

Governor C.L. "Butch" Otter  
Office of the Governor  
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Lt. Jeffrey Stankiewicz, XO  
North Idaho 21<sup>st</sup> Battalion of Light Foot  
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Dear Governor Otter,

On behalf of myself and the members of the Boundary County militia, a.k.a. The North Idaho 21<sup>st</sup> Battalion of Light Foot, I would like to take this opportunity to introduce you to us and to what we represent.

We are not a private army or some anti-government para-military group. We are simply concerned citizens of the Great State of Idaho who are aware of the possible perils that face all of us in the near future and who wish to contribute, in any way we are able, to the safety and security of the Republic of Idaho, and the Republic of these united States.

I have been asked many times if I am forming a militia... I am not. Under the Idaho Code, Title 46-103, there are 3 definitions for our State's "militia":

- The first is the "unorganized" militia, which consists of all males between the ages of 18 and 45 who may be called up into active duty by yourself, when acting as Commander-in-Chief of the State of Idaho.
- Second is the "organized" militia, consisting of the members of the unorganized militia which have been called up, in a declared emergency, to defend the State.
- The third is the National Guard, which is the part-time, but fully-funded, state militia.

Citizens of the State of Idaho are already members of the "militia". They are also citizens of their respective Counties. I am simply coming forward to help my fellow Idahoans to organize themselves into a "well regulated militia", so that if called upon by yourself, or the county Sheriff, in times of trouble, we might be at least marginally prepared to answer the call.

Our goal is simply to educate our fellow citizens as to the traditional role played by the militia, as well as to set up a local chain of command and train with each other in military disciplines. We feel that the Boy Scout Motto should be the motto of all Americans... "Be Prepared".

And speaking of 'chain of command', I am a Lieutenant with the 21<sup>st</sup> because I was voted in by our members. We follow the "National Militia Standards" as a basic guide ([www.awrm.org](http://www.awrm.org)). The numerous militias around our great nation, for the most part, vote upon their officers and NCOs. This is only right because we cannot force any free man to obey the orders of another. The regular Army can court martial a soldier for insubordination, while we must believe in, and trust, the men who wish to lead us.

According to the Standards, the XO's job is to liason with the local sheriffs' departments and the press, as well as handle most of the battalion paperwork. I was elected to be the Executive Officer for the simple reason that I was already performing that job. I and a few other members stepped forward to "fill the gap", as it were, until more qualified people join with us and assume the leadership positions within our organization. We have all stated that as soon as men better experienced than us entered the unit, we would gladly step down into the ranks and assume any role for which we are best suited.

Our unit does not have a Commanding Officer (CO) at this time. I am not qualified to assume that post. If asked to, I will refuse. This isn't about ego, it's about protecting our freedoms and liberties. It's about putting our personal, political and religious beliefs aside and doing what's right for our county, state and nation.

In keeping with our view towards openness, I have invited the Boundary and Bonner County Sheriffs' offices to attend our meetings and training sessions. I have even offered to add the police department's email address to our members' list so that they may receive all correspondence I send out to the unit. We are open to the public and have nothing to hide. As I have stated at our meetings... "not only are we not doing anything illegal, we aren't doing anything wrong".

In one of my conversations with a member of the Boundary County Sheriffs office, I was informed that the Federal Bureau of Investigation had inquired about a "new extremist group" forming in the Bonners Ferry area. I spoke to the Deputy who received the call. He relayed to me that he told them, "We don't feel that they are an 'extremist group'", and that his father, who is a retired police officer, attended one of our meetings. I gave the deputy my phone number to forward to the FBI agent who made the inquiry, and asked him to invite the agent to our meetings as well. We are not a danger. We are not extremist. We are your friends and neighbors. We are your fellow countrymen.

Please sir, if you could, speak to the Federal and State authorities who might be asking questions about us. Inform them of our peaceful intent and our wish only to be prepared to assist them in any future emergency. If you are able, direct them to contact and coordinate with us so that there is no miscommunication or misunderstanding which might hinder our duty to assist our communities and protect our families in time of need.

We ask this in the name of our Creator, whom we have to thank for the blessings and liberty we have enjoyed since the founding of this great Republic.

Thank you for your service to our state and for your continued leadership.

Sincerely,

Lt. Jeffrey Stankiewicz, XO  
North Idaho 21<sup>st</sup> Battalion of Light Foot