

Evidence that the United States Park Police is Understaffed

1999 Booz- Allen Study

- In 1999, the consulting firm Booz, Allen & Hamilton (Booz-Allen) conducted the most recent independent staffing study that determined that the United States Park Police (USPP) needed 820 officers. Currently, the USPP has approximately 564 officers.
- The Booz-Allen study was conducted about 18 months before the September 11, 2001 attacks. The National Park Service (NPS) has ignored the Boos-Allen study for about two decades.
- Since, the mid-1990's the NPS has maintained that the USPP only needs 639 officers. The staffing assessment methodology the NPS used to determine this number is unknown.

DC Area Population Up 43%

- The Washington-Baltimore-Arlington Metropolitan Area population increased 43% between 1990 and 2017. The population grew from 6.7 million to 9.6 million. (Source: US Census)
- No corresponding increase in USPP officers.

NPS Traffic Volume Up 36%

- For example, the Baltimore-Washington Parkway Average Annual Daily Traffic (AADT) was 74,600 vehicles a day in 1993 and was 117,000 vehicles a day in 2013. This represents a 36% increase in traffic volume from 1993 to 2013. (Source: NPS Records)
- No corresponding increase in USPP officers.

Other Departments

- Before September 11, 2001, the United States Capitol Police (USCP) and the United States Secret Service- Uniformed Division (USSS-UD) both had approximately two times more officers than the USPP had in the Washington, DC area. Currently, the USCP has approximately 1700 sworn officers, and the USSS-UD a similar amount.
- Today the USPP has about 564 officers distributed between DC, NY, and CA. In the Washington, DC Area the USPP has about 450 officers. The two other departments have about 3 times more officers in the Washington, DC Area than the USPP.
- The two other departments grew to meet the evolving threat, the USPP remained stagnant.

Jurisdiction Size

- The USPP's jurisdiction covers a vastly larger geographic area than the USCP's and the USSS-UD's. This supports the conclusion that the USPP should have more comparable numbers of officers.

Addition of Facilities

- Since 9/11/2001 the USPP has additional facilities to cover with no increase in basic staffing:
 - ◇ WWII Memorial
 - ◇ MLK Memorial
 - ◇ National Museum of African American History and Culture
 - ◇ Anacostia Riverwalk Trail

Increased Threat

- Since, Booz-Allen completed their 1999 staffing analysis the threats facing United States National Security have increased significantly. In the aftermath of the September 11, 2001 attacks on the United States the USCP and the USSS-UD increased their number of officers by about 33%. They did this because there was a demonstrated need to harden their facilities from attack.
- In contrast, the number of USPP officers has remained stagnant. The force is essentially the same size it was in 1999. The NPS hasn't permitted the USPP to hire the 820 officers Booz-Allen determined were needed to operate safely and effectively in 1999.
- This is a problem because the White House and the U. S. Capitol have been significantly hardened from attack by the addition of personnel, technology, enhanced security procedures and security barriers.
- The hardening of these facilities puts the surrounding areas under USPP control at increased risk. Terrorists will look for easier targets nearby.
- This is supported by:
 - ◇ The trend of recent attacks toward entertainment venues, nightlife areas, shopping centers, cultural centers and public events.
 - ◇ The propaganda of terrorist organizations.

Conclusions

- The USPP needs more personnel for response forces, bomb detection canine units, patrol, crime patrol units, investigative operations and intelligence operations.
- The USPP needs at least 1000 officers to staff an effective dedicated response force and be able to effectively perform all other aspects of its mission.
- The 1999 Booz-Allen report was correct. However, in 2017 given the previously cited evidence and the experiences of the last 14 years, at least 180 additional officers over their 1999 determination is essential.
- The public's reasonable expectation would be that the USPP is able to effectively respond to critical incidents. The reality is that there isn't enough people and equipment to do the job.
- Common sense and experience have demonstrated that most of the casualties caused by terrorists occur in the first few minutes of their attack.
- In the event, of an incident like an active shooter, a bombing or a Orlando/Mumbai/Paris style attack the inadequacy of the USPP's response will result in unnecessary loss of life.
- Attacks like this would damage our National Security and undermine confidence in the government. Should an attack continue for many hours on the National Mall, that damage, and more importantly the loss of life would be significantly increased.
- We cannot safely ignore the fact that these types of attacks are possible, because they have occurred in Europe and the United States. Our enemies have repeatedly threatened to carry out more attacks here.
- It is essential that the USPP have a properly equipped and sized response force capable of swiftly ending any attack, and successfully treating any casualties all day, every day.

Prior USPP Chief Staffing Estimate

- In a December 3, 2003, article in the Washington Post, entitled, "Park Police Duties Exceed Staffing; Anti-Terror Demands Have Led Chief to Curtail Patrols Away From Mall", Former USPP Chief Teresa Chambers is quoted as saying, "In the long run, Chambers said, her 620-member department needs a major expansion, perhaps to about 1,400 officers."
- If Chief Chambers estimate is off by 50%, the number of officers needed by the USPP is 700.
- 700 officers is 61 more officers than the 639 the NPS, has for decades claimed is sufficient for safe and effective USPP operations.

DC Area NPS Visitation Up 41%

- Visitation increased 41% in the National Park Service (NPS), National Capital Region (Washington, DC Metropolitan Area), between 1990 and 2015. According to NPS records during that 25-year period, visits rose from 33 million to 56 million. (Source: NPS Records)
- No corresponding increase in USPP officers.