



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**

USACE Park Ranger CoP Title 18 Response Guide

This guide is intended to offer guidance on what to do if a park ranger or USACE employee is assaulted or involved in a Title 18 criminal offense while performing official duties.

As outlined in park ranger training, the protection of facilities or the enforcement of rules shall always be secondary to the safety of Corps personnel, contract employees, or visitors. Operations project managers and park rangers shall strive to be visible to the public, primarily to help and assist them, and secondarily, to enforce 36 CFR Chapter III, Part 327 (Title 36). In no case shall this enforcement portray an aggressive law enforcement image.

It is a federal criminal offense to forcibly assault, resist, oppose, impede, intimidate, interfere with, attempt to kill or kill any civilian official or employee of the Corps of Engineers assigned to perform investigations, inspections, law or regulatory enforcement functions, or field-level real estate functions while in the performance of his/her duties (18 USC 1114).

If an assault occurs, the Corps individual should immediately attempt to remove themselves from the situation. If this is not possible, the individual should act to ensure personal safety and stop the assault, if possible.

Per EP 1130-2-550 Chapter 6-10, when an assault or other crime has occurred, several actions should happen:

1. Seek and secure medical help for the victim(s) as needed.
2. Notify local or state law enforcement authorities immediately and request assistance as needed. Release all evidence to law enforcement officials upon their arrival to the incident scene.
3. Ensure the incident scene and any evidence are not disturbed until the arrival of law enforcement authorities. This may include halting traffic or interrupting other activities in the incident scene.
4. Identify as thoroughly as possible all those involved in the incident as well as witnesses. Obtain name, license plate number, and description of the assailant(s) and witnesses when possible.
5. Notify the supervisor of the victim immediately and request assistance, if appropriate. The victim's supervisor should promptly report the incident to the district operations chief who will notify the security and law enforcement and the district Office of Counsel. The security and law enforcement office who will contact the United States Army Criminal Investigation Command and add to ENGLINK. The ops chief should notify the MSC NRM chief and contact HQ

Advisory for Park Ranger Activities. Office of Counsel will monitor the prosecution of any case. (ENGLINK)

Responsibility for the action chain will depend on each district's processes. The action chain may be coordinated by one or more of the following: Security and Law Enforcement Office, District Office of Counsel, or Operations Division. The action chain consists of notification to the United States Criminal Investigation Command, appropriate HQUSACE elements, and the applicable U.S. Attorney's office. Identify who in your district can access ENGLINK for data entry. It is imperative that assaults are passed through the chain of command to HQUSACE. Accurate statistics help HQUSACE with policy on ranger safety and can help to facilitate policy updates.

In cases of a Title 18 assault, you can write a citation under Title 36 327.24 (a) interference with a government employee. Consult with your AUSA before writing the citation to make sure correct procedures are being followed especially when local and state law enforcement may have arrested and charged an individual. It will be a mandatory appearance citation and provides an immediate and accurate record of the incident. Citation can be dismissed if processed under a Title 18 offense. Writing a citation for this does not give the ranger extra authorities performing Title 18 investigations.

Collect witness statements, photos, police reports, provide maps of the area where the incident occurred. Make sure to include any medical assistance needed or have workman's comp information.

Reach out to the CISM on behalf of the victim and individuals involved.