

The Protection Ranger

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



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President's Message Pete Tortorell

I will conclude my term of office on July 1, 2004. I would like to start by welcoming the new Lodge President Greg Johnston. Greg has been working very hard as a Lodge Officer for some time now and will make a great President. I admire Greg for stepping up and taking on this responsibility. I wish Greg the best of luck and I will be available to assist him whenever needed.

We need more members to follow Greg's example and take on serving as Lodge Officers. Many sit back and wait for the fruits of other people's labors. Still others Monday morning quarterback the Lodge Board. I challenge the membership to do something for yourself and your colleagues, contact Randall or Greg and let them know you want to take an active role in the Lodge Board.

I would like to extend my deepest appreciation to Randall and the other Executive Board members, past and

present. The contributions they have made to the Lodge and profession of LE Rangers is tremendous. Their hard work and support has made my term extremely rewarding and certainly eased the burden on me. It is important to realize that the Board members sacrifice their own off-duty time, work from home using their own home computers etc., and travel for Lodge business while on AL from work.

Recently we have forwarded proposals on a variety of topics including recruiting, use of force reporting and adoption of a rank structure. We continue to look forward to working with Management towards the implementation of these proposals. We have also worked to increase the public awareness of the duties of LE Rangers and vital role they play in protection of the public and park resources.

During my term we have enjoyed increased communication with Management, which I believe is extremely important in dispelling the old notion that the Lodge was a small group of malcontents and anti-management. This is not true. We are not small, we continue to grow and although we will not always agree with Management we hope that Lodge and Management can work together to enhance the safety and working conditions of LE Rangers.

I would like to thank Associate Director Karen Taylor-Goodrich, Chief of LE&ES Don Coehlo, NER Regional Chief Ranger Bob Martin, Paul Henry and JR Tomasavic at FLETC for taking the time to meet with us and include us on matters of importance to the field. At DOI I would like to thank the DOI Inspector General the Honorable Earl

Devaney, and DOI Director of OLES Larry Parkinson and their staffs for taking the time to meet with us and accept our input.

Finally, I would like also to thank my own park for working with me during my term. I would like to acknowledge Chief Ranger Tadgh McNamee, Former Sandy Hook Superintendent Russ Wilson and current Acting Superintendent Richard Wells.

To the many others who I have either missed or don't have room to recognize individually, thank you.

Police Week has just passed and I am writing this on Memorial Day weekend, please take time to remember all those who have served in the Armed Services, and all those Law Enforcement Officers who have made the ultimate sacrifice in service to others.

I wish everyone a happy and safe summer season.

Incoming President's Message Greg Johnston

Let me begin by thanking Pete Tortorell for his work and dedication during his term as President. I hope to continue his hard work and I know I have big shoes to fill. I am thankful that Pete plans to stay active on the Executive Board. I plan to work hard to serve the FOP Members and Rangers across the country. I appreciate the support from the FOP Executive Board and opportunity they have given me. I will

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continue to depend on their experience and knowledge during my transition and term as President. We still have a lot of work ahead of us.

For those who I have not met during my tenure with the National Park Service, here is a brief synopsis of my experience. I started my law enforcement career in Yellowstone during the summer of 1995. I continued to work seasonal assignments at the Blue Ridge Parkway, Independence NP, Perry's Victory & IPM National Monument, and Canaveral National Seashore. I worked for a year as a DOD police officer before I took my first permanent NPS assignment at Gulf Islands National Seashore and transferred to my current assignment in the Fancy Gap office of the Blue Ridge Parkway. I am currently working as a Field Training Ranger in the Field Training and Evaluation Program. I have served on the FOP Executive Board for the past year and represented the Lodge in State Lodge meetings and functions prior to that.

I want every member to know that they can contact me, or any member of the Executive Board for assistance. My email address is GregJ1258@aol.com. I welcome any suggestions or feedback you may have.

**Ranger Training Academy
Cancelled by FLETC at
DOI Request**

All Land Management Together
Decision to Cost Parks Millions

The Lodge has learned that FLETC has cancelled the NPS integrated training program. According to the FLETC plan, NPS trainees will go back to the olden days of training with other land management agencies including the USFS, TVA and National Marine Fisheries.

This decision was made by FLETC at the insistence of the DOI, specifically

Steve Calvary. The reason given was "efficiency of operations."

However, the Lodge has learned that this "efficiency of operations" will actually cost the NPS millions of dollars over the training cycle. The change will severely damage the newly created field training program, and force rangers to return to FLETC for additional add-on training. FLETC, at the insistence of the USFS training manager, will no longer allow NPS rangers to wear their own uniforms in class – they will have to wear generic "natural resources police officer" uniforms now used by the other land management agencies. Because rangers will not compose an entire class, rangers may have to return to their parks, then return as a full ranger class for the additional training now required for NPS rangers, before being assigned to their field training parks.

The effects of this cut will dramatically impact park operations. Parks can be expected to be without fully commissioned rangers for much longer time periods. Parks will also have to pay the millions of dollars extra that the program will cost out of their operational budget.

When the Lodge first became aware of this rumor, we wrote to the Director of FLETC, asking that the ranger academy be maintained to ensure the safety of park rangers, and advised that we would act promptly if the changes were made.

When the change was announced, the Lodge filed complaints with the Inspectors General of both the Department of Interior and Department of Homeland Security. Paying extra money for an inferior training program when NPS budgets are already strapped is a clear example of government waste.

As we warned the FLETC director, there will be further Lodge actions.

News releases will be issued within the next few days, and Congressional

contacts will be made. We are certain that Congress, after appropriating an additional 250 million for parks will not be thrilled to hear about the waste of millions of dollars for an inferior training program that the NPS itself does not want.

We are shocked at this action by DOI OLES. Of all the recommendations made by the Inspector General, IACP and the many other studies of the NPS law enforcement program, none have recommended changing the current training program, and charging parks millions to do it! The most dangerous job in federal law enforcement is about to get a whole lot more dangerous, and we're not going to let this happen without a fight.

**Tactical Positioning:
Park Ranger Tactics**

Joe Pond, DTI & PFI
Great Smoky Mountains NP

Holding true to the spirit of the season, this being the time of year for annual refreshers in everything that we are asked to do (what a list!), I wanted to address the Lodge on an issue of officer safety. For some of you, these tactics are not new, if you fall into that group, then my hat is off to you. If these are new tactics for you, then I submit them to you for your review and consideration. These are not, of course, techniques that I personally invented, but techniques that I find make my violator contacts a bit safer.

Frisking

Relative positioning when dealing with violators is vital to your personal safety. I am not a big fan of statistics, so I will avoid a diatribe into the numbers-mixing statistically minded folks enjoy and simply hope that all of us can agree that we enter a greatly increased threshold of danger when placing hands on someone. Placing hands on someone presumes that we

have closed the gap for control purposes and that we enter a the realm of the unknown. A realm where there is a great increase in our level of personal danger, whether dealing with a compliant or a non-compliant suspect.

One technique I and my colleagues use that works well for hand control, is positioning the suspect's hands behind their back in the handcuffing positioning during a frisk. Hands in the small of the back (SOB) and feet spread, toes out commands are the same as in standing hand cuffing as many of you were taught at FLETC. Except that with frisking versus hand cuffing, I am advocating the interlocking of the suspect's fingers while in their SOB and gaining a control grip of the suspect's hands with slight control pressure to emphasize your control of their hands. This does several things:

- Places the suspect in a position of disadvantage.
- Controls the suspect's hands.
- Reduces the loading of the suspect's hand to hand weapons (elbows, fists, etc).
- Slows the suspect's anti-social response to your efforts (reaction time).

This technique is not foolproof, it is not implied to be. But it does give you that tactical edge in time, to react to suspect movements appropriately. Certainly you can handcuff a suspect in order to frisk, but for the sake of this technique, I am implying that you have already reached a decision point and that you decided that hand control alone was appropriate, versus actual handcuffing.

I've trained several hundred people in this technique and while many will debate the best way to grip the interlocked fingers of the suspect, none have argued the merits of the concept as a valid frisking technique as a whole.

Consider it.

Passenger Side

Another concept that I feel increases our safety through tactical positioning is to use the passenger side approach on traffic stops. Many folks, far more experienced and knowledgeable than I, have taught this technique for quite awhile. These are instructors that I have personally gained from. I submit to you the idea of using the passenger side as your primary approach and departure angle on traffic stops.

Again, there are certainly numbers out there on who got hurt or killed doing what and how many times they did it. I merely consider the tactical integrity of a technique, balance it with common sense and apply it to see what works. This technique works. There are exceptions as with anything. However, I've made DUI's, drug cases, hunting cases, etc from the passenger side. I feel that I see more of the vehicle's contents sooner on approach, pick up suspect hands sooner on approach, and have a bit more protection from road traffic on approach from the passenger side.

Many of you may already use this technique, but I have found many rangers new to this idea. So I offer it to the latter. Try it. I have tried it with role players armed in the car/truck/van and have found it to be a sound technique. At GRSM, we have video taped from a variety of angles, the role playing officer's approach and have found interesting viewpoints that support this technique. It is certainly something for the toolbox. I use it in the field. Many drivers I find are surprised at my angle of approach and are often caught off guard – a good thing for us! Several traffic stops with loaded guns accessible to the driver come to mind. In all those occasions, I feel that the passenger side approach was a valid technique for me.

Again, I submit these concepts to you in the spirit of reviewing how we conduct our law enforcement business. We all have ways to do the same thing. I only hope that you review your own personal toolbox this month or next at your

annual refresher and seek to put in the work that makes you safer. We choose to walk the point in a dangerous line of work. Together we can work to make each of us better at our craft. Stay Safe!

Resource Protection

by PJ Ryan

PJ Ryan was a ranger at Jewel Cave, Navajo, Petrified Forest, Yosemite, Grand Canyon, Joshua Tree, John Muir NHS and Jean Lafitte. He retired from the NPS in Washinton DC, where he is currently waiting for Jesus or at least someone other than George W. Bush. He is editor and publisher of the venerable Thunderbear – the oldest alternative NPS newsletter about goings-on in the Park Service: www.workingnet.com/thunderbear. You may express your closely reasoned reflections to him at: thunderbear@erols.com

Resource protection is the number one job of any National Park staff member. Now I realize that your superintendent has told you that “The preservation of Human Life is the number one priority of the National Park Service.” Your superintendent is, as usual, misinformed.

As you may have noticed, “The preservation of human life” is low to non-existent on God's check list of Things to Do. He did not even make an exception for His own Son (Despite JC's understandable attempt to pull rank (Luke)). None of us are getting out of here alive.

Granted, the presence of large numbers of taxpayers and staff in various stages of rigor mortis would present a public relations problem, though nothing that Fran Mainella couldn't handle (“Is it possible to outsource Death?”), the fact remains that the prevention of death is not the reason for the establishment of any of our parks.

The parks were established to preserve and protect a specific group of natural wonders therein, some living, as in the case of bison or redwood ecosystems; some inanimate as in the case of petrified wood or Yosemite waterfalls. In the case of cultural parks, historic objects or even ideas such as freedom were to be preserved as at Independence Hall NHP.

Indeed, while most park brochures are required to contain some sort of safety message, few seem to contain an italicized short version of the Congressional Mandate as to why the area is important and what is being protected (25 words or less will do). That is, why are we providing manpower and money to protect this stuff?

The answer of course is that the “stuff” is part of the original fabric of the nation and is getting rarer by the day. Some people tend to want rare stuff and are ethically flexible as to how they acquire it. National Parks are storehouses of such goods: ergo, Resource Crime.

One example of resource crime is the theft of Galax. Never heard of Galax? Unfortunately, a lot of the ecological bad guys have. Galax is an Appalachian perennial with bright, shiny leaves that likes shady old growth deciduous forests. It is a pretty plant, much a part of the forest floor cover.

Last July, park rangers at Blue Ridge Park way caught Jesus Grimaldo, an undocumented alien, with 7500 Galax Stems. Now perhaps poor Jesus had a kidney ailment (Native Americans used Galax to treat urinary disorders) and needed a little medication? No, that did not seem to be the motive.

Your kindly editor looked up a commercial source for Galax on the magical internet. You see, Galax farming is in its infancy and the “nursery” diplomatically stated that its Galax came from the “North Carolina Mountains.” The price quoted for

Galax was \$1.00 per stem. You are beginning to get the picture. Jesus was on to something. He had 7500 of these stems. Galax is much prized by florists and landscapers, so much so that they often do not ask too many questions as to the source.

But is this not a wholesome, outdoor vocation for an energetic immigrant like Jesus? Well, no. Aside from being as illegal as Jesus, as it is a park area, the stripping of Galax changes the park ecology. More Galax doesn't automatically grow back. (It's a perennial, remember!) In fact the disturbed area is often colonized by exotic weeds from Europe and Northeast Asia, and soon the environment would not be recognized by Daniel Boone or his sometimes foe, Chief Cornstalk.. The ecological fabric of America begins to unravel.

The same is true of the illegal “harvesting” of ginseng, the celebrated “man-root” found in the Appalachian national parks and much prized for “medicinal purposes by aging Asian gentlemen. “Fortunately, thanks to the efforts of Bob”I want to talk about erectile dysfunction!” Dole, the merits of Viagra or its equivalent have spread even to the nether reaches of China, as something that, unlike ginseng, actually works. This has caused a somewhat of a drop in demand.

Obviously, advances in science in the case of a substitute for ginseng, and advances in agriculture as in the production of commercial Galax as a cash crop on private lands in Appalachia, will be the final solution. However, until that time, determined vigilance (and funding) on the part of protection rangers will be required.

In the Pacific Northwest parks, there is the problem of the commercial harvesting of mushrooms in national parks, a foodstock for a number park animals and important in their own right. The fact that many of these mushrooms do particularly well after a forest fire could lead some perverted

Thoreaus to seek to outfit themselves with a subsistence lifestyle by setting forest fires, working on the resulting fire, and harvesting the resulting mushrooms (as well as planting yet another cash crop, marijuana). The prevention of this cycle requires the presence of astute and creative protection personnel.

Yellowstone National Park being the first park, was the first to need protection. It still does. The protection needs are many and myriad, usually political in root, ranging from well connected big game outfitters “salting” on the south boundary to equally well connected ranchers adjoining the park, who seek to manage the park bison herd on public lands to prevent what may be an imaginary disease threat.

Then there is of course the protection “biggie”, that your average GS-5 7, 9, protection ranger can't directly deal with (except to keep PEER and other environmental groups informed through the judicious leak). This is park air pollution, which makes a joke out of the scores of “scenic viewpoints” in Shenandoah, Blue Ridge Parkway, and Great Smoky, in which bemused taxpayers read a sign telling them of what they would be seeing if there wasn't a gray white gas cloud enveloping them. This is no longer an “Eastern” problem. You can no longer “See into tomorrow” at Big Bend National Park in Texas; you will be lucky to see into the next hour of your hike.

Reducing pollution requires specialized skills, chief among them survival skills, as well connected polluters find it far, far cheaper to eliminate a troublesome bureaucrat than to eliminate air pollution. For a discussion of such skills, you might check with Bill Wade, who maintained a plucky defense of Shenandoah until his retirement and beyond.

On the cultural preservation front, there is the theft of archeological or historical treasures, or as Tony Hillerman would

put it, The Theft of Time. In one case, the theft of time was quite literal in which John Muir's pocket watch disappeared from John Muir National Historical Site. The recovery of such items requires "cold case" diligence and special artifact and museology experience on the part of the protection ranger, and again adequate support and funding (Can't say that too many times neighbors).

Now if you believe that resource protection is the most, or one of the most, important duties in the NPS, I suspect that you are correct. If you believe that resource protection has to be some depressing, long faced tragedy of environmental and cultural loss, I hope you are wrong. We do have our little victories – as well as occasional moments of low comedy.

I recall fondly my stint of resource protection at Petrified Forest National Park. The park seemed dedicated to an endless contest of wills between we rangers and certain elements of the public as to whether the petrified wood would remain in the park or in the pockets of some of the visitors.

The erring taxpayer would try to outwit us, but we had the advantage of experience. They would try to think like a ranger, but we had the advantage of the thoughts of a 1,000 previous miscreants. There is a finite number of places you can conceal an object on a person or a vehicle and we in time knew them all.

For example, there was the Dirty Diaper Pail Ploy. The fastidious bureaucrats wouldn't poke in there, now would they, Maude? Of course we would! First place we looked, with a special tool we had invented just for that purpose! There were the usual ploys such as the air filter or spare tire, but my favorite for sheer low humor, was The Ladies' Legs Ploy.

The Miscreants had picked up a hefty chunk of petrified wood at Crystal Forest and failed to put it back on the

ground. (This fact was reported by radio from a ranger in a spy hole atop one of the nearby butte, giving the ranger at exit station probable cause to search the vehicle). Meanwhile the husband (It was almost always the husband's idea) came up with what he thought was an original idea. ("If we hide the petrified wood between your legs, under your skirt, the rangers would never dare look there, now would they?")

The car would arrive at the exit station and the malefactors would smile beatifically at the ranger when he asked them if they had any petrified wood in the car. (To keep things fair, we were required to ask them three times during our conversation if they had any petrified wood in the car in the fond hope that Sunday school lessons would finally kick in. If they fessed up even at the magic third time, they were let off with a written warning. If however, they persisted in sin and thought they could outwit us, the rangers' demeanor changed.

"Then" he would intone "May we take a quick look through your car?" (Now, neighbors, this is one of the strangest bits of miscreant psychology that still puzzles veteran law enforcement types is that even if the person has 50 kilos of cocaine and a spare dead body in the trunk, he/she will heartily smile and say "Sure! Go right ahead!")

The ranger would then give the parties the bad news. "Regulations require that you both step away from the car while I do the search. Just take a minute!" (professional grin). At that moment, most of the wives or girlfriends would give it up, often bursting into tears of embarrassment.

But every so often you would encounter a lady that was a true competitor, that would not give up easily. Stealing herself, she would open the car door and swing both legs out and hoist herself erect.

"Please move away from the car, Ma'am" I would intone. "Over by the fence will be just fine."

Only 18 feet, but it must have seemed like the infinity of outer space to the lady.

Now I don't know if you've practiced walking natural with a cold 15 pound rock clutched between knees or thighs, but it could be the next Olympic event. It ain't easy.

The game lady would began to lurch Frankenstein-like toward the haven of the fence line, when inevitably there would be a satisfying crash of falling rock on the tarmac. Being professional, I restrained both laughter and witty comments and picked up the rock for weighing (The fine was based on the weight of the petrified wood, plus we needed the information for bureaucratic type protection statistics). As near as I can recall, the record on my shift for the Petrified Wood Thigh Haul Attempt was 22.8 pounds.

So you see that even though Resource Protection is underfunded, understaffed and frustrating, it has its moments of humor.

**Rank Insignia, Bring NPS
Protection Rangers Into the
21st Century**
By Leigh Zahm

At our last meeting with Associate Director Karen Taylor-Goodrich, the Lodge Board proposed that NPS adopt rank insignias for rangers. This was based on discussion among the Board and comments from our web Discussion Forum. More importantly, it's a proposal based on the standards of uniformed agencies throughout the country. As shocking a concept as it may initially be for many within our agency, there are several important reasons behind this proposal. Rank insignia for a protection ranger serves a

similar purpose as chaps for a fire crew sawyer, a reflective vest for a maintenance employee involved in roadside construction, or period costume worn by an interpreter while doing living history. Each is a tool that allows the employee to do their job in the best and safest way possible.

Step back and recall those rescuers who responded to the 9-11 World Trade Center disaster – a very tough, confusing and difficult job. Now imagine that none of the rescuers had any visible and identifiable rank insignia. That would make an already unimaginable job that much more difficult. Granted, the Park Service has never had to deal with an incident on such a magnitude. We do however deal on a daily basis with traffic accidents, searches, fires, demonstrations, and natural disasters. Many of these incidents involve working with personnel of other agencies. No matter how big or small an incident is, there is always the need to for personnel involved to immediately be able to identify the highest-ranking authority. From that authority, comes a chain of command for a coordinated and orderly processing.

The visitors that come to our parks also have a recognizable need to be able to immediately identify a person in authority. Visitors who have a complaint (haven't we all dealt with that?) want to talk to "someone in charge" so their problem is heard and acknowledged. Many times the visitor walks away with the same answer, be it from the ranger at an entrance station or the supervisor. The biggest difference is one answer comes from a person with recognized authority. Clearly displayed rank insignia is universally understood by all (try to explain what authority a "district ranger" has or even what it is, to someone unhappy over receiving a ticket for picking flowers). The higher the authority, the greater chance that the "final answer" will be accepted.

This proposal is not an attempt to distance protection rangers from other uniformed park employees. I've spent 10+ years with the National Park Service and there are many rangers with more time than I. Image and tradition are central to who we are as Park Rangers and the uniform is a key part of our identity. However important and sacred tradition, image and identity are, they need to be open to change. Rank insignias allow for safer and efficient operations, one that every department in the nation uses. It's time for us, once more, to catch up with existing standards.

Lodge Acts to Stop NPS FLETC Restructuring

Department of Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20528
Attn: Office of Inspector General Clark Ervin

Dear Mr. Ervin:
On behalf of the U.S. Park Rangers Lodge of the Fraternal Order of Police would like to file a complaint regarding waste of National Park Service training dollars by the Department of Homeland Security, Federal Law Enforcement Training Center. The proposed restructuring of the NPS training program at FLETC, as recommended by the DOI OLES will waste nearly 5 million dollars that will come directly out of the budgets of National Parks.

The change is opposed by the NPS training staff, as it will greatly degrade the ranger training program.

- The change is opposed by the director of the NPS, and Chief Ranger, for the same reasons.
- None of the many studies of the NPS law enforcement program, including those by your office, ever recommended this change.
- The additional cost to parks will have an immediate and sustained impact on operations, and will

foreseeably impact ranger safety through greater cuts.

- DOI OLES claims that the change will increase efficiency of operations, but has never performed a study or presented findings show this. OLES officers have in fact never observed the NPS training program.
- DOI OLES claims that the change will increase the opportunity for NPS rangers to develop ties with officers of other land management agencies. We believe that while this potentially is a nice idea, it is more important for rangers to develop an esprit d'corps within their own agency first, and meet agency-specific training needs rather than sacrificing its training program for a 5 million dollar social function.
- The NPS has experimented with this type of mixed training in the past, saw no benefit to it, and worked diligently over several years to create its current training program.
- Rangers continue to be the most assaulted federal law enforcement officers. The NPS ranger academy, consisting of the basic integrated training program and field training program, is the single best resource the NPS has to teach safety to its rangers. This change will cripple the NPS in its training efforts, and greatly impact ranger safety.

Because of the FLETC curriculum development process, the change to the ranger program will occur in October of this year, and will not be able to be changed for nearly five years, with the next curriculum review conference, once the change is made.

We don't believe that a change of this caliber and magnitude is justified without a formal study, without strong justification, and without full support of the agency.

Our Lodge has requested the DOI OLES to intervene in several cases regarding the NPS law enforcement

program in an effort to save ranger lives. Most of these requests have been ignored. Now the DOI seems to want to insert itself in an area that none of the experts that have studied the NPS have determined to be a problem. Common sense says that if it isn't broke, don't fix it. Yet DOI insists that the NPS be stripped of nearly \$5 million to fix a problem that isn't broken. The decision to make this change, however, rests solely on DHS FLETC.

Attached is an internal presentation developed by the NPS to show the increased costs and many detriments to implementing this program. The additional costs to the service will be between 450,000 a year to 900,000 a year over the 5 year FLETC curriculum cycle.

This decision of Department of Homeland Security's Federal Law Enforcement Training Center came at the request of DOI OLES. Because both agencies are involved, we will be filing a similar complaint with the OIG of DOI.

We urge you to investigate this wanton waste of tax dollars, and significant threat to ranger safety.

Sincerely:

Randall Kendrick
Executive Director

**Situational Awareness* in
the Corp Of Engineers**
Robert Lytch, COE

The *Protection Ranger* has previously reported on the lack of information on the number of assaults on Corps rangers and other major incidents. This was a key point of a 1995 employee survey, one on which little progress has been made. Agency task forces have failed to devise a standardized form and routing that Operations, Safety, and

Security all agree upon. A boating accident involving employees, for instance, may be reported through different channels than one involving the public, and only recreational boating fatalities are likely to show up in year-end statistics.

There has been a marked decrease in the number of citations issued by the Corps of Engineers since 2000. Or, at least, there was a decrease in the number reported. Y2K marked the debut of OMBIL (Operations & Maintenance Business Information Link), a web-based system of capturing information about everything from hydropower to interpretative contacts. It is harder to retrieve information from OMBIL than to input it, so many projects continue to use their own in-house systems.

An arrest made by local police on a COE project is unlikely to be entered into OMBIL unless the police were acting under a law enforcement contract. (And law enforcement contracts are falling victim to the budget axe.) Similarly, whoever enters a citation into OMBIL may not distinguish between verbal abuse and a physical assault in the case of interference (Section 327.24(a)).

Such lack of specificity works against the rangers in such matters as body armor. Why spend the money when there have been only 12 prosecutions under 18 USC 111 for assaulting rangers? Charlie L. Berger, Lead Visitor Assistance Instructor, says that anecdotal accounts could indicate that COE rangers are being assaulted as often as once every six days. No doubt that some of these cases are prosecuted under state law or the equivalent 36 CFR section, but no one tracks these numbers and thus no one has a handle on the number of serious offenses on Corps projects.

* *Be Situationally Aware* is part of the Chief's Philosophy expressed by Lieutenant General Robert Flowers, Commander and Chief of Engineers.

**Rangering and
Remembrance**

Joe Weggoner

Joe recently retired after a rough and tumble 30+ year career with the Park Service. From a previous Protection Ranger, Joe continues his no-holds-barred, unedited and from-the-hip reminiscence. Here he recalls his friendship with murdered ranger Ken Patrick.

I remember laughing with Ken when he compared us to the Clint Eastwood and other Western movies, where the bad guys and the good guys pulled their rain slicker or coat off of their gun before the shooting started. We laughed about getting our gun or L.E. commission pulled if we exposed a weapon, before we needed it. We even talked about how we might hold our coat closed with our gun hand at waist level. Then if you needed the gun to scare the bad guy (as you retreated to unlock your trunk and get out the shotgun, if you had one) you could sweep away the coat and grab the weapon if the coat did not get caught. We really laughed hard to the point of tears, when we pictured ourselves turning away from the visitor and unzipping or zipping up our coat, [what would they think, we were about to do?] We speculated that no Ranger would ever be issued a bulletproof vest, even after Rangers were shot. We laughed about the Bird Shot in the shotguns, (that would really tick off the bad guy if he was 15 yds. or farther.) MORE ON THIS LATER...

I related to Ken, my first, atta-boy, we appreciate your dedication to duty, good job Letter to my file, was meant well, and I appreciated it because I Respected the Superintendent who signed off on the letter to the Regional Office.

While visiting with some shark fisherman who I visited with as often

As possible, at the request of Superintendent, they told me they had been asked if they would like to have sex with any or all of the six Females on a old hand painted, green school bus, parked in the Campground. {\$25.00 per. for what ever }

The next night I parked in the concession parking lot away from the Complex and walked across the dunes to the camp ground, in hopes I would be solicited and could make a case. It did not work, two of the Women recognized me, and they all packed up and left.

So, rejected and dejected, I headed back to my vehicle. As I Approached the beach side of the concession I could hear and see three, Very drunk men, in a two door hard top, parked on the sidewalk. Being the hard working, intelligent, committed to duty, Ranger that I was, I walked up to the vehicle and pulled out my shiny new badge and told them to move the car to the parking lot and sleep it off. I was on the passenger side of the vehicle, bent down looking at the Driver from, behind the front seat passengers' head. When I flashed the badge and made my statement the driver turned and He tried to grab the sawed off shot gun laying on the back seat at the same time the back seat passenger did and they got tangled up.

I lunged into the vehicle, striking the front seat passenger in the Side of his head with my right forearm and elbow. I grabbed the shotgun with my left hand opening the weapon as I stepped back from the Vehicle and seeing a live primer pointed the gun at the men and ask them to keep their hands insight and exit the vehicle, on my side.

They refused my request until I pulled the hammer back and explained How I was sure I could incapacitate both men in the front seat and Beat the crap out of the man in the back seat with the weapon in my Hand.

As I tried to get back up and a hand gun from the safe after working Hours, my education with the Park Service began. The radio worked and a, Off duty Ranger, after a lot of coxing came to me with a six shot Revolver that had seen duty in at least two wars. As he handed me The gun and looked at the men face down in the sand, he explained That he was going to have to write me up for pointing a gun at Visitors and mistreating/upsetting them.

The District Ranger, Jack Lanahan arrived, sent the Ranger home to write his Report and we transported the men to the county jail, where they had Radio contact, with the out side world. The men were on NCIC for a Burglary the night before, in which the owner of the shotgun was Murdered.

Ken and laughed, respectfully, knowing that with a real LE agency I would have been given time off without pay, instead of an "ATTA BOY"

Ken told me about a couple of incidents that happened in the Golden Gate Area that involved the Park Police that may have had a lot to do with some of them putting " P "in front of Park Ranger.

He stated that several times Park Police had radioed for back up and Park Rangers had responded to the incidents quickly, but with no firearms!

After two or three of these unarmed back ups, the Park Police ask the Park Service to not respond Rangers to these incidents, for they were more of a hazard than helpful. Another person for the Park Policeman to protect was not what they called back up.

Ken said the Park Police really got an eye opener when they were called to respond to one of the Ranger Stations. They arrived and found out the reason the Rangers were not armed. The Regional office had issued weapons to the Park, but, the Superintendent would not let the Rangers carrier them and kept them locked in the safe, [like most parks].

The Park Police had been ask to respond to the Head-quarters, because the building had been broken into and the intruders might still be in the building with the ALL of the Park Rangers weapons.

"O YEH 'WE LAUGHED LONG AND HARD, SEVERAL TIMES, AT HOW WE HAD AND WERE BEATING THE ODDS, JUST LIKE OTHER RANGERS THAT WERE TRYING TO PROTECT THE PARKS AND PEOPLE WHO VISITED THEM. I DO NOT REMEMBER ANY HARSH WORDS TOWARDS THE "Good Ole Boys", in Headquarters, the Regional Offices or Washington, D.C.

At that time Ken and I believed the District Rangers, Chief Rangers, and Superintendents, lived in a different unrealistic world. I compared their dream world to the inside of a Silex coffee maker, a vacuum. We found it very difficult to understand the Park Service they had served /lived in for 15-20 years. When Rangers, helped visitors, rarely issuing a ticket. In fact they picked up trash, gave walks and talks, worked at the information desks, helped maintenance personal with projects, moved problem bears, marked boundary and no one carried a gun unless they were going on a stake out or poaching patrol.

You could not be to upset or mad at leaders that rode with you and were not afraid to walk among the visitors, even talk to them. You had to respect them, even if you thought they were NAIVE.

They respected the Visitor [their employer], the Parks [purpose for their job], fellow employees [who had same goals], had heard why Park Service areas were set aside and believed future generations should enjoy them.

A few weeks later, back in his home Park, Ken approached a suspect vehicle and was shot in the chest [I heard one bullet struck his badge] he attempted to draw his weapon to protect him self, [he

had spotted the bad guys the first shots] clawing at the long nice looking coat, covering his only chance of survival. Not being able to protect himself and not ready to die he attempted to get away from the bad guys, but they followed him into the bushes and executed him, shot him in the back of the head.

Had they known/seen he was armed there is a 50-50 chance he would not have been shot in the first place.

Had the bad guys known he had a weapon when he tried to escape into the brush, they would not have followed him, 99.9%, of the time. During my 30 years in L.E. lots of things have changed. Back then very few bad guys wanted to die, now days a few want to be killed by the Police.

Both types are still basically the same, cowardly, that's why they have their line of work and we have ours.

But I want you to understand the real BAD GUYS are not the ones you face on the street or in the woods. Those you can be trained to take off the street to protect the Park and Visitor. It is the low life no CONSCIENCE, Leaders and followers, whose position on the food chain is just be low the Whale crap on the bottom of the ocean.

The ones that try to find something wrong with the men and women who give their all every day to do the job. The ones that made statements like, Ken Patrick was probable killed by a jealous husband, he should not have been where he was, etc.

[A stupid Piss Ant instructor, who knew nothing about Ken Patrick, made the above statement at a training class, while the FBI was doing its investigation. Hell, I would have believed he knew what he was talking about to, if I had not spent two weeks being jealous of Ken's home life. [A note in ever pair of socks, shorts, shirt and pants (I love you, hurry home).] Under HIS circumstances I would have called home every chance I got too.]

These are the people you better learn to deal with (I nearly put in, to fear) just like any other snakes in the grass. You cannot kill them as some other Federal employees have, so you must learn to deal with them.

Joe's thoughts and opinions are continued on the Lodge web page along with additional articles he'll be sending in soon.

Liability Insurance: Your Legal Body Armor

None of us thinks twice about wearing body armor along with the gun belt each day at work. Body armor is proven at saving lives and to ensure that we make it home at the end of the day. We all know the body armor kept in a box under the bed isn't going to be able to stop a bullet. That's why we put up with it.

Liability insurance works much the same way. It keeps you safe, but from a threat most of us have very little understanding or first hand experience in. Surviving a deadly force encounter in the field is over in minutes, if not seconds, but the liability issue can drag on for YEARS and at the potential cost of everything you own, including your career, retirement and even jail time. Do you have the finances, resources and capabilities to fight this kind of fight? There's no better example out there right now, than Park Police Chief Teresa Chambers. Who would have thought it could have happened to someone as high up as her? Guess what, think again.

The Lodge receives dozens of requests a year from rangers-in-crisis with a supervisor or the park's administration. We can and do give them advice based on our years of experience dealing with similar situations. We refer them to our experienced law firm, BUT we can't pay for their legal help should that be necessary. Good liability insurance covers criminal charges, civil suits, and administrative disciplinary actions.

After you need it, it's too late if you don't already have it. After all, that's why we wear body armor before you go to work, not after you end up getting shot.

Go to the Lodge web page for the contact and coverage information of our Legal Defense carrier, The Hylant Group:
www.rangerfop.com/legaldef.htm

Lodge Dues Will Have To Be Raised

It has been nine years since Lodge dues have been raised. We have fallen behind inflation and have had to curtail certain activities that would have benefitted Lodge members. **Effective July 1, 2004** Dues will be \$65/year for permanent commissioned rangers and \$40/year for seasonals, retirees and Associate members.

Those who pay by payroll deduction will be asked to send a check for \$52 every fourth year to augment the \$2/PP they now pay. **In addition, the Lodge has just added the ability to join or pay online at our web site:**
www.rangerfop.com/join.htm.

As a one-time benefit, members whose dues fall after July 1, 2004 will be allowed to renew for one year at the old rate IF their payment is postmarked no later than June 30, 2004. This special deal will not apply to those who pay by payroll deduction. It's a shame dues have to go up, but we cannot perform the way members deserve without extra money.

Thank you for your support!

