

INTRODUCTION

The Secretary of War on January 1, 1942, requested the Secretary of Agriculture to integrate an aircraft warning service in Oregon and Washington comprising approximately 141 stations. The Forest Service was instructed by the Secretary to assume this responsibility and has requested the cooperation of the U. S. National Park Service and the States of Oregon and Washington in the work. The Army has made funds available to cover necessary costs and expenditures. James Frankland, Assistant Regional Forester, Portland, has been designated as officer in charge for the Forest Service, and will act as liaison officer in all dealings with the Army. His assistant, Mr. C. J. Conover, Snoqualmie National Forest, is prepared to handle directly any matters requiring action by the Interceptor Command at Seattle.

The Regional Forester has asked the Supervisor of Forestry at Olympia and the State Forester at Salem to represent him in necessary arrangements with local wardens and associations. It is suggested that the State representatives confer with the Division of State and Private Forestry in setting up the system of observation points under the normal jurisdiction of the two states.

The Regional Forester has asked the Superintendent of the Olympic National Park at Port Angeles to represent him in necessary arrangements for setting up the points selected by the Army in the Olympic National Park.

While it is believed that sufficient funds are available to cover all legitimate costs in connection with the operation of the Aircraft Warning System, it must be realized that each agency operating stations will have to make certain contributions of time and effort from its regular forces in order to keep the system operating efficiently and these should be considered as a contribution to National Defense, and every effort must be made to avoid unjustified charges or wastage of these defense funds.

PERSONNEL

1. Qualifications - Observers must be of unquestionable loyalty and physically fit to carry out the duties for which they are employed. They must have vision equal to that demanded of forest lookouts, and at least average hearing. The nature of this assignment makes it necessary to secure men who can not only take care of themselves under all conditions, but who will maintain their alertness and enthusiasm to a high degree. They must be adaptable to the requirements of both the technical Service and the Army. Prior experience as a lookout or guard is extremely desirable. If a sufficient number of experienced men are available, at least one man on the station should have had previous experience as a lookout. This man should be placed in charge. If necessary to hire two men of equal grade and experience, one man must definitely be placed in charge.

Man and wife may be employed, provided the wife is used for lookout or interceptor duty only and is not required to perform manual labor. Two women will not be stationed on any one point.

As soon as possible, all observers must execute a citizenship affidavit, a loyalty affidavit USDA Standard Form 47, and fingerprint chart CSC Form 2390. Forest Service employees must, in addition, execute Departmental Personnel Questionnaire Form AD-125. Blank forms for this purpose will be supplied from this office on request. The importance of making sure to the fullest extent of the loyalty of each person who is an integral part of this interceptor network is essential. If there is any reason for questioning the loyalty or integrity of anyone in a key war position, he should, of course, be removed immediately to some other position not tied in to war activity. If the case is serious and specific, the man should be removed immediately and Mr. Frankland informed of the facts. Since all cooperating agencies have a very real responsibility in this respect, it is essential that they carry out a thorough check and surveillance of this group of personnel. While inspection by the Army may furnish some assistance in this matter, it will be necessary for the Technical Service to carry the main responsibility and keep an ear to the ground for anything out of line. Extreme caution in this matter is essential.

2. Employment and Wage Rates - Operating personnel will be selected by the agency concerned and will be under the direct supervision of that agency, and the Regional Forester will look to the State and National Park representatives to be primarily responsible for the stations under their supervision. Since the aircraft warning service will dovetail closely with the summer protective organization, it will obviously be desirable to have the wage rates coincide as closely as possible. Similarly, correlation of State, Park, and Forest rates is desirable and with this in mind, rates should be within a spread of \$85 to \$135 per month gross wages.

a. Forest Service Employment - It is desired, insofar as possible, to fill observer positions by group 1 and 2 guards and local dependent residents employed under Paragraph 5, Sec. IX, Schedule A, restoring those men to active duty under their regular classifications, and at the normal pay scale and grade. If it is anticipated that local dependents will be employed longer than 10 months, they should be placed under formal appointment.

In cases where new men must be employed and cannot be picked up as local dependent forest workers, you may use the 120-day authority classing men in appropriate guard grades. Since these jobs will probably run longer than 120 days, you should follow immediately with appropriate action to recommend them for formal appointment. Authority has been granted by the Civil Service District Manager to appoint guards, including women, temporarily, pending the establishment of a guard registry. No plans are being made at this time to hold a guard examination, hence appointments can be assured of at least a full season's work and probably longer. If the examination is given later, they can probably qualify for appointment. Wherever possible, appointment papers should be completed before employees are placed on their stations.

Subordinate lookout positions (particularly for women) not involving smoke chasing duties, may be classified in Grade SP-2, Under Forest Guard, \$105.00 per month. Men required for telephone line repair or patrol and service of supply work should likewise be secured, as far as possible, by restoration of regular guard employees on a WAE basis.

3. Leave - Leave may be granted in accordance with the regulation applicable to the type of employment, and, at the discretion of the agency concerned and may be allowed to accumulate to a reasonable extent.

4. Relief Observers - Units having five or more stations will probably find it desirable to have one or more relief observers on hand who can function on telephone or supply work during the periods when they are not actually needed for relief purposes.

5. Training - Complete instructions for the guidance of observers with outlines of their duties have been furnished to all agencies concerned in sufficient quantity for manning the selected stations. It should be noted that the Army has marked these "Restricted" which indicates care should be taken that they do not fall into the hands of unauthorized persons. It is suggested that observers be required to sign for copies and that they return them when leaving active duty on a station.

The Army will be able to carry out a certain amount of inspection through test flights over the two States, but it will necessarily be the responsibility of each agency to make sure that sufficient follow-up training and supervision is given to its observers to make sure that they are functioning fully, accurately, and in a manner acceptable to the Army. No definite time schedule is being suggested for personal inspection of each station, but it is felt that sufficient inspections should be made by local supervisor personnel such as wardens to insure that reports are being made promptly on all aircraft seen or heard at any time, day or night, in strict compliance with the instructions of the Army, copies of which have been furnished.

An inspection service will be set up in the Regional Office of the Forest Service which will make spot checks on the operation of stations at various times. Any below-standard conditions found will be reported to the agency responsible for the station for necessary action. This inspection service will in no way replace the local inspection needed to secure efficient operation of the Aircraft Warning Service.

If any observer is found to be unqualified, inept, or non-cooperative, he should be replaced immediately. It is the desire of the Army that frequent changes and transfers of personnel be avoided. There will, of necessity, be some changes at the beginning of the fire season and from time to time, but it

should be the practice never to change both men on one station at the same time and the experienced man should never be withdrawn unless his assistant has had sufficient experience to make reasonably sure the fact that he can carry on in charge.

Any changes in personnel on any of the stations manned should be reported immediately by mail to Mr. Frankland at Portland, or Mr. Conover at Seattle.

Visitors

A certain number of visitors are to be expected during the season on a lookout point. It is not necessary to bar visitors from aircraft warning stations but they should not have access to instructions or any written records and the work of the interceptor service should not be discussed with them. Any suspicious acts or circumstances, particularly those involving communications, line tapping, or listening-in, should be reported at once to the proper technical agency.

Relay Operators

At points in the communication network where direct connections to commercial circuits are not possible or feasible it is necessary to employ "Relay Operators" to receive the Flash Message from the observer and transmit it to the Army at the Filter Board.

Depending upon the conditions at the relay point, employment will vary as to number of operators required. At some points one additional employee will be all that is required to furnish 24 hour service; at most points two operators should be sufficient, but there may be some points where, because of number of calls handled, location of station, or some other important consideration, the employment of three operators is needed to furnish satisfactory service. If there are such points, the employment of the third operator is approved. The additional employment should not be made solely to provide additional clerical help at an office, but their services should be used as clerks where it does not interfere with their A.W.S. duties.

In scheduling the shifts of relay operators, however, it shall be the policy to show no favoritism by assigning day shifts to persons possessing superior stenographic or clerical qualities. Shifts are to be dovetailed to permit both day and night work at reasonable intervals. A possible exception might be where a husband and wife combination is concerned, in which case they could exchange shifts to their mutual advantage.

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COMMUNICATION

Rapid and dependable communication is essential for the successful operation of this network. The best observers in the world will not function well unless they have satisfactory communication for filing their reports. Stations scheduled for radio communication should have trained operators, both sending and receiving, and sets should be in as nearly perfect condition as possible at all times. State operators will be required to have a third-class operator's permit. Stations for which telephone communication has been specified should have their communication fully maintained and tested before the observers are placed. Lines should be fully repaired and brushed out, all loose or faulty connections replaced, and all grounds, repeat coils, and instrument connections and installations fully checked and put in order. As soon as any new station is occupied, the Supervisor should notify Mr. Frankland for Oregon, and Mr. Conover for Washington, by wire. The proper Interceptor Command office will then be informed of this fact and will call the station back through ordinary channels to test communications and check with the observer. The technical agency should then follow up by notifying Mr. Frankland or Mr. Conover of the name of the observer in charge and his assistant for each of the new points so established.

After a station is occupied, it is essential that its communication be maintained 100%. A regular schedule of patrol should be set up providing for a thorough inspection of every foot of line at regular intervals in order to pick up trouble before it develops to a point where communication is seriously affected. This includes ties, brush, repeat coils, ground rods, instruments, and all other connections and installations. Storms, falling timber, and other accidents are certain to cause interruptions. The trouble shooting plan should provide for locating and repairing such breaks within the minimum amount of time possible. One observer can, of course, in most cases cover the first two or three miles from the station, but beyond that point, there should usually be someone available to locate and repair any breaks or other troubles as they may occur.

REPORTS

Timely and accurate reporting makes it possible for our air force to locate and intercept enemy aircraft. All aircraft seen or heard should be reported and speed in reporting is extremely important. Occasionally, it is the practice of fire lookouts, before reporting a questionable smoke, to check with the neighboring lookout. This practice is time-consuming and must not be followed in aircraft warning reports.

Complete instructions and forms are available for use at all points. The observers should be trained to report quickly and accurately on all the information required on the flash message form. This form need not be filled out each time but the information should be entered in the proper spaces on the log form supplied for this purpose. A sufficient supply of necessary forms should be kept on hand at each station to insure a complete record of its activity from the starting date of its operation. The Army will carry on sufficient test flights to check any points which do not have enough flights to furnish a reasonable amount of practice.

The Technical Agency will be informed of any comments favorable or otherwise by the Army on the activities of any of the stations under its control.