



# United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
1849 C Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO:

APR 25 2002

W36(2460)

Mr. Eric Wingerter  
National Field Director  
Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility  
2001 'S' Street, NW  
Suite 570  
Washington, D.C. 20009

Dear Mr. Wingerter:

In response to your FOIA request, dated February 6, 2002, concerning acts of violence or threats against National Park Service (NPS) employees. I can only respond to those threats or assaults against commissioned (law enforcement) park rangers. According to the NPS annual report for calendar year 2001, protection rangers were assaulted 65 times. I have included a partial summary of items posted to the NPS Morning Report detailing some of these cases. The Morning Report only runs those items received by the editor. Any other assaults documented but not posted to the Morning Report would have to be retrieved at the individual park area where the assault occurred. There is no mechanism in place to collect this information on a nationwide basis.

I hope this answers your inquiry. If you have any questions, please contact me at 202-208-7675.

Sincerely,

Dennis Burnett  
Acting Chief, Ranger Activities Division

Enclosures

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE ANNUAL LAW ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM REPORT		
1. OTHER OFFENSES BY INCIDENT	US PARK RANGER	US PARK POLICE
Traffic LE Incidents (other than DWI)	44,797	8805
Hate/Bias Crime Incidents	20	4
Natural Resource Violations (other than ARPA)	9,568	905
2. SERVICES		
Educational	12,069	149
Other Service Incidents	52,807	41,231
3. LE OFFICERS KILLED OR ASSAULTED IN THE LINE OF DUTY		
Number of LE officers killed by:		
Felonious Acts	0	0
Accidental or Negligent Acts	0	0
Number of LE officers Assaulted	65	39
4. OTHER INCIDENTS LE OFFICERS PARTICIPATED		
Search and Rescue	1811	361
Boating Incidents	2709	252
Aircraft Incidents	155	376

## ASSAULTS AGAINST EMPLOYEES - CY01

00-144 - National Capital Parks (DC) - Follow-up: Assault on USPP Officers

On Friday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, a federal district court judge sentenced Derrek Arrington, 30, of Mitchellville, Maryland, to 20 years in a federal prison, a term of supervised release and other conditions for an assault on Park Police officers, including the shooting of officer Jonathan Daniels. The incident took place on April 13, 200, when Daniels made a routine traffic stop and saw drug paraphernalia in Arrington's car. When he refused to get out of the car, Daniels leaned in to grab the car keys and the car took off. Arrington stopped after dragging the officer for about 75 feet and Daniels fell away from the car uninjured. Daniels then joined his partner in their cruiser and they pursued the car to the intersection of Rock Creek Ford Road and Military Road, at which point Arrington and a passenger got out and fled on foot. Daniels apprehended Arrington, who then pulled out a handgun and shot him. The bullet that hit Daniels penetrated just to the left of his nose, transected his cheek bone, severed muscle and nerve tissue and shattered against the bone behind his left ear, missing his brain and major blood vessels by only centimeters. As part of his treatment for these injuries, Daniels had to have a nerve removed from the left side of his neck and spliced to mend a nerve that controlled the movement of the left side of his face. Daniels may nonetheless never regain feeling or movement on the left side of his face. Despite this injury, he is preparing to return to full police duty in the near future. Arrington was tried last September; the jury found him guilty on charges of assaulting, resisting or impeding a federal officer with a dangerous weapon (automobile) and unlawful possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. In announcing the verdicts, the U.S. attorney commended the work of detective sergeant Timothy Moser, the lead investigator on the case, and the many other members and officials of the USPP and Metro PD who assisted with this prosecution. [Sgt. R. MacLean, USPP, NCR, 5/22]

01-001 - Saguaro NP (AZ) - Assault on Ranger; Search

Ranger Bo Stone came upon a vehicle at the end of Broadway Boulevard in the Rincon Mountain District on January 1<sup>st</sup>. The driver was unresponsive but had a pulse and was breathing. Stone turned the vehicle's engine off and removed the keys from the ignition after seeing alcohol and drug paraphernalia in the car. He then woke the driver - later identified as Karl Windauer - and ordered him to get out of the vehicle. As this was occurring, Stone received a call from dispatch advising that the vehicle was stolen. Stone ordered Windauer to get on the ground, but Windauer made repeated efforts to escape. Although Stone tackled him three separate times, Windauer was able to break free and escape before Stone could retrieve his pepper spray and subdue him. A major air and ground search was begun which involved rangers, deputies, a DPS helicopter, BLM personnel, and a dog team. The frontcountry area of the district was closed at all trailheads and access points in order to assure public safety. Hasty searchers found Windauer's wallet (with ID) and coat nearby and determined a direction of travel. Local police checked Windauer's house, but did not find him there. After five hours of fruitless searching, rangers again checked at his residence. This time his mother answered and reported that he was now home. But he fled again before rangers and police got to the house. Another air and ground search ensued until investigators found out that a friend of Windauer's had given him a ride to a bus stop a mile away. He remains at large. A federal arrest warrant has been obtained. Windauer has a felony criminal history that includes assault with a deadly weapon, theft, and leaving the scene of a serious accident. He's been associated with car thefts in the area and had a Volkswagen master ignition key and burglary tools with him at the time he was contacted. He faces federal charges for assault on a federal officer; the county is pursuing multiple charges for vehicle theft and drug possession. [Paula Nasiatka, CR, SAGU, 1/2]

01-001 – Saguario NP (AZ) – Follow-up: Assault on Ranger

On February 1<sup>st</sup>, Karl Windauer, 25, was captured by Tucson PD officers after 30 days on the run, eluding Fugitive Investigative Strike Team (FIST) officers led by federal marshals. A federal arrest warrant was issued on Windauer after a January 1<sup>st</sup> incident in which ranger Bo Stone attempted to arrest him for being in possession of a stolen vehicle. Although Stone tackled him and took him to the ground three times, Windauer resisted and was able to flee. A major air and ground search followed, but without results. Windauer is being held in county jail on multiple state felony counts, including possession of a stolen vehicle, possession of drugs, aggravated assault, and failure to appear on charges on other active cases. On February 14<sup>th</sup>, a federal grand jury indicted Windauer for assault on a federal officer. A detainer has been placed on Windauer for this charge. [Robert Stinson, DR, SAGU, 2/26]

01-166 – National Capital Parks (DC) – Assault on Officers

On April 17<sup>th</sup>, two plainclothes investigators from the USPP narcotics and vice unit saw a man attempting to conceal a laser sight for a handgun within his car. The investigators removed him from the vehicle and attempted to retrieve a handgun from his waist. A violent struggle ensued in which both investigators were assaulted. The man was eventually subdued and taken into custody. One investigator suffered a laceration to his face that required several stitches; the other injured his back. Both were flown by USPP helicopter to the MedStar Unit at Washington Hospital Center, where they were treated and released. The man who was arrested was taken to another hospital for treatment of minor injuries sustained during the arrest. He will be charged with assault on a federal office and with weapons violations. [Sgt. R. MacLean, USPP, NCR, 4/19]

01-167 – Lake Mead NRA (NV/AZ) – Pursuit; Kidnapping; Attempted Murder

On the morning of April 21<sup>st</sup>, Henderson PD officers pursued a vehicle into the park and south down Lakeshore Drive. The driver, Jamal Phillips, 25, was wanted for a carjacking that had occurred earlier in the day in their city. The incident began when Phillips was riding in a taxi to the Las Vegas airport. He began acting strangely, causing the driver to become alarmed and seek assistance upon arrival at the airport. Phillips fled from the taxi and jumped into another cab and took off. A 54-year-old woman from Baltimore who was in the cab jumped from the taxi and was seriously injured. She has not yet regained consciousness. Phillips crashed the taxi into a Chevy Blazer in Henderson; when the Blazer's driver got out to examine the damage, Phillips got into the vehicle and fled. The park was advised as the pursuit neared Lake Mead. Ranger Brian Cooperider was at home when he heard the alert broadcast and drove his cruiser to the intersection of Lakeshore Drive and Lake Mead Marina. He laid out stop sticks in the southbound lane shoulder to deflate the Blazer's tires, with his cruiser across the northbound lane. At this part of the intersection, the northbound and southbound lanes are separated by a median strip with concrete curbs. Phillips approached the intersection at a high rate of speed, then slowed dramatically when he saw Cooperider's cruiser. The Blazer crossed the median and headed for Cooperider, who was pulling the stop sticks across the road as the vehicle headed toward him. The Blazer hit the patrol vehicle on its left side, but Cooperider was not injured. He was able to clear the roadway so that pursuing vehicles could get through; he attempted to join the chase, but found that his vehicle was partially disabled. Phillips continued out of the park and into Boulder City, where he struck another police car. Phillips then headed back to Las Vegas. A roadblock was set-up on US-95/I-515 south of Flamingo Road by Nevada Highway Patrol trooper Bobby Kintzel. When Phillips came upon it, he aimed the Blazer at Kintzel and crushed him against the side of his cruiser. Kintzel suffered a fractured skull, broken pelvis, broken right leg, and severe internal bleeding. At the time of the report, he was in the ICU and still unconscious. Phillips was finally forced off the road and arrested. During his run through the park, he also sideswiped a vehicle operated by Yolanda Pierce, 40, of North Las Vegas, forcing her into an embankment. She was not injured. Las

Vegas Metro PD is handling the investigation. Phillips has been charged with one count of attempted murder of a police officer, two counts of robbery, and one count of kidnapping. The charges may be amended to include the attempt on Cooperider; federal charges may also be filed. [Paul Crawford, SPR, LAME, 4/23]

#### 01-182 – C&O Canal NHP (MD/DC) – Assault on Ranger

On the afternoon of April 21<sup>st</sup>, ranger Ryan Peabody contacted a man who identified himself as Gorman Hines. Hines, who had the strong odor of alcohol about him, was sitting in the driver's seat of his 1998 GMC Sonoma with the keys in the ignition. Hines told Peabody that he'd been drinking, so Peabody asked him to step out of his vehicle. Hines instead attempted to drive off. A brief struggle ensued, during which Peabody's arm became entangled with Hines' as he sped off. Peabody was able to break free from the GMC and pursued. The pursuit lasted only a few minutes before Peabody terminated it due to Hines' reckless driving. Peabody and ranger Bill Pond interviewed several of Hines' relatives and friends and were able to find a residence where they had reason to believe he might be hiding. The rangers drove by the residence and saw Hines among a group of people standing outside the building. He was arrested. Further investigation revealed that Hines had a history of assaults on police officers, and that he is currently a suspect in other local crimes, including hit and run and burglary. Hines will be charged with assault on an officer, DWI and numerous traffic offenses. [Tom Nash, DR, CHOH, 4/30]

#### 01-199 – Independence NHP (PA) – Assault on Ranger

During the early morning hours of May 6<sup>th</sup>, bar patrons celebrating Cinco de Mayo spilled over into the Welcome Park area of Independence NHP. A ranger contacted a man who was standing in the middle of the street yelling obscenities at a passing car. At the same time, the manager of a parking garage located on park property contacted the ranger, pointing to a vehicle that just left the garage without paying exit fees. The ranger attempted to stop the vehicle, but the driver ignored his request and accelerated. The ranger was struck in the right hand by the vehicle while trying to get out of its way. When he then returned to the man still in the street, the man grabbed and tore his shirt. Rangers arrested the man, who was identified as one of the passengers from the fleeing vehicle. The ranger suffered bone contusions to the right hand as a result of being struck by the vehicle. Philadelphia PD, in conjunction with the National Park Service, is seeking charges against both the vehicle driver and passenger for aggravated assault against a police officer. [Mike Williams, LES, INDE, 5/9]

#### 01-364 – National Mall (DC) – Assault on Officer

While conducting parking enforcement on the National Mall on July 16<sup>th</sup>, horse-mounted officer Chuck Nail was assaulted by a woman. When Nail asked her to move her illegally-parked vehicle, she began arguing with him. During this interaction, the woman drove away, dragging Nail a short distance. Two passers-by who witnessed the incident impeded her vehicle with theirs until Nail could make the arrest. Nail sustained minor injuries to his left arm. [Sgt. R. MacLean, USPP, NCR, 7/18]

#### 01-372 – Baltimore/Washington Parkway (MD) – Assault on Officer

On July 18<sup>th</sup>, Park Police officers assisted Greenbelt PD in stopping a vehicle whose driver had assaulted a Greenbelt officer. They joined in the pursuit of the vehicle as it headed southbound on the parkway into the District of Columbia. The pursuit ended when the operator, 35-year-old Quentin Sanders, crashed into a Park Police cruiser, fled on foot, and entered a DC residence. Sanders was found in the building, but resisted arrest and struggled violently with officers. During the struggle, Sanders and a USPP officer fell down a flight of stairs. The fight continued outside of the building until Sanders was handcuffed. The officer was flown by USPP

helicopter to the Washington Hospital Center, where he was treated for an injury to his arm and released. Sanders was also treated for minor injuries, then charged with assault on an officer, destruction of property, operating on a revoked license, reckless driving, and an outstanding misdemeanor bench warrant. [Sgt. R. MacLean, USPP, NCR, 7/19]

01-424 – Denali NP&P (AK) – Assault on Concession Employee

A 32-year-old female concession employee was severely beaten by an unknown male assailant at 2 a.m. on August 6<sup>th</sup>. She had been out walking and took a shortcut trail from the park road back to her dorm. As she approached the outdoor mailboxes at the park post office, she was struck from behind and knocked to the ground. The assailant demanded money, but got nothing. He kicked her in the ribs, punched her in the face, and kicked her in the head before fleeing on foot into the nearby forest. The woman sustained a concussion and numerous bruises and was hospitalized at Fairbanks Memorial Hospital. This appears to have been a crime of opportunity. There are no suspects at present. Employees have been advised to carry flashlights at this time of day when out and about, and to walk in small groups. Tom Habecker is the investigating ranger. [Tom Habecker, DR, North District, DENA, 8/8]