



## GRAND LODGE FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE®

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CHUCK CANTERBURY  
NATIONAL PRESIDENT

JAMES O. PASCO, JR.  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

15 November 2005

The Honorable Michael Chertoff  
Secretary of Homeland Security  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Mr. Secretary,

I am writing to you on behalf of the law enforcement officers whose property losses have forced them to live on cruise ships while they work to restore order to the city of New Orleans.

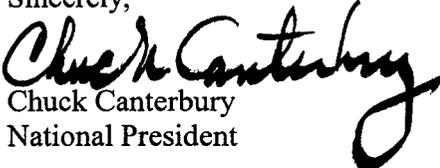
It has been brought to my attention that, as a result of the decision of one of the ship's captains, these officers are no longer able to bring their service weapons on board the cruise liners which house them. The cruise liners have recommended that these officers lock their on-duty weapons in their vehicles, which are usually parked two or three blocks away. This suggestion is an accident--or a crime--waiting to happen, as weapons left in this manner are certainly not secure.

Of even greater importance, however, is the issue of officer safety. Officers who are forced to leave their weapons behind must travel from their vehicles to the ship unarmed, but in full uniform, leaving them extremely vulnerable to vengeful criminals. I think you would agree that this situation is outrageous and completely unacceptable. These law enforcement officers, left homeless by the recent hurricanes, are still answering the call of duty and are working to keep the city of New Orleans safe. Yet their own personal safety is being jeopardized by the refusal of the cruise lines, which are charging U.S. taxpayers approximately \$293 million to house these homeless officers, to allow active, fully sworn officers to bring their duty weapons on board. To add insult to injury, I have been informed that the ship's security personnel--non-sworn, private security guards--do have firearms and carry them throughout the ship without restriction.

These officers need your help, Mr. Secretary. While we respect the authority of a ship's captain, these ships are not at sea. A Federal entity is paying to house fully sworn law enforcement officers aboard these ships so these officers can continue to do their job despite the fact that the storms have left them homeless. The current situation has left these officers even more vulnerable and is simply not acceptable.

Please contact me or Executive Director Jim Pasco through my Washington office so that we can work with you to resolve this matter as expeditiously as possible.

Sincerely,

  
Chuck Canterbury  
National President

—BUILDING ON A PROUD TRADITION—