

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Ranger Anne

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**Comments for Public Posting:** I was a Park Ranger for 22 years, retiring as a Captain. The arming of Rangers has been an ongoing battle for our unit since we got peace officer status in the late 80's. When I first started working in 1988, we had an incident where a ranger was shot at in the North Atwater area and survived. His bullet ridden truck was parked in our Ranger Station patio for us to see as a reminder of how dangerous our job was. We then tried to get the policy changed so L.A. City Park Rangers could be armed with no success. Years ago I completed a survey of many Southern California cities who allowed their Rangers to be armed. Federal, State and many local Park Rangers from other agencies such as the Santa Monica Conservancy were and are still armed. This information was compiled in order to try and get the Rangers armed in the 1990's after our unit became POST certified. Again our efforts were not successful. I do not remember the exact date, but our unit went through a split, I believe in the early 2000's, where almost half of our Rangers transferred to General Services and eventually to LAPD and most are now armed. To my knowledge there has never been a problem with our former Rangers who have been armed now for perhaps 15 years. LAPD was not in favor of arming the Rangers back in the 1980's or 1990's and perhaps in the early 2000's but I believe the current LAPD Chief may now be in support of arming the Rangers. I still find it amazing that Ranger recruits are issued a firearm when they start the police academy, (firearms loaned to us from LAPD when I was in charge of training), participate in all regular firearms training alongside other peace officers, and then have to return the firearm once they graduate. Please consider the City's responsibility to give Rangers the tools that they need to protect themselves so they can go home to their families after a shift and so they can protect the people who use our parks. Thank you.