



(Cont. from pg. 2)

The 6,000 acre Saddle Fire in Humboldt County began on September 4, thanks to a careless smoker, and continued to burn for nine days, it was followed by the Klamath Fire (6,170 acres), also in Humboldt County), the Geysers Fire in Sonoma County (9000 acres), the Rumsey Fire in Lake County (1,400 acres), and the 49er Fire in Nevada County, all on September 11.

The most destructive conflagration in this group was the 49er Fire which received national attention from the media. Before it could be contained it burned 35,300 acres and left hundreds homeless. Despite every effort by firefighters 148 homes burned to the ground and 356 other structures were lost as well. This Nevada County fire was a perfect example of what the Fire Safe, California! campaign is all about. Homes scattered throughout brush covered ravines, many without adequate clearance or fire safe measures didn't have a chance when winds whipped through the area. It took firefighters five days to finally get a handle on the fire.

Firefighters didn't have long to rest because the Miller Fire in Lake County took off on September 17, forcing residents in the area to flee their homes. Over 35,000 acres burned and seven homes were lost (10 other structures also went up). The Blue Fire erupted at the same time, also in Lake County but fortunately no homes were destroyed by this blaze that blackened 5,371 acres. The Resort Fire near Lake Berryessa (and in close proximity to the other two fires) also threatened homes during this time period. Hot exhaust from a dump truck in dry grass was the cause of this 700 acre located in steep, rugged terrain. Fortunately no homes were lost.

Shasta-Trinity's problems weren't over yet either as the Fern Fire broke out on September 17. It swept along burning six homes and five other structures before it could be contained at 7,690 acres.

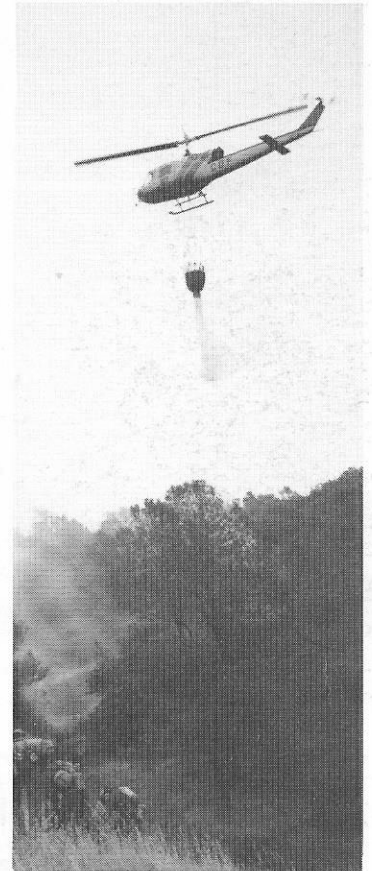
As of this writing southern California seems to be dealing with the majority of the state's wildland fires. We certainly can't cover each and every one of the fires CDF has had to face this fire season - there have been thousands.

However, the few listed here give you an idea of how fast fire season can take off - and how hard all of our firefighters have been working.

Keep it up guys/gals - it's coming to a close.

Scenes from the firelines

Railroad Fire



**Fire Prevention Assistant
Lisa Chiesa, Shasta-Trinity, coordi-
nates SACMAC.**

(Cont. on next pg.)

Executive notes

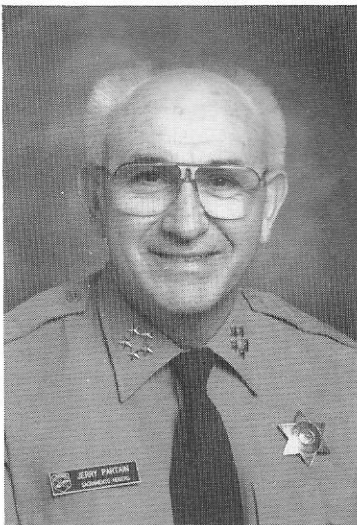
Director Partain announces his retirement

"With many mixed emotions, I wish to inform you that I plan to retire from state service and from the Director of Forestry position. My last day of service will be December 30, 1988.

My long association with and interest in state government will lead me to continued efforts to contribute in some way during retirement. Of course, I hope it will be a little more leisurely than the last few exciting years".

Director Partain announced his retirement on September 28, 1988 - the thoughts above were included in his letter of resignation to Governor Deukmejian.

He's spent nearly six years as



head of the CDF family and has earned the right to have the coming years to himself. However, the director plans to keep busy doing a little writing, a few lectures and some travel.

We're sorry to see him go, but I'm sure we can count on him to be there in the future if CDF should need his help.

(Look for a farewell article from Director Partain in the December 1988 issue of the Communique'.)



Forestry features

Fallen firefighters honored

"I am proud to greet everyone gathered for the dedication of the firefighters memorial at the California Forest Center in Sacramento.

It is most fitting that on the first anniversary of the start of California's worst-ever fire siege, you pay solemn tribute to all who lost their lives while fighting that conflagration and other fires throughout the Golden State over the years. We owe them everlasting gratitude for the selfless devotion and the skill that they brought to their difficult and dangerous duty. May the dedication of this memorial give you who have lost your loved ones great consolation in the knowledge that the people of California will forever recall and take inspiration from their sacrifices.

I pause with you in prayerful remembrance of these heroes. God bless each of you -- their families, their colleagues, and their many friends."

Ronald Reagan



From L to R: Bill Dennison, president of the Timber Assoc. of Calif; Dick Ernest, chief deputy director, CDF; and Kenton Clark, asst. regional forester, aviation and fire management, USFS. (Photo by Bob Moore, Sacramento Union.)

This statement from the President was read on September 2, 1988 at the dedication ceremony of a permanent memorial plaque in honor of California's fallen firefighters on the grounds of Cal Expo in Sacramento.

The plaque was donated by the Timber Association of California and installed on a small hill within the California Forest Center. The ceremony coincided with the 1987 Fire Siege

which burned nearly 800,000 acres and took the lives of 10 firefighters. The plaque reads:

"IN MEMORY OF THE MANY FIREFIGHTERS WHO HAVE GIVEN THEIR LIVES WHILE WORKING TO KEEP CALIFORNIA'S FORESTS GREEN"

Fire season takes its toll

Fire Season 1988 unleashed its fury this summer destroying tens of thousands of acres and hundreds of homes.

The Tuolumne-Calaveras Ranger Unit was hit first with the 10,750 acre Railroad Fire which was started on July 19 by an arsonist. The fire burned six homes and nine other structures before it was contained on July 29.

The Burney Fire in the Shasta-Trinity Ranger Unit followed shortly after on August 29 and burned 2,925 acres before being contained on September 1. That must have been a sign of things to come because the month of September was disastrous as far as fires go. (Cont. on next pg.)

(Cont. from pg. 3)

49er Fire



On the cover

How many of you recognized our cover photo as that of a slightly melted/burned CDF logo, on the side of an engine. We had some pretty good guesses here at Sacramento Headquarters including "a picture of a CDF logo in a glass of water"???????

The photo really depicts a situation that could have been disastrous. Engine 4175 from the Tulare Ranger Unit had to drive right through the 49er Fire when it blew over Highway 20 in Nevada County. The engine and crew were very lucky to escape with only a melted logo and some burned equipment.

Arson rewardee honored



Assemblyman Norm Waters presents Leonard Ostrom with an Assembly Resolution as State Forest Ranger II John Rosasco of the Nevada-Yuba-Placer Ranger Unit looks on.

Ostrom had received a \$5,000 reward a few weeks earlier for providing information that led to the arrest and conviction of an arsonist in the Auburn area. The Assembly Resolution was just

the icing on the cake for this concerned citizen who took the time to prevent an arsonist from doing further damage.

Fire Season '88

(Fire stats are for State Responsibility Area thru October 1)

	FIRES	ACRES
1988	8,881	169,712
1987	8,683	64,819

Fighting fire with fire

by Unit Forester Dana Cole

At 3:19 on the afternoon of August 24, the temperature was 101 degrees in Lake County when a fire lookout reported the eighth fire in 26 minutes: "The fire is coming up very fast. I can see the flames - it's in heavy brush. You won't be able to catch this one with engines!"

Six of the eight fires had started within minutes of each other at the base of Mt. Konocti along Highway 29, south of Kelseyville. Burning in heavy brush with fuel moistures at a 10-year low, and a stiff west breeze fanning the 50-foot flames, the fire had an uncanny resemblance to one that began at almost the same spot 27 years earlier.

The August 18, 1961 fire started along the same stretch of highway when an arsonist set five fires in 90 degree weather. The '61 fire also had a west wind on it, and it raced the three miles to the shores of Clear Lake in less than two hours, consuming 4,200 acres and killing two mineworkers who were trapped by the flames. No homes were lost for the simple reason that in 1961, the south shore of Clear Lake was still undeveloped. By the 1980s, that situation had changed. With the highest rate of growth among California counties, Lake County has experienced the enormous pressure of residential encroachment into dangerous wildland fuels. Nowhere is this more evident than in the desirable "view" locations on the deceptively green slopes above Clear Lake. By 1988, the same area that burned so ferociously in 1961 was home to 4,000 people, residents of the 1,278-home Riviera Subdivision.

In 1984 Lake-Napa's Ranger-in-Charge Byron Carniglia and Battalion Chief Scott Drew recognized these circumstances as a recipe for disaster. They knew that the brush-covered south slopes of Mt. Konocti had historically burned to the ground every 20-30 years, and in recent years these fires usually started along Highway 29. Konocti was overdue to burn again. So they decided to do it on their own terms, creating a gigantic fuelbreak between the highway and the huge subdivision to the east.

Battalion Chief Drew and Scott McDonald, then the Lake-Napa Vegetation Management Program Coordinator, prepared a prescribed burn plan for Mt. Konocti. They presented the plan to the Lake County Board of Supervisors, contacted the local press to explain the project, and held numerous community meetings. Using photos of the 1961 conflagration, they made a convincing case. The county agreed to put up \$4,800, the Eastlake Resource Conservation District (ERCD) kicked in another \$2,500, and with CDF agreeing to conduct the burn and provide liability insurance, the most complex prescribed burn in Lake-Napa Ranger Unit history was closer to reality. Of the 219 landowners that were contacted, 180 agreed to let CDF burn their property. After three years, hundreds of letters, dozens of onsite planning meetings, and the review and approval of nine public agencies, CDF was finally ready to conduct the burn. The \$7,300 from Lake County and ERCD was used to contract with Crane Helicopters of San Jose to provide two helicopters to conduct the helitorch burn. Drew personally conducted the firing operation, burning 2,700 acres during three days in April, 1987. Over half the area burned in the 1961 wildfire was treated.

It wasn't easy. There were some slopovers and a few complaints, which wasn't suprising considering the size and complexity of the project. The burn put up a column of smoke visible from Santa Rosa to Sacramento, and phone lines buzzed with concerns that Mt. Konocti - a dormant volcano - had become another Mt. St. Helens. In actuality, the burn resembled the defusing of a time bomb more than a volcanic eruption.

While the costs can be calculated to the penny, it is almost impossible to evaluate the benefits of a prescribed burn - after all, how do you quantify property damage averted, wildlife habitat improvement, and watershed rejuvenation? For Carniglia, Drew, and the others involved in the years of planning and implementation of the Konocti VMP burn, the primary benefit was the sense of satisfaction that came on August 24, 1988 when "Highway 29 Fire" Incident Commander Jim Lynch announced over the air, "The fire has

run into the VMP burn and is looking real good. I think we'll be able to get a handle on it now."

Later, Lynch said, "Given the burning conditions, had it not been for the VMP burn, I think we would have had a major conflagration. VMP kept Lake County off the national news."

Instead of making national news, the Highway 29 fire was contained at 100 acres.

(Postscript: Since 1982, the Lake-Napa Ranger Unit has burned 22,400 acres in the Vegetation Management Program. In the summer of 1987, control efforts on the 750 acre Double Eagle Fire (Lake County) were aided by the three year old Indian Valley VMP burn. Later in 1987, the Tyler Fire, which began in Mendocino County and burned into Lake County, was contained at 400 acres with the help of the 1,285 acre Adobe Creek VMP burn conducted in 1983.)

Range Fire

by Baxter Black

Lightning cracked across the sky like veins on the back of your hand. It reached a fiery finger out as if in reprimand, And torched a crippled cottonwood that leaned against the sky, While grass and sagebrush hunkered down that hellish hot July.

The cottonwood exploded and shot its flaming seed Like comets into kerosene, igniting all the weeds. The air was thick as a dog's breath when the fire's feet hit the ground; It licked its pyrogenic lips and then it looked around.

The prairie lay defenseless in the pathway of the beast, It flicked its forked serpent's tongue and pointed to the east, Then charged like some blind arsonist, a heathen hell on wheels, With it felonous companion, the wind, hot on his heels.

The varmints ran like lemmings in the shadow of the flame. While high above a red tailed hawk flew

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(Cont. from pg. 5)

circles, taking aim.
He spied a frazzled prairie dog and
banked into a dive,
But the stoker saw him comin' and
fried'em both alive.

It slid across the surface like a molten oil
slick,
It ran down prey and predator, the quiet
and the quick,
The killdeer couldn't trick it, it was
cinders in a flash,
The bones of all who faced it soon lay
smoking in the ash.

The antelope and cricket, the
rattlesnake and bee,
The butterfly and badger, the coyote and
the flea,
It was faster than the rabbit, faster than
the fawn,
Finished flat out first and fatal in this
deadly marathon.

It offered up no quarter and burned for
seven days;
A hundred thousand acres were
consumed within the blaze.
Brave men came out to kill it, cutting
trail after trail.
But it jumped their puny firebreaks and
scattered'em like quail.

It was ugly from a distance and uglier up
close.
So said the men who saw the greasy belly
of the ghost.
It made'm cry for mama, melted tracks
on D-8 Cats.
It sucked the sweat tight off their back
and broke their thermostats.
It was hotter than a burning brake -
heavy as a train,
It was louder than the nightmare
screams of Abel's brother, Cain.
It was war with nature's fury unleashed
upon the land,
Uncontrollable, enormous, it held the
upper hand.

The men retrenched repeatedly,
continuously bested,
Then finally on the seventh day, like
Genesis, it rested.
The black faced firefighters stared,
unable to believe.
They watched the little wisps of
smoke, mistrusting their reprieve.

They knew they hadn't beaten it. They
knew beyond a doubt.

Though News Break told it different,
they knew it just went out.
Must've tired of devastation, grew
jaded to the fame,
Simply bored to death of holocaust and
walked out of the game.

You can tell yourself...that's crazy?
Fire's not a living thing.
It's only chance combustion, there's
no malice in the string.
You can go to sleep unworried, knowing
man is in control,
That these little freaks of nature have
no evil in their soul.

But rest assured it's out there and the
powder's always primed
And it will be back, you know it...It's
only biding time
'Til the range turns into kindling and
the grass turns into thatch
And a fallen angel tosses out a solitary
match

Smokey and The Pros?...how about Smokey and The Amateurs???

When we think of Smokey and the Pros
and the work that went into that
campaign we must also stop and
remember the hours that went into
putting together the Smokey and the
Amateurs posters that have become so
popular in Amador and El Dorado
counties.

Hard work and long hours, not to
mention tons of hairspray and lipstick,
and rolls and rolls of film, were used
up photographing the cheerleaders and
football players of Amador and Argonaut
High Schools in Amador County.
Larry Angier, photographer for the
Volunteers in Prevention, and Maria
Calub, fire prevention assistant, are
currently putting together the newest in
the line of amateur posters; Smokey
and the Motherlode Youth Soccer
League. The Amador County Rotary
clubs are sponsoring their efforts.
If you would like to obtain one of these
"most wanted" prizes, please call Maria
Calub at (209) 223-2672 and she will be
glad to help you.

Dutch Elm Disease on display

by Charles Martin

A new addition to the Santa Clara
County Fair this year was a display
sponsored by the Santa Clara Ranger
Unit, and the Dutch Elm Disease (DED)
Project, (Palo Alto Office). Personnel
from the DED Project and the
Volunteers in Prevention Program
fielded over 500 questions covering fire
fighting and prevention, to Dutch Elm
Disease and urban tree care.

The public responded well to the
display. The recent Almaden Morgan
Hill fires spawned much interest in fire
safety and prevention among south bay
residents, especially those living in the
urban/rural interface. This years'
drought has also produced many urban
tree problems. Visitors to the display
were interested in how to maintain their
trees during a dry year, and how to
plant a water conserving landscape. The
fair fit well into the DED Project's
expanded public information campaign.
The display proved a good source of
information for people who may not
otherwise have contact with the
department. The ranger unit plans to
make CDF a yearly attraction at the
fair.

(Received with equal enthusiasm was
the DED Project's display at the San
Mateo County Fair. Especially welcome
was an appearance by Smokey Bear.)

"Help us...Help you" exhibit wins blue ribbon

The "Help Us...Help You" campaign
theme was initiated and developed by
Jim Simmons, ranger unit chief,
Amador-El Dorado Ranger Unit, to
coincide with the statewide "Fire
Safe, California!" campaign to create
public awareness of fire safety and fire
prevention.

The El Dorado County Fair focused on
the siege of 1987 and earned an
"Outstanding" award for the VIPs. The
theme dealt with public awareness of
the devastation and the expense of
reforestation after the wildfires in

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California.

To promote the "Help Us...Help You" campaign at both the Amador and El Dorado county fairs, VIP's wore T-shirts with the "Only You Can Protect Our Homes" message.

The VIP Puppet Show was also a big hit at both fairs especially with Smokey Bear making appearances after each show.

The theme has been carried even further with, "Put a zone between fire and your home," billboards posted in Amador County. A banner with the same message has also been displayed at various locations within the ranger unit. The Volunteers in Prevention within the Amador-El Dorado Ranger Unit have also worked with the local IGA food markets which now carry the "defensible space" message on their grocery bags.

Santa Clara R.U. really "cooks" at contest

by State Forest Ranger I D.R. Collins

Santa Clara Ranger Unit's chili cook-off team "The Smokin' Bears" took 5th place for best chili, and third place for best costume at the San Jose Firefighters Chili Cook-off held on Sunday, June 26, 1988.

Not only were they the only department to walk away with two awards, but they raised \$600 for the Santa Clara Burn Unit.

The cooks were Tom Guevara, Phil Guevara, Louis Cordich and Martin Castaneda. The awards and a picture of the team in costume will be placed in the trophy case at Morgan Hill.

The Smokin' Bears would like to thank CDFEA for sponsoring the team for the second year. Also, thanks to firefighters Matt Leach, Art Rodriquez, Tasha Ott, Steve Covarrubias and Julie Slattery for their help in and around our booth, and to firefighter Ken Margiott and SFR I Chris Parker for their donation to the burn unit.

Softball results - better late than never

by Tess Albin-Smith, tournament founder



Here they are. You're 1988 CDF Softball Champions - Riverside #1

Yup! First place Riverside was unbeatable in our eighth annual Mike Shori Memorial Co-ed Softball tournament, held May 14-15 in Sacramento. San Bernardino took second place, Red Bluff third and Butte fourth. Riverside is now two for two, '87 being their first official team entry.

This year we had a record 24 teams from all over the state, including six from Region I, six from Region II, three from Region III, and seven from Region IV. Sacramento pooled their best bureaucrats to form two "great" teams only to lose everything in the first round for both (sigh).

What happened to the infamous Cowboys, the spurious Diablos, and all the other hot teams this year? "We got beat, fair and square," admitted a few.

(Some were not so straight-forward.) Several teams suggested the competition is getting too stiff for the average recreational team. I agree, even though it's a pleasure to watch the really hot teams strut their stuff. I think maybe next year we'll split into competitive and recreational divisions to let some of us old folks get in more than the minimum game time. The best of the best will play each other.

Special thanks to the San Mateo/Santa Cruz Ranger Unit for the nice plaque, which hangs proudly in my office. Just having so many of you participate is gratifying enough for me. Hope to see you all next year!

Assuring our energy future

October is National Energy Awareness Month and California's Energy Commission has begun a campaign to make Californians more energy conscious.

This year the Commission selected "Assuring Our Energy Future" as the theme for the event. Although the gasoline lines of the 1970's may be forgotten, energy is still too valuable to waste!

The Energy Commission's atrium at 1516 Ninth Street in Sacramento will become an energy museum and exhibition hall through October. Displays from various energy

companies, utilities and hands-on computer programs for children will be featured during business hours.

Also in October, two new brochures will be available. One will give Capitol-area workers and visitors a self-guided tour of energy-efficient state buildings, and the second provides 15 tips for saving money.

For more information about Energy Awareness Month, the brochure, or the calendar, contact the California Energy Commission's Public Information Office at (916) 324-3298.

Your health and safety



Governor honors "safe" CDFers

by Laurel Goddard

Four CDFers were honored at the Eighth Annual Governor's Employee Safety Awards Ceremony in June for their efforts to maintain safety in the workplace.

The award winners are: Mark Bisbee, fire apparatus engineer, San Mateo-Santa Cruz Ranger Unit; James McFadden, fire academy staff chief (now ranger unit chief, San Luis Obispo); Barritt Neal, chief, San Diego Ranger Unit; and Johnnie Upton, fire training director, Susanville Fire Training Program.

Mark, well-known among his comrades for his artistic abilities and sense of humor, combined his talents to produce safety posters which have heightened the safety awareness and spirit of camaraderie within his ranger unit.

Jim directed the Fire Academy for more than seven years, promoting the philosophy that safety and health are of the utmost importance. During fiscal year 1986/87, 1,694 students passed through the Academy, motivated by Jim and his staff of 40. Under his direction, they achieved 560,000 hours worked without lost-time injury.

Barritt developed a proactive safety program within his ranger unit, often supporting new and controversial issues. He implemented corrected visual capabilities for self-contained breathing apparatus and diesel exhaust ventilation for garages located adjacent to sleeping quarters. His efforts resulted in a major reduction in injuries and accidents for the unit.

Johnnie, responsible for the training of inmates from 15 conservation camps in Northern California, devoted many hours producing a monthly safety memo to be distributed to the units. His widespread safety messages have resulted in a dramatic reduction in the injury rate among the 1,140 inmates.

The four were among 91 recipients -- the largest group of awardees ever.

CDF begins candidate physical ability testing

September 11, 1988 marked the completion of the first round of testing to use the recently developed physical ability tests. The testing was implemented to ensure that all those hired for permanent firefighter II and fire apparatus engineer positions are able to perform critical, physically demanding firefighting tasks.

Regional CDF proctors tested 128 candidates in three statewide locations. Most of the candidates (68 percent) were successful in passing all four tests.

Mike Catlin, CDF Exercise Physiologist said that "the tests appear to be very effective in screening out those candidates who lack the physical fitness required by firefighting." However, the tests won't be a permanent barrier to candidates who fail their first attempt. CDF is providing the assistance of specially trained regional physical fitness coordinators to help these candidates be better prepared for their next examination.



Fire Captain's Randy Parsons and Doug Hicks measure a candidate's leg power.

Employee Assistance Program

Smoking Cessation Programs

In the past, smoking was a popular habit. Children looked forward to being "old enough" to smoke. Adults were barraged by tobacco advertisements conveying smoking as a symbol of worldliness, sexuality and success. Lighting a cigarette, inhaling, holding and disposing of a cigarette became a recognized art in films. Smoking was not only socially acceptable but promoted as a practice of the sophisticated.

Research however, has proven beyond a shadow of a doubt that tobacco usage is harmful to one's health. In reality, those who smoke are chemically dependent on nicotine, a component of tobacco. Quitting the nicotine habit varies by method. Some users need human support to quit the habit; others prefer mind influencing techniques. Some may decide to taper off the nicotine level gradually, whereas others quit "cold turkey". To assist employees who are addicted to nicotine, Occupational Health Services (OHS) provides three optional smoke-free programs (\$200 per group session):

1. Motivational Program
OHS provides a one-hour motivational seminar for employees who wish to quit smoking. This program will emphasize the benefits of smoking cessation such as improvement in physical, psychological, social, and financial status. Besides freeing oneself from an addiction and living longer, other benefits are emphasized. Information on the stages of quitting are explained; behavior triggers are discussed; coping techniques are described. A resource list is also provided of smoking cessation programs in the community and accompanying costs. A smoke-free life is promoted to give the participant the momentum to succeed and take charge of their health.

2. Hypnosis Program
OHS provides a work-site based hypnosis seminar for employees who wish to stop smoking. This program consists of a two-hour seminar focusing on hypnosis to alleviate the desire to smoke. An audiotape is provided to

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participants to reinforce the seminars content. This program is process-oriented offering an employee who is motivated to quit smoking, a tangible opportunity to quit and remain smoke-free.

3. Positive Self-Statement Program

OHS provides a four-session program for employees who wish to stop smoking. This program is based on the theory (supported by behavioral research)

that it takes 21 days to change a behavior. After approximately 21 days of repetition the mind accepts information and translates that information to the conscious mind for action. The OHS program involves three, one hour sessions conducted over a three week period. It requires a three-week commitment with all sessions attended. A follow-up session is also given approximately one month later to

reinforce positive results. Relaxation and Guided Imagery are used as well as positive suggestions for smoking cessation.

Or you can call OHS independently and set up an appointment. This service is available to you and your family members and is confidential.

If you have any questions call the EAP coordinator in Sacramento, Delilah Andreatta at (916) 324-9462.

In flight

Ukiah Air Attack Base

*by Fire Captain Rick Patterson

Aviation has, in one way or another, touched virtually everyone to some degree. With some it is only another sound in the distance or a vapor trail in the sky. Others, participating more directly, fly for the pleasure and relaxation it gives them. For some, aircraft is a business. Whether transporting passengers or cargo, crop dusting, mapping or many other things, they have found that aircraft are admirably suited for wildland fire fighting.

In the Mendocino Ranger Unit aircraft came into regular use in 1950 when our Cooperative Air Patrol was inaugurated. A group of 16 individuals and companies contracted, on a cost per acre basis, for a light aircraft to fly circuits of the county. Administered by CDF, and with CDF supplying an observer and communications system, the Co-op Patrol has been active every summer since its inception. CDF dropped the observer (fiscally, not literally) a few years ago but Co-op flies on.

In July of 1958 the "Initial Attack Tanker Program" was introduced to "District I." The Ukiah Airport was selected as one of the main tanker bases. Flying old ex-Navy N3N's, these dauntless men of the skies dropped Borate on 54 fires in Mendocino County that first year (hence the name "Borate Bomber", a name we haven't shaken yet today, although we haven't dropped borate in over 25 years.

The Ukiah Air Attack Base has been pumping "mud" ever since, although now it is Fire-Trol GTS (Gum

Thickened Sulfate). It is great stuff. It dyes your Nomex and t-shirts (wives love it), makes logs and rocks extremely slippery (State Comp. loves it), does amazing things for fire engine paint jobs (firefighters love it) and even puts out fires (incident commanders love it).

UAAB has seen just about every type of air tanker that CDF has ever used, including the N3N, F7F, PB, AF, C-119, B-17, DC-4, P-61, B-26, TBM, and currently two S2F's.

These S2's are ex-Navy (if that sounds familiar look up a few paragraphs) sub chasers, fitted with 800 gallon retardant tank and painted a really different shade of yellow (they call it green but it's soon to change to white, so--).

Tanker 95 is piloted by Doug Baker, a local Ukiahan who started at UAAB as a CDF firefighter and worked his way up to air attack pilot and then tanker pilot with Hemet Valley Flying Service, our current contractors. Chris Cagle, who has done about everything in aviation industry from Air Force instructor pilot to flying in the movies, (Did you see him in "The Blue Max?"), flies for Hemet Valley in Tanker 96.

The air attack, ex-Air Force O-2 observation plane, is herded around by Bob DeVinny. Bob has been in the aviation world in the Ukiah area for about 10 years.

The Co-op Air Patrol is ably handled by Fritz Gordon, owner and operator of Gordon Air Service in Ukiah.

The CDF folks at the base include the air attack officer, Battalion Chief Earl Simning, a long-time CDF'er with three years at UAAB; Fire Captain Rick Patterson, air base manager and relief AAO; Fire Apparatus Engineers Mark Blohm and Carol Peterson, and Firefighters Ken Hassler, Mark Smith, Heide Steele, Jose Basaldua, and Richard Reed.

"Hit it hard and fast" is the theme of today's wildland fire fighting, and with the aircraft at our disposal, this has never been more true than it is today. With a light aircraft patrolling all parts of the ranger unit, followed by an air attack, fast and effective air tankers, and an initial attack Helitack crew all assisting ground attack units, the Mendocino Ranger Unit has established the fastest, hardest hitting initial attack force it has ever known. Many fires which had the elements of becoming major suppression problems, have been "nipped in the bud" through a lot of hard work and coordination.

Even so, the job has just begun. New ideas, methods, improved equipment, retardants, foams and new types of aircraft must be considered and evaluated for CDF to obtain the best possible performance and teamwork between the air and ground forces to further reduce the tremendous losses experienced each year by that ever present menace, wildfire.

(* My thanks to the authors of the various reports, etc., from which parts of the above have been plagiarized.)

VIP news

Lake-Napa Ranger Unit

"Semper Laborantes"

"Semper laborantes" (Latin meaning "always working"), is an understatement for this unit. Ranger Unit Chief Byron Carniglia has kept the men and women of the Lake-Napa Ranger Unit busy for the past 15 years. St. Helena is

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(Cont. from pg.9)

the headquarters for the unit which encompasses all of Lake and Napa counties and the western portions of Solano, Yolo and Colusa counties.

The ranger unit was recently proud to announce the opening of a permanent VIP office, located on the grounds of the Middletown Forest Fire Station. The grand opening was held, most appropriately, on Smokey the Bear's 44th birthday. The office is staffed by friendly VIPs who act as liaison personnel between the volunteers and the fire prevention staff. The VIP's answer questions regarding scheduling of VIP's or activities, handle sign-ups and travel claims, and produce a monthly newsletter.

Within the office is a Citizens Band base station which controls the movement of the local senior citizens CB road patrol. The senior citizens group participates not only on road patrols, but also with local public education activities, such as fairs and parades. The office also houses a HAM radio base station. The Lake County VIP HAM group performs a majority of the road patrols throughout Lake County, on a random basis. In addition, the group provides essential non-emergency

communications between field operations and headquarters. The Lake County office alternates with the HAM radio VIP base station, at St. Helena Headquarters, to monitor assignments within the entire unit. The Napa VIP HAM radio group also performs weekly road patrols.

These two groups have been very successful partners in establishing radio communications within the unit during several emergency incidents. Cooperation ranks very high with our VIP group. It proved effective when the Santa Clara VIP mobile HAM radio unit was ordered during our recent fires. The efforts of all three groups brought about a clearer and more timesaving method of communicating, not only by voice, but with written messages by way of the "packet" system. This system by itself was invaluable during the large "demob" operation on the Miller Fire in September.

The VIPs throughout the unit work extremely hard to maintain a diversified public awareness campaign about fire prevention. VIPs have helped to staff county fair booths in all five counties, including smaller town fairs. VIPs also participate in

local parades with Smokey. An active group of a dozen volunteers participate in the Team Teaching Program during the winter months, at schools throughout the unit. VIPs assist in presenting puppet shows and Smokey at any event or activity where children gather for a fire safe message.

Laying a good foundation for activities is important. The future looks bright for the Lake-Napa VIP Program. A more intense media relations program, amateur television (ATV) for emergency and non-emergency incidents, localized public awareness campaigns with VIP spokespersons, air patrols, and junior and senior high school education programs are all ahead for the VIPs. Always cognizant of the role fire prevention plays throughout the surrounding communities, Lake-Napa VIP's and fellow CDF employees lead the department by working hand in hand to provide services to the citizens of California. We invite all to visit, but don't be surprised if you're handed a VIP application. We're always looking for a few more good men and women.

Kudos

To all of the members of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection for their quick response and commitment to fire protection excellence that spared Portola from an even worse fire incident. **From** the Portola City Council, residents of Portola and Sandra Waterhouse, Mayor, Portola.

To all the CDF crews who assisted on the 49er Fire. Because of your hard work, coordination, and commitment, several valuable park resources were preserved. Special thanks to Frank Bates, Ed Brown, Bill Holmes and Bill Smethers for their professional actions during the fire. **From** Henry Agonia, director, California Department of Parks and Recreation.

To Volunteer in Prevention Ralph Cooper who recently celebrated his 85th birthday, making him the oldest active VIP within the Shasta-Trinity Ranger Unit. Congratulations

and keep up the good work.

To the Deadwood Camp crew who painted the Siskiyou County Sheriff's Posse Search and Rescue trailer. They really appreciated your help and the trailer looks great!! **From** the Siskiyou County Sheriff's Posse, Search and Rescue Unit.

To the "flying firemen" of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection for the work you did to save the Marinwood Community from fire disaster early in July. "You can count on our prayers all summer long...May God bless you all and keep you safe all summer long!" **From** Mother Virginia and all the Sisters of the Carmelite Monastery in Marinwood.

To the following CDFers who will complete 25-years of state service in October:

State Forest Ranger II Danny Castleman of Puerta La Cruz Conservation Camp.

Mechanical Engineering Technician II Paul Dekoekkoek of Sacramento Headquarters.

Associate Governmental Program Analyst Dorothy Gorman of Sacramento Headquarters.

and to the following CDFers who we missed recently:

Fire Captains William Clark, Mike Rico and Donald Stockton of the Los Robles Youth Conservation Camp.

Fire Captain James McClellan of the San Bernardino Ranger Unit.

Fire Captain Roy Stanton of the San Luis Obispo Ranger Unit.

Region I Chief Bill Imboden

To Carl Wolf - thanks for all your help. **From** Dieter and Rita Schmitt of Rough and Ready, CA.

Personnel Transactions

Coast Region

Transfers - Forester I James Erler to Humboldt-Del Norte.

Promotions - Noel Lockwood to SFR II, Chamberlain Creek; Juan Raigoza to FC "A", Lake-Napa; John Estrada to FAE, Sonoma; and Robert Martinez to FC "B", Black Mountain.

Appointments - Danny Allen to CET I, Region I Hdqts.; Deborah Daly to FAE, Humboldt-Del Norte; Brian Clough to FAE, Sonoma; James Barrington, Gerald McLean, Anthony Akin, Thomas Oldag, and Melvin Gage to FAE, San Mateo-Santa Cruz; Fred Todd to FAE, Sonoma; ; Diana Titus to OAI (T) LT, Black Mountain; L.R. Crabtree to FC "A", Sonoma and Patrick Nolan to Dispatch Clerk LT, Sonoma.

Separations - Steno Teri Gonzalez, Region I Hdqts.

Retirements - HFEO Gene Throop, Lake-Napa; and SFR I Roger Kramer, Lake-Napa.

Sierra Casade Region

Transfers - FAE Stephen Hartman to Lassen-Modoc; FC "B" Harold Norvell to Susanville Training Center; FC "A" Russell Fowler to Butte; FC "B" Donald Keen to Butte Fire Center; FC "B" Richard Corning to Ishi; FC "A" Harlan Weatherford to Shasta-Trinity; and FC "A" Mark Eayrs to Siskiyou.

Promotions - Andrew Creasey to FC "B", Deadwood; and Deems Taylor to FC "A", Shasta-Trinity.

Separations - M&SS I Diana Bolton, Tehama-Glenn; FAE Michael Dougherty, Butte.

Retirements - FC "B" David Merrill, Butte Fire Center; and FC "B" Mervin Powell, Washington Ridge.

Central Region

Transfers - SFR III Craig Anthony to Madera-Mariposa-Merced.

Promotions - John Partenheimer to FC "A", Tulare.

Retirements - FC "A" Vern Wellendorf, Tulare.

Southern Region

Transfers - SFR II Danny Castleman to Puerta La Cruz; FC Bertil Bjorklund to San Diego; FAE Eric Johnson, Douglas Mooney and Leonard Grill to Riverside.

Promotions - Robert Martines to SFR III, Region III Hdqts.; Paul Miller to SFR I and Gary Aguilar to FAE, San Bernardino; David Peckham, Jorge Juarez and Kathryn Franklin-Flathers to FAE, Riverside.

Separations - FC Duane Johnson and Patrick Walker, Riverside.

Sacramento Headquarters

Promotions - Barbara Sanchez to Acct. Clerk II; Diana Mays to

SSA; Debra Eddy to OA II (G); Cheri Anderson to SSA.

Appointments - Betty Forbes to Personnel Tech.; Arvinda Gandhi to Acct. Clerk II; Kathleen Williams and Evelyn Glenn to Acct. Tech.; Debra Dugger and Rosemarie Boschen to Acct. Clerk II; Phyllis Rice to Acct. I (Specialist); Kay Penner to Acct. I (Specialist); and Janet Devalk to Assoc. Pers. Anal.

Reinstatements - Karen Mayer to Office Tech.; and Bea Harmoning to Acct. Clerk II

Separations - Asst. Admin. Analyst Robert McKelvey; OA II (G) Peggy Bayless; Sup. Acct. Clerk II Elisa Jafarnejad; Acct. Tech. Cokie Leach; and Acct. I (Specialist) Lorraine Boyd.

EXAMINATION CALENDAR

Upcoming Examinations

Title	Exam Base	Final Filing Date
Acct. Analyst	Open	11/3/88
Data Processing Manager I	Promotional	11/10/88
Data Processing Manager II	Promotional	11/10/88
Acct. Technician	Promotional	11/17/88
Personnel Asst. II	Promotional	11/17/88
Staff Services Manager I	Promotional	11/17/88
Telephone Operator	Open	11/17/88
Civil Eng. Tech. II	Open/Nonpromo.	
	(Spot -Santa Rosa/Redding)	12/8/88
Key Data Operator	Open	12/22/88
Office Tech. (Typing)	Promotional	1/12/89
Office Tech. (General)	Promotional	1/12/89
Programmer II	Open	1/12/89
Secretary	Promotional	1/12/89

Examinations In Progress

Title	Status
Sr. Civil Engineer	Interviews anticipated in Nov.
Assoc. Gov. Prog. Analyst	Interviews anticipated in Nov.
Reg. Admin. Officer III	Interviews anticipated in Nov./Dec.
Assist. Info. Officer	Interviews anticipated in Dec.
Civil Eng. Assoc.	Interviews anticipated in Dec.
Office Asst. II (Typing)	Interviews anticipated in Dec.
Office Asst. II (General)	Interviews anticipated in Dec.
Fire Captain	Interviews anticipated in Dec./Jan.
Fire Captain (Paramedic)	Interviews anticipated in Dec./Jan.
Regional Administrative Off. I	Interviews anticipated in Jan./Feb.
Fire Apparatus Eng.	Interviews anticipated in Jan./Feb.
Fire Apparatus Eng. (Paramedic)	Interviews anticipated in Jan./Feb.
Fire Prevention Off. I	Interviews anticipated in Jan.
Forester III	Interviews anticipated in Jan.

Mark your calendar

An Archeological Training Session For Resource Professionals, Northeastern and Northcentral California, will be held November 9-10, 1988 at the Holiday Inn in Redding California. Topics will include "archeological review procedures", "pothunting and arrowhead collection", "archeology of Northcentral California", and "techniques for discovering archeological sites" to name a few. If you are interested in attending contact Dan Foster, state archeologist at (916) 322-0171.

You won't want to miss this one, **State Forest Ranger I Wilmer Black is retiring** after 38 years with the department. There is some major planning going on right now for a "Good Bye" celebration for Wilmer on November 19, 1988 at the Dante Club here in Sacramento. Give Arlene Keiunji, (916) 445-8214 or

Karen Harper, (916) 445-5620 a call to make your reservations as soon as possible.

Christmas - CDF Style



DON'T FORGET - MARK YOUR CALENDAR, it's the last Christmas you will be able to celebrate with Director Partain so be sure to attend the CDF Christmas Party here in Sacramento on Saturday evening, December 10, 1988. There will be food, drink, music and fun to kick the holiday season off right. Watch for details in next month's *Communique* or give Lisa Boyd a call at (916) 445-9920 or Rachele Brady at (916) 445-6441 for details.

NEWS FLASH

Preparation is under way for a farewell party for the director

Join CDF in saying goodbye to Director Partain on Friday, January 13, 1989. This farewell get-together will take place in Sacramento - details are being finalized right now. You won't want to miss it.

Communique

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION

George Deukmejian, Governor
Jerry Partain, Director
Lisa Boyd, Editor
Laurel Goddard, Student Assistant
Kathy Miller, Personnel Transactions

Deadline: 5th of each month
Phone: (916) 445-9920

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