



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF PROFESSIONAL & TECHNICAL ENGINEERS AFL-CIO & CLC

501 3rd Street, NW, Suite 701, Washington, DC 20001
202-239-4880 • FAX 202-239-4881 • www.ifpte.org

MATTHEW S. BIGGS
President

GAY HENSON
Secretary-Treasurer

AREA VICE PRESIDENTS

John Mader
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT
WESTERN

Katie Barrows
SOUTHEAST

John Dimas
SPEEA

Frances Hsieh
WESTERN

Michelle Johnston
CANADIAN

R Matthew Joyce
SPEEA

Joan Mah
WESTERN

Richard Mahé
CANADIAN

Sean P. McBride
ATLANTIC

Renae McKenzie
EASTERN FEDERAL

Steven Pinto
ATLANTIC

Denise Robinson
NORTHEAST

Ryan Rule
SPEEA

Jamie Uyeunten
WESTERN FEDERAL

Gus Vallejo
WESTERN

2024 IFPTE Issue Brief

118th Congress

Army Corps of Engineers Park Rangers Are Inherently Governmental Jobs

Overview: Park Rangers at the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) are first responders who work daily to keep the public safe. These federal employees are the “eyes and ears” for the USACE on the waterfront. They keep watch by water and by land, and they are a mobile force around our nation’s top critical infrastructures – navigational lock and dams, and hydroelectric dams.

USACE Park Rangers provide continuity of operations to ensure federal authority is always on-site on Army Corps’ federal property to detect and report suspicious activity that may be a threat to national security, respond to evolving threats to public safety on federal property, and enforce rules and uphold policies to protect and support infrastructure, the public, natural resources, and cultural resources that are under USACE’s jurisdiction. They are public-facing federal employees who interface daily with people who utilize the campgrounds, trails, and waterways for recreational purposes.

The IFPTE urges Congress to include language in the next Water Resources Development Act or other legislation to designate USACE Park Ranger functions as inherently governmental. This is in the public interest as USACE Park Rangers perform critical functions.

Proposed Language for the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA)

SEC. ___ Designation of Certain Army Corps of Engineers Functions as Inherently Governmental

(a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) INHERENTLY GOVERNMENTAL.— For purposes of section 2(a) of the Federal Activities Inventory Reform Act of 1998 (112 Stat. 2382, P.L. 105-270), the activities currently performed by Corps of Engineers park rangers and lead park rangers are considered inherently governmental functions, not commercial activities, including but not limited to functions and duties related to environmental management, public safety, and enforcement duties for projects, district and division control, water and navigational resources.

(2) TRANSFER.— The transfer of inherently governmental functions in (a)(1) or any other Corps of Engineers functions that are declared inherently governmental by statute to a different U.S. Agency or any department of an Agency shall not change the statutory determination of inherently governmental functions and duties.

(b) EXCEPTIONS.— Notwithstanding subsection (a), the Corps of Engineers may continue to contract for the performance of non-enforcement functions or host functions that are not related to park ranger functions, under Title 36, United States Code.

(1) Nothing in this section shall prevent the Secretary or the Chief of Engineers from ending or terminating agreements or service contracts for non-enforcement functions or non-host functions or preventing the Secretary from using federal employees to perform such functions.

(c) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this section, the term “park ranger” and “lead park ranger” includes all activities associated with the policy of the Secretary of the Army, acting through the Chief of Engineers, to manage and secure the environment, natural and cultural resources, manage and enforce violations of laws and regulations on federal property, waterways, lakes, navigational rivers, and critical infrastructures lock and dams, hydroelectric dams, and property oversight.

