

## **Summary: Investigation into Allegations that NPS Chief Ranger Posted Derogatory Comments about Former Employee on Media Website**

**Date: November 23, 2015**

OIG investigated the chief ranger at the Canaveral National Seashore (CNS), National Park Service (NPS), after receiving allegations that he criticized a former CNS employee on the “Florida Today” website after the e-newspaper published an article reporting the employee had won a whistleblower retaliation ruling against the U.S. Department of the Interior.

Our investigation found that the chief ranger, when off-duty, commented on the article using his home computer while logged into his personal Facebook account, which identified him as an NPS ranger. When interviewed, the chief ranger admitted to writing derogatory claims against the former employee that he said were his opinions and not those of the park superintendent or NPS.

We determined that these public comments were unbecoming of an NPS law enforcement manager and may have violated the NPS Law Enforcement Code of Conduct. We provided this report to the NPS Director for review and action.

*This is a summary of an investigative report that was issued internally to the U.S. Department of the Interior. This summary was posted to the web on January 27, 2016.*

