



**2003 Survey of EPA Office of Criminal Enforcement,  
Forensics and Training Employees:  
*Agents' Comments on Whitman's Protective Detail***

*This PEER survey consisted of questions developed by employees in the Office of Criminal Enforcement, Forensics and Training (OCEFT) of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The purpose of the survey was to allow the professionals within the Criminal Investigation Division (CID) and OCEFT to express their views concerning the direction of the nation's principal program for criminal enforcement of environmental laws. The following comments were provided by in response to an "essay" question on the survey that asked respondents to describe how the EPA's criminal enforcement program could best be improved. A large subset of agents' responses referred to EPA Administrator Christie Todd Whitman's Personal Security Detail. That subset of responses is presented below.*

"The Administrator's entire new "security detail" is a farce. The only reason the Administrator has this is because it allows her to avoid waiting in lines (restaurants, airports, etc.), permits her to have limo service (courtesy of taxpayers), and allows her (through CID agents' efforts) to change her dinner reservations without regard of busy times/inconvenience to everyone involved/public perception. "Security", such as it is, is only incidental. Based on experience, this program is wholly ineffective in preventing any potential attack. I am aware that government resources have been used to provide limo services for the Administrator's spouse and son (without her being with them). As far as walking the dog, that wouldn't surprise me one bit; she's a big shot, after all. This whole program is an outrageous waste of taxpayer funds and should be dropped immediately."

"The protection detail for Ms. Whitman is nothing more than a concierge service, and now we are affording the Assistant Administrator a protection detail! I would like to see how much of CID's budget now goes to this government sanctioned boondoggle."

"The money spent protecting the Administrator is fraud, waste, and abuse. I've figured [the cost for] our region alone—dollars spent—it's outrageous. Then add that to all other regions! Protecting her while she's playing golf with Arnold Palmer—while she "boats" in another country—two of dozens of examples, a travesty."

"Evaluate the Administrator's protection detail, to include man-hours expended, travel costs, and scope of work. CID is utilizing counter-terrorism budget funds for this program. By the way, don't blame her dogs; they're innocent victims."

"Agents are constantly being told that Headquarters doesn't have the funding to support criminal investigations, trials, etc. We have the money to send agents (and managers) to Europe with the

Administrator... OCEFT needs to prioritize the criminal investigations instead and ensure that there is adequate funding for our primary mission.”

“If we have to protect Whitman and assist in all this homeland security, then more funds and personnel are needed. We are not [Whitman’s] servants.”

“By allowing the few resources (highly trained) to be relegated to driving the Administrator to the nearest Starbucks...makes it less likely that major corporations will be required to comply with the federal laws that protect human health and the environment.”