



PROTECTING LIFE AND CIVIL LIBERTIES

*Masters of
Collaboration*

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FOREWORD



Collaboration is no longer an option. In today's interconnected society, agencies and organizations must communicate with each other, coordinate resources, and align priorities. In Washington, D.C., New York City, and San Francisco, California, the United States Park Police (USPP) at each location face even greater challenges because of their close proximity to national and international people and places of interest, as well as to the critical infrastructure that is weaved into the daily operations of those major metropolitan cities.

The USPP must coordinate efforts among various branches within its organizational structure, as well as with outside agencies. Headquartered in the nation's capital, the USPP is responsible for large areas of federal parkland that lie adjacent to land and property protected by neighboring law enforcement agencies. To maximize resources, and avoid the added cost associated with bringing in USPP officers from other parts of the nation, there are benefits for collaborating with those neighboring agencies.

However, somebody has to take the first step and open the lines of communication. The relationships and collaboration, which have led to the successful implementation of thousands of special events held each year on federal land, have been many years in the making. When tragedies such as the 16 September 2013 shooting at the Washington Navy Yard take place, the planning, training, and collaboration cultivated from scheduled events help promote a more rapid and effective response to such unplanned incidents.

For the USPP, every day is different and each planned event serves as a new learning and training opportunity to better prepare for the unexpected. Partnering with outside agencies is a key factor for success. By facilitating resource sharing and promoting greater situational awareness, such partnerships are the foundation for building a safer, more protected homeland.

*Charles J. Guddemi
Captain, Commander, Special Events Unit
United States Park Police*

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Protecting Life & Civil Liberties – Masters of Collaboration

By Catherine Feinman, Editor



For more than 200 years, before the existence of the Department of the Interior and the National Park Service (NPS), the United States Park Police (USPP) has been protecting federal parks. As a current unit of the Department of the Interior's NPS, USPP serves as the urban law enforcement branch of the NPS and has jurisdiction in all NPS areas as well as some other federal and state lands. The most notable locations include the monuments and memorials in Washington, D.C., the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island in New York City, and the Presidio Golden Gate National Recreational Area in San Francisco, California.

The 641 sworn USPP officers in those three areas, however, do not simply guard monuments, but rather are highly trained and professional urban law enforcement officers who help “prevent and detect criminal activity, conduct investigations, apprehend individuals suspected of committing offenses against federal, state, and local laws, provide protection to the President of the United States and visiting dignitaries, and provide protective services to some of the most recognizable monuments and memorials in the world.”

The Organizational & Command Structure

Under Police Chief Teresa Chambers, the USPP is divided into three divisions: Homeland Security, Services, and Field Operations. Under each division are various branches (each with a detail clerk to track people and duties) and programs that must communicate and coordinate within and between the three divisions. For example, the Homeland Security Division's Special Forces (Aviation Unit, Motors Unit [motorcycles], SWAT Unit, Canine Unit, and Honor Guard) collaborate with the Field Operations Division's Support Services Group (Horse Mounted Patrol Unit, Shift Commanders, Civilian Guard Unit, and Traffic Safety Unit) for some assignments. The organization is supported by 115 dedicated civilian support staff who are integral to the success of the USPP.

The USPP's proximity to many key landmarks and critical national assets – national monuments and museums, federal government buildings, foreign embassies, and other high-profile places and people – provides a prime environment for showcasing how to successfully build and maintain collaborative relationships and interagency agreements. Protecting these assets and coordinating resources, in addition to the diverse urban and geographical characteristics of D.C., New York, and San Francisco – such as waterways, bridges, tunnels, islands, large open areas, high-density populations, highways, and significant seasonal weather changes – would pose challenges for any law enforcement agency, but it is even more complicated for the USPP.

In addition to traditional law enforcement responsibilities, the USPP is also tasked with managing an average (2001-2012) – in Washington, D.C., alone – of nearly 13,000 planned events – First Amendment activities, special events, films, short-term permit activities, and wedding permits – that fall under its jurisdiction each year. As of 9 September, the USPP has handled more than 11,000 events so far in 2013. To tackle these challenges, the USPP follows the National Incident Management System (NIMS) guidelines that are used by other agencies and organizations with a role in emergency management.

By following a common incident command structure, organizations and agencies from neighboring cities and states are able to work with the USPP, even when time constraints and

limited resources do not allow for joint trainings. The NIMS Incident Command System (ICS), although it adds more paperwork, helps streamline the chain of command, manage objectives, and improve communications. For law enforcement officers, this may mean a change in command because the ICS structure does not necessarily follow the ranks designated for daily operations. Instead, ICS dictates that the most qualified persons be placed in key roles based on their qualifications and experience rather than by rank.

Captain Charles Guddemi and the USPP offered DomPrep an exclusive behind-the-scenes look at their special event planning process, from the application form to the after-action report. With little time to rest and sacrificing many days off, the men and women of the USPP work diligently to protect U.S. citizens' First Amendment rights and ensure the safety and security of visitors and spectators at planned special events, in addition to serving their communities through daily law enforcement details.

Permits, Plans & Protection

When event planners decide to produce a movie, hold a rally, organize a marathon, or plan another event on NPS property, there is a lot of paperwork and labor involved. The first step for the planner is to submit a permit application to the dedicated staff at the National Mall and Memorial Parks Division of the NPS's Permits Management Office. Once NPS receives the application, it is placed into one of three categories: Special Events, Film Permits, and First Amendment. However, it is important to note that there is a fourth type of event that also often involves the USPP. National Special Security Events (NSSEs) are designated by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to be high-risk national or international targets for terrorist or other criminal activity. Although led by the U.S. Secret Service, the USPP is required to provide resources that come out of its budget for events such as presidential inaugurations.



Who financially supports the other events depends on the category under which each event falls. Whereas, the cost of First Amendment activities – for example, the National Action to Realize the Dream March on 24 March 2013 – is borne by the federal government. Event organizers bear the cost for other special events such as the Nations Triathlon on 8 September 2013; and NPS bears the cost of the events that it sponsors, including the 4th of July fireworks over the National Mall. Regardless of who is “paying the bill,” every permit granted requires some level of security staffing.

The extensiveness of the application, the type of event, the message of the organizer, the capability to attract large numbers of people, and intelligence information all factor into the decision about how much planning and how many law enforcement officers will be needed. To help applicants understand the guidelines and resources required for a particular type and

size of event, the NPS provides Requirements for Special Events Held on Parkland, which addresses the following topics:

- *Logistics* – site plan, check-in and check-out procedures, delivery of materials and parking, and transportation;
- *Health, safety, and security* – first-aid, comfort facilities, risk management, resource protection, on-site supervision and security, and public health requirements for temporary food establishments;
- *Sales and advertising* – signs and advertising, media, display of arts and crafts, alcoholic beverages, sale of food and culturally expressive food, and sale of other items; and
- *Guidelines and forms* – liability insurance, hold harmless agreement, use of generators, cost recovery, general timelines, and required submittals.

Once the permit is issued and sent to the USPP, representatives of the USPP must then identify available assets and meet with the organizers to discuss issues including, but not limited to: set up; overnight security; transportation, medical, and communication plans; amenities provided; port-a-john rentals; and estimate of attendees. Documents concerning equipment, where the participants are allowed to be and drive, additional guidelines, maps, and timelines are then attached to the permit.

An incident action plan is also created to define the responsibilities and procedures for identifying conditions that could endanger participants and/or spectators and responding quickly to minimize any potential consequences. This action plan includes: event information, timelines, and site maps; an organizational chart for emergency notifications; an operational plan for weather, medical, and other emergencies with safe haven locations; and a list of necessary resources with the associated agencies for each resource.

From that plan and other information provided in the permit, the USPP then determines an ICS detail for the event that lists the breakdown squads, divisions, assignments, and supervisors. The number of pages varies depending on the complexity of event. A USPP Weekly Bulletin keeps officers informed of upcoming events, potential civil disturbances, requests for days off that may have to be cancelled, updated information, publications that have recently been distributed, training opportunities, and other human resource concerns. In addition, daily details list the people who are on duty, the events scheduled, and the assignments for that day.

The scope and scale of each event defines which agencies and organizations the USPP in D.C. must reach out to – the New York and San Francisco field offices, agencies located in D.C., and agencies located outside the city. If necessary, the USPP may contact the Washington Metro Area Transit Authority (WMATA) to request Metrorail or Metrobus closures. The D.C. Mayor’s Special Events Task Force holds meetings with USPP, D.C. Metropolitan Police Department, D.C. Fire/EMS, D.C. Department of Transportation, WMATA, etc. to discuss logistics for events that will affect streets and traffic flow into and out of the affected area.

Supervisors of the various agencies receive a copy of the complete incident action plan for the event, and their officers are each given a flyer with the event’s command staff, timeline,

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maps, safe haven and family reunification locations, Metro and parking information, relevant phone numbers, and other pertinent information concerning the event. By communicating with organizers and collaborating with various resources, the USPP provides guidance to help make each event a success.

Once the plan is established, but before the event begins, there are many other tasks that must be completed by the USPP. Some of these tasks include: performing walk-throughs and/or drive-throughs for events, races, etc.; sending barricade lists to NPS for set up; distributing passes to allow access for certain persons to enter the secure areas; notifying the D.C. Department of Transportation of any road closures; moving people out of areas that will be blocked off; and conducting security sweeps.

The USPP spends a lot of time protecting First Amendment activities, which sometimes end in high-volume arrests. To address this concern, the USPP also has an organizational chart for managing such arrests, with the Operations Chief overseeing the Arrest, Tactical, Transportation, and Prisoner Processing branches. Because the organizational chart changes for each event, the chart serves as a template that can be adapted, scaled, and modified for any USPP event.

Following each event, incident after-action review forms, which are attached to the incident action plan, are filled out by each supervisor. Officers also may complete them if they would like to provide their feedback as well. The after-action reviews for all events and after-action meetings for large events help to determine what went well and what needs to be improved in the future. Information that is gathered includes: (a) successes that may be helpful to others; (b) challenges and how they were overcome; (c) changes, additions, or deletions recommended; (d) issues that require further review; and (e) additional recommendations and comments.

In addition to all of these planning procedures, the USPP must also: track all the finances spent for each event; create bills of collection that need to be charged; process refunds if expenses were less than anticipated; manage work schedules by cancelling branch days off or asking for volunteers to fill posts; and communicate with local partners – D.C. Metropolitan Police Department, Secret Service, D.C. Fire, D.C. Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency, Federal Protective Services, WMATA Metro Transit Police Department, Capitol Police, and the NPS. The USPP staff members somehow manage to perform all of these tasks, while at the same time monitor an average of 36 events each and every day.

A Star-Spangled Example

One of the largest events of the year for the USPP is the 4th of July celebration on the D.C. Mall. Each summer, the fireworks bursting above the peak of the Washington Monument is an event that is viewed by people across the nation and is scheduled to take place regardless of the weather and/or incidents that would often delay or cancel similar events held in other parts of the country. Even this year's sequestration did not stop the NPS and USPP from sponsoring that highly anticipated event, while ensuring participant safety, venue security, resource protection, and interdisciplinary collaboration among law enforcement, emergency medical services, and event planners.

Pre-Event Planning

Planning for the Independence Day celebration began far in advance of the event itself. On 18 June 2013, more than 100 law enforcement officers representing at least 25 agencies convened

for the “2013 Independence Day Celebration Partner Agency Planning Meeting” at the USPP Anacostia Station, which is located just on the other side of the Anacostia River from the nation’s capital. Major Patrick Smith, USPP, was the Incident Commander for that event and emphasized the importance of communication and collaboration, “We are one team out there to get the job done.”

During the 18 June briefing, attendees received a map that identified the nine access points, safe havens, medical tents, “game-day” contacts, and other pertinent information related to the event. Attendees were reminded that the way in which information is shared with civilians and the terminology used can affect the perceived role of law enforcement agencies and the level of personal situational awareness. For example, although fencing would be erected strategically around the National Mall, the access points are not called “checkpoints.” The distinction between the two terms is that the latter could give a false sense of security, as access points do not employ walk-through metal detectors and other scanning devices. Guddemi emphasized the need for situational awareness by stating that, “At no time do we think the venue is totally sterile and secure.”



After the terrorist attacks of 9/11, security efforts were heightened across the nation and particularly in Washington, D.C. This year marked only the second time since 9/11 that the Smithsonian Metro station on the National Mall would be open on the 4th of July. This additional ingress/egress point facilitated access by event attendees, but also raised security concerns. In case of evacuation, attendees might not have been able to leave the same way they arrived, or they may have needed to shelter in place, so knowing the locations of safe havens helps the USPP facilitate access to facilities and organize law enforcement and emergency medical services if and when needed.

For events and demonstrations, in addition to the official national parade, it is difficult to predict the exact number of participants and amount of resources needed. Although the 2013 event did not have any credible threats, even small protest groups (with and without permits) could have caused major problems, including: Toy Gun March (promoting gun rights, on July 3); Code Pink (protesting U.S.-funded wars); Hemp Coalition (promoting industrial hemp); PRISM Protest (protesting intelligence tracking); among others. Even groups whose protests had been cancelled still posed some concern – for example, the Sovereignty Party of America as well as Adam Kokesh’s Final American Revolution “Armed and Loaded” March. With rifles and shotguns being legal in neighboring Virginia, but illegal in D.C., another concern raised was that some civilians are unclear about the exact location of the D.C. border.

Training – Ground, Water, and Air

The USPP planned and organized numerous training opportunities that included both tabletop and functional exercises – for example, riot-control drills and a Multi-Agency Command Center (MACC) tabletop exercise. Interdisciplinary exercises such as the Terrorism Awareness Partnership Program (TAPP) includes both civilians and volunteers. Helicopter drills were routinely conducted in a large field adjacent to the Anacostia Station.

On 26-27 June 2013, led by Captain Michael Libby and Lieutenant Brandi Adamchick, the Horse-Mounted Patrol (HMP) and Civil Disturbance Unit (CDU) reactionary teams joined forces in Rock Creek Park to prepare the officers and horses using crowd control techniques. Officer Poncho Gonzalez began the day by sharing basic information about the horses and their behaviors: flight instinct; speed (25-35 mph); sight (blind to objects in the muzzle area); hearing (react to loud noises); touch (can feel a fly, but have a high threshold for pain); height (makes them more visible); and other characteristics (pepper spray has no effect on horses). Unlike canine training, horses in general are less predictable. Gonzalez emphasized that during the training, “Always let the horses win.” For an effective HMP, it is critical that the riders develop trust with their horses.

The benefit of incorporating HMP into law enforcement activities is that the horses have a significant psychological effect; one HMP can have roughly the same effectiveness as 10 officers who are engaged with the crowd on the ground. Although law enforcement officers often train to work independently, they must also learn to work as a team. On the first day of training, the reactionary team received real-life training when the exercise was interrupted by a protest at the White House.

The second day of training went according to schedule. Using shields and PR-24s (side-handle batons), ten foot officers and one sergeant practiced riot-control formations – line, wedge, diamond, echelon right, and echelon left. Although no live agents were used during the exercise, officers donned gas masks for one of the three HMP/CDU joint exercise scenarios and were reminded to know their gear and make sure it was prepped.

The joint exercises involved formation marches with HMPs, foot officers, and volunteer “demonstrators” – armed with paper, noisemakers, flags, and tennis balls – to simulate a riot situation and to practice crowd-control maneuvers. Introducing people, noises, and motions in progressive stages – and reassuring the horses with friendly interaction between each drill – helped build trust between the riders and horses, and reduce the horses’ fears.

The Day Before the Event

On the morning of 3 July 2013, the final exercise was held in two rooms at the Anacostia Station as a tabletop involving the operational leaders’ unified command and the Multi-Agency Command Center (MACC). Major David Mulholland (commander of the MACC for the past 7 years) and Lieutenant Stephen Godfrey (commander of the MACC for the 2013 event) led the MACC side and Captain Dennis Bosak led the unified command side of the exercise. The role of the unified command is to make decisions as events unfold, while representatives from some 30 agencies in the MACC collect the information received from the unified command and disseminate it to their respective agencies. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is one agency in the MACC that continuously monitors the weather during the entire event. In effect, the MACC is the information-clearing house for the event.



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After receiving general instructions about the facility, process, overview of roles, logistics, phones, computers, etc., Godfrey covered topics such as:

- Plans, policies, and procedures in place;
- The objectives of the exercise:
 - Identify the policy issues associated with a law enforcement/life safety emergency
 - Identify gaps in local preparedness
 - Discuss measures that can be performed at the local level
 - Promote interagency collaboration and coordination
 - Recognize the roles of officers, supervisors, command officials, and support staff
 - Identify training needs
 - Demonstrate a teaching tool
 - Evaluate self-reported assessment
- Current intelligence and threat assessments;
- Recent terrorist tactics, including the 2013 Boston Marathon bombings;
- Terror propaganda and ideology;
- Weapons of mass destruction, including pressure cookers, bicycles, liquid improvised explosive devices, suicide vests, and backpacks; and
- Unique weapons trends, including concealed weapons and 3D printed weapons made of synthetic plastic.

The scenario used for the 3 July tabletop included: (a) a flood watch and damaging storms on July 3 into July 4; (b) a loss of some resources because they needed to respond to damage within their local jurisdictions; (c) sightings of seven people carrying loaded guns during a rally march, and shots being fired at three locations; (d) reports from the Federal Bureau of Investigation about a boat carrying terrorists on the river adjacent to the event; (e) severe thunderstorms causing damaging winds, flying debris, and tent collapses, with people trapped and injured; and finally (f) an explosion and collapse of the Memorial Bridge as units are demobilizing. Although it is unlikely for all of these incidents to occur during a single event, each of these incidents actually did happen in the past at other locations around the country and could possibly happen again in the D.C. area during the month of July.

During the hot-wash discussion following the exercise, there was a consensus that cascading events can in fact affect multiple agencies. As such,



it is important for the MACC to remain active until all roads are cleared and all of the units are demobilized. Godfrey explained it simply, “Your day doesn’t end until you are home and through the doorway.” This raised a question from one participant about how she would be notified if she needed to be called back to the MACC. After a brief discussion, an action item was created to use the Nixle system – which sends text alerts with messages directly from the MACC to officers, participants, volunteers, and attendees who subscribe to the 4th of July alerts – and create a new Nixle subscription just for MACC representatives, which would direct resources back to the MACC if needed after demobilizing. Although there is often a lot of down time, Mulholland explained, “You don’t want anything to happen in these rooms; if nothing happens, it’s a good day.”

The afternoon of 3 July drew representatives from every agency that would be assisting the USPP on 4 July. This mandatory operational briefing was used to reiterate: the game-day plans (scheduling, procedures, etc.); main contacts (Major Patrick Smith, incident commander; Captain Charles Guddemi, planning section chief; Captain Philip Beck, operations section chief; Major David Mulholland, logistics; Deputy Chief Jean O’Toole, Field Operations Division commander and acting chief of police for the event; among others); and important administration and communication details.

Administration & Communication

For this large-scale event, the incident command structure roles were defined for each branch/division/group – legal counsel, tents and fence lines, family reunification, aviation, medical, buses and barriers, maritime security, hazmat teams, transportation, parade activities, canine units, horse-mounted patrols, etc. Since 4 July 2012, some administration changes were made due to the federal budget sequestration – reducing the number of access points, for example – and communication was improved based on past lessons learned.

As the sponsoring agency, NPS provided mobile trailers for USPP, more than 250 volunteers, golf carts for family reunification, security fencing, 350 toilets, and five medical aid stations with emergency medical technicians (plus one additional tent if needed) on bicycles and utility vehicles to provide medical aid to those who were not near medical tents. In addition to venue security, the USPP also provided a Joint Hazard Assessment Team (multi-agency response), security surge teams (aviation, canine and civil disturbance units, etc.), tactical tech deployments, and additional services. Multi-agency coordination and interagency agreements were key to providing security staff for access points, perimeter security, and crowd management.

As with most events, public affairs communication was another key component of the 4th of July planning process. A record of determination, which is a notice to the public, provided pertinent information to facilitate the movement of people and reduce conflicts, including but not limited to: park closures, prohibited items, in/out privileges of D.C. Pedicabs (bicycle rickshaws), access points for civilians, and bilingual access point signs in English and Spanish. Texts using the Nixle mass notification system kept all stakeholders informed of any important information throughout the day. For this year’s 4th of July, there were more than 3,000 Nixle subscribers. Fortunately, only three “missing person” messages had to be sent and all three were reunited with their families within an hour or less.

The key to any successful large-scale event is ongoing training, involving: learning from past events, inviting other agencies to participate in the planning and exercise processes, and taking

an all-hands approach to promoting individual situational awareness combined with a cooperative team atmosphere. As one USPP officer stated during the riot-control training, “Every day on the street is a different scenario.” For the USPP in Washington, D.C., that statement rings true as the officers donned their uniforms, radios with ear pieces, and reflective vests and headed out to protect and secure this year’s 4th of July celebrations.

Protecting First Amendment Rights

USPP officers are sworn to protect and preserve. Their priorities include:

- Safeguarding and protecting human life;
- Safeguarding and protecting park cultural and natural resources;
- Providing a safe and enjoyable stay by park visitors not associated with the demonstration;
- Providing a safe area for all demonstrators to exercise their First Amendment rights; and
- Maintaining law and order throughout the event area.

Regardless of the cause behind a rally or the views of the participants, officers ensure that, when proper procedures are followed, all voices have a chance to be heard. DomPrep was invited to witness two very different rallies – one pushing for equal rights for all people on many different issues and the other with opposite views on some of those same issues.

A Platform for Equality Held in D.C.

On 14 August 2013, the USPP organized another interagency planning meeting to discuss the National Action to Realize the Dream March, sponsored by the National Action Network, and other events planned for the 5-day celebration of the 50th anniversary of Martin Luther King, Jr.’s “I Have a Dream” speech. Unlike the annual 4th of July celebration, which built upon years of planning and lessons learned, the commemorative march involved many more uncertainties. With the march only 10 days away, the USPP was still working with the organizers to address questions concerning the exact location and routes that would be used for the anticipated attendance of 100,000.

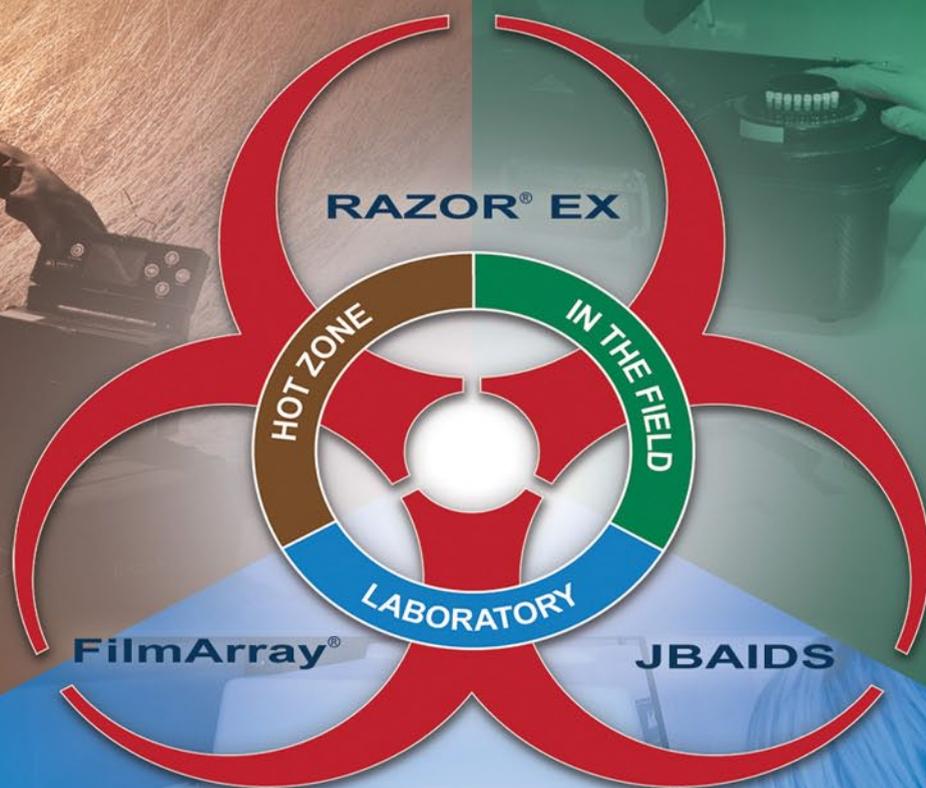


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The organizational meeting addressed the timelines, road closures, transportation, and proposed site plans for the various planned events: Realize the Dream March from the Lincoln Memorial to the Washington Monument (24 August); Global Freedom Festival in West Potomac Park (24-27 August); and Let Freedom Ring Commemoration closing ceremony at the Lincoln Memorial (28 August). With President Barack Obama in attendance on 28 August, the USPP had to work closely with the Secret Service for security, the Coast Guard to restrict waterway access, and the D.C. National Guard for perimeter security, and D.C. Metropolitan Police Department for crowd management assistance.

Understanding the need to collaborate with other agencies and coordinate resources, Chief Chambers announced at the 14 August meeting, “A lot is still in flux. We can’t do it without you.” Major Smith acknowledged that, “Partnerships have increased exponentially over the past few years.” After three-and-a-half years as the commander of special events and principal planner for roughly 7,000 events, “Captain Guddemi brought [those partnerships] to a new level.”

Another responsibility of the USPP is finding the right tools to provide the most effective security for special events and everyday protection. During the MLK celebrations, D.C.’s Homeland Security Emergency Management Agency coordinated a new opportunity for the USPP to work with Intrado Inc., which is headquartered in Longmont, Colorado, and founded by members of the public safety community to maintain databases and operational centers. Intrado coordinated with the USPP to bring THOR Shield (Tactical Homeland Operational Response) to D.C. to serve as a mobile command unit for the MLK activities. This two-story vehicle has a total of 17 workstations and an eight-seat conference room. Although THOR is larger and more costly than a single jurisdiction could support, the privately owned THOR is most often used regionally and is eligible for cost recovery under the Stafford Act.

With the mobile command unit stationed behind the Lincoln Memorial and the USPP helicopter flying overhead, law enforcement officers were positioned strategically throughout the area. Another difference from the 4th of July celebration was that the attendees were concentrated into crowd mitigation zones, with most people standing and watching the presentations on Jumbotrons. This event obviously had a lot of moving parts. Participants, spectators, and media filled the area from the steps of the Memorial to the grassy hill adjacent to the Washington Monument. Even the horse-mounted patrols remained outside the public areas, because maneuvering through the crowds would be difficult. As Lieutenant Adamchick pointed out, for the safety of the riders and their horses, “We must have an exit point.”

With attendance numbers approaching the anticipated 100,000, the MLK march drew many groups that rallied for various causes related to racial, economic, gender, sexual, and educational equalities. Led by five USPP escort motorcycles and a squad of seven horse-mounted patrol officers, participants marched down streets lined with onlookers behind fences and police tape. As the crowd filled the streets, National Guard and USPP officers helped to maintain the flow of foot traffic and enabled participants to enjoy the event with minimal problems and injuries – including providing aid to those who were affected by the high afternoon temperatures.

Once again, the Nixle mass communication system was used to keep the public informed about the opening of access points, children who were separated and reunified with their families, and the location of available Metro stations. With the density of the crowd, the fact that only

two children had been separated and quickly reunited with their families signifies that the event was a success. For the MLK march, a primary concern for the USPP was to maintain order within the crowds and allow for fluid movement of people from one location to another. However, at other times, the USPP is tasked with preventing the mingling of participants.

Policy Protest Held at Antietam National Battlefield

Two weeks after the human rights march in D.C., the USPP traveled to Antietam National Battlefield in Maryland to assist the NPS with another First Amendment event. Just ten days before the 151st anniversary of “The Bloodiest One-Day Battle in American History,” the Confederate White Knights branch of the Ku Klux Klan held a rally to voice opposition to U.S. immigration policies and to President Barack Obama’s administration. Although less than 100 participants were expected, such protests often have even greater numbers of counter-protesters.

Although that event was much smaller in attendance than either the 4th of July celebration or the MLK march, there was still a potential for disorderly conduct and possible harm to those involved. As such, a minimum number of officers were required from the Patrol and Icon Protection branches.

The day began at 8:30 a.m. with road closures. At 10:00 a.m., a briefing was held at Mumma Barn for all the officers on duty. In addition to the USPP and the host NPS chief ranger Thomas Jones, the Sharpsburg Emergency Medical Services, a tactical medical team from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and the Washington County Sheriff were also present in case of medical emergencies and/or police arrests, respectively. The Incident Commander Captain Guddemi and



Operations Commander Lieutenant Todd Reid led the briefing and reminded the officers about the priorities of the USPP to protect human life, natural resources, and First Amendment rights.

Following the roll call and sharing of information about the event, timelines, and staging, the officers conducted a walkthrough of the demonstration area, which was sectioned by orange fencing to separate the protesters, counter-protesters, supporters, and media, and to avoid conflicts between the groups. At 12:00 p.m., USPP officers met the protesters offsite for security checks and transport. Bomb dogs and officers searched the protesters’ vehicles for any weapons and metal-detector wands were used to search each of the eight participants that attended. Once the security checks were complete, a van carrying those members of the group was escorted by four USPP motorcycles and a squad car to the event site.

One counter-protester, about a dozen supporters, a few media representatives, and a small number of passersby watched the protest with no incident. By 3:00 p.m., the event had ended, the protesters were escorted back to their vehicles, the officers were debriefed, and everyone was headed back to their stations.

Protecting & Preserving the Future

The USPP has a long history of effectively protecting the nation's federal property and icons. This relatively small group of dedicated law enforcement officers has built a strong reputation for collaborating and coordinating with other agencies to accomplish what some might consider an almost impossible task. The success of those relationships is demonstrated as the USPP time and again fills an auditorium at the Anacostia Station with representatives from many agencies who attend planning meetings and take that information back to share with their officers and colleagues.

As budget cuts and hiring freezes compound the duties and responsibilities of each of the 641 sworn officers of the USPP, the commitment and dedication to protect and preserve the national parks still shines through. From "Park Watchmen" within the D.C. limits to "Masters of Collaboration" on both sides of the country, the uniformed men and women of the USPP have a legacy that should be modeled, not only by other law enforcement agencies, but by any agency that plays a role in preparedness, response, or recovery efforts of planned special events or unplanned incidents.



LINKS

U.S. Park Police, <http://www.nps.gov/uspp/>

Park Information

- *Antietam National Battlefield*, <http://www.nps.gov/ancm/index.htm>
- *National Mall and Memorial Parks*, <http://www.nps.gov/nama/index.htm>
- *Permits for the National Mall and Memorial Parks*, <http://www.nps.gov/nama/planyourvisit/permits.htm>
- *Requirements for Special Events Held on Parkland*, [http://www.nps.gov/nama/planyourvisit/upload/Special Event Guidelines - Version 8-6-07-A.pdf](http://www.nps.gov/nama/planyourvisit/upload/Special%20Event%20Guidelines%20-%20Version%208-6-07-A.pdf)

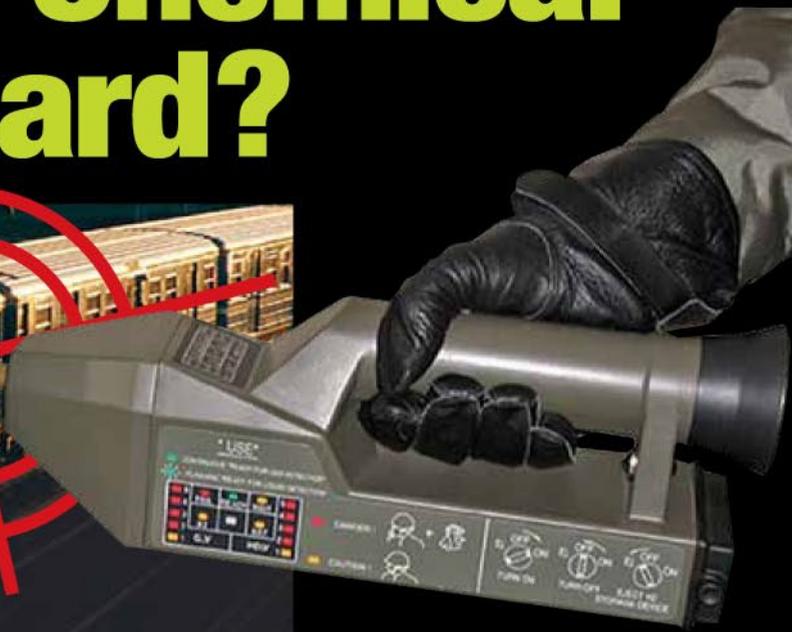
Home Security Division

- *Intelligence Unit*, <http://www.nps.gov/uspp/Intelcount.htm>
- *New York Field Office*, <http://www.nps.gov/uspp/nyfo.htm>
- *Icon Protection Branch*
 - *District 1 – Central District Station*, http://www.nps.gov/uspp/district_one.htm
 - *Special Events and Demonstrations*, <http://www.nps.gov/uspp/SpecVEDm0.htm>
 - *Special Forces*
 - *Aviation Unit*, <http://www.nps.gov/uspp/avipag.htm>
 - *Canine Unit*, <http://www.nps.gov/uspp/Canpag.htm>
 - *Motors Unit*, <http://www.nps.gov/uspp/motfrt.htm>
 - *SWAT Unit*, <http://www.nps.gov/uspp/swatpag.htm>

Field Operations Division

- *San Francisco Field Office*, <http://www.nps.gov/uspp/sffo.htm>
- *Criminal Investigations Branch*, <http://www.nps.gov/uspp/cibbran.htm>
 - *Environmental Crimes Unit*, <http://www.nps.gov/uspp/enviru.htm>
 - *Identification Unit*, <http://www.nps.gov/uspp/idtec.htm>
 - *Major Crimes Unit*, <http://www.nps.gov/uspp/majcri.htm>
 - *Narcotics and Vice Unit*, <http://www.nps.gov/uspp/narcvic.htm>
- *Patrol Branch*, <http://www.nps.gov/uspp/patpag.htm>
 - *District 2 – George Washington Memorial Parkway Station*, http://www.nps.gov/uspp/district_two.htm
 - *District 3 – Rock Creek Park Station*, http://www.nps.gov/uspp/district_three.htm
 - *District 4 – Baltimore-Washington Parkway Station*, http://www.nps.gov/uspp/district_four.htm
 - *District 5 – Anacostia Station*, http://www.nps.gov/uspp/district_five.htm
 - *Support Services Group*
 - *Civilian Guard Unit*, <http://www.nps.gov/uspp/guafor.htm>
 - *Horse-Mounted Unit*, <http://www.nps.gov/uspp/hmpmain.htm>
 - *Traffic Safety Unit*, <http://www.nps.gov/uspp/traffsaf.htm>

Unknown Chemical or BioHazard?



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