

Smithsonian Folklore Festival Project

Andy Coriell

Forest Service Law Enforcement Officer/ Private Pilot

Coconino National Forest

Flagstaff, Arizona

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Interviewed by Karen Fiore

Andy Coriell (AC): My name is Andy Coriell. C-O-R-I-E-L-L. I am the Forest Service Law Enforcement Officer on the Peaks District of the Coconino National Forest. We are over near Elden Pueblo, kind of right in the center of the national forest. The pueblo is actually over that way, [gestures to his right] but I'm here to show you the other side of the national forest today: the trash, the litter, some of the things that aren't so quaint and nice.

Karen Fiore (KF): Can you give me the date?

AC: Today is June 23rd. July 23rd. [Correcting himself; laughs]. 2004.

KF: And what is your job in the forest?

AC: My job is Law Enforcement Officer.

[Camera is turned off and turned on again.]

AC: Okay. We're here at this particular spot because I wanted to show anyone that's interested in this tape why Forest Service Law Enforcement is necessary. There's some really great and beautiful places in the national forest system. I could take you to Oak Creek Canyon; I could take you to Locket Meadow; up to Humphrey's Peak. But this is why we're here; to try and keep this from proliferating and spreading and becoming like everyone's experience on the national forest is.

KF: Could we talk a little bit about law enforcement? How has it changed over the hundred years that the Forest Service has...?

AC: There's been a big change in Forest Service law enforcement over the hundred years. There's some debate on when Forest Service law enforcement actually started. I've seen dates from 1897 to 1905. Back in the beginning days, everyone that was a Forest Service officer, which is a Forest Service employee, had the authority to make arrests and deal with crimes committed on the national forests. In the 1960s they started to professionalize law enforcement a little bit. They brought in some special agents to deal with resource crimes and forest-specific crimes. By the 1970s we were getting into a uniform division of law enforcement-- sending people to the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center in Georgia, where you go through the same training as the U.S. Marshals Service, the Secret Service, the National Park Service, and

the other land management agencies—to where we are today, where we're kind of a streamlined organization. I don't work for the district; I work for the law enforcement chain of command. It has its benefits and its drawbacks. I like to work with the district closely, myself, to find out what their problems are and deal with their needs; but again I report to a law enforcement commander and not a district ranger. As far as the changes go, it's dramatic. The equipment is drastically different. I don't go to work ever without a bulletproof vest on, which I have on today. All the toys you see [laughs] around me, all my equipment; and we carry semi-automatic weapons, handcuffs, pepper spray, baton, radio, and pretty much anything else you can stick on the belt. The equipment is superior... I mean, we've got better equipment than most city and state and county agencies. So we're kind of on the cutting edge of technology on some things. Our patrol is obviously different than it was back at the turn of the last century. We're not on horses; although we could be. We go into the back country and do wilderness patrol on horses. ATVs, is kind of in the front country; four-wheel drive vehicles; boats in some places; airplanes in other places. You name it and we can get there and see what's going on.

KF: What other kinds of law enforcement do you do?

AC: What I'd like to tell you is that we go out and chase mountain bikers violating the wilderness prohibitions against mechanized equipment; but in reality we're doing more serious law enforcement than most people think. People grow marijuana on the national forest, and associated with that is booby traps and weapons. We go to crimes where people are trying to hurt other people. Could be a squabble over a campground, or it could be that people came from town trying to get away from something and now you have bad people out in the woods. We deal with trash all the time. People think that it's okay to dump their cars and trash on the national forest, which it's not. I would really like to spend a lot more time doing the resource-oriented things, but that doesn't seem a trend that we're going on. Here on the Coconino we do a lot of timber theft-- people cutting down trees for fuel wood illegally—and archeological resource protection. Those are our two major resource-oriented crimes that we deal with, but again, it's a lot of managing the people that come to the forest and trying to keep everywhere from looking like this.

KF: How did you come to be in the Forest Service?

AC: Well, the short version of that story is that I married into the Forest Service. I was a park ranger doing law enforcement. I went to an Archeological Resource Protection Act training, and I met a woman named Kristin Martine. We got married and I ended up in the Forest Service. I transferred over here so that we could be together.

KF: And where did you do law enforcement before?

AC: I did law enforcement for the... It wasn't a straight line to get into the Forest Service. It started when I was in high school. I went on a trip up to the Navajo Reservation, right here near Flagstaff, where I was an exchange student on the reservation, and I got paired up with a gentleman by the name of Andrew Baya, who was a ranger out at Canyon de Chelly, and we went out and rode around one day, and he got to spend all day out in the woods with little or no supervision, and he knew everything about the trees and everything else that we saw. I said, you know, that's the job I want. And so I started going to school in natural resources at Ohio State. I went to the Park Ranger Training Academy in Nelsonville Ohio; got on seasonally with the Park Service and continued working toward my college degree. I worked at Glen

Canyon, Lake Mead, Lake Powell, Grand Teton, and Glacier National Park. I did most of those as seasonal; I finally figured out that I needed to get a permanent job somewhere, so I signed up to be a Border Patrol agent for a year, and went to Laredo Texas; got my federal hiring status. Had a good time in the Border Patrol, but it really wasn't the job I wanted. I wanted to be in land management. I applied to the Park Service; got hired on full time at Lake Mead; spent three or four years there; went to archeological resource training, met Kristin, and I've been here for four years now. This is the best job I've ever had. I've got the best job in the world.

KF: So you really like the Forest Service?

AC: I love the Forest Service. This really is the greatest job. I just got promoted to patrol captain, which is my immediate supervisor; it's the first line supervisor for law enforcement. I'll be transferring to Mount Hood, and I'm excited about the career change and going into supervision; but truthfully, the job where you're out in the field every day and you're meeting and greeting the public, this is the greatest.

KF: Do you like archeology?

AC: I love archeology. That was one of the things that really made it a difficult choice to move up to Portland and Mount Hood, was this area is so rich in archeology. I enjoy going out and looking at it in my own time. My wife's an archeologist; we go out, and pretty much anywhere we go around here I learn something about the area and the people that were here before us, and I love it. I like doing the protection of it; I like going out and learning about it on my own. It's a lot of fun.

KF: Have you learned more about natural history? By being in the forest service?

AC: Natural history as far as ...

KF: Plants?

AC: ...botany and dendrology and things like that? The right answer is yes, [laughs] but truthfully we're so focused on doing the law enforcement here that I haven't had as much time as I'd like to learn about every plant and every animal that's out in the forest. I learn what I can as we go; but the things that I like to study on my own are the archeological things.

KF: Do you have any mentors?

AC: Like I said when we were talking about getting into the agency and I was talking about the person who introduced me to land management and law enforcement; I really owe him a great deal of gratitude, and I haven't been able to catch up with him since I was in high school. I enjoy working with my supervisor now: John. He's taught me a lot about how to be patient and try and make changes but things won't happen as fast as I'd like them to. I had a lot of mentors in the Park Service that really helped me with my law enforcement skills. Paul Crawford in the Park Service-- he's now a special agent-- really taught me a lot of things. And just a lot of my friends; it seems like we all got into the same career, and we'd help each other out and teach each other what we've learned.

KF: You just mentioned that you like to see things change faster. Would you like to talk about that a bit?

AC: Sure. I think that the Forest Service has gone a long way professionalizing their law enforcement division. I think there's a long way we still have to go. I'd like to see our communications be better, with dispatch, with the county. You know every time there's a fatality in the fire world one of the things that always comes up is that the communications wasn't adequate; there was not a good link between the people that needed the information. It's obviously that way in most of the areas I've worked in law enforcement. We're a little behind the curve on the communications. Some of the other things that I'd like to see change: our laws were written a long time ago. We need to focus more on laws governing recreation. It's important that we have the laws governing timber cutting and things like that, but let's face it, the focus of what we're dealing with now are people on the forest. It's not companies cutting down trees; at least here on the Coconino and a lot of the other places that I've been on details.

KF: I'm kind of curious about how the Forest Service law enforcement culture differs from the National Park Service law enforcement culture.

AC: There are a lot of similarities first. We all got into it to be outside; to do more environmental type law enforcement; to protect the resources. I think I do a lot more protecting the resources here in the Forest Service than I did in the Park Service. It was more manage the people, large concentrations of people, that were coming to see a specific thing in the Park Service. Here there's one of me for probably half a million acres out there trying to do what I can to keep the environment from degrading and people from trashing it, and ATVs from tearing up the land, and things like that. The Park Service had maybe a tighter culture than the Forest Service law enforcement. We all lived and worked in the same place. That's one thing I really like about the Forest Service; when I go home at night, I have a separate set of friends and I can not talk about law enforcement and emergency medical services, and things like that, and fires, and whatever. I have a whole separate life outside the Forest Service now that I didn't have when I was in the Park Service.

KF: Except that you're married to it [laughs].

AC: [laughs] I'm married to a Forest Service person. And we do talk a lot about the Forest Service, but we know when it's time to stop and to concentrate on other things.

KF: Let's talk about some skills that you had to acquire.

AC: Wow. There's a lot of skills that you have to have in this job. I mean, obviously there are the law enforcement skills, and we have to be professional and proficient: handcuffing, and court procedures, and firearms, and everything that goes along with being a law enforcement officer. Driving the law enforcement vehicle with the lights and sirens on through traffic; or, you know, through inclement weather or up mountains, and things like that. Some of the really important skills are your interpersonal skills; being able to deal with people. I mean, let's face it, I'm alone in the woods, dealing with people who don't necessarily want to talk to me, or maybe they're doing something wrong, and they just don't want any part of law enforcement. I've got to be able to really talk the person into being compliant and doing what I've asked them to do, so I can be safe, they can be safe, and everyone goes home at night happy. Well, I'll go home at night happy; sometimes the bad guy doesn't go home at night happy. It really is a little different than being a city cop. I'm not responding to 911 calls all the time, and dealing with domestic violence and assault and things like that. I'm more going out and patrolling and looking for things that are happening; and maybe I'll catch up with them or maybe I'll have to find some evidence

and track them down later. Some of the other skills I have, I had to become an EMT in the Park Service and I'm kind of letting that phase out a little bit but I'd still be a first responder. We deal with any emergency that we find. We're the primary first responder. Maybe we have to do a little bit of fire suppression when we get there. We have to do fire investigation; that's a big part of our job. And now it's starting to rain; it's great.

KF: Okay, we should stop.

AC: Okay.

[Camera switches to AC inside vehicle.]

AC: Okay. Before we were talking a little bit about changes in law enforcement over a hundred years, and right now we're in my mobile office, my patrol car. Some of the things that are in here: I've got the computer hooked to the GPS, so I can have a map of wherever I am at any given time, so I don't get lost in the woods. I've got a radar unit, just like any city police officer would have. This car has lots of electronics. I've got the cell phone; radios, to communicate with everyone, and the lights and sirens. And then, we are out in the woods alone a lot, and sometimes we run into some bad guys; I've got an AR15 rifle. Hopefully we never have to use it, but we have it if we need it. We do spend a lot of time in the car in law enforcement, going from place to place, following up on things, and just actively patrolling. This is pretty much where I live; this is my office. [laughs]

KF: And the reason... Tell them why we're in here right now.

AC: Oh. At last we're getting some rain in Arizona. [laughter] We need every drop. We're just coming out of a really severe fire season, and a seven year drought, so it's great that it's raining.

KF: Tell me about your typical day. You're in your rig and you're going out to do something.

AC: What I like to do, I like to come into the office first thing in the morning and try and check in with some of the district folks, find out what they're seeing out there in the field, hook my laptop computer up, download my email, and then I'm out the door again, usually with a list of things that I have to follow up on. After I get the list done I'll go to my typical problem areas, which are anywhere along the freeway. I-17 and I-40 both come together here and you get a lot of strange things happening right off the freeway, from people trying to live there, to anything you can imagine. Just go patrol those areas, and then hopefully there's some time left in the day to go to some of the nicer areas and some of the recreation spots, and see something nice and get out and talk to people that aren't necessarily doing something wrong, just to let them know about the forest and other opportunities they may have here. Try and spend some time doing some positive contacts instead of strictly law enforcement. I wouldn't say they're negative, but contacts where people may need some education.

KF: All right. So what do you use the computer for?

AC: The computer. It's not on right now, but it's hooked to the GPS. It does have a mapping program; it's got a topographic program on it, so it's got a moving map. I can do my reports on it so I don't need to be tied to the desk. I can be out in the field hopefully more of the time than I'm sitting in the office. A lot of the guys, like up in Region Six, they have mobile data terminals. They're hooked to the cell phone or their

radios. And they can actually run things through the criminal information systems that we have; do warrants and warrant checks, registration checks, things like that. We don't have that technology here yet, but it's coming.

KF: And you mentioned the radar. What do you use the radar for?

AC: Pretty much, the radar... We have a lot of accidents up at the ski area, primarily in the winter time. We get a lot of people from Phoenix and from Mexico, who have never driven in the snow before. We try and do traffic control and public safety, just like any law enforcement agency that you would see out there, whether it's highway patrol, the state, the county. We write tickets for speed enforcement, and with the speed sometimes we'll find drugs in the car; we'll find something else wrong. Sometimes the person will have a warrant. Speed and traffic enforcement often leads to other things. We'll find forest products in the car. We'll find some sort of contraband, or something that will lead into more of an investigation rather than just a traffic stop.

KF: [break in filming; part of sentence lost] ...have in the car?

AC: I've got some survival gear. I've got blankets and sleeping bags and a tent and things like that, just in case we run into someone let's say with hypothermia; they've been out in the snow in the winter time, or... round here there's not much water, but in other places, if they've been in the water and they're wet I can take care of basic medical emergency things. I have my camouflage and my tactical gear for law enforcement, maybe around a marijuana garden or something like that, or something that we may get called to deal with with the county. In the back I carry all my fire shelter and my Nomex gear for fire investigation and fire suppression, fire evacuation, things like that, which thank God for the rain; 'cause we're just coming out of the season, we'll get a little down time. We do have a lot of equipment in the car. It's amazing what all we shove in here. We've got stuff to deal with about any emergency. Search and rescue, EMS, fire, law enforcement. We're kind of the jack of all trades.

KF: You get involved in search and rescue?

AC: We do. We coordinate with the counties here in Arizona. The county's the primary agency for search and rescue, but let's face it, I'm out in the woods, I'm going to be the first person the lost person's going to contact, or the family of the lost person's going to contact. And we may know the area a little better than some of the search and rescue people. So we coordinate with the county; we help them in any way that we can. We may do an initial hasty search to try and find the person before the other resources get there so we don't lose time in that critical couple hours at the beginning of the search.

KF: Since you're in the Forest Service, do you also do interpretive stuff sometimes, like leave no trace?

AC: We do as much leave no trace as we can. We're not in the wilderness a lot, but we do contact a lot of campers and we talk to them about the leave no trace principles if we can. One thing I like to do in law enforcement is use, it's called the authority of the resource. I don't like to say, I'm writing you a speeding ticket because it's against the law. You know, here's your ticket; you're getting it because this is where animals cross the road. We've had countless elks killed right here because people were speeding and hit them. It's kind of tying it a little more into the natural resources aspect of law enforcement. The other education and maybe interpretation we do; myself and my partner, Mark Camisa who's my counterpart down at Mormon Lake, and John Nelson our supervisor, we teach over at NAU for the Park Ranger

training Academy, and then we try to recruit park rangers into the Forest Service. [smiles broadly] I really enjoy that. I teach everything from evidence collection to building searches and vehicle stops; and the thing I like teaching most is the archeological resource protection things. We run a lot of scenarios where the new recruits have to come out and maybe process an archeological crime, or they maybe catch the people in the act of digging in this scenario and have to deal with do you write them a ticket, or do you give them a warning because they didn't know better, or are they commercial looters and you have to take them to jail and process all the crime scene? It's great, I love dealing with the Park Ranger Training Institute over there, and I love teaching the new people and getting them excited about going out and doing resource protection on public lands.

[Camera turned off briefly]

KF: We heard something on the radio. Is that something you would respond to?

AC: Yeah. What it was is there was just a report on the radio of a person that walked into a house that happens to be adjacent to the forest, and the person had a gun in their hand, and the sheriff's deputies are responding. I would probably go that way just because you never know what's going to happen over there. They may need more people; the person may run out onto the forest, and then the people that are legitimately recreating on the forest are in danger. But it's good to have that camaraderie with the sheriff's department and the police department, because chances are good that since there's so few law enforcement people—I think there's only six hundred nationwide—the sheriff's department or the police department, highway patrol, department of public safety, they're going to be the people who come and help you when you need the help in the middle of the night when you're out there and you're in deep trouble. They're going to be the people that come out there and find you. So you have to have those relationships built. Part of building those relationships is going to help them with their problems as long as there's a nexus to the forest, or in this case it's pretty clear that there's maybe a potential that there's going to be some violence or something that you need to stop immediately. You have to help them with their issues so they'll come and help you with yours. And here on the forest, when I first got here it didn't seem like the sheriff's department knew what we could do and what we couldn't do. There was a lot of education, not only with the public but with the sheriff's department. Like we can't respond to crimes against property. We don't have laws to deal with this or we don't have laws to deal with that. If you can help me with this issue, like we're having a big problem with people stealing trees and cutting down oak trees, if you see someone with a load of oak can you give me their license number or whatever? You need to build those bridges so they can help you with your problems and you can help them with their problems; and when there's a safety issue involved you're used to working together and you just come together immediately and get the job done and go home.

KF: What is special about Flagstaff in law enforcement?

AC: Flagstaff is completely surrounded by the national forest. It's pretty unique. There's not much more room to grow here in Flagstaff because of the public land all around it. We've done a couple of things to help the community deal with the Forest Service being all around them. In 2001 the city police, the county sheriff, myself, Game and Fish, and the Park Service here in Flagstaff got together and we created this WoodsWatch group, which is like a community watch group but it's for the forest. I could drive past your house, your little section of the forest, behind your house, a thousand times and not notice that something's wrong back there; but you see it every day as a citizen and you could tell me that there's

something out of place or there's something just not right going on back there. It really helps my job a lot. So this community watch group gave the people in Flagstaff kind of a direct conduit relationship for information to flow both ways. And it really worked out well because it was right after September 11th and there was a lot of community support; people trying to get together and figure out something to do. There was a horrible fire here; the Rodeo-Chetiski Fire, the biggest fire in Arizona history, was burning. We were afraid that Flagstaff was going to have a fire that burned up the mountain and torched people's houses and in town here. So it really was a good program and I hope it continues when I go up to Portland because it really is a good way for law enforcement to interact with the people in the community and the people in the community to have a direct relationship or a person or a name to call when they see something and they need it dealt with, that's happening behind their house in the forest.

KF: I keep hearing the Forest Service is a family. Do you have something to say about that?

AC: I think that's true. I've made a lot of really great friends here on the Coconino National Forest, and we do things together. We've actually got a big vacation planned for Costa Rica, where there's going to be seven or eight of us from the forest to go down to Costa Rica in February. I think it's in February. And you know we go out after work and we drink beer, which I think Janet Clark has already addressed that culture. We have a good time, and it's good to blow off steam together with people that do the same thing as you in the field. You have common interests and they're there for you when you need things. My grandmother passed away recently and I had a lot of really great support from friends here on the district that helped me through it. I really enjoy the people I work with here on the Peaks District and Mormon Lake and everywhere on the forest. We're pretty close.

KF: Do you have some hobbies that you'd like to talk about?

AC: Some of the things that I really like doing; I like flying airplanes. I've had my pilot's license... I started working on it when I was fifteen. My dad was my instructor. And eventually I'd like to tie that into law enforcement somehow. I'd like to be a pilot for the Forest Service and doing law enforcement things. I'm trying to get my wife Kristin to pursue her pilot's license, and she's interested in doing it. Just completed the ground school. So we go flying whenever we can. I hurt my knee when I worked for the Park Service so I don't go hiking as much as I'd like to, but I still enjoy going out, doing whatever I can outside. I just bought a motorcycle and I'm playing with that a lot right now.

KF: I'm sure you're not breaking any laws.

AC: No, never. [laughs] My other hobbies or passion, I've got two dogs and I like taking them out onto the forest and walking them, and just being outside.

KF: You mentioned flying. What are the applications for flying and being a pilot in the Forest Service?

AC: The other day I wasn't working and I volunteered to take the forest archeologist up, and we went and took pictures of some of the significant archeological sites around. What Kristin told me they were going to do with it is build 3-D models of the pueblo sites and they needed aerial photography to get that project started. So that was pretty exciting. I'm trying to build my hours up, and I've been promising Peter that I'd take him up flying for a long time, and yesterday was the day. We went up and we had a good time.

KF: Can you see any wildlife too?



AC: You can see wildlife. I was primarily looking for the archeology; but I fly down by Mormon Lake and you can see the elk out there on the lake, and occasionally you can see a large bird flying past when you're flying down fairly low. It's nice. It's beautiful to fly around here.

KF: Do you use your sirens?

AC: We do. We have to respond to fires. Every human-caused fire needs a fire investigation, and we have to go faster than the fire trucks so we beat what we like to call the "evidence eradication crew" to the fire. I mean, they've got a job to do and it's fire suppression and I totally understand that. But I've got a job to do as well, and it's to figure out what started the fire, and if it's a human, who started the fire; and we can either go about it in a couple ways: we can prosecute the person, or we can try to get restitution in a civil matter for whatever damage they've done by starting the fire. We use the lights and sirens for all the things you see the normal sheriff's officer or police officer going to 911 calls for, but primarily what I use mine for is going to fires and beat the fire fighters there.

[Camera turned off.]

[Camera on Rochelle Silva standing outside]

Rochelle Silva (RS): Hi. My name is Rochelle Silva. First name is spelled R-O-C-H-E-L-L-E. Silva is spelled S-I-L-V-A. And I am a fire prevention officer for the Coconino National Forest. We're here at the Peaks Ranger District. Today is Today is July 23rd, 2004. And I'm here to talk to you about Andy Coriell. I met Andy actually through my seasonal law enforcement program, through the Northern Arizona University. I first met him, he came in and was basically trying to recruit some of us. And I met him and kind of chatted with him a little bit about the Forest Service. He has been really instrumental in helping me get this fire prevention officer job. He's been trying to get me to be a law enforcement officer as well, so hopefully in the near future I'll be doing that as well. Andy's been real instrumental in furthering my career in this. He's helped me with my resume. He's an overall great guy and he really wants people to strive to be their best. It's been great to get to know him.

KF: So you're new to the Forest Service?

RS: I'm fairly new at the Forest Service. I've been working for Coconino National Forest for approximately two months. I work out of the Mormon Lake Ranger District and my supervisor is Suzanne Romero. I work as a fire prevention officer, and what that is, is I go around talking to campers and try and reduce man-made fires and if there is a fire that we get called on, I get to be a fire fighter as well.

KF: How did you get to know Andy, again?

RS: I actually met him through the seasonal law enforcement program. Andy has helped me get the job with the Forest Service; helped me with my resume. The way the department works is the resume is set up very differently than the way you would normally learn it in the university. He looked through my resume and helped me gear it toward a government job, which was a lot of help that I needed for that, so that was good. And I'm very excited for him that he's moving to Mount Hood, to go to Oregon and get that job. I'm definitely going to miss him; he's been great to work with. He's always there willing to answer your questions, and because I'm so new I have a lot of questions, and he really helps me, and he's a fun guy. So it's definitely nice to be around him.

RS: You said you'd been going to school. Did you ever think you'd be working for the Forest Service?

RS: I actually never thought I'd be working for the Forest Service, so it's really a change to work for the Forest Service, and it's been such an eye-opener for me. I've loved this job from the moment I got in and I got through the nervous part of being new. I can say that this is probably the best job I've ever had. I know that I want to be a law enforcement officer, and with the help of Andy gearing me towards that, and also this job, and the Forest Service as a whole, as an agency, has really just instilled the fact that I love this type of work.

RS: Just a little bit of biography: Where are you from?

RS: I'm originally from Parker, Arizona, which is on the Colorado River. I grew up there; my parents still live there. It's a very small town. It's based in agriculture. I moved up to Flagstaff, Arizona, to go to college, and after two degrees I'm finally still here [laughs]. I haven't moved yet. But hopefully when I finish this job—this is a seasonal position, so when this is done—I'll be applying for a permanent position with the Forest Service or other government agencies, and hopefully be moving at that time, but we'll see what happens.

RS: Do you want to stay in public lands type of law enforcement?

RS: I would like to stay in public lands. I would also like to work for either the United States Fish and Wildlife Services or the Forest Service. I think that the two agencies are really what I want to do. I like working for the environment and for the wildlife.

RS: How long have you been doing fire prevention?

RS: I've been an officer for just over two months, and it's been so much fun. I've met so many people that I wouldn't otherwise have met. It's opened doors for me that I really didn't know would open. I've met so many people, from the fire prevention part of it, but also the law enforcement part of it and the business part of it, and it's been instrumental in opening doors that I didn't think would open.

KF: What's the best thing that's happened in these two months? Your favorite thing that's happened on the job? That you can tell us [laughs]!

RS: Well I think for me it's getting over the fear of talking to complete strangers. As part of this job you have to go and talk to campers and tell them about what restrictions we're in; or right now we just got out of restrictions, so I'm kind of letting everybody know that we are out of restrictions, which is always good news for them. It's definitely gotten me walking up to camps and talking to complete strangers and trying to make them have a good time and welcome them to the forest, and that's probably the best thing that's happened. I get to talk to different people from all over the world and ask them where they're from and how long they're going to stay, and tell them to have a good time. And also, meeting the Forest Service employees as a whole has been so much fun. Like I said, just meeting different people and knowing who's going to be a long-term friend is awesome.

KF: Thank you very much Rochelle.

[Camera turned off.]

Camera on Andy Coriell in his office.]

KF: We were talking about your new job that you're going to. You're a dual career Forest Service family...

AC: Yes.

KF: How are you going to cope with this?

AC: Well, that was a major concern going up there. Kristin has her career here in Flagstaff. It's a great promotion for me. The morning I woke up and I had to make a decision, I said, no, we're not going to do it, and then she said what, are you stupid? [laughs] Time to take the promotion. So I took it, and Region Six has been great about trying to find Kristin details. There's no permanent archeologist job open up there right now, but they've been good about trying to find her details. They know that she's coming and they're trying to find something. And my other experience with the dual career thing was, Kristin worked in Santa Fe when we first started. I worked in Lake Mead and got the job here in the Coconino National Forest. They found her a job and made her a co-op student and that's how she got her permanent job here.

KF: So it can be worked out?

AC: It can be worked out. We've been told it's not the policy anymore; they won't make a job for you, but if there's a job there they're willing to help the family stay together and they know that's important. You know, if I'm not a happy person I'm not going to be a happy employee, so I think they figured that out.

KF: This is your office that you're going to leave. Is there anything in here that we might want to capture? I notice that you have a whole bunch of badges.

AC: Yeah, I've got a bunch of badges from some of the agencies that I've worked with throughout my career. You know, every time you meet someone from another law enforcement agency It's kind of ice to trade patches with them. I'm just trying to think if there's anything... This is the one that I probably like the most. I went on a detail up to Salt Lake City for the Olympics and worked with the Forest Service as a law enforcement officer at the Olympics. That was probably my favorite detail I've ever been on. I got to work the downhill ski event, and got to ski on duty, and meet the U.S. ski team, and it was a good experience. It was great.

KF: Here it says "Real men wear kilts." Is that true?

AC: It's true. I wore a kilt to my wedding, and I have a kilt, and I wear it on occasion to formal things.

KF: Are you going to wear a kilt any time soon?

AC: Maybe to my going away party. I may have to wear it. [laughs]

KF: I'm going to pause. Can we just remember [tape jumps] [inaudible]

[Camera focuses on wall map]

AC: One of the things about Forest Service law enforcement; we cover such a large area. This green area is one point eight million acres. [points to areas on map] And pretty much this is Flagstaff and this is Sedona. Just on a normal day I have to patrol everything from here all the way the northern boundary and out to here. And then when the person's off at Mormon Lake I have to patrol pretty much everything from here, across and up. It's a lot of area to cover. There's still areas-- I've been here four years now, a little over four years-- there's areas I've never been to on my district. I haven't explored hardly any of this down in here. It's a large area to cover; it's difficult sometimes. You get a call, there's something going on; out here someone digging artifacts or cutting down trees. Of course you're all the way up there and it's two hours to get somewhere; it's a difficult problem to deal with. That's where lights and sirens come in sometimes. [laughs]

KF: Another thing about this new job that you're going to... How will the law enforcement be different?

AC: Well first of all, I'll be the supervisor, so I won't be in the field as much, which I'm kind of dreading a little bit. I really like being out and about, greeting the public and doing law enforcement hands on. I'm going to be a little bit more bound to the office, and dealing with issues that are important to the forest, and doing more policy things. I see that happening. As far as law enforcement at Mount Hood and law enforcement here on the Coconino, Mount Hood is primarily an urban forest. It's adjacent to Portland and the surrounding communities. So I anticipate from talking to the other officers up there, there's going to be more serious crime. There's organized crime that steals cars and brings them out to the forest, strips them and burns them. There's more marijuana cultivation because there's more water and it's a better place to grow marijuana. And then you get kind of the weird city problems that -- we're blessed here in Flagstaff that we don't deal with as many of them. There's going to be - I anticipate a bigger problem with transients, and illegal dumping; and up in the northwest they have a big problem with people stealing forest products, cutting down old growth trees, because there's a greater value for that tree and people will cut down the trees and sell it for drug money, or just money if they aren't drug users. Let's see, what else is going on up there that I've heard of recently? I'm looking forward to it. I was up there on my house-hunting trip, and I'm really looking forward to learning a new ecosystem and being someplace where there's water, and going fly fishing. Looking forward to the recreational stuff up there. I guess recreation's a huge deal up there. There's five ski resorts that all have permits through the Forest Service to be up there. There's year-round skiing because there's snow on Mount Hood year round. So it's going to be different. I don't anticipate there being ever a slow time. Time of the year. There's timber protests, which we don't have here, we have smaller protests for the Fee Demo sort of things; but timber protests are something that I'll have to learn to deal with. I'm looking forward to it. It's going to be a big challenge.

KF: Do they have those tree-sitters?

AC: We have tree sitters. And some of the law enforcement people up there have actually gone to tree climbing school so they can go deal with the tree sitters.

KF: So do you think maybe you would? [inaudible]

AC: I'm not going to climb the trees. [laughs] I blew out my knee. I've got a bad knee. [laughs]

KF: How will you be able to use your pilot skills?

AC: I'm hoping to make the same kind of contacts that I've made here. I volunteered to fly with the Elden Pueblo project like I was talking about before. I was going to get involved with flying for the Nature Conservancy and things like that. I'm just going to put it out there. If anyone wants to go for an airplane ride, I can't do it on work time, but hey, you know. We can go look at stuff for [emphasis] work; get a better idea of what's going on from the air. If it's not raining. [laughs]

KF: You love flying. Do you have some other ideas about this that you want to explore?

AC: Yeah. I think one of the things I'd like to do... I'm trying to build my hours right now, so I can get enough to actually fly for the Forest Service. And one of the ideas that I'm kind of tossing around in my head is that maybe I can get those hours and meet all the Forest Service criteria for flying an airplane and doing it in the way that the Forest Service sees as a safe manner. But then maybe getting an airplane from U.S. Customs—a seized airplane or something—and starting aviation branch of the Forest Service law enforcement, or having an airplane for a region, or something. Because every time I go flying around here I see two or three violations that we wouldn't have seen from the ground. I see wood cutters all the time, or people out doing something they shouldn't on an ATV; or new trails or tracks. Some sort of violation that you wouldn't see just being in the car, or it would take you forever on horseback or hiking to find those things.

KF: Yeah, and this is a big forest.

AC: It is a big forest. And Mount Hood's a big forest. It would really be I think to the benefit of the Forest Service maybe to address that. And I'd like to be the person who does it.

KF: You could spot fires.

AC: Exactly. They have airplanes. The fire organization's really leading the way in aviation, from everything I've learned from other Forest Service employees and read. They have a really great safety record where they're really pushing safety as their mission in aviation, and I can go along with that. I think that's a good thing to do. They want a certain number of hours for their pilots. You have to jump through a lot of hoops. I think the law enforcement aviation's a little different from the fire aviation. I mean, we're not flying around where there's a lot of other air traffic. We're not going to be leading slurry bombers in and things like that. We're going to be flying around, probably the higher altitudes, looking for violations; calling another person in to come deal with them.

KF: Well let's talk about the Folklife Festival.

AC: Okay.

KF: Would you like to go?

AC: I would love to go. I'd love to go to the Mall and talk to people. Like I said before, I think I have the best job in the world here right now as a Forest Service law enforcement person. I'd like to share that with the other people that are there. Pitch in however I can.

KF: Would you like to do something with kids? Try to have a thing for kids?

AC: Sure. Sure. We could do some kind of junior ranger program, kind of like the Park Service does, or, I don't know.

KF: Actually we're going to have that.

AC: Are we?

KF: So if there's a role for you in that it would be great.

AC: Okay.

KF: You mentioned cooking?

AC: Yes! I like to cook. One of the things I like to cook—we were talking about camping recipes—one of the things I like to cook is Navajo fry bread, and I learned how to make it pretty well when I was an exchange student on the reservation, when I first kind of got launched into this career. Yeah, I like doing that.

KF: You were an exchange student?

AC: When I was in high school I went to Kayenta, Arizona, and lived on the reservation for a little while, and traveled around with a bunch of the kids from the reservation. And then the following year they came to Worthington, Ohio, and they followed us around. Just kind of a cultural exchange program. We spent a couple weeks in the school, in both those schools. I learned a lot. It really opened my eyes, and made me seriously want to be out West in a career in the outside.

KF: You have really good people skills.

AC: Yeah.

KF: Were you born with that or did you learn it?

AC: I'm an only child so I had to develop them so I could have friends. [laughs]

KF: I just thought of something funny. They taught you how to make Navajo fry bread. What did you teach them in Ohio?

AC: Oh boy. What did we teach them in Ohio? We went to see the Cleveland Browns, and we went to... We did a lot of more urban things.

KF: Well it's interesting because one of the big programs this year is going to be American food.

AC: Oh yeah?

KF: And I would imagine it would be done regionally. So it would be fun, you know?

AC: Yeah.

KF: Here's a question I forgot to ask you. What is your favorite tool that you use on your job?

AC: Well I'm a gadget person. I like gadgets, so I like my car with all my gadgets in it [laughs]. Probably the thing that's most important to use though is your brain. I mean, you're out there talking to people every day, and you really have to... A lot of people in the forest, coming from the law enforcement standpoint, they don't know that what they're doing is wrong, so you have to be able to filter out the people who are legitimate wrong-doers from people that just don't know better, and talk to them in an educational way as opposed to someone that's intentionally doing something wrong, where it's a little more enforcement, heavy-handed law enforcement type stuff.

KF: Anything else you want to share on this tape?

AC: If I was talking to the folks in Washington, the one thing I'd like to actively encourage you to do is fund Forest Service law enforcement fully. We need some more money so we can have more people in the field. When I go home at night, there's no one in the forest; and there's a lot of things going on in the forest at night that if we had more people we could deal with. The other thing that I'd like to encourage you to do is address the... the laws that we have right now are not adequate to deal with the recreation issues that we're facing, and anything I could do to help that move along, I would definitely... I'll give you my phone number. Give me a call.

KF: Let's talk about that a little more. How many law enforcement officers are there on the Coconino?

AC: For 1.8 million acres there's five of us and a supervisor. At any one time there may be two or three of us on during the day. Taking in annual leave and days off, and training, and all the necessary things that we have to do that's a lot of area to have to cover. The forest is kind of divided into north and south. There's two of us for the north half of the forest and three people on the south half, and a supervisor over all of us. We could really use some more help. The one positive thing we have going for us is the forest protection officers are out there when we're not out there, but in this day and age and the way that law enforcement's going, the forest protection officers are our eyes and ears, but there's a lot of dangers that they're facing and they don't have the skills or the equipment to deal with it like a commissioned law enforcement officer can do.

KF: And you mentioned that when you go home at night there's no law enforcement.

AC: There's no law enforcement. The county sheriff's good about getting out there in the woods but they've got the same personnel problems that we have where there just aren't enough people to cover it adequately.

[Camera shut off for a moment. When camera comes back on, interviewer has apparently asked for examples of law enforcement problems.]

AC: Okay. Some of the problems that we face here in Flagstaff, because of the logistics; I-17 and I-40 run right through Flagstaff, and we're surrounded by desert where it's really hot. So in the summertime we get a large transient influx onto the forest where people are trying to live on the national forest. And with that comes a lot of problems. Some of the people are living in the forest by choice; they've got drug or alcohol problems, or psychological problems. Some of the people are there by circumstance. When I go into a transient camp I try to sum up what's going on in this person's life, and here in Flagstaff we've got a list of all the social service agencies. If they're there by circumstance, we try and help them get back on their feet, get hooked up with social service agencies. If they're there by choice, and there's a huge mess,

that's a whole other story. The issues that surround the transient camp; first of all, just about every time I go to one there's a fire burning, and we have a large fire problem here on the Coconino National Forest. They're going to set a large fire, and it's going to be from a cooking fire or something like that, and it's going to burn down people's houses. The trash is just amazing around the transient camps. It's beer cans, and everything that you need to live; and then they just leave it there and move on to the next place. Those areas like the one we were at earlier today, they're just completely trashed out from people trying to live there. There is a human waste issue that's unbelievable. When you think about it... We got a guy that was living in a cave for about eleven years. Where did the human waste go for eleven years? For the guy that was living in the cave? I think that the transient problem; it's a bigger social problem, but we're trying to deal with it in the field. Law enforcement has some tools to deal with it, but you kind of have to weigh what you're doing. We can get law enforcement involved and send people who are there by circumstance into a spiral where it's just a downward spiral, or we can try to get them some help. Sometimes it's better to get them the help. Sometimes the only thing to do is take law enforcement action; take them to jail, write them tickets, things like that. It is a problem around here. It's a big problem.

KF: Well I think you've done a good job of answering all my questions; all my nosey questions. I want to thank you. I've enjoyed meeting you. And good luck on your new job.

AC: Thank you. Thank you very much.

[Camera turns off and turned on again.]

KF: So you do something with children, with law enforcement?

AC: About once a year we go to the Law Enforcement Day. It's over in the Sam's Club parking lot. And all the law enforcement agencies for the Flagstaff area get together, and we take the horses over there, and we take the cars over there, and open the doors and let the kids crawl in, and turn the lights on and turn the sirens on, and pretty much have a good time, and try and give them a positive view of law enforcement so later they know we're there to help them, and things like that.

KF: And what else did you say?

AC: [grinning] I also said that I really want to go to the Air and Space Museum, so I'd love to go to the Mall [laughing].

KF: Thank you.

END OF TAPE