

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Harlon B. Carter, Chief, Border Patrol Branch
Border Patrol/LTC
DATE: December 1, 1954

FROM : Louis T. Cates

SUBJECT: Wearing of Service Ribbons on Border Patrol Uniforms.

I contacted Mr. DuBois, Chief, Heraldic Branch, Office of the Quartermaster General, Pentagon (Code 131, Ext. 52901) in regard to the question of the existence of any Army regulations prohibiting the wearing of Service ribbons on Border Patrol uniforms.

Mr. DuBois informed me that as Border Patrol personnel are in a civilian capacity, the Department of Defense has no jurisdiction to prohibit or regulate the wearing of Service ribbons. However, he stated that the Department of Defense does view with favor the wearing of ribbons on police uniforms.

He also informed me that the U. S. Army regulations do not permit the ribbons issued by an organization of less rank than national be worn on federally prescribed Army uniforms. (Ribbons such as those issued by the American Legion, State National Guards, etc.). Since this is an Army regulation, it does not apply to the Border Patrol, but I recommend that any instructions issued authorizing the wearing of Service ribbons on Border Patrol uniforms be restrictive to those ribbons issued on a national level.

12/1/54
Louis T. Cates