

April 24, 1952

4930 Deal Drive, Apt. 106
Washington 20, D. C.

ALL MEMBERS OF THE BORDER PATROL PISTOL TEAM

On the basis of replies to my letters prior to our recent attendance at the National Mid-Winter Matches in Florida, the Border Patrol shooting uniform is as follows:

Shirt and trousers: Army suntan, well fitted and pressed.

Jacket: Suntan, Eisenhower cut. The ideal one is lot No. 533Z from Dickson-Jenkins Manufacturing Company, Fort Worth, Texas, for about \$5.00. Toney can buy them in El Paso.

Shoes: Any ordinary and usual foot gear.

Head gear: The more conservative style of the usual long-billed shooting cap. Actually, almost everyone agreed to the Mexican Border rough duty Stetson hat (the San Fran Jr., beaver belly color) but everyone agreed in Florida that this was not practical to shoot in because of the grease it would pick up in actual shooting, particularly in shooting the .45.

On the shirts and Eisenhower jacket should be placed the little three-inch gold and black "U. S. Border Patrol" patch worn on the regular uniform. This patch should be sewed neatly and should be exactly ~~three inches~~ ^{1/2 inch} from the seam. These little patches are cheap and can be replaced frequently.

All of us have agreed that the above is a practical, neat, good looking and inexpensive shooting uniform. The pictures I have made up for the Commissioner (11 x 14 sizes of those made in Florida) prove that this is so.

In the future everyone shooting for the Border Patrol will dress uniformly and neatly. Some will say that the long-sleeve shirt, as that above, is too hot. Others will say that there are occasions when ties should not be worn. It is impossible to please everyone. In colder weather, a sweater can be worn under the shirt. In real cold weather, a heavy coat will, of course, be approvable.

The above has not the general approval of all, and therefore all must meet it in detail. In order for each man to be neat and sharp each day, one should come to the matches with at least four changes. This will give

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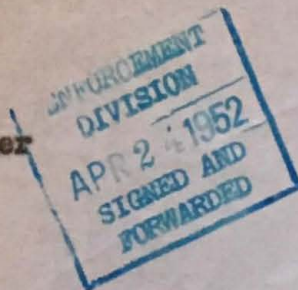
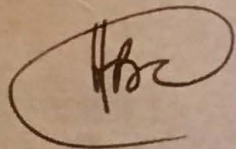
a change each day for the short matches and will also give a change each day, allowing time for laundry service, at the longer matches.

I want to be reasonable about this shooting uniform, and I think I have been proved reasonable by having waited so long before getting everyone's opinion in adopting a shooting uniform. Now that we have adopted it, let's all cooperate and tell anyone else who aspires to be a team shooter what he must wear. Furthermore, let's agree before we start any further matches that it will not be necessary to talk about buttoning down the flaps, avoiding carrying of cigarettes, tobacco pouches, pipes, toothbrushes, cleaning rod and a bottle of Hoppe's No. 9 in the shirt pockets. I am serious. Practically all of that paraphernalia, at one time or another, has been carried around at matches in pockets of border patrolmen. Let's all get together and present an appearance creditable to the Border Patrol at all our matches.

If there are any further suggestions, please let me know.

Your friend,

Harlon B. Carter



SENT TO:

- Mr. William T. Toney, Jr., 3226 Lebanon Street, El Paso, Texas
- Mr. Presley A. O'Gren, Box 157, Internation 1 Falls, Minnesota
- Mr. Samuel A. McKone, 901 N. 21st Street, McAllen, Texas
- ✓ Jefferson J. Fell, U. S. Border Patrol, Derby Line, Vermont
- ✓ Mr. Bruce L. Long, Box 247, Fabens, Texas
- ✓ Mr. John P. West, Box 4701, Miami 28, Florida
- ✓ Mr. Andrew Mosser, Assistant Chief P trol Inspector, Immigration and Naturalization Service, 3770 E. Jefferson Ave., Detroit 7, Mich.
- ✓ Mr. John R. Williams, Box 34, Spofford, Texas
- ✓ Mr. Donald Olive, Box 4701, Miami 28, Florida

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