations from taking place. Once the police, with the assistance of the New York State Police (NYSP) and Nassau County Police Department (NCPD), had taken over control of the scene they discovered that 3 people had been shot, 2 others were suffering from knife wounds and more than a dozen other Greekfest participants had suffered injuries that required treatment at local hospitals.

This incident was followed up by another outbreak of violence as members of the same group held their annual labor day weekend Greekfest party at Virginia Beach. The results of this outbreak of violence were 30 people injured, 100 beach shops looted and 160 people arrested for various crimes. The Virginia Beach police like the New York State Park police had not been properly prepared to control this type of violent situation. Therefore, in both instances, the crowd was able to run free and do what ever they pleased until police presence was increased by the arrival of officers from other police agencies to help quell the violence.

A comprehensive review of the Jones Beach and the Virginia Beach incidents led New York State Park Police Administrators to create specialized tactics to be used by their police agency for all future special events. Consultations were held with members of other major law enforcement agencies who also had previous experience in the handling of major special events. These discussions assisted the NYSPP when they implemented a set of new revised operational guidelines for to be used at any future large gathering at either the beach area or at the concert theater at Jones Beach State Park.

In 1990 the modified patrol plan was implemented with the NYSP and the NCPD playing strategic roles. Under

the new plan the NYSP provide traffic enforcement on the Meadowbrook, Wantagh and Ocean Parkways. Members of the NYSPP are assigned to control traffic in and out of the parking areas of field one, west end one and west end two and on the adjacent roadways leading to parkways. Officers from the NCPD specialized units are held in reserve at the shortbeach boat basin. All available members of the NYSPP from throughout the New York State park system are assigned to Jones Beach State Park on the date set for the annual Greekfest.

Police officers from the NYSPP are designated to oversee established sections of the parking fields or beaches at either west end one or west end two beach recreation areas. These officers are then assigned to auto, 4 wheel drive vehicles and quads which are usually delegated to patrol both the beach and parking field while regular vehicles and foot patrols are specifically assigned to parking fields. Foot patrols are supplemented by members of the mounted unit from the NCPD. These are the only members of the NCPD visible to participants during the early stages of this special event.

The organizers of the Greekfest, since 1991, have provided their own security force on walkway entrances to the beaches. Security personnel check all attendees prior to their passing onto the beach area from the parking fields. Each attendee is scrutinized by members of the security force prior to being allowed to enter into the recreational section of west end two. This is done to prevent weapons and alcohol being brought onto the beach. This does not prevent fights from breaking out but it certainly has a significant influence on the excessive use of alcohol and it should, in turn, prevent some altercations from taking place.

Planning by park, police administrators and the promoter led to:

- 1) the implementation of a complete program of professional entertainment being made readily available to participants in this event;
- the establishment of a buffer or large private security force to handle perimeter security and enforce prohibitions on alcoholic beverages in the party area;
- 3) the inducement to participants to start departing in a timely manner upon the completion of the entertainment program.

This is all done with the cooperation of the promoter, officials of the participating fraternities, park and police officials.

Since the implementation of new specialized police tactics and guidelines pertaining to the handling of special events in the Long Island Region by the NYSPP there have been no major troublesome incidents. The police are instructed in the operational guide that they receive prior to the date of the occurrence what the priorities of the agency are at each occasion. On the date of the event, supervisors constantly remind all subordinates of their mission and, specifically, that the organization and the participants expect all officers to display the demeanor of a police professional. Officers are motivated to maintain a positive and cooperative attitude during contacts with visitors or participants who may be unfamiliar with state park rules or guidelines. Police personnel are always advised to avoid being hostile or antagonistic toward any park attendee.

The new police procedures have made it imperative that if a confrontation is inevitable that officers move as quickly as possible to remove the arrestee from the scene. It is just as important that the police officers at the scene listen for and refute any false information circulating within the crowd that accuses the police of causing an injury or incident to take place. It is essential that the promoter, his security force and all representatives of the fraternities be notified of the truth and that their assistance be requested to advise the crowd of the actual facts surrounding the incident.

Prior police experiences at both the Greekfest at Jones Beach State Park and other major events at the Jones Beach State Park Concert Theater have indicated that restricting the use of alcoholic beverages is the predominate factor in controlling disorderly behavior. In fact, since 1989 a ban has been placed on the sale or consumption of alcohol beverages before, during or after concerts at the Jones Beach Concert Theater and parking area. With this in mind, it is anticipated that all officers address alcohol violations by seeking compliance and issuing a ticket if people fail to comply with the law.

The NYSPP, Long Island Region, is responsible for the policing of all state parks from the eastern tips of Long Island to the New York City border. This encompasses a total of 18 parks that attract approximately 20,300,000 visitors a year. Jones Beach State Park is the most highly visible park in this region and it draws approximately 9,750,000 visitors per year. The beaches cover an area of about 6 miles and during the late spring and summer there are an average of 55 concerts at the Jones Beach State Park Concert Theater.

The decrease in disruptive activities at all major special events at Jones Beach State Park indicates that the creation of working relationship between the police, park administrators and promoters is an excellent concept. In the Long Island Region of the New York State Park system there has been a dramatic decrease in problems for all park attendees since the formulation and execution of the new police and the complete banning of alcoholic beverages at all

major events at Jones Beach State Park. There has been, in fact, a scarcity of disruption activities at both the Greekfest, which continues on a yearly basis, or at any of the concerts held at the beach theater.

It is so difficult to create law enforcement policy that not only satisfies the community but also satiates police attitudes in the U.S.A. today. Yet, the park management and the police administrators of the Long Island Region of the New York State Parks have very successfully created a policy that has made all concerned participants happy.

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Sean A. Grennan - has been an associate professor at Long Island University/C. W. Post Campus. Brookville, N.Y. since 1985. He retired from the New York City Police Department in 1985 and has been working as a Police Officer for the New York State Park Police since 1988 at Jones Beach State Park.

Richard O'Donnell - is presently a captain in the Long Island Regionof the New York State Park Police. He is also an adjunct associate professor at the Long Island University/C. W. Post Campus, Brookville, N. Y. and at Suffolk Community College.

RKS PRODUCTIONS AND P.L.E.A. WORK TOGETHER TO PRODUCE DOCU-DRAMA SERIES

An exciting partnership has been created between the Park Law Enforcement Association and Denver based RKS Productions, Inc. In an effort to produce a television series depicting the heroics, everyday hard work and often overlooked contributions of our parks law enforcement personnel, RKS Productions has enlisted the help of the P.L.E.A. membership nationwide to provide exciting material taken directly from the files of park law enforcement. This partnership promises to open the publics eyes to the everyday trials and extraordinary efforts of their parks protectors.

Ralph Hayes, President of the Park Law Enforcement Association has issued a call to action to the membership to provide this association with accounts of the very best efforts of their members. Chief Hayes reports that to date, membership response has been slow and will reiterate his request during the October meeting of P.L.E.A. In San Jose, California. Kevin Steele, Vice President of RKS Productions has indicated that an all out effort is needed to assure the quality and accuracy of this program, and requests that all members send reports on the most heroic and/or unusual episodes of their parks personnel.

To take part in this exciting endeavor please send your best material to Chief Ralph Hayes C/O Johnson County Parks 17501 Midland Dr. Shawnee, KS 66271, or contact Chief Hayes at (913) 631-7050. All Enforcement Association for accuracy and authenticity to protect affected

WHO ARE THE COP KILLERS?

FBI researchers seek practical information to save police lives. Two FBI researchers who interviewed murderers responsible for the deaths of 54 law enforcement officers found few similarities between the murderers, but suggest that many of the victims shared behavioral traits which may have contributed to their deaths.

Many of the slain officers were known as friendly, hard-working, service-oriented people who were described by colleagues as "laid back" and "easy-going". They also had a tendency to use less force than other officers and didn't always strictly follow departmental procedures, according to Ed Davis and Anthony J. Pinizzotto, who interviewed 50 cop killers over a three-year period.

"What we came up with in descriptors for the victim officers were just what today's chiefs would send their recruiters out looking for," said Davis. "What makes that so bad is that now that we get these fine people, we have to work extra hard to convince them that they are the ones who are responsible for their own safety."

Davis, a nine-year veteran of the FBI assigned to its Criminal Justice Information Service division, and Pinizzoto, a forensic psychologist and six-year veteran, visited 34 prisons in 18 states to gain insights from the killers' perspectives about why the officers were murdered and whether they made tactical errors that led to their deaths. Their findings were recently published as a report titled, "Killed in the Line of Duty: A Study of Selected Killings of Law Enforcement Officers," compiled under the auspices of the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting program.

The study is an outgrowth of the bureau's annual publication "Law Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted," which is known in Bureauspeak as LEOKA, the researchers told LEN. "The question of why the officer was killed was never addressed in LEOKA," said Pinizzotto. "When the teletypes (about line-of-duty deaths) would come into the office, and we'd read the description of what occurred, the same questions kept coming up. Was there a procedural error? Was there a problem with inadequate training? Does the personality of the offender affect the situation? Was it simply a crime of opportunity?"

Initially, Davis and Pinizzotto thought they might find that the killers shared certain characteristics that would lead to the development of a profile, similar to those the bureau has produced on serial killers and rapists. But the only characteristic the killers appeared to have in common was a diagnosis of a personality disorder, with 56 percent of them classified as antisocial personality types, and 23 percent described as dependent personality types.

Davis and Pinizzotto also sought behavioral traits shared by the victim officers. Through interviews with colleagues and examinations of personnel records, Davis and Pinizzotto developed a list of behavioral descriptors, some of which all 54 officers shared. Davis and Pinizzotto

found the slain officers tended to use less force than other officers in similar circumstances, and often considered force only as a last resort. They were more service-oriented and tended to gravitate toward the public relations aspects of law enforcement work.

The officers also bent or disregarded rules and procedures, particularly in arrests, confrontations with prisoners or traffic stops, and would often take action without waiting for backup officers to arrive at the scene. They were described by colleagues as people who tended to look for the good in others and who felt they could accurately "read" people and situations, a "skill" that often led them to drop their guard, the researchers found.

Pinizzotto said these characteristics were among the most surprising findings of the study. "We were wondering how we were going to present the write-up on the victim officers --almost assuming we were going to find officers who were rough, needlessly aggressive, who could be described in terms of the 'John Wayne' or 'Jane Wayne' syndrome -- and explain that without negatively affecting the law enforcement community. Well, we didn't have to worry about that because these were not the officers who were killed," said Pinizzotto.

But, added Davis, "we do not want to seem to be saying that you have to be a hard-ass to survive."

When Davis and Pinizzotto asked the killers what, if anything, the victim officers could have done to prevent their deaths, 47 percent said there was nothing the officers could have done to save their lives. While Davis said he didn't sense a lot of bravado coming from the offenders as they described their deeds, he did note "a total absence of any remorse whatsoever" about the killings. Added Pinizzotto: "The majority stated that they wanted to kill the officers, not just injure them."

Eight percent said that if the officers had been more "professional" they would be alive today, but those offenders were unable to define what they meant by "professional." In these cases, offenders said if the victims had identified themselves as law enforcement officers, they could have prevented their deaths. Overall, the killers did not take an officer's age and size into account at the time of the killing, but seven offenders said they would not have carried out the murder if the officer had been female.

The killers indicated that their victims often made mistakes or approached them in ways that made them easier prey. In some cases, the officers handcuffed suspects with their hands in front instead of behind or allowed them to ride in the front passenger seat. "I was surprised that someone would put their life in great peril -- violate the rules of their department -- to make their killer more comfortable," said Davis. "I'm not talking about treating somebody the way you'd want to be treated. It's violating the procedures their department established for the comfort of this individual."

The offenders pointed out that officers failed to conduct adequate body searches, often ignoring the crotch area, where many said they hid weapons and contraband. And only eight of the 54 victims in study were wearing body armor when they were killed. "Interestingly, two of the killers, both of them armed robbers, wore vests because they felt they were involved in a dangerous situation" because of their crimes, noted Pinizzotto.

Some of the officers "did everything right" and were killed anyway, he added. Nevertheless, the findings point to a critical need for officers to maintain "one's vigilance and guard, and (follow) good, solid police practices, which are on the books in most police agencies," said Pinizzotto

Davis and Pinizzotto said the point of the study was not to be critical of law enforcement officers, but to save lives. Davis told LEN that a sheriff from the Midwest recently credited the report with saving the life of a deputy. "If it saves just one officer's life, then I think the whole study is worthwhile," he said.

The pair plan to begin a series of interviews with officers who survived serious on-duty assaults in which firearms or cutting instruments were used as weapons. Attackers will be interviewed as well, and once again the objective of the research will be to save lives. "Essentially, we are going to follow the same procedures as we did on this one, the main difference being that we will have the officer to talk to," said Pinizzotto.

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Cycling Injuries to Mountain Bikers

the Rocky Mountain News

More than 80% of mountain bikers suffer injuries while riding their all-terrain two-wheelers, a California medical study shows. Emergency medicine researchers at San Diego State University report all-terrain cyclists suffer more, but not necessarily more severe, injuries than street cyclists. Of the 268 cyclists studied, 84% reported bike-related injuries. Of these, 26% required medical care and 4.4% required hospitalization. Extremity injuries -scrapes, cuts and bruises occurred in 90% of the injuries and bone fractures and dislocations occurred in 12%. Nine of 10 mountain bikers said they wear helmets, which may explain why only 12% of the injuries included head and neck traumas.

LETHAL FOR COPS: NIGHT SHIFTS IN THE SOUTH

As part of their study of the line-of-duty deaths of police officers, FBI researchers Ed Davis and Anthony Pinizzotto compiled detailed information about the killings themselves, such as the weapons used, the time of day that the killings occurred, and the circumstances surrounding the event. Their findings include:

- 39 percent of the officers were involved in an arrest or a crime-in-progress call when they were killed; 17 percent died while responding to disturbance calls; 11 percent while handling or transporting prisoners, and 7 percent while investigating suspicious persons or situations.
- 58 percent of the killings took place at night. The fewest killings, 15 percent, occurred during the morning hours
- The slain officers had an average of eight years of police experience.
- Eight out of 10 officers were assigned to vehicle patrol at the time of their deaths 70 percent assigned to single-officer vehicles and 9 percent to two-ovvicer vehicles.
- Handguns were used in 72 percent of the killings, a finding that supports previous FBI data in this area. The .38 special was used in 41 percent of the slayings.
- 49 percent of all the law enforcement officers slain between 1981 and 1990 were killed in the South, a region that also accounted for 43 percent of all homicides in the United States during the same period.
- Most of the offenders in the sample were white males, in their mid-20's, high school-educated, and as many as 58 percent said they came from "average to comfortable" socioeconimic backgrounds. Fifty-four percent said arguing, shouting and physical violence were common ways to solve family problems when they were growing up.
- At the time the police killings were committed, drug or alcohol use was reported by 76 percent of the murderers.
- 48 percent of the perpetrators admitted they had murdered or attempted to murder someone prior to killing an officer, and 18 percent said they had assaulted an officer or had resisted arrest prior to killing a police officer.
- Only 3 percent of the offenders reported no prior criminal history.
- 74 percent of the offenders said they armed themselves when involved in criminal activity. When in a vehicle, 34 percent said they kept their weapons on their persons, while 20 percent kept them beneath the seat, and 12 percent kept them on the seat of the vehicle.

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EYESIGHT STANDARDS Correcting Myths

By Richard N. Holden, Ph.D.

For decades, law enforcement agencies required applicants to satisfy certain eyesight requirements before being considered for employment. Few would challenge the belief that public safety officers need good eyesight. What many do challenge, with some success, is the idea that applicants must possess perfect uncorrected vision. A basic question emerges: Should police recruits be allowed to compensate for imperfect vision with corrective lenses? If the answer is "yes," then how much variation should agencies allow?

Several factors converge to make this a timely issue for law enforcement managers to consider. With a dwindling pool of suitable applicants from which to fulfill future personnel needs, some argue that unnecessary selection requirements undermine law enforcement's recruiting efforts.

In addition, the recent enactment of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) prohibits employment discrimination on the basis of physical disabilities, if a person is able to perform the essential functions of the job. Because visual impairment could constitute a protected disability, agencies that cannot defend their vision standards leave themselves open to litigation under this new act.

Finally, advancements in medical science need to be considered. Present-day optical technology renders obsolete many of the age-old arguments in favor of vision requirements.

This article explores the issues involved in vision standards. It goes on to discuss these issues as they relate to the experiences and sentiments expressed in a recent survey of law enforcement officers concerning eyesight requirements.

SUPPORTING ARGUMENTS

The necessity for good vision in law enforcement - corrected or otherwise - rests in the visual nature of police work. Law enforcement officers spend a good portion of their working hours observing people and events and then reporting what they see. Additionally, officers must respond quickly to events taking place around them. They must interpret and react to the actions of others.

One basic tenant of vision standards is that a significant impairment translates into an equally impaired ability to interpret events and react appropriately. Moreover, evidence of poor vision might make officers vulnerable in court. If an officer's vision becomes open to judgment, so too may the evidence offered based on the officer's observations.

The argument for strict uncorrected vision standards rests on the belief than an officer may have lenses forcibly removed. Should this occur, the argument is that the officer would be unable to function adequately. That is to say, the officer would not be able to fire a weapon accurately, discern if a suspect was armed, or operate a police vehicle. This would place the officer in a physically dangerous situation that could possibly jeopardize others.

Although these arguments constitute the underpinning for vision requirements, police administrators are clearly not in agreement over the necessity for uncorrected vision standards. A 1984 study found that while a majority of the 323 police agencies surveyed required some minimum uncorrected standard, 26 percent of the responding departments required only that vision be correctable to 20/20. Another 22 percent allowed uncorrected vision of 20/100.

Further, differing vision standards exist in otherwise similar agencies. Some large police departments, including New York City, Los Angeles, and Dallas, apply restrictive standards. Other large departments - such as Chicago, Detroit, Neward, and Tulsa - have no uncorrected vision standards.

The academic community also fails to reach a consensus on the subject. Some argue for a strict standard. Others, however, question strict uncorrected vision requirements, especially in light of evolving vision technology, such as shatterproof plastic and soft contact lenses.

And, even before passage of the ADA, the controversy over uncorrected vision standards attracted the attention of the courts. Although some courts upheld individuals agency vision requirements in the past, this congruence may be coming to an end. In 1985, a Wisconsin court ruled that an uncorrected vision standard violated a State law prohibiting discrimination against the handicapped.

In addition to these issues, several other factors fuel the argument over vision requirements. Few law enforcement agencies require incumbent officers to maintain the vision standard required for recruits. This means that many police agencies, even those with strict uncorrected vision standards for recruits, employ numerous veteran officers who now need to wear corrective lenses in order to perform their duties. Still, despite this fact, little concrete data exists concerning the relationship between corrective lenses and police performance.

BASIC ISSUES

Three basic issues emerge as arguments for a restrictive uncorrected vision standard. First, an officer who

loses corrective lenses becomes visually impaired and vulnerable to physical assault. Second, the officer will not be able to see sufficiently to aim a service weapon, and as a result, may become vulnerable to an armed suspect. Third, the officer's vision will be too impaired to operate a police vehicle, and therefore, the officer could not pursue a fleeing suspect. In addition, a corollary to these issues emerges. If an officer's ability to perform becomes hampered, then other officers will be placed at a similar risk due to the loss of support of the vision-impaired officer.

Many observers both within and outside law enforcement offer these beliefs in sincerity. However some dissenting opinions exist. With regard to the first issue, it could be argued that an officer engaged in hand-to-hand combat does not need eyeglasses to identify an assailant. At that range, the officer would have to be nearly blind to be incapacitated. An individual's uncorrected vision is not likely to be that bad if it is correctable to 20/20.

Second, the vast majority of shoot-outs with handguns occur at very close range. Of the 735 officers killed by firearms between 1980 and 1989, for example, 652 (89 percent) were shot from 20 feet or less. Indeed, nearly 60 percent of the fatalities resulted from shootouts of 5 feet or less. At this range, officers point their firearms, rather than aim them. Therefore, officers with less-than-perfect vision suffer from no significant disadvantage. As the range increases, vision capabilities become more important, but handgun accuracy diminishes drastically as the distance increases beyond 20 feet, regardless of the officer's vision.

Last, with regard to the issue of visual impairment and the inability to pursue fleeing suspects, few issues currently generate as much debate among police administrators as vehicle pursuits. Several departments now prohibit pursuits in all but the most extreme circumstances, and few departments possess the facilities to teach effective pursuit procedures. In addition, police vehicles are notoriously subject to poor maintenance.

These factors cloud arguments concerning vision capabilities. Should perfect vision be required when proper training and equipment are not. Those who question the need for strict uncorrected vision requirements frame the question in simple terms. If an officer feels inadequate to initiate a vehicle pursuit, for whatever reason, the pursuit should not occur. This remains true for any situation involving the potential for pursuit and currently represents standard policy in the majority of police agencies.

Finally, it may be argued that officers who lose their corrective lenses in a duty-related incident are no more impaired than officers with perfect vision who get foreign objects in their eyes, such as chemical mace, fingers, or sand. In some cases, an officer with corrective eyewear may actually be better protected than those without eye covering.

RESEARCH STUDY

The lack of quantifiable data regarding the correlation between corrective lenses and police performance

hampers any productive discussion of the subject. For this reason, a research study was recently conducted in an attempt to clarify the issue and provide sufficient baseline information so that future debate might center upon fact rather than supposition.

METHOD

The survey method emerged as the logical means to determine the association between vision requirements and police performance. Unfortunately, no police agency contacted kept relevant records in this area.

There may be several reasons for this lack of information. One may be that officers who wear corrective lenses do not wish to be perceived as weaker than those with perfect vision. Therefore, they do not include information relating to any vision-related incapacitation in police reports. Or, law enforcement agencies may simply not perceive loss of corrective lenses in a physical confrontation as a problem worth studying.

For whatever reason, agencies do not routinely record such information in police databases. The only information available appeared to be the cost to agencies for replacement of damaged lenses. However, this information failed to address the issue of police performance immediately after loss of the lenses.

Failing to obtain agency data relating to vision and performance required that the research effort concentrate on officers' experiences. While this method yielded primarily anecdotal information, it remained the only viable way of establishing some qualifiable data regarding this issue.

In order to gauge the relationship between vision and policing effectively, the project focused on police managers from a wide variety of agencies. The survey population consisted of 92 police executives from across the United States, England, Australia, and Canada attending a conference at the FBI Academy in Quantico, Virginia. The combined length of service for the survey population totaled 1,714 years, for an average of 18.6 years per respondent.

Participants were asked if they knew of cases where officers lost their corrective lenses in duty-related incidents. If respondents answered yes, they were asked if the loss of corrective lenses prevented the officer from completing the activity being attempted at the time of loss. Then, respondents were asked to report any incidents in which impaired vision presented a problem, regardless of corrective lenses. Finally, researchers asked respondents to offer comments about police vision standards and to provide phone numbers for further contact.

RESULTS

Of the 92 participants, 48 (52 percent) said they knew of incidents where officers lost their corrective lenses in the course of duty. Forty-four (48 percent) knew of no such incidents. Twelve respondents (13 percent) recalled

incidents where officers sustained injuries related to the loss of corrective lenses. Five (5 percent) reported incidents in which loss of corrective lenses impaired an officer's performance, and 12 (13 percent) recalled incidents where impaired vision unrelated to corrective lenses created a problem.

While the data appear fairly straightforward and easy to interpret, several factors actually make it more complex. Analysis of comments and follow-up telephone interviews revealed misinterpretation in several responses to the questionnaire. For example, a number of respondents understood the question regarding injuries to mean wounds suffered during the specific incident in which officers lost corrective lenses. In fact, the intent of the question was to determine if respondents knew of incidents where loss of lenses directly led to an ensuing injury. The same confusion occurred with regard to the question of performance. These misinterpretations led to a slightly inflated representation of the number of cases with injuries.

By analyzing the comments on the survey instruments and conducting follow-up telephone interviews, a slightly different picture emerged. In nine of the cases where respondents reported injuries, the wounds were not due to lost corrective lenses and presumably would have occurred anyway. The injuries happened during the same struggle that caused the officers to lose their lenses. In one case, a subject struck an officer with sufficient force to render him unconscious. The force of the blow also broke the officer's glasses. Similarly, two of the incidents initially reported as failures to perform adequately due to lost eyewear were physical confrontations in which the officers lost corrective lenses but still controlled the subjects and the situations.

In these cases, loss of lenses inconvenienced the officers, but did not impair their performance. Likewise, in several instances, an officer's failure to complete an assignment actually resulted from an accompanying injury, rather than lens loss.

Additionally, several anomalies bear mention. One respondent initially reported that he sustained injury when he lost his corrective lenses. A follow-up interview determined that vision impairment did not lead to the injury. Rather, when a subject knocked a pair of expensive eyeglasses from his face, the officer instinctively reached for them. When he did so, the subject grabbed and twisted his arm. Although sustaining an injury to his arm, the officer did regain control of the subject.

Another respondent reported than an officer who lost his lenses could not read the license number of an escaping suspect's vehicle. However, his partner did manage to record the number, leading to an eventual arrest.

In addition, several respondents reported instances where officers' eyeglasses became temporarily fogged as they exited air conditioned vehicles. One respondent also reported that exposure to sand and wind required officers with contact lenses to take periodic breaks for lens cleaning.

Ultimately, only three of the reported cases of mjury or failure to perform satisfied the intended parameters of the survey questionnaire. This represents 3 percent of the survey sample. When accounting for the number of service years represented by the respondents, the number equates to 1 case per every 571 years. Of these, only one incident could be verified.

The sole verified case involved a major shootout between several FBI agents and two heavily armed suspects. After the exchange of gunfire, two of the agents and both suspects lay dead, and five other agents sustained serious wounds. Immediately prior to the shootout, one of the agents lost his glasses when he brought his automobile to an abrupt halt just feet from the suspects' vehicle. He was fatally wounded during the ensuing gunfight, and his fellow agents speculate that the loss of his glasses significantly affected his ability to observe the movements of the gunmen. If that assessment is accurate, then the loss of eyewear may be cited as a contributing factor in the agent's death.

The experiences of the officers surveyed indicated that officers wearing corrective lenses to encounter situations in which they momentarily lose their corrective lenses or have them forcibly removed. However, the vast majority of these cases occur in arrest situations or within detention facilities. These face-to-face confrontations rarely involve weapons. In most of these cases, the loss of lenses produced no negative results either for the officer or the eventual outcome of the situation.

In their personal commentaries, respondents expressed uniform opposition to uncorrected vision standards. Several noted that their agencies lost a number of well-qualified applicants, who later gained employment in other agencies. The following comment offered by a lieutenant in charge of training typifies the observations.: "I think this is one of the most meaningless fitness standards remaining to bar qualified people from police service. While I am sure that somewhere at some time some officer was seriously hurt and maybe died because of an eyesight issue - lost glasses, etc. - officers have not been fired, dismissed, or even had assignments changed because of diminished sight capacity after the hiring process. This standard only serves to eliminate otherwise qualified and acceptable candidates."

In addition, several officers offered personal accounts. They acknowledge their own vision problems and argued that their performance remained unhindered. Several reported that their agencies changed their standards due to lawsuits. Other respondents reported that their agencies were reevaluating their standards because they felt the current requirements barred too many qualified candidates.

CONCLUSION

Does this mean that law enforcement agencies should immediately eliminate their policies concerning standards for uncorrected vision? Not necessarily. This

study is neither sufficiently comprehensive nor scientifically representative enough to draw such a sweeping conclusion

However, surveys of this type do provide a starting point for meaningful discussion. The arguments upon which agencies base uncorrected vision requirements offer little in the way of empirical support. They remain based on largely hypothetical arguments. Nowhere has any agency documented such situations and studied the data concerning this issue.

This points to the underlying problem. Police vision standards, as well as other areas, should be based on proven capabilities necessary to fulfill the terms of employment. Instead, the reverse often happens.

Lacking supporting data, law enforcement agencies adopt standards based on "what-if" scenarios. In the process, they lose qualified applicants and perpetuate myth-based standards with questionable relationships to police performance or agency needs. Perhaps this survey and future studies can help to counter these myths and lead to a more productive approach in establishing vision standards for today's law enforcement agencies.

P.L.E.A.COMING EVENTS

1994

March P.L.E.A. 15th Annual Park Law Enforcement National Conference. Washington, D.C Area. Sponsored by Maryland National Capital Park Police. Contact P.L.E.A. Board of Directors for details.

October 13-17: National Recreation and Park Association Congress, Minneapolis, MN. Contact N.R.P.A. for further details concerning registration at (703)820-4940.

- P.L.E.A. Informational Booth in Trade Show:
- P.L.E.A. sponsored presentations in Education Session.
- P.L.E.A. Mid-year Board of Directors Meeting. 1995

March P.L.E.A. 16th Annual Park Law Enforcement
National Conference. Cincinnati, OH. Sponsored
by Hamilton County Park District. Contact
P.L.E.A. Board of Directors for details.

October: National Recreation and Park Association Congress. Contact N.R.P.A. for further details concerning registration at (703)820-4940.

- P.L.E.A. Informational Booth in Trade Show:
- P.L.E.A. sponsored presentations in Education Session.
- P.L.E.A. Mid-year Board of Directors Meeting.
 1996

March P.L.E.A. 17th Annual Park Law Enforcement
National Conference. Austin, TX. Sponsored by
the Texas State Parks. Contact P.L.E.A. Board

"Rangers Devise Stinky Solution to Sticky Problem"

Rocky Mountain News July 30, 1993 By Berny Morson, edited by Steve Campbell

A new scent soon may mingle with the aroma of dirty socks that haunts backpackers after a week or so in the bush.

The U.S. Forest Service is asking hikers in Colorado's giant Weminuche Wilderness Area near Durango to stick their soiled toilet paper back into their packs and carry it.

The recommendation was implemented this summer in response to heavy use of the Chicago Basin on the west end of the southwest Colorado wilderness. Buried toilet paper takes years to decompose, while burning it could start a forest fire, rangers say.

Sticking used toilet paper into a pack along with food and personal items is not as offensive as it may sound, say Jim Webb, supervisor of the San Juan and Rio Grande National Forests, which include the wilderness area.

"It gets pretty rancid," Webb concedes. But, he adds, "I don't think there is (a problem) if you carry it in a couple of Ziploc bags. You take one and carry it inside the other."

Tina Arapkiles, regional representative of the Sierra Club, calls the idea "nuts" and "just gross."

"If people are responsible, they can burn the toilet paper and bury it in a hole with the human waste," Arapkiles says.

But, Webb says, packing it out is standard procedure for forest rangers. Rafters on wild rivers have been required for many years to carry out waste, using sealed canisters, he says.

Webb says the Forest Service can't enforce the recommendation, which is presented in a leaflet distributed by the Forest Service. He doesn't think many people are complying.

What to do with toilet paper is the subject of intense debate among forest rangers and environmentalists, according to Ralph Swain, director of the Forest Service's no-trace camping program. The Fort Collins-based Swain took part in drafting the Weminuche policy, but was one of the group that favored burning toilet paper.

Burying the stuff is the worst alternative, he says. "I have dug up old cat holes to see if, in fact, my waste can be decomposed on one season and (to see) what's left of the toilet paper," says Swain, who spent 14 years as a backcountry ranger in the Weminuche. "And in every one I've found little or no evidence of human waste --- it's all gone. What is left? Toilet paper. It was clumpy and clustered together around sticks."

VIOLENCE SPILLS INTO PARKS:

East Bay Regional District Facing a Rising Tide of Rapes, Robberies, Homicides.

By Tracie Reynolds, Staff Writer, Hayward Daily Review

Murder victims turn up along secluded park roads. Suspects flee into the vast open spaces or tree-covered canyons. Women joggers and hikers have been raped. And then, there are the incessant problems of graffiti, car burglaries, vandalism and gun violations.

East Bay Regional Park District officials work to portray the region's 50 parks as rustic refuges from city perils. But because of their proximity to one of the most populated areas in the nation, the local parks suffer from urban ills just like everywhere else.

"You can't escape the fact that there's going to be some (crime) spillover into the parks," said Capt. Steve Krull, a member of the park district's 54-member police force. "You can't leave your common sense at the gate."

While less-serious illegal activity in the parks has gone down over the last year, violent crime has gone up. The number of rapes, robberies, homicides and auto burglaries reported during the first five months of 1993 rose 27 percent over last year's figures, according to park police statistics. Reported weapons violations during the same period show a similar increase.

These figures mirror national crime trends, Krull said. The FBI reported in October that the indidence of crime reported to police declined 2 percent in the first half of 1992 compared with the same period the year before. But the number of reported forcible rapes and other violent crimes increased several percentage points, according to the FBI.

Ban on alcohol

To combat this upswing in violent crime, park police banned alcohol in three of the district's crime-prone parks-Contra Loma Regional Park in Antioch, Shadow Cliffs Regional Recreation Area in Pleasanton and Robert W. Crown Memorial State Beach in Alameda.

Since the alcohol ban took effect at Crown Beach in May 1989, assaults have dropped more than 50 percent and overall violations have dropped nearly 70 percent, Krull said.

In addition, officers are being trained in a confrontation-response style known as "verbal judo," designed to make them less sensitive to verbal taunts and therefore more effective at diffusing potentially explosive situations.

"We mirror what's going on in society but on a smaller scale, Krull said.

Comparison to surrounding areas

But, considering more than 12 million people visit the district's 50 regional parks, recreation and wilderness

areas, shorelines and preserves every year, crime rates within the district are amazingly low - at least compared to surrounding areas, police say.

Only two "body dumps" have been discovered on parks lands so far this year, a number that follows normal trends, Krull said. Park officers usually pick up between three and five dead bodies every year, he said.

In December, the park district received some unwanted publicity when one of its parks-George Miller Jr. Regional Park in Richmond-was associated with one of the most well-publicized homicides in recent years, Francia Young, a 25 year old market analyst, was abducted from an Oakland BART station, robbed, raped, murdered and then dumped in a secluded area of the park.

In another recent case, a 55-gallon drum containing a man encased in concrete washed ashore May 15 at Martin Luther King Jr. Regional Shoreline in Oakland. Authorities identified the man as Willie McGrew, 29, of Oakland.

But park police say these violent incidents, which temporarily scare people into thinking the parks are tree-shrouded pockets of lawlessness, cause the public to demand higher levels of protection efforts, particularly dealing with violent crime.

Instead, officers spend most of their time dealing with crimes of the more mundane variety; drunkenness, citation violations, fist fights, shouting matches and such environmental infractions as digging up plants, collecting snakes, illegal fishing and disrupting the nesting habitats of migratory birds, Krull said.

"Actually, it's remarkable that we have as few incidents in the park district as we have," he said. "The parks are pretty safe places to be."

Lately, however, police have been dealing with an upswing in car burglaries. So far this year, park visitors have reported 64 car burglaries, an increase of nearly 35 percent from last year. In April, the number of reported car burglaries doubled compared to the same time last year.

All this poses a challenge for park police. Officers say they have to balance the public's need to feel safe with the need to escape the pressures and anxieties of urban life.

"Parks should be places where people feel they're leaving the urban environment behind and getting out in a natural setting," said Capt. Norman Lapera, a district police officer. "We want to convince people that they need to be careful, but we don't want to make them feel so paranoid that they're not going to enjoy themselves."

EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT POLICE MAY FACE DEEP BUDGET CUTS

by Robert Drueckhammer

As the East Bay Regional Park District considers how to raise money to keep its parks in operation, at least one division of the widely-scattered park operation is concerned that public safety may be jeopardized if more cuts are made. The East Bay Regional Park District Public Safety Department provides police and fire protection to all parklands and buildings owned by EBRPD. An officers say they are concerned about staffing shortages and other cutbacks being made at the same time the park district is adding more land and attracting more visitors than ever. Patrol Sgt. Paul Wilson says that his policemen patrol an area of land "bigger than the state of Rhode Island, and which has more than 1,100 miles of trails."

"We've got an enormous amount of territory to cover," Wilson said. "This is a huge park system."

In addition to hiking trails, which Wilson says make up the least of the department's concerns, the park district's police force handles disputes at campgrounds, public swimming pools, beaches, picnic areas, and ranches. And he says that while his officers get the job done, visitors at the parks sometimes have to wait for a considerable time to make initial contacts.

Sgt. Robert Heady says it can take anywhere from two minutes to an hour to get an officer to the scene of an emergency.

At this point, Wilson says, his department is down eight sworn officers due to hiring freezes imposed by the park district's board of directors.

"On an average day or night, we have from two to 20 officers out on the street," Wilson said. "So it can get tough when you have to look at fewer people working on each shift."

And the EBRPD officers are responsible for everything a city police officer is supposed to handle.

"We're a full-service department, which means we do everything from stopping motorists on the freeway for speeding, to investigating murders," Wilson said. "But with staffing shortages, we can't handle the volume as fast as we want to." So the end result may be a little less safety for each officer, both Heady and Wilson say.

"A backup patrolman may be more than 15 minutes away when an officer is called into a situation," Wilson said. "This means that our police officers have to play it cool and work with the people involved until more help can arrive."

That extra help at the scene of a crime, he says, consists mainly of other EBRPD officers.

"We have a tough time getting other agencies to help us out," Wilson said. "They have their own crimes to deal with."

Another reason other local agencies don't offer to help out very often is because they are frequently at greater risk themselves at a park crime scene.

"Usually, local departments can't even reach their own radio command centers when they are in the middle of a park, and therefore are less secure about being in a remote area, "Wilson said.

The answer to the department's problems, Wilson says, is more staffing. But with the state and park district's budgets in such poor shape because of the recession, Wilson and Heady say, the only thing likely to happen is more staffing cuts.

But help may be on the way. A proposal by the park board for a new two-county Trails Assessment District would raise more than \$3.5 milannually for the park district. While

the money would be spent on a myraid of uses, says park district spokesman Ned McKay, the park's police department would receive funds from the additional revenue every time they patrolled a trail in the park. This could result in additional staffing, Wilson said.

But even if the assessment district isn't approved by the park board, Wilson said, the police department has already taken steps to increase patrols in parks. The department has begun a student aid program which pays college students \$8 to \$9 an hour to help officers out with such tasks as locking park gates, issuing warning citations and completing office paperwork. The end result of the program, he says, is that officers are out on the street more often, thereby increasing the safety of the park district.



BOOK REVIEW

"GUARDIANS OF YELLOWSTONE"

By Dan R. Sholly with Steven M. Newman
(c) 1991, Wm. Morrow and Co. Inc., New York
317 pages with photos and maps
Also available in paperback
Reviewed by Hans L. Erdman, Park Ranger
Anoka County Parks Department, Andover, MN

It has seem strange to me that, despite the timely and popular topic of this book, I have never seen it reviewed in any environmental, park or law enforcement publication. "Guardians of Yellowstone" is subtitled "An intimate look at the challenges of protecting America's foremost wilderness park, "and it's author, Dan Sholly has been the Chief Park Ranger at Yellowstone since 1985. It is fascinating and enjoyable book to read, and gives an inside look at what the author considers to be the best job in the National Park Service. It is truly a shame that it has not received more attention in the public media, particularly in those publications which specialize in national park and wilderness areas.

Yellowstone was, of course, our first national park, preceding the establishment of the NPS by almost half a century. It is also one of the most visited parks in the national park system, and as such, it becomes a miniature version of the very "world outside" that people come to Yellowstone to get away from. Dan Sholly came to this microcosm of society in 1985, not from another park, working his way up the ladder. He was already at the ladder's top; the Chief of Ranger Activities for the entire NPS, when he stepped down to take the Yellowstone Chief Ranger position. He and his family accepted the cut in pay and the move three-quarters of the way across the country from Washington D.C. to take his "ultimate job." Eight years later he's still there.

Sholly's tenure at Yellowstone has included such controversies as wolf reintroduction, buffalo hunting on the park's borders, the "let it burn policy" and the fires of the summer of 1988. He also talks about the interaction of visitors with the park, and the often tragic results. Bears, bison and hot springs are among the hazards that face visitors, who all too often forget that Yellowstone is <u>wilderness</u>. Sholly also creates a sweeping "word picture" as he, with his family or with other Rangers, explore the grandeur of the park.

"Guardians of Yellowstone" is by a Ranger about Rangers. To those of this in the profession, it is a look at what may really be Park Rangering's ultimate job, and the very involved operation of the country's oldest, best known park. To those outside of the Park Ranger ranks, it is a look at the duties of a profession which has been called the "last American icon." It is certainly worth buying and reading and would also be a great contribution to your local library, which probably has very little about Rangers on their shelves. Maybe Dan Sholly and the "Guardians of Yellowstone" will become a source of inspiration for the next generation of Park Rangers.

PATCH COLLECTORS

Anyone interested in trading park and recreation/law enforcement uniform patches who will send me their patch will receive one of ours by return mail. I am also interested in knowing what color uniforms park agencies are wearing out there other than the traditional green/tan combinations. Our department, for instance, wears navy pants, light blue shirts, and navy, "sheriff-style" stetsons. Let's hear from you!

Hans Erdman, Park Ranger Anoka County Parks Department 550 Bunker Lake Blvd. Andover, MN 55304

APPOINTMENTS

R. J. Steele, Editor of PLEA and an Assistant Professor in the Department of Recreation Management at University of Wisconsin - LaCrosse, has been appointed to serve a two year term on the International Association of Chiefs' of Police Environmental Crimes Committee. Art Gill, Past-President of P.L.E.A. and Supervisor of Rangers for the Lake County (IL) Forest Preserve District is currently serving on this committee. This is but another example of P.L.E.A 's committment of service to the park and natural resources law enforcement community nationwide. If R.J. or Art can assist any member or if you wish to provide input please feel free to contact them so they can communicate your needs to this committee.

"Park Service May Charge for Rescues"

Rocky Mountain News June 17, 1993 By John Brinkley,

The National Park Service says searches in backcountry using helicopters increase burdens on its budget. The day may come when people who get lost in the National Parks will have to pay to be rescued.

Faced with search and rescue costs that are steep and getting steeper, the National Park Service is considering charging the beneficiaries of rescue missions, an agency spokesman said Wednesday.

"We haven't worked out the mechanics of it, but I think it's likely," said park service spokesman Duncan Morrow. "The rationale is that we are finding increasingly expensive search and rescue costs burdening parks all across the country."

Last year, ever more daring hikers and climbers sent park rangers on about 5,000 rescue missions at a cost to taxpayers of \$1.4 million, Morrow said.

A celebrated case last March, in which 122 school children got lost in a storm in Great Smoky Mountain National Park in Tennessee, cost the park service \$100,000.

A six-day search in April for a 12-year-old boy cost \$300,000. The boy was found dead.

In Rocky Mountain National Park last year, there were 22 major search and rescues that cost a total \$66,000, said park spokesman Doug Caldwell.

The big expenses there, as in other parks, are helicopter sorties and overtime pay for rangers who sometimes spend several days in the backcountry looking for lost or dead hikers.

Mesa Verde National Park doesn't have much of a problem with search and rescue, because most of its backcountry is closed to protect archaeological resources, said park official Howard Dimont.

The park service expects Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt to approve the plan this month.

Then, it hopes to start it on a trial basis in Mount Rainier National Park in Washington and Denali National Park in Alaska, home of Mount McKinley.

Those mountains are heavily climbed, and those parks have particularly high search and rescue costs.

Morrow also said it was too soon to say when parks other than Mount Rainier and Denali might start charging for rescues.

Spokesmen for two interest groups that monitor the parks -- the National Parks and Conservation Association and the Wilderness Society -- said they were not familiar enough with the proposal to comment on it.

BOOKS:

INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL LAW:

Basic Instruments and References

by Edith Brown Weiss, Daniel B. Magraw & Paul C. Szasz
1992. 749 pages, \$95.00/cloth
ISBN: 0-941320-68-5
Published by Transitional Publishers Inc.
Irvington-on-Hudson NY 10533

A source book for researching international environmental law and policy. The book contains 3 parts:

- 1. A comprehensive reference list of more than 870 international environmental instruments, including multilateral and bilateral agreements, U.N.G.A. resolutions, decisions and guidelines by international organizations such as OECD and the EEC. The list is organized by subject matter into 4 main parts with 30 chapters, plus subdivisions thereof. Multiple citations to each instrument are provided, enabling the user to identify and locate instruments related to particular environmental issues.
- 2. Each of the 85 instruments reproduced here has an introduction, including a listing of the States that are parties to treaties, the depository, and the elements that are a novel, etc.
- 3. The Index to Popular Names provides the full titles of the instruments.

Professor Brown Weiss is professor of law at Georgetown University.

Professor Daniel B. Magraw is Associate General Counsel for International Activities - U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Paul C. Szasz is former Director of the General Legal Division, UN.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: RESEARCH UPDATE

The nationwide research project, which has been discussed so much the last few years is underway. Watch your agency mail for the surveys which will be coming addressed to your Director. If you do not see or hear about the survey before Christmas, ask your Director. If it does not show up please contact the principal researcher R. J. Steele at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse for a copy. Phone 608/785-8216

"Oleoresin Capsicum"

A Valuable Tool In Protecting Your Agency's Image

By Sgt. Harry E. Carlile Jr. M.S. Peoria Park District Police Department

ABSTRACT

There are many good reasons for park law enforcement administrators to allow their officers to use OC (Oleoresin Capsicum) Aerosol Sprays. Civil liability is one very good reason. Criminal responsibility is another. However, an often over looked reason for allowing officers to use OC sprays is the negative publicity to the district and the department which usually results from a highly publicized, violent, use of force case. Pleasure Driveway and Park Districts, Regular Park Districts, Forest Preserves, Conservation Districts, and the like are very protective of their reputations. They work hard and spend thousands of dollars to achieve a "Gold Medal Award" winning image.

This article examines OC Sprays in two specific areas. The first area demonstrates through the use of factious examples why park law enforcement administrators should allow their officers to carry OC Sprays.

The second area explores various concerns park law enforcement administrators face when it comes to OC Sprays. Some of the areas explored include: What is OC?, How OC differs from Tear Gases, When to use OC, How safe is OC?, The Flammability Issue, The 1%, 5%, 10% Issue, Training, and OC Sprays vs. Batons.

In conclusion, this article urges park law enforcement administrators to allow his/her officers to train with and carry OC Sprays. At the same time it reminds administrators that they should not look at OC Sprays as the magic bullet which will cure all of his/her use of force problems.

OLEORESIN CAPSICUM A Valuable Tool In Protecting Your Agency's Image

There are many good reasons for park law enforcement administrators to allow their officers to use OC (Oleoresin Capsicum) Aerosol Sprays. Civil liability is one very good reason. Many administrators credit the recent wave of civil liability lawsuits against districts and police agencies nationwide in assisting them to convince local Directors and Trustee's, to allocate more funds to properly operate and professionalize their agencies. Recently there have been cases where civil liability has extended past the district itself to the departments administrators as individuals.

Criminal responsibility is another good reason. In addition to the civil liability, individual officers involved in use of force incidents, whether right or wrong, have come under the close scrutiny of prosecutors offices (both at the state and federal levels).

However, an often over looked reason for allowing officers to use OC sprays is the negative publicity to the district and the department which usually results from a highly publicized, violent, use of force case. Pleasure Driveway and Park Districts, Regular Park Districts, Forest Preserves, Conservation Districts and the like are very protective of their reputations. They work hard and spend thousands of dollars to achieve a "Gold Medal Award" winning image. However, a "Gold Medal" image can quickly erode in the weeks/months it takes to properly investigate a specific use of force case and exonerate or prosecute those involved.

Picture this, it's a busy 4th of July weekend at one of your most frequently used parks. Hundreds of families are picnicking and enjoying the day. Some of them will be capturing the days events on video cameras. Around 3:00 pm a 5 foot 5 inch, 140 lb., steroid taking body builder, exhusband of one of your visitors, shows up, uninvited and unwanted. He has been drinking and wishes to see his children. A court has previously forbidden him this privilege through an "Order of Protection". An argument and scuffle ensues between the two spouses. Park law enforcement officers are called and two of your better officers respond (of course you have only two officers to



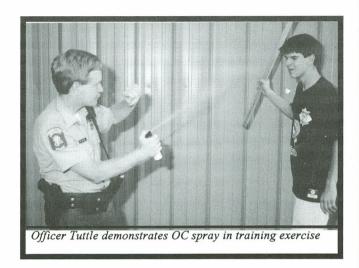
send). After the parties have been separated your officers decide that the physical arrest of the ex-husband, is required. This individual immediately resists arrest using what can best be described as violent active aggression techniques.

Scenario One. Your officers (who are not allowed to carry OC Sprays) correctly withdraw their batons and execute several forward fluid shock wave strikes to the upper leg of the suspect. After the initial strikes he is still standing and actively fighting your officers. The baton strikes go on for several minutes, back up arrives, and after several more minutes of active aggression on the part of the suspect he is finally subdued and handcuffed. However, the results are several broken bones for the suspect and several hundred feet of videotape taken by amateur videographers. As a result of the violence depicted in the tape local television stations and national networks quickly begin showing it both locally and nationally. Some of the tapes are out of focus and most begin well after the incident actually started. This incident takes several weeks to properly investigate and your officers are totally cleared of any wrong doing by all of the various authorities. Nevertheless, the weeks of playing the different tapes, over and over again, on both local and national TV has taken it's toll. The lack of quick exoneration for your officers and your departmental policies (which is usually impossible) is devastating. A district which had a "Gold Medal" image now has a wrongfully tarnished image. If you think this can't happen in your district, to your department, think again.

Scenario Two. After the suspect indicates resistance or begins to resist (depending upon the departments placement of OC Sprays on their use of force continuum), your officers step back and in a loud clear voice inform the suspect if he continues to resist they will have to spray him. The suspect, after cursing at the officers, them rushes them. The officer yells "spray", then sprays the suspect using multiple short bursts. The officer then side steps the offender and immediately takes a position to the rear of the suspect. The suspects eyes, nose, mouth, and face have the sensation of severe burning, the eyes close and open rapidly, and the mucous membranes in the nose, lips and mouth quickly swell. His hands go directly to his face. The suspect then experiences weakness in the legs and falls to the ground. The officers them allow the OC spray to drop from the air (5-10 sec.) and verbally reassures the suspect he will be OK but, he must cooperate with the officers and then they will assist him in stopping the burning sensation. The officers then quickly take control of (handcuff), the suspect and transport him to a water source where, when the suspect is fully cooperating, his face is washed with water. Thirty to forty five minutes later the suspect is completely unharmed and is being booked. The videotape that was shot, shows the officer never actually striking the suspect only using defensive tactics maneuvers to handcuff him. There is little or no excitement value in these videos. The local TV stations may show them once but they do not gain much attention and thus the networks are not interested. The suspect may complain but you have the videotapes to show

what actually happened any you also have the experience of ten's of thousands of actual uses across the country which show no injuries.

Which scenario would you rather have in your agency? Districts and departments spend years and ten's of thousands of hard earned taxpayer dollars in developing that "Gold Medal" image of which they can be very proud. Yet, during a use of force incident it takes only a matter of seconds to totally destroy that well deserved image. Thus, the question remains Why, when OC Sprays are available and so easy to train their officers to use, would any police administrator, Director, or Trustee, not want their officers to use an instrument which could possibly save that district something more valuable than money, their good image? The quick answer to this question may be a lack of knowledge when it comes to OC Sprays.



What is OC? OC (oleoresin Capsicum) is a powerful inflammatory agent which comes from cayenne peppers. Oleoresin itself is a naturally occurring mixture of oil and resin extracted from the pepper plant itself. Whereas Capsicum comes from the pungent fleshy pods which contain the seeds and can range from mild to extremely hot variety which are condensed to make OC Sprays. This is why the product is commonly referred to as "Pepper Spray".

How does OC Spray differ from Tear Gas / Chemical Mace? OC is an inflammatory agent which works by temporarily inflaming, on contact, the body's mucous membranes. Even on a pain resistant subject (which can occur naturally or be drug induced) OC, when inhaled produces an uncontrollable coughing which will cause the subject to lose his balance, lose his strength and lose his vision, all of which will allow your officers to quickly (and safely for all concerned) control the suspect. Whereas CS and CN (Common Tear Gases) are irritants. Irritants work only by inducing pain. they cause none of the other effects (listed above), which OC causes. CN works quickly, if it is going to work at all, and usually does not work on pain resistant subjects. CS works on nearly all subjects but, require 20 to 60 seconds to do so. Thus, the way OC works,

makes it far superior to any tear gas with none of the negative side effects (mandatory emergency visits, chance of death due to breathing difficulties, etc).

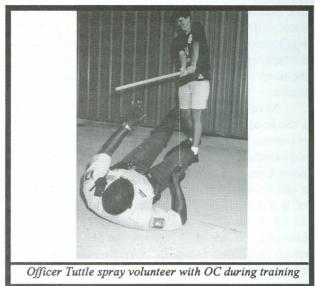
When To Use OC? This question should be high on the list of considerations for a park law enforcement administrator especially when you are relying on OC to ensure the safety of both your officer and the suspect. Weaver and Jett (1991) at the FBI academy conducted a three year study on OC Sprays. As a part of this study they concluded that OC should be placed relatively low on the FBI's use of force continuum. In fact the FBI authorizes the use of OC prior to any hands-on escorts or control techniques. While this is what the FBI is doing, park law enforcement administrators should be familiar with OC and actively decide where, on the use of force continuum, they wish to place OC Sprays for their agency.

How Safe is OC? Weaver & Jett (1991), and McDonough et al. (1993), in their studies have concluded that OC is safe when used according to directions. In addition, the Aerosol Defense Spray Association and training organizations like R.E.B. Security Training Inc. are consistently studying all facets of OC as it pertains to it's use in aerosol sprays for defensive uses including any negative results claimed by individuals and organizations. OC has invariably proven to be one of the safest methods available for efficiently and effectively controlling resistive suspects. After a minimal review of the literature administrators should feel confident of the overall safety of OC Sprays.

The Flammability Issue. Although as was stated earlier OC is safe however, there are many good reasons for an officer to have a thorough understanding of the particular OC Spray with which he/she is carrying. One such reason is the issue of flammability. Some manufacturers of OC sprays use iso-butane as a propellant. Iso-butane itself is flammable, howeve, to ignite it, it must be sprayed directly into an ignition source such as an open flame. Even when iso-butane (as contained in some OC sprays) is sprayed directly into a lit cigarette no flame occurs and in fact it actually extinguishes the lit cigarette. However, officers



In training OfficerDavis using OC from "ground position."



who carry OC Sprays which contain a flammable propellant must be aware of it's effect. On the other hand, there are other manufacturers who do not use any flammable components in their products. Thus, police administrators may simply opt not to allow their officers to carry OC Sprays which contain do not flammable components thus avoiding any of the negative side effects which the flammable products may cause.

The 1%, 5%, 10%, Issue. The rising popularity of OC Sprays in the last couple of years has caused a dramatic increase in the numbers of manufacturers / vendors producing OC Sprays. With the increase of manufacturers there became a fight for market share. Manufacturers then began increasing the percentage change, ie. higher percentage of OC = better OC Spray. Weaver and Jett (1991) in their study, as well as some training organizations (R.E.B. Security Training Inc. in particular) have completed research in this area. Their results were exactly the same. The only difference between the 1%, 5%, & 10% solutions was an increased recovery time for those individuals sprayed with the higher percentage solutions. Specifically, those individuals sprayed with the 10% solutions had significantly longer recovery times thus, many agencies have opted for the 5% or the recently introduced 5.5% solutions.

Training. There are many types of training programs available for the various OC Sprays. Some training programs are conducted by vendors sales representatives while others are conducted by training companies with whom the vendor has contracted. One training company, R.E.B. Security Training Inc., has ceased affiliation with any one single OC Spray and has begun offering generic OC Spray training. The most common course content for all the OC Spray training includes (or should include) information on what OC is, on what are the effects of OC's, general OC Spray use guidelines, when to use OC Sprays, and recognition of the threat. Another area which must be addressed during this training is practical training in how to use OC

Sprays. During this part of the training officers are shown, practice, and are tested on, simple, proven, OC Spray tactical techniques using inert training spray units which work exactly as the real OC Spray units which they will carry on the street except, the practice units spray only an inert substance.

Most training courses also require that the officer view the actual effects of OC Spray on human subject(s). Most trainers feel that every officer who carries OC Spray should experience it's effects first hand. (Some individual agencies have even mandated OC Spray exposure before their officers are allowed to carry OC Sprays. In fact one Chief, in a medium sized agency, put himself first in line). There are at least five good reasons for each officer to experience the effects of OC Sprays first hand. These five reasons are as follows: (1) OC is claimed to be safe, therefore officers should be sprayed with the product so they have an understanding of it's effects. This may be extremely effective in court since officers can testify that they know what it is like to get sprayed. This can reduce the potential for allegations that the spray was excessively painful. (2.) The officers acquire more confidence in the effects of OC Sprays after they, themselves have been sprayed. (3.) The officers have more compassion for any one that they may have to spray. (4.) The officers must realize that they can not allow themselves to be sprayed with an OC Spray by a subject, since they are relatively helpless after they are sprayed. And (5.) It will definitely cut down on any horseplay between, among and by, the police officers who carry OC sprays.

Basic OC Spray training using the complete course content listed above including written and practical exams should take no more than four hours. It is also recommended that officers only need to have a refresher training session class every two years. Thus, dollar for dollar, OC Sprays are relatively inexpensive and efficient to train with.

OC sprays vs. Baton. Recently there has been a movement by some police administrators to take away the officers batons because their officers now carry OC Sprays. This a BIG mistake. OC Sprays should be considered just one instrument which the officer should use when the circumstances are right but, police administrators should remember OC sprays are not a panacea or a magic bullet, they do have their drawbacks. It is possible that an officer may come across a suspect on which OC Sprays do not work, or take to long to work. In addition to the reason listed above there are many other reasons that OC Sprays might not be the instrument of choice for any one situation. Some of these reasons are as follows. (1.) OC Sprays are ineffective under windy conditions. (2.) The propellant has leaked out of the OC Spray Can. (3.) The OC Spray can has been knocked out of the officers control during the confrontation. (4.) During the confrontation the OC Spray devise was made non-operational ie. top broken off, spray nozzle has plugged up etc. If any one of the above circumstances occurs, and the officer knows his/her defensive tactics skills are not adequate enough to deal with the situation and now, the

administrator has taken away the option of a baton, what does that officer have to resort to? In many cases his/her sidearm may be his/her only choice left (although this may be ill advised choice). Administrators who allow their officers to carry OC Sprays should never take away the baton without substituting another intermediate weapon.

Conclusion. Can a park law enforcement administrator afford not to allow his/her officers to train with and carry OC Sprays? Although administrators should not look at OC Sprays as the magic bullet which will cure all of his/her use of force problems he/she should recognize it as one more instrument that can handle most non-lethal force situations. If OC Sprays cures the potential civil/criminal liability problems of the officers and department involved while at the same time save the districts "Gold Medal" image them I believe that it is one instrument worth the little time and money it takes to allow your officers to use it.

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About the Author

Sgt. Harry E. Carlile Jr. is a 12 year veteran of the Peoria (I1.) Pleasure Driveway and Park District where he serves as second shift commander and supervisor of training. He has a masters degree in Criminal Justice Administration from Illinois State University and is currently completing requirements for a Ph.D. from Illinois State in Education. In the area of Police Defensive Tactics. Sgt. Carlile is a certified OCAT (OC Spray) instructor, certified PR-24 instructor, and certified PPCT Defensive Tactics instructor. He can be reached at: Peoria park District Police Department, 2218 N. Prospect, Peoria, II. 61603; (309) 686-3359

THE FIRST WORLD RANGER SYMPOSIUM

by Hans L. Erdman, Park Ranger Anoka Co. Parks Dept. Andover, MN.

During 1992, the Association of National Park Rangers (ANPR) signed an agreement with the Association of Countryside Rangers (England) and the Scottish Countryside Ranger Association to begin the formation of an International Ranger Federation. Among the stated goals of the new Federation are the free exchange of ideas and information between like-minded agencies and individuals, the establishment of an international exchange program so that Rangers in one nation may experience the role of their peers in another country, and the hosting of a World Ranger Symposium.

Currently, the First World Ranger Symposium is planned to be held in southern Poland during the spring of 1994. Exact dates have not been set as of this writing, but will be announced in ANPR's magazine, "Ranger," when arrangements are finalized.

For those readers not familiar with the ANPR, it is an organization similar to PLEA, but made up primarily of federal rangers, particularly from the National Park Service. It's membership includes Rangers from interpretation, resource management and administration, as well as law enforcement.

According to Bill Halainen, who is one of the ANPR reps to the new federation, the organization will be open to any group that represents "Rangers" in a country. Although those of us in PLEA have many and various titles, such as Park Patrol, Park Police, (and I am sure there are more) the base for what we do falls under the title "Ranger." Accordingly, I feel that it would behoove PLEA to become involved in this effort, the international Ranger Federation, and have members at the symposium in Poland. I hope to be one of those in attendance, and will relay details as they become available, via this magazine. Anyone looking for more or faster information should contact Bill at the Washington office of the National Park Service, or the following address:

Bill Halainen 640 N. Harrison St. Arlington, VA 22205

16th Annual North Carolina Park Ranger Training Institute January 2-7, 1994 Salemburg, NC

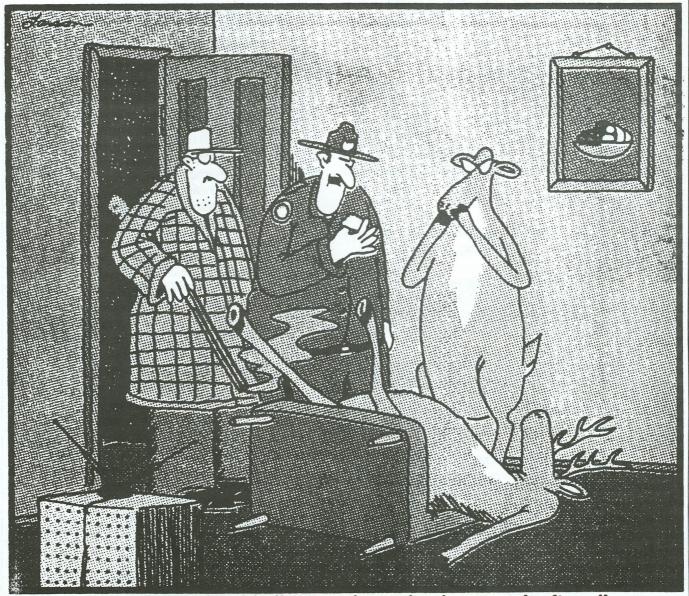
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P.L.E.A. IS AFFILIATED WITH THE NATIONAL RECREATION AND PARK ASSOCIATION

AGENCY MEMBERSHIPS

Recently requests were made of the P.L.E.A. Board of Directors to establish Agency Memberships. The stated reason for this move was to assist agencies in joining officially. Many agencies have little trouble paying for an "agency membership" but balk at paying individual memberships, even though these memberships are in strictly professional organizations. By designing a new membership category many aggencies were able to join en mass. Because of the inequities in agency size across the nation, benefits had to be strictly managed in this catagory. Thus the following benefits are offered to Agency Members: (1) Full membership privilages to the agency as in individual memberships, and (2) Reduced rates for official P.L.E.A. Functions (Conferences, Educational Events, etc., for all agency employees without the need for each employee to join P.L.E.A. individually. Because of the cost of printing and distributing PLEA only one copy of PLEA would be sent to Agency Members. Though the Board of Directors authorized reprinting and distribution by these members. P.L.E.A. membership is decidedly inexpensive when compared to other professional organizations. The Agency Membership allows agencies to financially support P.L.E.A. and receive benefits from that membership.

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- (2) Four issues per year of PLEA: Journal of the Park Law Enforcement Association.
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- (4) P.L.E.A. Patch.
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