

CLEAR TEXT:
WASO Ranger Activities'
Electronic Newsletter

February 11, 1993

LAW ENFORCEMENT POSITION PAPER

On January 15th, Director James Ridenour signed a document entitled "National Park Service Organizational Position Paper on Law Enforcement in the Protection Ranger Work Force." That document is attached to this issue of Clear Text as a WordPerfect 5.1 file entitled LE-POS.

The paper defines the mission and goals of the Service's law enforcement program in contemporary terms, and emphasizes the primacy of prevention and resource education. It reconfirms the agency's fundamental mission of resource conservation and specifies that NPS law enforcement is an essential tool for accomplishing the objectives of park resource and visitor protection. And it articulates the Service's support for park staff members who are assigned to law enforcement duties.

Over coming months, we will collectively review, resolve and plan the most appropriate methods for implementing the principles articulated in this document. All levels of management will have ample opportunity to address concerns and shape decisions regarding the direction that park law enforcement programs will take. This position paper provides us with an impetus for resolving the operational issues necessary for the implementation of a modern resource and visitor protection program.

We will keep you abreast of further developments.

CHIEF RANGERS' DIRECTORY

The final draft of the newly revised NPS chief rangers' directory is also attached to this issue in a file entitled CR-LIST. It must be downloaded to a disk, then printed locally. The directory is in WordPerfect 5.1; although all necessary commands are buried in it, you should nonetheless be aware that it has been composed in Courier 12 cpi for a Laserjet III printer, that the margins are set at 8 and 18, and that it has its own headers and footers. You may have to work with it a bit to get it to come out on any other kind of printer. If you just can't get it to print, send us a cc:Mail message with your postal address and we'll mail you a copy.

Please keep in mind that this is a final draft, not the end product. If you find any errors on it, send in your corrections via cc:Mail. We'll update the directory and retransmit it in final form later this spring.

GUIDELINES

Revisions to several guidelines are underway and in various states of completion. Here's a quick summary:

* NPS-58 - The rewrite of NPS-58, the structural fire guideline, has begun. Efforts will be made to enhance the existing version and make it more responsive to the needs of field areas. The effort is being directed by Jim Farrel, the structural fire program manager, with assistance from staff in the Branch of Loss Control Management and

personnel who were involved in preparation of the original guideline. Because of the complexity of the issues and the desire to build-in adequate review processes, it appears likely that the project will take about a year and a half to complete. Many field people will be contacted for input on revisions to various sections of the guideline as the work progresses.

- * NPS-43 - Revisions to the Service's uniform guideline were completed in December and it is now going through its final internal clearance prior to release. The rewrite began in January, 1991, when a work group met in WASO and completely revised the guideline, which had not been updated since its initial release in 1984. Last January, the Servicewide uniform committee worked those revisions into a second draft which went out for field review in the spring. Almost all field comments were incorporated into the final version.
- * NPS-57 - The health and fitness guideline is currently being printed. About 6,000 copies will be run and distributed as widely as possible.
- * NPS-9 - The guideline is currently on hold because of revisions being made to the Service's law enforcement policies.

UNIFORM BOOTS

On February 5th, we began a month-long, Servicewide needs assessment to determine what type of hiking boot NPS employees feel we should have in the uniform program. In the past, we've approached this issue by asking for recommendations for specific boots, only to find that there's a decided lack of consensus on individual models. This time, we're going to instead attempt to first determine overall needs. Copies of the needs assessment form were sent to all park uniform program administrators via cc:Mail on February 5th. Employees who fill them out should send them to one of the below-listed people (preferably the one closest to you), all of whom are on the needs assessment work group:

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------|
| * Hugh Dougher, North Cascades (Chair) | * Roger Moder, Big Bend |
| * Roger Blaine, Sequoia-Kings Canyon | * Rick Kirschner, Mount Rainier |
| * Becky Reddinger, Catoctin | * Tom Chisdock, Denali |
| * Steve Kloster, Great Smoky Mountains | * Larry Kangas, Isle Royale |

They will review and collate the responses and forward them to Hugh Dougher, the group's chairperson. He will then meet with the Service's uniform coordinator and representatives from R&R Uniforms in mid-March to select a model for field testing. Please note that responses need to be submitted by February 24th.

An identical assessment is underway for a new field work boot - one which will also meet criteria for use in wildland firefighting. That evaluation form was also sent to your park uniform program administrator. It should be completed and sent to any of the members of that work group:

- | | |
|--|------------------------|
| * Steve Iobst, Rocky Mountain (Chair) | * Mike Keasler, Ozark |
| * Will Tipton, Wrangell-St. Elias | * Jamie Bell, Cape Cod |
| * Dale Brukiewa, Fort McHenry | * Carl Douhan, NCRO |
| * Hayward Robinson, Martin Luther King | * Paul Broyles, NIFC |

As with the hiking boot, responses should be sent to the closest member of the group, and must be submitted by February 24th.

TWENTY-YEAR RETIREMENT CLAIMS

As was noted in the Morning Report on February 9th, we've learned that a number of NPS employees who submitted twenty-year retirement claims have received responses from the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) denying them 6c coverage. In order to pursue this matter further, we would like copies of the letters that you received from OPM and copies of the recommendation letters that the NPS and Department of Interior sent over with your packages. Please telefax them to Bob Marriott at either 202-208-6756 or 5977.

NOTES FROM THE PARKS

Grand Canyon

A ceremony was recently held at Grand Canyon School for 7th and 8th grade students who graduated from the 80-hour GREAT (Gang Resistance Education and Training) program. The course was taught and coordinated by ranger Joan Blais, who is also a DARE officer for the park community. During last summer, she worked with and was trained by the Phoenix police department's gang detail, and is the first NPS ranger to become a GREAT instructor. She's also been asked to serve on the national GREAT training team. GREAT is designed to combat and prevent youth gang involvement and is patterned after the DARE program. An increasing number of youths are bringing gang activity and problems from metro areas to the Grand Canyon and nearby rural areas. The course, which was created by ATF and Phoenix PD, targets junior high students and provides decision making skills and techniques to help juveniles avoid gang involvement. Questions about GREAT can be directed to Joan at 602-638-7808.

Shenandoah

Diana Rockwell, R.N., the prehospital coordinator for Shenandoah's park medic program, will be resigning from her position at the University of Virginia on March 31st and returning to direct patient care. Diana has been a teacher, counselor, mentor and friend of dozens of rangers who've gone through Shenandoah's medic program. Any employees who wish to send greetings, either in written or video format, are encouraged to send them to Greg Stiles or Linda Green at Shenandoah by March 12th. They will put them together into an appropriate package. Address: Shenandoah NP, Route 4, Box 348, Luray, VA 22835 (Attn: Greg Stiles).

Everglades

Ken Morgan, presently the chief ranger at Everglades, will retire on April 2nd after 32 years with the National Park Service, ending his career where it began in May of 1961. In between, Ken worked assignments at Lake Mead, Natchez Trace, the Sandy Hook Unit of Gateway, and Cumberland Island. His retirement party will be held at 4 p.m. on March 27th. Deb Jackson at the park's CRO is gathering best wishes and amusing stories of Ken's career and asks that friends who cannot be here forward these to her. She also has detailed information for those who might wish to attend the gathering. Please contact her at 305-242-7732 or Everglades NP, PO Box 279, Homestead, FL 33030.

PARK VACANCIES AND OPM REGISTER OPENINGS

Haleakala

The park has advertised several seasonal openings - three GS-5 law enforcement positions and at least one entrance station position. EOD's will be as soon as possible. All are NTE one year positions with 20% COLAs. Contact Phil Dendel at 808-572-9306 for further information.

QUESTIONS?

Is there something you'd like to know about that we can answer? Let us know and we'll publish the question and answer in an upcoming edition of Clear Text. Please be sure to specify that the question is for response in this newsletter, as questions also come in via cc:Mail which are for individual staff member response. If you've got a question that needs answering, it's likely that other rangers will also be interested in the reply.

Clear Text is the bi-weekly electronic newsletter of the Ranger Activities Division in WASO. It is distributed via cc:Mail to all ranger training and operations centers (FLETC, AEDC, MEDC, BIFC), regional office ranger divisions, park chief rangers, and other interested parties. If you would like to get it but don't currently receive it, please advise Ranger Activities via a short cc:Mail message. Any office may receive it, including districts and subdistricts within a park. PLEASE pass it along to others in your division and park.

Prepared by WASO Division of Ranger Activities

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