



RANGER ACTIVITIES INFORMATION EXCHANGE

Volume 7, Number 3

July/August, 1991

Editor's Notes

As of this writing, we are in an interregnum between past and future chief rangers, so it seems an opportune time to hijack the chief ranger's slot and take a minute to talk about the newsletter itself.

Over the course of the seven years that we have been publishing the Ranger Activities Information Exchange (the first one came out in October, 1985), we have printed and distributed 46 editions totalling 258 pages (excluding enclosures) to every regional and park chief ranger in the National Park System. We initially employed the newsletter to keep you abreast of both field incidents and developments in the numerous programs overseen by Ranger Activities, but the rapid and broad dissemination of incident summaries via the morning report led to the deletion of the former from these pages a year or two back. Attempts to also put programmatic information in the morning report have been less successful for a variety of reasons.

Although the newsletter has been well received, we have not often heard from you regarding any changes that you would like to see in its pages. Such feedback is vital to assure that we are meeting your informational needs. If there are topics you feel we should be addressing or questions you would like answered, please don't hesitate to send them to us. If you hear a rumor and want to check on its validity, let us know; it's better to operate on fact than conjecture. We will do our best to get the information to you.

Health and Fitness Guideline

Revisions are still being made to the recently issued second draft of NPS-57, the health and fitness guideline. The revisions are based on field input and discussions held among Ranger Activities staff and representatives from WASO personnel and equal opportunity offices, the Secretary of Interior's office, and the Office of Personnel Management. Efforts are also underway to resolve procedural concerns regarding management of employee medical records which have been raised by the Department's medical examiner. The new version of the guideline, which will clarify many of its current provisions, should be out in the next few months.

Meanwhile, training sessions have been conducted to train approximately 70 people as fitness coordinators. The first session was held in Denver, the second in Cincinnati. Graduates will be working to set up park or regional programs this fall and winter. Dr. Paul Davis, the NPS-contracted exercise physiologist, led both sessions and will be working with Ranger Activities on refinements to the guideline in coming weeks. A total of 101 fitness coordinators have so far been trained Servicewide.

All-Risk Incident Management Team

The National Park Service Type I all-risk incident management team has at last been established. Selections were made in August for the five positions on the team:

- Incident Commander - Rick Gale, Fire Suppression Specialist, Branch of Fire and Aviation Management, Boise
- Operations Section Chief - Bill Pierce, Superintendent, Devil's Tower
- Planning Section Chief - Bill Gabbert, Fire Management Officer, Indiana Dunes
- Logistics Section Chief - Steve Holder, Regional Fire Management Officer, Alaska Regional Office
- Finance Section Chief - Marcia Blaszak, Administrative Officer, Shenandoah

The team's mission will be to help superintendents and regional directors resolve major, non-fire incidents and manage complex special events occurring in their parks in a cost-effective, efficient and professional manner. The team will work directly for the superintendent of the park where the incident is occurring; in effect, the incident commander will function as one of the superintendent's division chiefs, but with a single focus. The team will also be prepared to bring in trained and experienced professionals to deal with the public and media, and will help train park staff in incident response and management when so requested. Funds for the team will come from the same sources as those currently used for emergencies or special events.

The team can be deployed whenever:

- a national, non-fire emergency of sufficient magnitude, complexity and duration warrants;
- a planned event of significant national impact cannot be managed at the park or regional level;
- a national or regional non-fire emergency occurs and NPS assistance is requested by another agency - or required by agreement;
- a regional director or the director requests its deployment; or
- an international request is received through proper channels.

Unless a major emergency occurs between now and December, the team's initial assignment will be to assist the park staff at the U.S.S. Arizona Memorial with management of the NPS portion of the 50th anniversary of Pearl Harbor.

NIBRS Update

Progress continues on the development and implementation of the Service's National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS), which was mandated by Congress in the Uniform Federal Crime Reporting Act of 1988. The system is being designed as an automated, 80386 microcomputer-based reporting system which will be modular and flexible in design and as universal as possible in order to meet user requirements.

The system will significantly improve incident reporting in the NPS. Many parks throughout the Service have employed their own codes in recent years, while others had no code list at all. Under NIBRS, all parks will employ a standard list, which will make uniform data input possible and thereby provide both Washington and the field with more reliable statistical reports. The data will be more timely and accurate because it will be entered at the park or district rather than at region or WASO. The system will provide park managers with a tool to more precisely analyze their law enforcement needs, and will give law enforcement rangers an adaptable and convenient investigative tool. NIBRS will also be able to generate the standard reports needed in parks, regions and WASO. The DI-134 for visitors will be eliminated. The accident/incident report will be generated automatically by extracting required data from a combination of reports (STARS, EMS, SAR, etc.). A final advantage is that law enforcement rangers and/or data entry personnel will not have to learn new reporting systems every time they transfer.

Offense and incident codes have been established and will be implemented Servicewide in 1992. During September, NPS staff from the Information and Data Systems Division (IDSD) in WASO will conduct a week-long session in Philadelphia during which they will test the software and train selected personnel from WASO and several regions and parks in its use. The software will then be taken back to the parks (Colonial, Shenandoah and Everglades) and regions (West, Southeast, Mid-Atlantic) and installed and field-tested on local equipment. Colonial will also field test a hand-held, four-and-a-half pound, clipboard-sized data entry device called GRIDPAD.

IDSD will continue to develop and modify software following field testing. Servicewide implementation is scheduled to take place over the next few years, but may be slowed by FY 92 budget cuts. Ranger Activities will continue to strive for implementation as soon as the software is completely debugged.

Transition to Narrow-Band Radios

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), acting on behalf of the President, has advised all federal agencies that more users need to be accommodated in the limited VHF land mobile radio frequency spectrum than there are frequencies available. To make way for these users, it will be necessary to decrease the channel band width of existing users in a technique known as "narrow-banding."

The Service's telecommunications engineering staff in Denver advises that this change in band width will require new technology not yet available in the U.S. but currently in use in Europe. It is their understanding that the technology will be obtainable here within three to six months of the NTIA's adoption of technical standards and a channeling plan. It is likely that each agency will be required to fund this change in technology. Federal agencies must halt their procurement of equipment utilizing current technology by January 1, 1995; they must remove and replace existing technology by January 1, 2005.

Questions concerning this narrow-banding requirement may be addressed to Frank P. Weed, Chief of Telecommunications Engineering, WASO-610-OE, P.O. Box 25287, Denver, CO 80225.

Regulatory Program Update

Because of the relevance and Servicewide interest in regulations among protection rangers, we will be providing you an update on the status of final and proposed rules in each issue of Exchange. The initial listing is lengthy because it includes all regulations which are either in final, being proposed, or in draft. Future reports will be limited to those regulations which have had changes in status:

FINAL RULES

<u>Regulation</u>	<u>Area</u>	<u>Description</u>
36 CFR 7.8	SEKI	Adopts state laws for the management of fishing and sets yearly seasons and creel limits through superintendent's orders (36 CFR 1.5). Removes lengthy stream-specific closures.
36 CFR 7.83	OZAR	Designates zones for motorboat operation in Ozark and places horsepower limitations on boats.
36 CFR 7.96	NCR	An earlier rule employed to restrict storage of property in Lafayette Park in NCR was overruled in court because notice and comment under the Administrative Procedure Act had not been given.
36 CFR 9, D	AR	Establishes procedures for conducting mineral assessments in park lands in Alaska pursuant to ANILCA.
36 CFR 28	FIIS	Updates zoning standards at Fire Island to reflect park policy and local zoning ordinances.
36 CFR 7.33	VOYA	Designates routes and frozen water surfaces for snowmobile use.

PROPOSED RULES

36 CFR 62	NPS	Strengthens and clarifies requirements for voluntary landowner consent for National Natural Landmark designation and provides for review by an NPS advisory board.
36 CFR 51	NPS	Complete revision of procedures for award of concession contracts and permits and to make renewal of concessions contracts more competitive.
36 CFR 296	NPS	Amends regulations based on 1988 ARPA amendments and makes them more uniform.

36 CFR 7.96	NCR	Addresses cultural events and private party events and sets limits for number permitted on National Mall.
36 CFR 16	NPS	Severely restricts the creation of any new solid waste sites and closely regulates pre-1984 sites.
36 CFR 9, B	NPS	Clarifies mining, non-federal oil and gas regulations; removes exemptions and other changes required by Big Cypress National Preserve Addition Act and makes them Servicewide in scope.
36 CFR 11	NPS	Recognizes official USPP insignia, provides for its protection and proscribes its unauthorized use. Also applies similar protections to arrowhead and ranger badge.
36 CFR 7.13	YELL	Exempts portions of Highway 191 from prohibition on the use of NPS roads by commercial vehicles.
36 CFR 7.82	APIS	Designates routes and frozen water surfaces for snowmobiles.
36 CFR 7.65	GLEA	Prohibits commercial fishing after 1997; prohibits subsistence uses pursuant to law.

DRAFT RULES

36 CFR 7.97	GOGA	Designates trails and fire roads to be used by bicycles.
36 CFR 14	NPS	Complete revision of Part 14 rights-of-way regulations, which have been interim regulations since 1980.
36 CFR 7.34	BLRI	Assimilates state fishing laws along the parkway and sets procedure for superintendent to specify closures.
36 CFR 13, B	AR	Establishes alternate procedures to delete a subsistence hunting resident zone.
36 CFR 13.65	GLEA	Revises tour boat limits and management.
36 CFR 1.3	NPS	Establishes penalty provision of \$5,000 maximum fine for petty offenses pursuant to Criminal Fine Improvement Act of 1987.

Critical Incident Stress Debriefings (CISD)

A work group met in Washington in June to develop a special directive which will incorporate the CISD program into regional employee assistance programs. Six regions currently have CISD programs of some type, but it was felt that a national policy was needed to encourage all regions to adopt such a program. The special directive is about to go into final for internal review.

Members of the work group subsequently met with behavioral scientists at FLETC to develop a course curriculum for CISD peer counselor training sessions. We hope to run one or two such sessions annually, depending on the availability of funding. Graduates of the courses will form a core group of CISD counselors who will be available to assist employees Servicewide.

Rights-Of-Way

A work group comprised of regional right-of-way coordinators (or their representatives) met in Washington in June to identify changes needed in the Services right-of-way regulations.

The current regulations were promulgated as interim regs in 1980. They derived from BLM right-of-way regulations which once included provisions which applied to the NPS. Although the regulations were seen as temporary when they went into effect, they have not yet been replaced and are outdated, confusing, inaccurate, incomplete and of little use to park managers or to applicants for rights-of-way. Many activities and uses which should be authorized by rights-of-way are therefore permitted inappropriately, and there is no consistency in the manner in which fees are established, the levels of fees charged, or in the degree to which administrative and monitoring costs are recovered by the NPS.

The work group recommended extensive technical corrections to the 18 pages of regulations currently found in 36 CFR Part 14. A smaller work group will convene late in September in WASO to hammer out the draft revisions, which will then be implemented through the normal regulatory process.

Meanwhile, a special directive (91-5, July 3, 1991) has gone out to the field delegating authority for the renewal or conversion of existing rights-of-way from the Director to the Regional Directors and the authority for the approval of new rights-of-way from the Director to the Associate Director, Operations. Regions are still expected to review new applications for rights-of-way for compliance and legal sufficiency.

Semi-Automatic Weapon Evaluations

A task group met in Arlington, Virginia in August to review the semi-automatic weapon evaluation completed earlier this year and make a recommendation on the type of weapon which should be procured. Participating were Maj. Jack Schamp (WASO), Chris Andress (MARO), Pete Hart (THRO), Jim Tucker (YOSE), Capt. Hugh Irwin (USPP), and Rusty Davis (NCR0). Work is now underway to develop a request for proposal (RFP) for the procurement of the weapons.

Valor Awards

Three members of the National Park Service's Alpine interagency hotshot crew - James Mattingly, Dave Niemi, and William Moe - received Valor Awards from the Department of Agriculture in June for their exemplary actions during a fire which occurred last summer in the Tonto National Forest in Arizona.

The Alpine crew was working on the fire when it burned out of control, crossed firelines, and overtook and entrapped 11 members of a crew from the Perryville Correctional Facility. Crew members deployed their fire shelters when flames burned over their positions and hot gases began scorching unprotected firefighters. Despite their efforts, six were killed, two suffered serious injuries, and the remaining three had minor injuries.

The Alpine crew was working nearby at the time of the incident. Upon recognizing the warning signs of an imminent increase in fire intensity and behavior, the crew retreated from their work area to a safer location. Attempts were made to contact the Perryville crew; when these failed, the Alpine crew members assumed that the Perryville crew had moved in the other direction along the fireline and had found shelter.

Mattingly, Niemi and Moe headed back into the area of extreme behavior at the risk of their lives to assure that the Perryville crew was safe and soon came upon a badly burned firefighter. During the next few hours, the three firefighters aided the victim, moved him to safety, and, together with the remaining members of the Alpine crew, evacuated him through the fire area despite extreme smoke conditions, severely impaired visibility, and flames crowning in excess of 100 feet. They then constructed a helicopter landing zone to facilitate helicopter evacuation of the victim.

Mattingly, Niemi and Moe have also been nominated for the Department of Interior Valor Award. Three crew members - Mark Kaib, James Higgins, and Mike Beasley - have been nominated for Exemplary Act Awards, as has the entire crew as a single unit.

Ranger Recognition

A number of rangers have recently been recognized for outstanding actions:

- * Glen Canyon rangers Daniel Madrid and Laura Wagner have been cited by the Mohave County Sheriff's Office for their assistance in arresting an at-large homicide suspect in Page, Arizona, earlier this year. Wagner spotted the suspect, then joined Madrid and a sergeant from the sheriff's office in arresting him without incident, though he was reputedly armed and had said that he would not be taken alive.
- * Pinnacles rangers Mike Morales and Gus Conde have been recognized for their excellent work in presenting the D.A.R.E. program to students in Hollister, California. The two rangers presented the program to over 400 students in the fifth and sixth grades during a 17-week period last spring.

* On May 18th, rangers Shawn M. Frensley, now assigned to Natchez Trace Parkway, and John C. Tesar, now at Lake Mead, were awarded the Medal of Commendation by the St. Louis Regional, County and Municipal Police Association. The commendation was awarded to Frensley and Tesar for EMS efforts which led to the saving of the life of a heat stroke victim during the 1990 Veiled Prophet Fair. At the time of the incident, both rangers were assigned to Jefferson National Expansion. The rangers had previously received the Department's Exemplary Act Award and the local FOP's Officer of the Month Award.

College Education Among Rangers

The following table shows the number of employees with one or more college degrees at each grade level in the 025 series:

<u>Grade</u>	<u>% Degrees</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>% Degrees</u>
GS-3	26%	GS-11	82%
GS-4	44%	GS-12	85%
GS-5	59%	GS/GM-13	85%
GS-6	46%	GS/GM-14	75%
GS-7	67%	GS/GM-15	86%
GS-8	81%		
GS-9	76%		

The data also show that about 15 rangers did not complete high school.

Law Enforcement Commission Statistics

Here for your general interest and enlightenment is a listing of the number of permanent and seasonal commissions we've had in the Service each year over the past 13 years. The statistics were prepared by the NPS Law Enforcement Employee Development Center at FLETC:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Permanent</u>	<u>Seasonal</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Permanent</u>	<u>Seasonal</u>
1978	1,341	259	1985	1,410	814
1979	1,973	616	1986	1,472	998
1980	1,965	639	1987	1,501	824
1981	1,216	638	1988	1,563	921
1982	1,304	785	1989	1,471	858
1983	1,697	817	1990	1,523	928
1984	1,416	748			

* * * * *

The Ranger Activities Information Exchange is produced by the Washington Division of Ranger Activities. Jim Brady, Chief Ranger. Address letters, comments and inquiries to: Ranger Activities (650), Stop 3310, National Park Service, Box 37127, Washington, D.C. 20013-7127; FTS 268-4874 or (202) 208-4874. Attn: Bill Halainen, Editor.