



Retired NPS Special Agent/Author Seeking “Critical Law Enforcement Incident” Information

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Author and retired NPS supervisory special agent Paul Berkowitz is revising and updating his publication, *U.S. Rangers – The Law of the Land*. Release of the updated version is scheduled for 2020. As part of that effort, Paul is actively **soliciting information about “critical law enforcement incidents”** that satisfy criteria for inclusion in the 2020 update.

Some readers will recall that *U.S. Rangers – The Law of the Land*, published 1991-1995, was then and remains the only publication to document every known critical law enforcement incident that has ever occurred within the various federal land management agencies (NPS, USFS, BLM, USF&WS, etc.). Most of the accounts of those incidents were compiled from interviews with “old timers,” archived newspaper accounts, long-lost incident reports, and first-hand accounts and records obtained from the rangers and other LEOs involved in or witness to those incidents.

The last edition of Paul’s book was published in 1995, when it was used as a text at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center. Since then, hundreds of incidents have occurred that may warrant inclusion in an effort to further educate our colleagues, agency managers, and the public about the actual levels of violence and other challenges long-faced by land management law enforcement personnel. It is also likely that many “old” incidents – or further details about those incidents that were included in earlier versions of Paul’s book – have yet to be fully acknowledged and documented. Additional Information about these incidents, too, is solicited. **If in doubt, please reach out.**

Along with officers killed in the line of duty, the types of incidents to be considered include:

- Officer involved shootings
- Incidents involving the use of deadly force, whether or not death or injury resulted.
- Aggravated assaults on officers, whether or not those assaults were prosecuted as such.
- Other significant or “landmark” law enforcement incidents, such as those resulting in significant media attention (e.g., apprehension of Charles Manson in Death Valley), significant court rulings, changes in agency policy, first time use of new law enforcement technology, etc.
- Other critical incidents that constructively demonstrate either the capabilities or shortcomings of our land management law enforcement efforts (staffing shortages, training issues, communications issues, equipment issues, extraordinary courage or sacrifice, etc.).

First-hand narratives, original incident reports, photos, newspaper accounts, online links, court records, and other sources of documentation are all welcome. More information is better in an effort to provide an accurate, balanced, and supportable summary account in the forthcoming edition. **We know that news and even agency accounts frequently contain inaccurate, incomplete, conflicting, or misleading information, so details that correct those accounts are particularly valuable and welcome.**

If you are aware of, or have information about, a critical law enforcement incident, please contact Paul via his website or author Facebook page, or directly at paul@thelawoftheland.net or by mail.