

CLEAR TEXT:
WASO Ranger Activities'
Electronic Newsletter

November 4, 1993

Apologies for being a bit tardy in getting this edition out. The regional chief rangers' conference in Nebraska took up quite a bit of our collective time, and more than a few of the programs we oversee - Ranger Futures, enhanced annuity retirement, wilderness, fees, uniforms, regs, and law enforcement, just to name a few - are running at full throttle. We're beginning to see the culmination of a lot of hard work on the part of many people, however, and prospects look bright for significant changes in the coming year. We'll post you on both the proceedings of the regional chiefs' conference and other breaking developments in coming weeks.

RANGER FUTURES

Ranger Futures is moving on several fronts. Ppilot tests of the new ranger personnel systems are continuing in selected parks to assess impacts and develop Servicewide implementation instructions. Guidance on implementing Ranger Futures was provided to regional classifiers during a meeting here in Washington this week. The Ranger Futures concept statement is being put into final and will be forwarded to Director Kennedy for his approval. And training modules are being developed to prepare various audiences - rangers, personnelists, managers, and supervisors - for the conversion of employees to the new system.

We've also finished a paper in which answers are provided to the questions which were raised by the Ranger Futures concept paper which was distributed to the field this summer. Copies have been sent to all superintendents and regional offices, and a cc:Mail copy in WordPerfect 5.1 is being sent to you as an attachment to this edition of CLEAR TEXT. The file's a little long, but we felt that the high degree of interest in Ranger Futures warranted its transmission to you.

The following actions are planned for the period from January 1, 1994 to the end of the fiscal year:

- * Coordinate anticipated organizational changes with other Vail initiatives.
- * Issue instructions to the field for conversion of personnel and organizations to Ranger Future model positions, with the first conversions scheduled to begin in mid-April.
- * Obtain the commitment of interim NPS funding of \$4 to \$6 million to cover FY 94 conversions.
- * Design a new competitive entry vehicle for the ranger occupation.
- * Begin designing an overall ranger career management program.

UNIFORMS AT FLETC

During the Nebraska meeting, a discussion was held on uniforms for NPS students at FLETC. All parties agreed unanimously that the following mandatory uniform and defensive equipment requirements be put in place for

students attending the basic law enforcement course at FLETC, effective January 1, 1994. Chief rangers should advise prospective students of these standards.

Each student must arrive at the center with the following Class A Service uniform components and defensive equipment:

- Overshell or windbreaker
- Tropical trousers (one pair)
- Regular or heavy duty dress belt
- Tropical long-sleeve shirt (one)
- Tropical short-sleeve shirts (two)
- Uniform tie and tie tack
- Name tags and name bar (except arrowhead name bar)
- Badge
- Straw ranger hat
- Hat band
- Chin strap
- Translucent rain cover
- Low quarter dress shoe or Wellington boot
- Uniform socks
- Soft body armor, to be worn during all firearms training and all practical exercises

Students are also encouraged to bring their issued leather gear, except for holsters and magazine carriers. Those will be provided by NPS/FLETC. Students are also strongly advised to thoroughly familiarize themselves with the Servicewide uniform guideline (NPS-43), particularly chapter nine on uniform wear standards and chapter ten on personal appearance standards, before they arrive at the center. The NPS staff at FLETC will conduct weekly uniform inspections throughout the training period.

Paul Henry
Superintendent, FLETC

NATIONAL ANTI-POACHING FOUNDATION

The National Anti-Poaching Foundation (NAPF), a non-profit organization based in Colorado Springs, has expressed interest in helping us in our efforts to curb poaching throughout the System.

NAPF is willing to handle NPS-related calls on its new anti-poaching hotline (1-800-800-WARDEN), which has already been used by citizens to pass on hundreds of tips and other information on poaching over the past half year. The system works like this: An informant or concerned citizen calls the 800 number with information about a resource-related crime. The operator gets enough information to determine where the call should be routed, then puts the caller on hold, dials the appropriate enforcement agency, and explains that a call has been received about a resource violation in their jurisdiction. The caller and enforcement officer are then connected and the operator hangs up, thereby freeing the 800 number for another incoming call. The system is structured so that the operator never has to handle any sensitive information. The entire call is paid for by the NAPF.

NAPF has a proven track record and has been endorsed by many state wildlife enforcement agencies. They've worked closely with several NPS areas already, providing information on poaching at Florissant Fossil Beds, Yellowstone, and just outside of Shenandoah.

NAPF needs the Service's help in order to be effective. They need to know how to get in touch with rangers or investigators at your park at any hour. If you'd like to get involved, write to NAPF Director Leonard Dickson (National Anti-Poaching Foundation, 2860 S. Circle Drive, Suite 2136, Colorado Springs, CO 80906), give him a call (719-576-1564), or send him a fax (719-576-1693). Please don't use the 800 number, though, as it's reserved for poaching tips.

Bob Martin
Shenandoah

FIELD NOTES

No entries this time.

PARK EXCHANGE

Gateway

Samples of ranger patrol log/shift forms are being sought by the Staten Island Unit of Gateway as they go through a revision of their procedures and record-keeping. If you can help, please send your contribution to the park or contact Diane Wulff at 718-351-6970 (fax: 6988). Results will be packaged and distributed to all contributors. Your assistance is greatly appreciated. [Ed Rizzotto, GATE]

Indiana Dunes

Indiana Dunes is seeking information from any park area which utilizes Evinrude Model EL150TL 150 HP outboard motors in their boat patrol operations. Over the past several years, they've had three blown powerheads on these outboard engines. They haven't yet determined the exact cause of the damage, but believe the problem may have been no cylinder lubrication or inadequate cylinder lubrication. The park would like to hear from anyone who's had similar problems with these engines, or who may have heard of inherent problems within this model. Please contact Joni Jones, the park's chief of protection, by cc:Mail or by telephone (219-926-7561, extension 320). [Joni Jones, INDU]

PARK VACANCIES AND OPM REGISTER OPENINGS

No entries.

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, HOAL, STMA, NIFC), regional office ranger divisions, park chief rangers, and other interested parties.

Short submissions for the last three sections of the report are welcome and encouraged. The deadline for submissions for the next issue is November 18, 1993.

If you would like to get CLEAR TEXT 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

Telephone: Branch of R&VP - 202-208-4874

Branch of F&A (WASO) - 202-208-5572

Telefax: Branch of R&VP - 202-208-6756

Branch of F&A (WASO) - 202-208-5977

cc:Mail: Branch of R&VP - WASO Ranger Activities

Branch of F&A (WASO) - WASO Fire and Aviation