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**IRF ROLL of HONOUR (ROH)**

**Guidelines For Finding and Recording Line of Duty Death Information**

The following guidelines have been developed over many years by the IRF for production of the World Ranger Day Roll of Honour (ROH). The first World Ranger Day was held in 2006 and the In-Memoriam list of fallen rangers was first produced for 2011

Names are added to this list on an ongoing basis, either when reported direct or discovered from social media or official reports. The **names recorded up to May 31st** of each year will be processed with the aim of getting the In-Memoriam list distributed to members in early July in the run-up to WRD 31st July. Late submissions may be able to be included on a case by case basis as decided by the ROH work group. Otherwise they will be carried-over onto the following years ROH.

**Who to include in the list?**

The IRF focus is on “on-duty” and “in-line of duty deaths” (LODD). “Off-duty” deaths can be noted in the IRF master list as a record of fatalities which have been noted, but our purpose is to acknowledge those that have paid the final sacrifice **in the Line of Duty** as this has implications if grant applications are made to The Thin Green Line Foundation Fallen-Ranger fund (Australia) or Ranger Foundation (USA).

**What is a ranger?**

Many names\* are used around the world for those working in protected area management. Some “rangers” are all-rounders; others focus on resources; interpretation, maintenance, or compliance, whilst some are paramilitary especially in anti-poaching work and conflict situations. In countries like India and the Philippines, “forest guards” or “forest watchers” might be regarded as “low-level” employees compared to the “officer” class in these countries.  In any case, a “ranger” should be someone employed by a protected area management agency or non-government organization (NGO). When a death is heard about the IRF has to make a value judgement as to whether the individual has been fulfilling, in some shape or form, what might be broadly regarded as “the role of a ranger”. One word of caution – the term “Ranger” is also used by the military and the police in some countries (e.g. USA; Thailand, India, and Pakistan). And the term Forest Ranger can be ambiguous as in USA the term is used for state foresters conducting domestic firefighting activities, whilst in Cambodia/Vietnam it is used for those policing the forests. In addition, “Game Warden” or “Wildlife officer” in USA is usually a state officer employed by a conservation agency or similar, to enforce game laws and check hunting permits and the like. Judgement will be used to determine whether cause of death was in a ranger-related role. Individuals which will not be included in the list include military personnel, contracted pilots, conservationists, or code enforcement officers.

**How do we find out about deaths and verify them?**

In some cases, the incidents are reported to the IRF directly or via social media. The Role of Honour Work Group will use various methods to add to the list. All reports will be verified. Verification should come from a published news source, government agencies, Facebook posting, or confirmed or reported by IRF regional/national representatives.

**How is the ROH finalized?**

The Role of Honour Work Group will submit to the IRF Board of Directors the listing for the World Ranger Day Memoriam by June 30th of each year. The IRF Executive Committee will give approval for the publication of the list and the IRF President will officially authorize this in early July making the list available to IRF members and partners.

**Death category definitions**

**Homicide**

Classed as death at the hand of another person or persons with intent. These are always included if on-duty and are usually included even when off-duty if the deceased was targeted and killed because of their ranger work.

**Animals**

These are included when the individual is performing “on-duty”.

**Fire; Drowning and other occupational deaths e.g. electrocution.**

Such incidents should always be included when the deceased was “on-duty”.

**Occupational Illnesses/Death-in-Service**

Flexibility will be given in recording deaths arising because of illness or medical condition. In the past there have been very clear situations where a death is directly as a result of the job – contracting malaria when on patrol; similarly contracting KFD Monkey fever; hypothermia whilst on patrol; heart attack whilst at work, COVID 19 contracted whilst performing duties etc. Other conditions such as cancer might need to be excluded as these are conditions that might happen to anyone and are not directly work related (unless the deceased was exposed to something that caused the problem).

**Suicides**

Suicides will be recorded on the Master List if there appears to be a work-related connection but not published in the Memoriam. Recent questions have been raised about those taking their own lives - suicides. A person may take their own life for a variety of reasons – depression – financial problems – family problems – or indeed work-related stress and internal conflict (which is often cited in India). The work of a ranger can be incredibly stressful and therefore we should maintain a record of suicides on the Master List as this helps to highlight those stresses and may lead to actions or guidelines to help such scenarios in the future.

**Road traffic or other transport related accidents**

If the road traffic accident (RTA) or other form of transportation such as aircraft accident occurred during “on-duty” then these will be included the Memoriam. But if the RTA was obviously outside of the work situation, or in route to and from work, or especially if drink was involved the death will not be included.

**Other Accidents**

The deaths from all “on-duty” accidents will be recorded as there are often lessons to be learned from such situations. They often help highlight the need for more training and a review of safety procedures. Included here are deaths from accidental shooting, friendly fire, or equipment malfunction.

**Previous year records.**

Deaths reported or discovered from earlier years will continue to be recorded on the Master List if they are not already listed. Late reported deaths from December 1st to May 31st of the previous year which did not make that years Memoriam, will be included in the current year Memoriam.

**Recording method**

Deaths are recorded on the IRF Google Drive spreadsheet. Searching Google is the primary method and then following-up the “leads” and cross-referencing names, dates, and locations.

The Master List will record deaths by date; name; description of role; location; task being undertaken, plus the cause of death as a minimum together with a note of the source (with a digital copy to the Share Drive. Searching Google in English may of course miss deaths that might have been reported in other languages. Google translate can help with this (French and Spanish often gets additional results). IRF country or regional contacts play a role here by helping with the verification process. Certain countries do not release names until a late stage, so we often need to record “name unknown” then update the list later if we get a name.

**NOTE**. There are many different titles for rangers around the world as follows (list not exhaustive)....

Park Ranger

Game Ranger - used in Southern Africa

Field Ranger - ditto

Forest Ranger - used in Asia

Guardaparque

Gard de Nature

Guarde Forestiere

Guardia Ambiental

Ecoguard or Agent des Eaux et Forêts or A**gent Forestier** (used in Francophone Africa)

Forest Officer (or Forest Ranger in India)

Forest Guard

Forest Watcher

Beat Guard/Officer

The 4 above names are used a lot in India - Officer is top level then Guard then "Watcher" or “beat officer” which is the lowest rank (usually a “daily wager” with little job security)

Park Guard

Wildlife Officer

Community Ranger

Park Inspector

Environmental Officer

Wildlife Ranger

Conservation Ranger/Officer

Marine Park Ranger

***Roll of Honour Working Group (Revised November 2020).***

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**Fallen Ranger - Line of Duty Death Report**

*Please type in the information if possible, to ensure details can be correctly recorded.*

*Using English is helpful but any language can be translated.*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Name of deceased** |  |
| **Job title/designation** |  |
| **Date of death** |  |
| **Park or location of death** |  |
| **Cause of death** |  |
| **Brief details of the incident** |  |
| **Name of person submitting this report and contact details (eg email)** |  |

**Please send this report to** **vicepresident@internationalrangers.org**

**Please also keep a copy for your records**