

TO: ALL MSC & DISTRICT CONSTRUCTION-OPERATIONS OFFICES
FROM: CECW-ON

SUBJECT: Pepper Spray and Protective Body Vests for USACE Park Rangers

1. FYI -- Yesterday, Darrell Lewis, Chief, Natural Resources Management Branch, briefed BG(P) Griffin, Director of Civil Works, on the subjects of Pepper Spray and Protective Body Vests. During the briefing, the Director made the following important decisions:

a. Pepper Spray. Based on the successful Pepper Spray Test Program within the Fort Worth District, the Director gave verbal approval to authorize USACE Park Rangers to carry and use Pepper Spray for self defensive purposes. Detailed guidance, including policy requirements, the hazard analysis process, training and standard operating procedures will be forthcoming in a memorandum from the Director within the next few weeks. Pepper Spray can not be carried or used until this written guidance is issued and the subsequent hazard analysis and required training have been conducted.

b. Protective Body Vests. BG Griffin stated that he needed additional information from the MSC Commands regarding the authorization to procure Protective Body Vests for Park Rangers. Charlie Hess, Chief of Operations, will be sending an e-mail message to all Con-Ops Chiefs, requesting that they survey their Natural Resources Management/Project Offices regarding the use of body vests. Information from this survey will be instrumental in the Director's decision on this subject.

2. I'd like to thank the Visitor/Ranger Safety Review Committee, the Pepper Spray/Body Vest Task Forces and everyone within in the Southwestern Division/Fort Worth District for their active involvement with these two initiatives.

3. Please inform your Commands and project offices of this message, as appropriate.

Stephen Austin
Natural Resources Management Branch
HQUSACE