

CLEAR TEXT:
WASO Ranger Activities'
Electronic Newsletter

JULY 2, 1993

CISD TEAMS

The Service will be putting two critical incident stress debriefing (CISD) teams - an East Team and a West Team. Each will consist of a team leader and about 15 members, eight of whom will be alternates. Ranger Activities will be accepting applications to the teams beginning on August 1st. The basic application will be provided by this office some time after July 14th. Leaders for each team will be chosen from among the applicants.

ASSAULTS ON OFFICERS

New FBI reporting requirements include a section on assaults on federal officers and information on subsequent court dispositions of related cases. Copies of 343s and 344s documenting such assaults on NPS personnel should be sent to your regional law enforcement specialist. Since the reports are submitted on a calendar year basis, there is no urgency to report submission as long as they are forwarded to the regional LES in time to afford him the opportunity to consolidate regional reports for submission to WASO. Please be sure to include court dispositions when available. Questions should be directed to Maj. Dale Dickerhoof at 202-208-4209.

While on the subject, you might be interested in the FBI's preliminary national figures on fatal assaults on officers in 1992. There were 59 officers killed feloniously in the line of duty last year, the lowest annual total in 20 years. Handguns were used in 40 of those murders, rifles in nine, shotguns in two, a bomb in one, a knife in one, blunt objectives in two, and vehicles in four. The breakdown by incident was as follows:

* Robberies - prevention or apprehension	9
* Burglaries - apprehension	5
* Drug incidents	4
* Arrests for other crimes	9
* Disturbance calls	11
* Traffic law enforcement	9
* Investigation of suspicious persons/circumstances	7
* Ambushes	3
* Handling mentally deranged persons	2
* Handling a prisoner	1

Nineteen of the officers were wearing body armor at the time of their deaths; three were killed with their own weapons. Another 63 officers lost their lives in accidents that occurred during the performance of their duties.

UNIFORM PROGRAM UPDATES

Uniform program reports do not normally appear in CLEAR TEXT because complete updates are sent via cc:Mail to all park uniform program administrators every other Friday. If you haven't seen them, please contact that person in your park. You can also get the updates directly by having your name or office

added to the distribution list. Just send a note to Bill Halainen at WASO Ranger Activities.

FIELD NOTES

Great Smoky Mountains

On June 11th, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit reversed a district court decision and entered a judgement in favor of the government in the case of Auterey vs. the United States. The court held that decisions made by park personnel in designing and implementing its unwritten tree inspection program fell within the scope of the discretionary function exemption of the Federal Tort Claims Act. The case stemmed from an incident in which Roy Franklin Auterey was killed and his female companion was injured when a black locust tree fell on their car as they drove through the park near Oconaluftee. Suit was subsequently brought against the government by the Auterey estate. After a bench trial, the district court entered a judgement for the plaintiffs holding that the United States had negligently failed to (1) devise, implement and follow an appropriate tree hazard management plan; (2) properly maintain the natural park area; (3) properly inspect the trees in the national park in the accident area; and (4) identify and remove the hazardous trees which fell and struck Auterey and his companion. The court awarded \$500,000 in compensatory damages and \$20,000 for negligent infliction of emotional distress. The court of appeals reversed, holding that controlling statutes, regulations and policies did not mandate that the NPS inspect for hazardous trees in a specific manner and that decisions made by the park staff in designing and implementing its unwritten tree inspection program fell within the discretionary function exemption to 28 USC Section 1346 (b), 2674. [Jason Houck, CR, GRSM]

Gettysburg

The park has recently been the subject of a significant postcard writing campaign urging that Gettysburg "reverse the policy...that prohibits bicycles on horse/hiking trails." The campaign, which was organized by a regional director of the League of American Wheelmen who happens to live in Gettysburg, began after increasing mountain bike use of the park's single file horse/hiking trail led to signing that the trail was off limits to bicycles. An effort to inform user groups of the regulatory prohibition and reasons for its application at Gettysburg was initiated at the same time. Bicycles are still welcome on the park's 39 miles of roads, which are extensively used by bicyclists. A meeting and letters exchanging views with the group's regional director suggest that the park has not heard the last of this issue. [Mac Heebner, CR, GETT]

PARK EXCHANGE

Indiana Dunes

Indiana Dunes is interested in purchasing a mobile video system for mounting in patrol vehicles. Any park with information pertaining to the purchase of such systems or systems which should be avoided is asked to contact ranger Gordon Zwick or Joni Jones at 219-926-7561 x 317/320.

Jefferson National Expansion

If you need any violation notice holders, Jefferson National Expansion has 20 Saunders 4 1/4 by 9 1/2 inch aluminum form holders that they're surplus. They'd be willing to transfer them to any park that has a need for them. All

are in very good condition. Contact John L. Weddle at 314-425-6156.

Voyageurs

The local DARE officer is looking for information on a highway sign to attach to the community sign which states either THIS IS A DARE COMMUNITY or ENTERING A DARE TOWN. If anyone has examples, specifications or vendor information, please contact Bruce McKeeman, CR, at Voyageurs.

PARK VACANCIES AND OPM REGISTER OPENINGS

Position	Closes	Number	Description
GS-0025-11	7/9/93	55-93	Chief ranger at Saguaro. For more info, call Mary Steszewski at 415-744-3888.
GS-0025-5	7/20/93	58-93	Position located at Cabrillo. For info, call Berkeley Yoshida at 415-744-3888.
GS-0025-7	7/13/93	56-93	Position located at Saguaro. For info, call Berkeley Yoshida at 415-744-3888.
GS-0401-7/9	7/8/93	NCR-93-186	Position located in NCP Central. For more information, contact Cynthia Knox at 202-619-7111.

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 July 15, 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

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