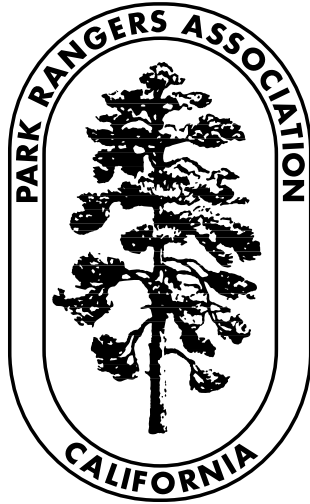


# The Signpost

March - April, 2008



## California's Rangers & Lifeguards Oppose Drastic Cuts to State Parks

California's State Park Rangers and Lifeguards oppose the crippling of our State Parks that would result from Governor Schwarzenegger's 2008-09 budget proposal.

"State Parks have long represented the very best of California, and have represented the very best in efficient government service," said Richard Bergstresser of the State Park Peace

Officers Association of California. "The proposal to close 48 of our parks will negatively affect every Californian and countless visitors from throughout the world."

The Governor's proposal would close 17 percent of State Parks at a savings of under \$9 million. "In many areas State Parks are a driving force behind local economies," said Bergstresser. "All of the local services that support park visitors will lose significant revenue, and the state will lose the taxes generated by those visitors."

"The closure of parks will also be detrimental to schoolchildren, whose visits to explore the natural and cultural treasures of California are invaluable. For a child studying California's history a visit to Sutter's Fort in Sacramento can not be replaced by a textbook. This proposal will close Sutter's Fort and will strip that opportunity, and many others, from our children." The budget also proposes a cut to seasonal Lifeguard staffing in San Diego, Orange, and Santa Cruz counties of at least 50%. "State Lifeguards make thousands of saves every year—there is no doubt that such a drastic reduction of Lifeguards will cost lives," said Bergstresser.

Another cause for concern is a statement made by Mike Genest, the Governor's finance director, who expressed hope that local agencies, charitable organizations, and community groups would step in to operate State Parks. "Does this represent the piecemeal dismantling of our State Parks?" wondered Bergstresser. "California State Parks has long been recognized as a world leader in the protection and interpretation of our resources – I doubt the people of California want to see that legacy destroyed. Can the selling off of our parks to the highest bidder be far behind? This would be an abdication of our primary mission, and is an outrageous suggestion"

"Over the years the budget for State Parks, which represents one-tenth of 1% of the state budget, has continued to shrink relative to expenses and growing visitation. Staffing levels have shrunk and our infrastructure is deteriorating at an alarming rate. Despite the lack of resources the dedicated staff of State Parks has protected and made available our irreplaceable natural and cultural resources. This drastic budget cut could well mark the beginning of the end for the greatest State Park system in the country."

### **About the State Park Peace Officer's Association of California (SPPOAC):**

*SPPOAC* is a professional organization that since 1980 has represented the interests of all of California's State Park Ranger and Lifeguard Peace Officers, and advocates for State Parks as a whole.

**Contact:** Richard Bergstresser, SPPOAC (707) 407-697 [bergstresser@sppoac.com](mailto:bergstresser@sppoac.com)

# **From the Oval Office In the Double Wide...**

Dear Fellow Park Professionals,

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your President for these next two years.

For those of you in the membership I have yet to meet, I would like to take this time to introduce myself. I currently serve as a Supervising Ranger, detailed as Fire Management Officer with the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority in the Santa Monica Mountains of Los Angeles. My 13-year tenure with the MRCA has certainly provided me with an array of opportunities to learn and grow into my position, affording me better perspective of the bigger picture. Starting out in a seasonal maintenance position eventual lead to a full time status, which allowed me to experience working with Rangers who I had always looked up to and took pride in what they stood for. Right then and there, my goal became to help protect the precious resources, as Rangers had before me. Becoming a Ranger in 1997 placed me in a fast paced sector around the Los Angeles area parks, and led way to my PRAC membership and first conference. Since then, I have served on the conference committee for 5 years, chairing one, as well as Director of Region 4, and Vice President. I would like you as a membership to know and see who I am: I do maintenance, I do interpretive programs, I do law enforcement, I do fire and EMS.

For those of you who do know me, you know that I am not a very strong newsletter article writer. I have been looking into taking a creative writing class (thanks Lee) to help in this area. I am looking forward to my term as President to use the knowledge and experience to further lead PRAC to continuing our interface among park professionals. Past Board meetings have afforded the opportunity to venture down new avenues to benefit members both professionally and personally. The Board has been asked to brainstorm for some new ideas to entice new membership. I also challenge the membership to do the same. This is your Association, what can it do for you?

Please forward your input as to what I, as President and the Board, can do for you.

Please do not hesitate to send me suggestions or comments.

Looking forward to this years Parks Conference!

See You There,

**Dave Updike**

# **Sometimes, It's the Little Things that Make a Difference**

**by Ranger Tom Maloney**

If you are fortunate enough to once in a while get out of your office; away from your computer or out of your truck and into your parklands you will eventually and inevitably come across collections of trash, litter and debris.

I am sure you have on many occasions found locations of illegal dumping and illegal camping with all its associated refuse.

Yes, it is unsightly and disturbing to us “the stewards of the lands and protectors of the natural environment”. It also translates to additional hours for either you or your staff members to get it cleaned up.

But, have you ever stopped to consider the cost to wildlife diversity? After collecting (literally) tons of discarded glass and plastic bottles and cans from the natural environment over my career; I have come to the sad conclusion that these empty containers do more than providing a visible reminder that some members of our human race are inconsiderate, knuckle-dragging slobs.

These containers, when discarded empty, act as wildlife traps and if upright, they can become very efficient mosquito breeding habitats as well.

While collecting trash and containers recently from what I would identify is a very popular “party” spot I unfortunately discovered hundreds of discarded beverage containers, some of which have been there for years. (I have become quite adept at dating bottles and cans using the foggy memories of my far distant childhood.) Anyway, in almost every case each container became a death trap for wildlife.

Invertebrates (by the thousands), reptiles, and even small mammals had all succumbed to the allure of the former (or current) contents.

The safe-looking “burrow” entrance of the discarded can or bottle entice others to enter. Once inside many “critters” could not escape and got roasted alive by the solar oven effect.

Some slowly starved to death or died from dehydration. Some got trapped and eaten by predatory critters that got trapped.

Yes, I know some of you are thinking, what's the big deal about some little bugs, lizards and mice in the big scheme of things. Well, as ecologists and naturalists will tell you, it is the little things that make the big things go or in this case little things feed bigger things and on and on up the food chain.

I may even suggest that if your area ecologists are seeing declining numbers of certain species higher up the food chain there may be a direct connection to a decline of species at the lower end food supply.

Perhaps those darn uncollected beverage containers are a contributing factor?

If so there is an easy, low-tech and non-toxic solution; collect and recycle.

So other than the obvious reasons for removing empty beverage containers from your wildlands the not-so-obvious reason may be that by doing so you could ultimately contribute to an improved and overall healthier natural habitat.

The sooner the containers are collected and removed from the natural environment the less damage they can do to your resource.

When speaking to new employees, volunteers or Junior Rangers I always include a story about these little death traps. I emphasize that: “Hey, you're not just picking up trash and litter you are making this part of the world a better and safer place for all wildlife both big and small”. This makes a wonderful lesson for children's groups who seem to better relate to helping these “little critters” than older the kids do.

So, remember, it sometimes can be the little things that make a difference. Help make a difference.

# Man kills 2 women, jumps from Pasadena bridge

by Richard Winton and Greg Krikorian, Los Angeles Times Staff Writers, January 11, 2008

Damaris Quiles, 35, a Latina woman, and her mother, Carmen Quiles, 73, were stabbed to death by Walter Garcia, 37, at about 8:45 a.m. in Tujunga Thursday, Jan. 10, in a double murder-suicide. Garcia was arguing with Damaris, and her mother, who lived with her at 6846 Quinton Lane, came outside to intervene. Garcia stabbed the two women then drove to Pasadena and jumped to his death from the Colorado Street Bridge. The mother was declared dead at the scene and Damaris was taken by ambulance to a local hospital, where she was pronounced dead at 9:35 a.m., said Officer Karen Smith of the Los Angeles Police Department's media relations office. The couple had a 6-year-old son, who was at school at the time of the incident.

*Pasadena's Colorado Street Bridge, built in 1913, rises 150 feet above Arroyo Seco.*



His girlfriend, who had a restraining order against him, is stabbed along with her mother in Tujunga.

Damaris Quiles and her boyfriend, Walter Garcia, lived together for six years and had been a couple for longer than that. They also had a son, Joshua, whom they both adored. But in recent months their relationship had grown rocky. When the fights got really bad about three weeks ago, Quiles asked her boyfriend to leave. When he started threatening her, she obtained a restraining order. The order did little good. On Thursday morning, Garcia stabbed the 35-year-old

Quiles to death, along with her 73-year-old mother, Carmen, outside the neat stucco home they shared in Tujunga. Minutes later, Garcia, 38, jumped to his death from Pasadena's historic Colorado Street Bridge, a span infamous for suicides. "It has not sunk in yet," Quiles' older brother, Edwin, said Thursday afternoon, sitting in the living room of his sister's home, its stillness filled with photographs of the family. The bloody attack, according to Edwin Quiles and Los Angeles police, occurred about 8:45 a.m. in the 6800 block of Quinton Lane. Damaris Quiles had just returned home from dropping off 6-year-old Joshua at school. When she walked into the house, she found Garcia, who had broken in through a back window. A fight ensued and the couple argued on the street as anxious neighbors called police and Quiles' brother. By the time they arrived, Garcia was gone and both women had been mortally wounded. The older woman was pronounced dead at the scene. Quiles, a dispatcher with the city of Los Angeles' General Services Department, was taken to Providence Holy Cross Medical Center, where she died, authorities said.

Fearing that Garcia might attempt to abduct the boy, police contacted Mountain View Elementary School, and it was placed on lock-down until police arrived. Garcia, meanwhile, drove to Pasadena. Shortly after 9 a.m., police received a call about a man poised to jump from the Colorado Street Bridge. As an officer tried coaxing Garcia down from the span, he leaped to his death, 160 feet below. Hours after his sister's death, Edwin Quiles sat in her home, unable to comprehend how he had lost both his mother and his sibling in one brief instant. The mother and daughter had lived together since Quiles' father died in 2001. "When Father passed away, she stepped right up to the plate and took care of Mom," Edwin Quiles said. "They were so happy. I was amazed at how much love there was between them." He said he couldn't understand how things had gone so horribly wrong between his sister and Garcia. "My sister kept to herself," he said. I know things were not working out" recently, he added. "She asked him to move out so they could have time to regroup. They weren't getting along. "But what I did know about him was that he seemed like a fun-loving guy. He loved my sister. And he loved their son." By dusk, Edwin Quiles was preparing to leave his sister's home and return to his own residence, where his children and wife were watching over Joshua. "He doesn't know what happened yet," Edwin Quiles said in a soft voice. "When nighttime comes, I will sit him down. I think I will just tell him that Mom, Grandma and Dad got hurt...and that they will not be able to come back. "Right now, the No. 1 priority is to make him feel loved, to make sure he knows he has a safe haven. Because as much as we are going to miss them, I can only imagine what he will be thinking."

*An early-morning walk is a blessing for the whole day.*

*Henry David Thoreau*

## **DAMARIS (Didi) QUILES**



**5/12/72 – 1/10/08**

Employees of the City of Los Angeles Park Ranger Division were all saddened by the sudden loss of our friend and co-worker Didi. She and her Mother, Carmen, were the victims of a brutal homicide on January 10, 2008. She leaves behind a 6 year old son, Joshua.

Didi was hired by the Department of Recreation and Parks in 1996 as an Exempt Clerk Typist for Personnel. In April 2000 she was promoted to the position of Communications Operator III and was assigned to the Park Ranger Division. Didi was an exceptional dispatcher. Her priority was always the safety of the Rangers in the field. She had a wonderful smile, a very pleasant personality, and was a joy to be around.

With the consolidation of security services that occurred in February 2006, all of the LA City Parks Division Dispatchers were transferred to the Department of General Services including Didi. There she continued to perform her duties as the communications link for the field officers assigned to the Office of Public Safety.

Some of the supervisor comments on her employee evaluations included statements like:

“A quick learner, reliable and hardworking; works well under stress and in handling emergency situations. She is an outstanding operator and an asset, has become a cohesive team member and an important asset to the Division. She shows dedication and was selected to be a lead operator because of her positive attitude and professional demeanor.”

Didi was part of our Park Ranger family for 6 years. A custodial account has been set up in the name of Joshua Garcia (Didi's 6 year old son) at Wells Fargo Bank for those wishing to make a donation.

Account information: Wells Fargo, 3250 Glendale Blvd.

LA, CA 90039 Account # 3752748347 route # 121000247 custodial name:

Edwin Quiles, Sr. under Joshua Garcia.

This has been a difficult loss for us. We appreciate any support PRAC and its members give to the family. Didi served with the Park Ranger Division as a dispatcher from 2000 to 2006. She was a motivated and energetic employee who always had our backs. We will miss her greatly. Dispatchers are just as important as field rangers in the protection of forests and parks. We are a team.

# Ranger News and Updates

by Matt Cerkel

On December 4th, 2007 a 25-year-old IRS agent, Veronica "Nikki" Ruiz was reported missing from her home in Mill Valley. It was reported that she was possibly despondent over a recent breakup with her boyfriend. She told family she going for a hike or run in the Mount Tamalpais area on the morning of December 3<sup>rd</sup>. On the afternoon of the 3<sup>rd</sup>, she also reportedly sent text messages out to family and friends that could be interpreted as suicidal. When the Mill Valley Police Department searched her apartment, they discovered her service weapon was missing.

Soon after Ruiz was reported missing a hasty search was initiated. The Mount Tam area is under the jurisdictions of the Marin Municipal Water District, Marin County Open Space District, California State Parks, and National Park Service. By mid afternoon, a full-blown search was being conducted under management of the Marin County Sheriff's Department Search and Rescue. The IC was SAR Coordinator Michael St John, who conducted the PRAC Basic SAR Management Course in Early November. Due to the nature of the incident, a possibly armed and suicidal Federal Law Enforcement Officer, the normal SAR mutual aid resources were not available. Search teams made up of Marin County SAR volunteers, MMWD rangers, NPS rangers from Golden Gate National Recreation Area & Point Reyes National Seashore, Marin County Sheriff's deputies, California State Park Rangers and FBI & IRS agents were sent out into the field to search the trails around the Mill Valley area. Each team had at least one armed officer on it. The search was called off for the day a few hours after sunset. That night investigators determined due to cell phone tower "pings" that Ruiz had likely used her cell phone on the December 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Blithedale Ridge area above Mill Valley.

The search began again the morning of December 5<sup>th</sup>. The search was expanded to more of the Mount Tam with nearly 100 searchers. Each search team continued to have at least one armed officer. There was what later turned out to be a false sighting of Ruiz that expanded the search to a much larger portion of the mountain. It was decided late in the day on the 5<sup>th</sup> to call off the search until more leads were found. During the first two days, few leads were found with the only one being the probable sighting on a fire road on the 3<sup>rd</sup>.

After the official search was called off, family and friends began a volunteer search the following weekend. The non-official search was at time a large scale operation with over 100 searchers made up of family, friends, FBI & IRS agents and other interested parties. The various jurisdictions whose lands were being searched were not directly involved in the volunteer search efforts, but

were available to respond to any finds or any emergencies involving the volunteers.

After a couple of weekends, the official search was begun again for a one day large scale search with ground teams and cadaver dogs. Once again, each team had at least one armed officer. No additional clues were found. The volunteer searchers continued their search efforts.

On January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2008 Marin County Search and Rescue was conducting a training exercise in the "Ruiz" search area. Sadly, one of the search teams located Nikki's body approximately 80 feet from a hiking trail in heavy vegetation. Her duty weapon was found under her body, it appears she died from a self-inflicted gunshot wound, which the coroner later confirmed. The area where Ruiz was found was the highest probability area due to the cell phone "pings" determined early in the search effort. After nearly a month and a half, the search was over and at least the family had closure.

In other ranger news, Governor Schwarzenegger has proposed closing 48 state parks and reducing the number of lifeguards at many state beaches. This could have a dramatic effect on the state parks and the safety of the visitors. These proposed closures may also negatively impact county and regional parks and special districts, all that may have tight budgets also. Especially if the state tries to turn the parks over to located agencies or the state also cuts funding to local agencies.

The state also issued a report on a generalist ranger. "In February of 2007, in response to significant Department-wide conversations about the current state of the generalist California State Park Ranger and Lifeguard, State Parks Director Ruth Coleman raised the question whether the generalist model continues to be viable for the delivery of core program responsibilities. At Coleman's request Deputy Director Ted Jackson formed the Generalist Ranger Task Force (GRTF)."

The executive summary of the Generalist Ranger Task Force "concludes that the generalist model continues to be a viable solution for the statewide delivery of Visitor Services core program responsibilities. It further finds that specialization of some job functions within the Ranger and Lifeguard position has already taken place without centralized guidance. The Generalist Ranger Task Force recommends that California State Parks choose to actively guide the evolution of the generalist Ranger and Lifeguard." The GRTF report can be found at <http://www.cspra.com/graybears/GeneralistRangerTaskForce.pdf>

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*(Story continues on bottom of next page.)*

# **Training in Orange County**

**by Park Ranger Sara Girard**

The chill in the canyon on the morning of January 9 found 11 participants munching on energy bars and eagerly awaiting instruction on GPS Navigation. Greg and Scott from REI Outdoor School wasted no time getting waivers signed and high tech GPS units handed out. We agreed that hiking was the fastest way to warm up and do what rangers do best; get into the park. Laguna Coast Wilderness Park was an excellent setting with hills, canyons, coastal sage scrub and enough oak tree canopy to get yourself disoriented if you were not familiar with the area.

For some it was a refresher training, for others it was a way to get to know their own GPS unit better, and for GPS newbies it was an introduction to a great tool. Once everybody synchronized their GPS menu page we learned how to pinpoint our current coordinates, set waypoints, plot courses and create routes. Our instructors gave us an overview of software that is important for mapping and storing information collected on the GPS unit. We discussed the importance of map and compass skills related to GPS use. What a great idea! Looks like we will be planning a Map and Compass outing for next month. Watch for the announcement at [calranger.org](http://calranger.org).

## **Tax Tip**

**by Park Ranger Marie D. Fong**

Alas, the looming tax deadline approaches, punctuated by frenzied attempts to calculate how much you spent on uniform supplies, additional equipment, educational materials, and the myriad other job related items not covered by your agency.

If you are headed off to have someone else make sense of those slips of paper that represent your financial life, take a few minutes to call around. Some of the tax preparation offices that spring up in otherwise empty office spaces, commonly offer free or discounted tax preparation services to a myriad of public servants, including law enforcement officers, firefighters, park rangers, educators, and the list goes on. A quick phone call to the local offices will let you know what date(s) these services are offered.

Good luck finding all those receipts and calculating that mileage!

## **Ranger News and Updates**

**(Continues from page 6)**

Finally, I recently learned that the Solano County park rangers might have been disarmed. It seems like in the ranger profession it is often one-step forward and two steps back. Having been in the profession since the early 1990s and a ranger since 1995, I can say when doing law enforcement it is best to be a peace officer. But the safest, most effective way to perform peace officer duties is as an armed peace officer. Sadly many park administrators and park agencies still fail to understand this basic fact. I feel this is too often from a lack of understanding, fear, personal agendas, bias, beliefs or politics. There is an unwillingness to listen to the public or the rangers out in the field performing their duty of protecting the parks and the visitors. In the five years since my agency disarmed it's rangers I have had several dozen park visitors tell me they can't believe the rangers don't have guns. Only two visitors have spoken in favor of disarming rangers. While it has been my experience some park visitors do not realize rangers are law enforcement officers, the majority of park visitors. I would be willing to bet the majority of them would support armed rangers. I wish park agencies and administrators would realize this; enter the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, and support the proper level of peace officer protective equipment for their rangers who perform enforcement duties.

# **Meet the newest Thomas Smith and Bill Orr Scholarship Recipients**

**by Park Ranger Marie D. Fong, Region 6 Director**

On behalf of the PRAC Officers, Board of Directors and staff, I would like to congratulate the winning recipients of the Thomas Smith and the Bill Orr Scholarships. For heading the PRAC Scholarship Review Committee and recommending this year's recipients, a heartfelt thank-you to Past PRAC President Dr. Bill Hendricks: Recreation, Parks and Tourism Administration faculty member at California Polytechnic State University and among many other accolades, a distinguished PRAC Honorary Lifetime Member.

This year's recipients are both full-time students at the University of Nevada Reno and they are... Ashley Wright, a seasonal Park Ranger Aide from Washoe County's Department of Regional Parks and Open Space, Truckee River District and Peter Lassaline, a seasonal Park Aid at Lake Tahoe-Nevada State Park, Sand Harbor. Both recipients would like to thank PRAC and its members for supporting these scholarships. Portions of the letters submitted by our scholarship recipients during the application process are included here so that you may get to know these future Park Rangers.

Upon learning of the PRAC scholarship I immediately became interested. I am currently a student at the University of Nevada, Reno, and I am studying history and planning on studying geography for a minor. I can't say for sure where my education will take me but after working at Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park, Sand Harbor this past summer, becoming a park ranger is an exciting possible career path I had not previously considered. My interest in the scholarship stems from the fact that (unfortunately) my position at Sand Harbor was a seasonal one and I must now wait until next year before returning as an employee. Furthermore, as a full time student, much of my time is devoted to my studies and finding time to work is difficult. With the PRAC scholarship I would be able to dedicate more time to school. This scholarship, if received, would be put toward my most valuable investment: my education.

Thank you again,

**Peter Lassaline**

*Thank you again to all applicants and congratulations to our recipients.  
Applications for next year's scholarships will be accepted  
beginning **February 1, 2008** and closing **September 31, 2008.***



My name is Ashley Wright and I am a sophomore at the University of Nevada Reno in Reno, Nevada. I have worked for Washoe County's Department of Regional Parks and Open Space for the last three years. I was originally going to school for Health Ecology, but after working as a Park Ranger Aide for three years I developed a great deal of interest in all aspects of the parks and recreation field. After learning so much about different plants and animals within the districts in which I have had the pleasure of working, my interests have developed much further and I am eager to gain more knowledge about my future career as a park ranger. I am going to the University of Nevada Reno to get a four-year degree in Range and Forest Management through the College of Agriculture, Biotechnologies, and Natural Resources. I am going to continue my seasonal work as a Park Ranger Aide while going to school and until I am at the eligibility to apply for a permanent Park Ranger position.

I grew up in Washoe County, Nevada and graduated from Earl Wooster High School with an honors diploma. During the summers of my freshman and sophomore year I worked as a ranch hand in Unionville, Nevada, taking care of animals, irrigating crops, and growing alfalfa. Doing this kind of work made me develop a strong interest in agriculture and livestock. I learned a great deal about irrigation, cattle, and crop management which sparked an interest in a local Washoe County Park: Bartley Ranch Regional Park due to their corn and wheat maze's. Since beginning my employment I have had the opportunity to work in many different parks and experience the day-to-day Park Ranger duties and challenges. I have also had the opportunity to participate in various special events, environmental interpretation programs, and volunteer events. I'm extremely athletic and enjoy competing in half marathons, and different interpretive hikes. I also enjoy doing volunteer work and have worked numerous fundraisers including: Race for the Cure, Walk Against Heart Disease, and Toys for Tots.

I developed interest in the P.R.A.C. scholarship when I began reading about the educational benefits of joining P.R.A.C. Learning to be more aware of your environment and the many dangers that one can encounter is something I find very crucial in order to pursue a career as a Park Ranger. If I were to be awarded this scholarship the endowment would go straight to tuition. This scholarship would greatly assist in my spring tuition due to the fact that I work a full-time seasonal job, a full-time job in the off-season, and take 24 credits or more per year. This scholarship would allow me more time to focus on my studies and continue doing seasonal work for Washoe County. I currently support myself and am a full-time student, which results in a financially difficult winter and early spring semester. I would like to continue doing summer seasonal work but this requires me to work multiple jobs to pay for living expenses, tuition, and books. This scholarship will help me excel in my studies and will help alleviate financial burden.

Thank you for considering me for the Park Ranger Association of California Scholarship,

*Ashley Wright*

# Emergency Bleeding Control New Products for Uncontrolled Hemorrhage

by Pam Helmke

We've all taken the class and know the basics for bleeding control – direct pressure. Some folks still think of pressure points but current research shows that pressure points are not effective.

The tourniquet has been a staple in bleeding control for the military – it can be quickly applied in a fire fight but only works for extremity wounds. In the civilian world many agencies shy away from tourniquets due to concerns about loss of limb and the resulting legal actions that may occur.

New technologies developed for and used in the battlefields of Iraq and Afghanistan are now available to first responders in the United States. These hemostatic agents cause rapid clotting and, depending on the product, can be used on uncontrolled hemorrhage just about anywhere on the body.

Three of the most commonly used products issued by our military and available over the counter for first responders are HemCon Bandage<sup>®</sup> by HemCon Medical Technologies, Quick Clot<sup>®</sup> by Z-Medica, and newest Celox<sup>®</sup> by Medtrade Products. All are FDA approved but use different processes to cause the clotting.

Quick Clot is made from modified zeolite (zeolite is a hydrated [aluminosilicate mineral](#) that has a micro-porous structure). This mineral based product works as a molecular sieve causing rapid clotting in an exothermic reaction. The heat generated by the clotting process is capable of causing second degree burns.

Quick Clot<sup>®</sup> is one of the first of the hemostatic agents used by the military.

The HemCon Bandage<sup>®</sup> has also been used by the military and is a chitosan based clotting agent contained in a 4 inch by 4 inch dressing. Chitosan (chitosan is made from [chitin](#), the structural [element](#) in the [exoskeleton](#) of crustaceans such as crabs and shrimp). Chitosan based products are not dependant on the bodies natural clotting factors and does not generate heat when applied.

The newest product on the market is Celox<sup>®</sup> a granular material also made from chitosan. Like the HemCon Bandage, Celox<sup>®</sup> does not need the bodies natural clotting factors, does not generate heat. Celox<sup>®</sup> is also approved for use on heparinized blood. The granular nature allows the Celox to be poured into just about any open wound. The manufacture also states the product can be used on hypothermic patients.

Scientific studies plus battle field experience has shown all of the products can be valuable, life saving tools when confronted with uncontrollable hemorrhage particularly in an uncontrolled environment. These products can also help to save lives in an active firefight as the product

can be quickly placed into an open wound to slow or stop hemorrhage. The products are small and light and can be carried in a pocket to allow for self treatment in a hazardous situation.

Cost is a factor for these products. A quick check of the internet showed HemCon Bandages<sup>®</sup> to be the most expensive at about \$150.00 per dressing with a 6 month shelf life. Quick Clot ACS+<sup>®</sup> was listed at \$30.00 for a dressing with a 3 year shelf life. Quick Clot Granules<sup>®</sup> in a 3.5 ounce bag listed at \$43.00 – again with a 3 year shelf life. Celox<sup>®</sup> listed at \$15.00 for a 15 gram pouch or \$25.00 for 35 gram pouch and Celox also has a 3 year shelf life.

Well-directed, direct pressure is still the “gold standard” for controlling hemorrhage. Direct pressure is a basic skill, easily mastered and we know it works. Use of hemostatic agents is a new technology and, even among the military, there is no consensus as to the best product. But enough evidence shows that these products may make the difference in some situations and should be considered for your trauma bag. To determine which product is best for your agency consult with your medical director.

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# **California Government Code 6254.21(c) Protects Peace Officers**

**Submitted by Tom Maloney**

The information age has created a new officer safety concern for peace officers nationwide. Online data vendors are capitalizing on selling and providing personal information to anyone with a computer and an Internet connection. The availability of this information means that anyone can obtain a peace officer's home address, phone number, social security number, family members' information, voter registration and even a satellite photo of his or her home. This is information that, in the wrong hands, can potentially be threatening to a peace officer and his or her family. What was once information stored and carefully disseminated from a county clerk's office, court house or government building, has now become easily accessible to the public, the media, criminals, defense attorneys and anyone with a computer. Companies like Lexis Nexis, Choicepoint and Zabasearch offer instant detailed information about you and your family for a fee. While these companies reassure the public that they are secure and exercise security protocols when releasing the information, they are also the first to remind us that the information is public and that public information is just that.... information to which the public should have access. However, that is not always the case.

For example, in February 2005, criminals posing as legitimate companies accessed Choicepoint's database causing the company's spokesman James Lee to issue a warning that between

30,000 and 35,000 consumers in California might have had their data accessed by "unauthorized third parties." In November 2005, a disgruntled citizen in New York legally posted the names and home addresses of 79 New York police officers on his website. In 2001, two felons posted thousands of Seattle police and correctional officers' names, home addresses and maps to their homes on an Internet website. Incidents, such as these, have created the necessity for the law to keep current with modern technological advances.

In 2006, California enacted a revised government code, authored by Assemblyman Todd Spitzer, which allows peace officers (active and retired), public safety officers, elected officials, district attorneys and judges the right to demand in writing that their personal information be removed from online databases that sell or provide their information to the public. Peace officers can contact each data vendor's opt-out representative (there are currently more than twenty) and demand that their information be removed from their databases. An even easier way is to log onto [www.PolicePrivacy.com](http://www.PolicePrivacy.com) and purchase a Privacy Letter Package which contains all of your personalized letters for one small fee.

Accessing information on the Internet has proven to be a useful investigative tool for law enforcement in the information age, but it has also created serious safety concerns for today's police officers and their families.

## **Preaching to the Choir**

**Park Ranger Marie D. Fong**

In this technologically advanced time, when being green is supposed to be a new concept, PRAC would like to offer its members the option of receiving this newsletter electronically. Not only will this save money, trees, and fuel, but it will also prevent the dreaded overuse of your mailbox, a sadly less publicized crisis. We understand the nature of each agencies technological advancements differ more than a few standard deviations, so it's understandable that some prefer the hardcopy. Please provide me with your preferred email address if you would like to receive this newsletter via email instead of snail mail, [region6@calranger.org](mailto:region6@calranger.org). Remember you can also view the current newsletter and archives on the website at [www.calranger.org](http://www.calranger.org). Thanks for saving the planet again!

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