

CLEAR TEXT:
WASO Ranger Activities'
Electronic Newsletter

JULY 23, 1993

*** UPDATE *** UPDATE *** UPDATE ***

ENHANCED ANNUITY RETIREMENT

Following the receipt of several calls from the field regarding statements on 6(c) position designation in the July 20th CLEAR TEXT, we reviewed our comments and found them somewhat less than lucid. The following correction/clarification has been prepared and supersedes the previous statement.

Designation of Positions

There are several things happening regarding designation of positions for 6(c) coverage. Before discussing those matters, a short overview of what parks should be doing NOW is in order:

* Chief rangers who have any park rangers positions in which the incumbents perform more than 50% law enforcement duties should begin looking at these positions with the objective of getting them covered under 6(c). We're currently working on a "needs assessment" system that will help chief rangers conduct this review in an orderly manner. We are also working on generic position descriptions that will help with this process. In the interim, we suggest that you talk with your personnel office regarding the process for getting positions covered. We suggest, however, that you wait to actually request coverage until the needs assessment program is ready to go and the generic positions descriptions have been classified.

* Chief rangers who have any uncovered firefighting or criminal investigator positions should submit these for coverage.

* Chief rangers with either permanent or seasonal firefighting and law enforcement employees should advise them annually of the requirement to file with their personnel office for 6(c) coverage for each year of work.

Within Ranger Activities, we are working on generic positions descriptions for GS-5, GS-7 and GS-9 rangers as part of the Ranger Futures initiative. The full performance level will be GS-9. There will be PDs for protection, interpretation, and, potentially, other 025 specialties. The protection PDs will have an element for the designation of law enforcement positions where the law enforcement duties occupy more than 50% of the incumbent's time. These positions will be covered under 6(c). Anyone occupying one of these positions will be covered.

The beauty of this approach is that it avoids the problem of individual claims, which have to be done annually. It permits an orderly management of these positions and will reduce the workload of writing individual PDs.

We're also working on the development of a visitor resource and protection (VRAP) needs assessment program for the park ranger function. this program will assist a chief ranger and/or park manager in defining the number and types of positions needed in a park. Part of this effort will be a determination of the number of "primary" law enforcement positions needed. These "primary" positions will be the ones that will ultimately be covered under 6(c) through the generic PDs.

BAIL HEARING FOR KEN PATRICK KILLER

The following letter was sent to Point Reyes by the U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of California on July 2nd:

"I am writing to encourage you to notify the rangers at Point Reyes of the scheduled parole hearing of Veronza Leon Curtis Bowers during the last week of July, 1993. (His registration number is 35316-136). This defendant was convicted of murdering ranger Kenneth Patrick at Point Reyes twenty years ago.

"Mr. Bowers is currently serving a life sentence at the federal penitentiary at Terra Haute, Indiana. Apparently he will come up for a bail review, unless he waives his right to one, every two years. I wanted to make your office aware of this in hopes you may wish to contact the parole board with letters of support as to why he should not be released for his brutal crime.

"His case manager suggested interest parties write to:

U.S. Parole Commission
Regional Office
10920 Ambassador Drive, Suite 220
Air World Center
Kansas City, MO 64153

"If you do not want Bowers to see this letter, you should indicate that in your letter.

"The U.S. Attorney will also be writing a letter urging that Mr. Bowers remain in jail for the duration of his life."

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 29, 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