



Division of Interpretation and Education

Historic Weapons Program

FY05 Historic Weapons Program Statistics

- # Demonstrations – 8056
- # Visitors Attending – 740,674
- # VIPs Participating - 6841
- # VIP Hours Donated - 102,871

2005 Servicewide Historic Weapons Advisory Team (SHWAT)

Team Leader

John Sutton, WICR

Assistant Team Leader

Rick Martin, VICK

Black Powder Safety Specialist

Vacant

18th Century Small Arms

Rick Martin, VICK

18th Century Artillery

Ron Gimmillaro, VAFO

18th Century Special Weapons

Eric Olsen, MORR

19th Century Small Arms

Vacant

19th Century Artillery

Jimmy Blankenship, PETE

19th Century Special Weapons

John Sutton, WICR

Field Representative, 18th C.

Joe Craig, SARA

Field Representative, 19th C.

Cathy Beeler, MONO

Superintendents' Rep.

vacant

WASO Representative

Sandy Weber, WASO Interp. & Educ.

Risk Management Rep.

Dan Sullivan, NE Area Office

Curatorial Representative

vacant

Historic Weapons Upgrade and Replacement Program

Background

The Servicewide Historic Weapons Advisory Team (SHWAT) and the WASO Division of Interpretation & Education developed a \$1,100,000 safety upgrade and improvement program for NPS historic weapons (HW) firing demonstrations in FY03. Using 20% Fee Demonstration funds, the program was scheduled to be completed in three phases. Phase I, the inspection of all current HW programs, was completed in FY03. As a result of the inspections, 250



New weapons in use at Fort Scott NHS

items (powder magazines, safety equipment, weapons, uniforms, etc.) were identified as being in

need of replacement or upgrade at an approximate cost of \$1,00,000.

In Phase II of the program which occurred in FY04, 155 of the most urgent safety needs were funded at the cost of \$500,000. Fifty-four parks received grants in amounts ranging from \$500 to \$33,205 to replace or upgrade substandard powder magazines, purchase gun safes, replace weapons or ordnance that had failed inspection or were aging, and acquire safety equipment.

Phase III – FY05

Because a sizable list of HW program needs still existed after the FY04 grants were distributed, a second series of grants was awarded in FY05 totaling \$500,000. Thirty parks received grants in amounts ranging from \$700- \$44,000. The majority of the



Inspection of tube interior using new cannon-cam

HW Regional Inspectors

National Capital Region

Cathy Beeler, MONO

Northeast Region

Ron Gimmillaro, VAFO
Chris Keenan, MASI

Southeast Region

Joe Davis, SHIL
Matt Atkinson, VICK
Willie Johnson, KEMO
Jim Lewis, STRI

Midwest Region

George Elmore, FOLS

Intermountain Region

served by MW

Pacific West Region

served by MW

Alaska Region

not applicable



grants were used to correct deficiencies noted during the FY03 inspections. Eight parks (COLO, COWP, FOVA, FRSP, NATR, PAAL, PERI, SHIL) received funds to help restore discontinued programs or to start new interpretive demonstrations.

Although approximately \$300,000 in unfunded needs still exists in the HW program even after all the Upgrade and Replacement Program funds have been allocated, all significant safety and weapons deficiencies have been

corrected. The remaining requests are primarily for items to enhance current programs or to initiate new ones. Individual parks will take the lead in locating funding for these items.

HW Regional Points of Contact

National Capital Region

Pam West

Northeast Region

Dan Sullivan

Southeast Region

Don Wollenhaupt

Midwest Region

Vern Hurt

Intermountain Region

John Heiner

Pacific West

Guy Washington

Alaska Region

N/A

Parks Receiving Grants During Phase III of the Upgrade Program

Intermountain Region

Fort Davis NHS
Fort Laramie NHS
Fort Union NM
Palo Alto Battlefield NHS

Midwest Region

Arkansas Post NMem
Fort Larned NHS
Fort Scott NHS
Pea Ridge NMP
Wilson's Creek NB

National Capital Region

Fort Washington Park
Harpers Ferry NHP
Manassas NBP

Northeast Region

Colonial NHP
Fort Necessity NB
Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania NMP
Richmond NBP
Saratoga NHP

Pacific West Region

Fort Vancouver NHS
Lake Roosevelt NRA

Southeast Region

Castillo de San Marcos NM
Cowpens NB
Guilford Courthouse NMP
Horseshoe Bend NMP
Jean Lafitte NHP & Pres
Kings Mountain NMP
Natchez Trace Parkway
Ninety Six NHS
Shiloh NMP
Stones River NB
Timucuan Eco. & Hist. Preserve

HW Questionnaire Results

In March 2005, a questionnaire was sent to all NPS HW personnel soliciting recommendations on how to improve the management of the program. Generally speaking, 59% of the respondents were satisfied with the current program management procedures and advocated no significant changes; 27% were generally satisfied with the program but suggested some revisions; 4% were somewhat dissatisfied with the program and advocated significant changes. After review and discussion of the questionnaire results, the SHWAT agreed to adopt the following revisions:

Composition of the SHWAT

Beginning in the spring of 2006, the SHWAT will consist of the following ten positions:

SHWAT Team Leader (1 position)

Subject Matter Experts (3 positions)
18th century weapons
19th century weapons
beach apparatus

Trainee Positions (2 positions)
18th century weapons
19th century weapons

Policy Positions (2 positions)
Risk Management & Safety
Interpretation & Education

Regional Inspector Rep. (1 position)

Regional Pt. of Contact Rep. (1 position)

New Role and Function Statements will be prepared for all positions describing the qualification requirements, application process, nomination forms, and selection procedures. These will be distributed to all HW personnel early in FY06 so that all interested candidates may have a chance to apply for positions.

In addition to the 2 new Trainee slots on the SHWAT, 2 formal Instructor Trainee positions will also be established.

Historic Weapons Website

A new historic weapons program website is being prepared and will go online in 2006

when the switch to the Common Spot format becomes operational in the NPS. The website will eventually include a full range of HW-related material, including policies and guidelines, training curricula, drill manuals, training videos, HW personnel lists, inspection checklists, etc. Virginia DuBow (VICK) is the HW Website Webmaster.



Sound tests at Fort Washington Park

Hearing Loss Risk Assessment

Capt. David Bleicher of the US Public Health Service recently conducted a series of tests at Fort Washington Park to evaluate the level of risk for hearing damage during HW firing demonstrations. Using new state-of-the-art equipment loaned to the NPS by NIOSH, Capt. Bleicher recorded the sound produced during the firing of 9 weapons from the positions of both the demonstrator and the audience. Unlike traditional monitors which captured only a single sound impulse, the equipment allowed him to record the full duration of noise produced during the firing, from the primer ignition to lingering reverberation and echo. The purpose of the tests was to see if the current requirements for hearing protection are adequate and if old impulse noise risk criteria need to be altered now that continuous noise monitoring can be done. Capt. Bleicher is currently analyzing the data. Preliminary indications are that the current NPS hearing protection requirements are within the safe range for both demonstrator and visitor.

Look for it soon...

www.nps.gov/shwat

Next Historic Weapons Certification Workshop February 13-24, 2006

Camp Blanding Army National Guard Reserve Training Site
Starke, Florida

Program Contact:

Sandy Weber

WASO Cultural Resources Interpretive Specialist

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