



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

OCT 22 2019

IN REPLY REFER TO:
2400

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Grassley:

Thank you for your letter dated June 18, 2019, co-signed by Senator Mark Warner, requesting information from the National Park Service (NPS) and the United States Park Police (USPP) regarding updated policies. Your inquiry specifically requested additional information on the USPP policies for use of force and vehicular pursuits, the USPP procedure for conducting internal investigations of officer-involved shootings, and clarification on the operational status of the USPP Officers involved in the Bijan Ghaisar incident. This is the NPS response to the concerns and questions outlined in your letter.

The policies and procedures of the USPP are embodied in its general orders and guideline manuals.

The USPP General Order on Use of Force is dated September 28, 1998. Due to substantive changes in contemporary policing and case law, a revision of this general order has been drafted. The draft is under review.

The USPP Guideline Manual for Officer-Involved Shooting Incidents is dated February 3, 2005. This guideline manual is being revised to reflect contemporary investigative standards; to include investigative referrals to partner law enforcement agencies, as was done in the Bijan Ghaisar case; and to ensure an impartial and objective investigation that promotes transparency and accountability. This guideline manual is also pending review.

In all cases involving the use of lethal force, the Commander of the USPP Internal Affairs Unit (IAU) is the liaison with the investigating agency. At the conclusion of the criminal investigation, the IAU will conduct an internal administrative review of the findings to further determine if there is any evidence of violations of USPP policy.


The current vehicle pursuit policy for the USPP, dated June 8, 2018, is a revision of a policy from November 2, 2002. The updated general order is reflective of contemporary law enforcement standards and is generally restricted to felony offenses involving violence or the threat of violence towards another person.

The two USPP officers involved in the Bijan Ghaisar case were initially placed on administrative leave following the incident. On April 29, 2018, they were assigned to administrative duties, pending the determination of the investigation findings by the Department of Justice. The names of the USPP personnel were not released by the NPS based upon guidance from the Department of the Interior Solicitor's Office related to privacy protections embodied within the Privacy Act.

The NPS is committed to serving the public and protecting the iconic national symbols that are part of the fabric of our Nation. If you have additional questions, please contact USPP Acting Chief Gregory Monahan, at [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]. A similar response is being sent to Senator Warner.

Sincerely,



 Louis Rowe
Acting Associate Director
Visitor and Resource Protection