

ANDY LEWIS v USA

continued

jumping incident at Three Gossips, I contacted Andrew L. Lewis. LEWIS hindered and hampered an active base jumping investigative [sic] by giving information to Law Enforcement Rangers of another individual that did the base jumping. LEWIS's [sic] statements to me impeded and prolonged my investigation. After further investigation LEWIS was determined to be the suspected BASE jumper." Officer L. Kent, no. 2380. Offense Description: Provide False Information

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

DISTRICT OF UTAH, CENTRAL DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, Plaintiff, v. ANDREW L. LEWIS, Defendant.	PETTY INFORMATION Violation Notices P0398145/UP14, P0398146/UP14, P0398147/UP14, P0398148/UP14, and P0398149/UP14 I. Knowingly Giving a False and Fictitious Report to an Authorized Person (16 U.S.C. § 3 and 36 C.F.R. 2.32(a)(3)); II. Interfering, Resisting, Threatening, and Intimidating Government Employee (16 U.S.C. § 3 and 36 C.F.R. 2.32(a)(1)); III. Delivering and Retrieving a Person or Object by Airborne Means (16 U.S.C. § 3 and 36 C.F.R. 2.17(a)(3)); IV. Gathering and Possessing Undesignated Natural Products; and (16 U.S.C. § 3 and 36 C.F.R. 2.1(c)(3)(i)) V. Violating Closure, Designation, Use and Activity Restriction, and Condition and Public Use Restriction (16 U.S.C. § 3 and 36 C.F.R. 2.5(f)). Magistrate Judge Robert T. Braithwaite
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“Based on the tracks it appeared LEWIS was running and staying in a wash. The wash was deep enough so a person could not see LEWIS from the parking lot or roadway. LEWIS was reported by an Arches National Park employee as hiding behind Juniper Trees and quickly sticking his head out and then quickly hiding behind trees again...LEWIS stated that his friend did the BASE jump and he had nothing to do with it.”

Liza Kent, arresting officer. National Park Service

OFFENSE DESCRIPTION: Interfering, resisting, threatening and intimidating a government employee.

“...Within the jurisdictional boundaries of Arches National Park, the following events occurred in my presence. While investigating a BASE jumping incident at Three Gossips, I began to track the suspect based on an eyewitness account of were [sic] the person landed and then were [sic] the person ran and hid behind Juniper Trees. Based on the tracks it appeared LEWIS was running and staying in a wash. The wash was deep enough so a person could not see LEWIS from the parking lot or roadway. LEWIS was reported by an Arches National Park employee as hiding behind Juniper Trees and quickly sticking his head out and then quickly hiding behind trees again. LEWIS was found over an hour after the BASE jump was reported. I contacted Andrew L. LEWIS at the base of Three Gossips. LEWIS was lying on his back on the ground. LEWIS stated that his friend did the BASE jump and he had nothing to do with it. LEWIS then stated he saw Law Enforcement vehicles in the area and became scared because he knew his friend was in trouble. LEWIS's [sic] tracks put him in a wash were [sic] a pack and parachute were found hidden in a tree. LEWIS denied ever being in the wash or base jumping.” Officer L. Kent. Offense Description: Interfering/resisting/threatening/intimidating gov. employee

OFFENSE: Delivering and retrieving a person or object by airborne means.

“...Within the jurisdictional boundaries of Arches National Park, the following events

were reported to me. Based on eyewitness accounts and my investigation, Andrew L. LEWIS was identified as the BASE jumper off the Three Gossips. LEWIS jumped off the top of Three Gossips and used a parachute to control his speed and landing location. Delivering a person by parachute is prohibited.” Officer L. Kent. Offense Description: Delivering/Retrieving by Airborn[e] Means

OFFENSE: Gathering and possessing undesignated natural products.

“...Within the jurisdictional boundaries of Arches National Park the following events were reported to me. While investigating a base jumping incident at Three Gossips, Andrew L Lewis's [sic] shoeprints were tracked to a backpack that was hidden in a tree and covered with broken living and dead tree branches. The dry cedar branches had been broken off of a larger tree. Damaging and gathering live tree branches is prohibited in National Parks.” Officer L. Kent. Offense Description: Gather/Possess Undesignated Natural Products

OFFENSE: Violating closure, designation, use and activity restriction, and condition of public use restriction.

“...Within the jurisdictional boundaries of Arches National Park, the following events were reported to me. Arches National Park Interpretation Ranger Jon Clausen reported to me of a person BASE jumping off an area known as Three Gossips. Ranger Clausen stated the person was a white male with curly brown to light brown short hair, wearing a gray shirt and jeans. I contacted Andrew L Lewis at the base of the Three Gossips. LEWIS matched the description of the BASE jumper. Stated in the current Superintendent's Compendium, base jumping within Arches National Park is under the closures and Public Use Limits section. Lewis was cooperative and understanding.” Officer L. Kent. Offense Description: Violating a closure, use limit, etc. (Base Jumping.)

To summarize, the Park Service believes that Andy Lewis BASE-jumped from an area near the Three Gossips, and that he attempted to hide from park rangers. He was seen by a park employee “hiding behind a juniper tree.” When confronted by Ranger Kent, she found him still hiding, “lying on his back on the ground,” and he insisted that someone else, his “friend,” had BASE-jumped, not him. Further, Ranger Kent followed Lewis's footprints to a juniper tree where she found a parachute concealed within its trunk. An attempt had been made to hide the chute by covering it with branches that had been ripped from the tree. Though he denied BASE jumping, he fit the description provided by park interpreter Jon Clauson, who first reported the incident.

That, in a nutshell, is the Park Service case.

Lewis was required to post a \$5000 bond. He pleaded ‘Not Guilty, and told the court he would retain his own counsel. The bond was returned to him on May 29, but the charges against him still stand. The pre-trial order bans Lewis from all national parks “until this case is resolved.”



‘May 28 near Cedar, UT.. Yey! Driving to Salt Lake to appear In federal court over jumping off a rock... #hatersgunnahate #itiswhatitis #lolseriously’

Lewis secured the services of an attorney, Gerald Salcido, of Sandy, Utah. Mr. Salcido did not respond to my email request for a statement or for additional information regarding the case. A status conference date was set by the court for August 28, and October 30 for resolution—that is, if a plea has not been determined to the satisfaction of the defense and prosecution by that date, the matter will go to trial.

Since his plea, Lewis has indicated in public facebook posts and via the video link we provided earlier in this narrative that he did, in fact, make the BASE jump himself. His defense would appear to be that it's simply his right to BASE jump, wherever he wants--that it's about “freedom.”

Or as Sketchy Andy proclaimed in his video...

“Like, by them arresting me and taking my shit away, they've now affected my well-being as a human. Did I affect their well-being as humans by jumping off a tower? Absolutely not. This is my job. This is what I do. I BASE jump. For a living. Like, this is how I make my money.”

EDITOR'S NOTE: We will provide updates on “Andrew Lewis v The United States of America” as they become available...JS