



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CORPS PARK RANGER RETURNS TO DUTY AFTER RECOUPING FROM GUNSHOT WOUNDS

MEDIA EVENT:

MONDAY, AUG 4

9:00 A.M.

ABIQUIU LAKE INFORMATION CENTER

Abiquiu, N.M. - U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Park Ranger, Alfred J. Chavez, finally returns to work Monday, August 4 after being assaulted and suffering gunshot wounds while investigating an intrusion on federal property near Abiquiu Dam, December 1.

“It feels good to be able to go back to work and see if I can handle it,” said Chavez. I look forward to working with my family there at the office because they are like a second family to me.

Chavez was performing his routine duties near one of the dock areas

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near the lake when he noticed that unauthorized entry had been made into one of secured pump houses at the lake. As he began to investigate the intrusion, he was met by two individuals exiting a pump house. When he attempted to make inquiry as to why the two individuals were in the pump house, one of the individuals removed a dark framed revolver from his waistband and fired two shots at Chavez.

According to Chavez, he felt the first round pass near his head, but the second round struck him just above the right knee. Chavez stumbled to the ground and lied motionless while his attackers approached him. Apparently assuming he was dead the attackers fled the scene in a previously stolen vehicle.

Chavez then phoned for help and was eventually airlifted to the University of New Mexico Hospital where he underwent surgery.

The two subjects involved in the shooting are still at large.

Authorities believe the subjects likely reside or work in one of the Northern New Mexico communities surrounding Abiquiu Lake. Updated physical descriptions of both subjects appear below. In addition, authorities are still trying to locate the vehicle the subjects were driving; a picture of a nearly identical vehicle appears below.

The reward being jointly offered by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the FBI is \$20,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the individuals involved.

SUBJECT #1 is described as a White or Hispanic male in his early to mid

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twenties, approximately 5'6" tall and weighing 140 lbs with black hair. The subject's hair is further described as being short on the sides and long on top, possibly pulled back into a ponytail. This subject also has a very pronounced tattoo on the side of his neck (tattoo is believed to be a figure as opposed to letters or a word).

SUBJECT #2 is described as a White or Hispanic male in his late teens or early twenties, approximately 5'8" tall, weighing 200 lbs and having short, light colored hair and a mustache. This subject has a colored tattoo on at least one forearm.

The VEHICLE being driven by the subjects is described as a:

1990-1999 model white two door Ford pickup with tinted windows, chrome wheels, grey colored bumper and a single step under each door. The pickup has a significant dent in the tailgate (passenger's side top).

Anyone with information regarding this case is asked to call the FBI in Albuquerque, at 505-889-1300 (24 hrs) or the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Corps Watch at 866-413-7970.