

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : ALL DISTRICT DIRECTORS

DATE: December 2, 1954

FROM : Frank H. Partridge, Special Assistant
to the Commissioner

SUBJECT: BORDER PATROL UNIFORMS

The proper dress of Border Patrol officers in relation to the duties to which they are assigned has a strong bearing upon the recognition and respect given the officer by the public and upon the morale and esprit de corps of the organization. The uniform therefore is an important means for getting the job done. When an assigned duty can be satisfactorily performed in the uniform, it should be so done. At all times when the official uniform is worn the approved symbols of rank and of service shall be worn. Campaign ribbons, federal decorations and distinguished marksman badges are authorized for uniform wear immediately above the left pocket of the blouse or jacket.

Classes of suitable clothing:

Border Patrol officers, under appropriate circumstances, shall wear clothing identifiable under the following three classes:

1. The official uniform
2. The rough duty uniform
3. Appropriate civilian clothing

The official and rough duty Border Patrol uniform shall be that prescribed by Section 2370 of the Administrative Manual, as revised.

Officers who will regularly perform duty in the official uniform.

The following classes of officers will wear the official Border Patrol uniform except when, by specific authority of the Chief Patrol Inspector, a particular duty can be performed more effectively by wearing other clothing:

- a. Chief Patrol Inspectors
- b. Assistant Chief Patrol Inspectors

- c. Airplane Pilots - exceptions are made as to insignia and garrison cap
- d. Senior Patrol Inspectors
- e. Patrol Inspectors
- f. All Border Patrol officers, including district and task force chiefs engaged in the following duties, or in command of such:
 - (1) All Border Patrol highway blocks and inspection activities.
 - (2) Airplane piloting.
 - (3) City scout and contact work.
 - (4) Inspection of places of employment of aliens, except farms and ranches.
 - (5) Recruitment duty performed by Border Patrol officers.
 - (6) Duty as instructor at Border Patrol Training School.

District Chiefs will be habitually in uniform when actually in the field. On such occasions they will decide upon either the official or rough duty uniform according to whether they are engaged in duties at headquarters or line and field inspections.

Officers who will perform duty in the rough duty uniform.

- a. Any Service officers, not regularly uniformed, who are assigned to Border Patrol duties.
- b. All Border Patrol officers engaged in performance of the following duties, or in command of such:
 - (1) Sign cutting and trailing.
 - (2) Line and river patrol and still watches.
 - (3) Jeep patrol.

- (4) Woods, brush and desert details.
- (5) Farm and ranch inspections.
- (6) Task force operations in farm and ranch areas.
- (7) Freight train inspections.
- (8) Trainee instruction at the Border Patrol Training School.

Officers who will perform duty in appropriate civilian clothing.

a. All officers assigned to the following:

- (1) Duties where the uniform would tend to frustrate the effort.
- (2) Necessary contacts in foreign countries.

It is expected that the Administrative Manual will soon be revised as to two items - official uniform headgear, and the rough duty uniform.

Headgear on the Mexican border shall consist of the regular hard brim Stetson for the official uniform and the task force cap for rough duty. Official uniform headgear for the Northern border will remain without change until further notice.

The rough duty uniform on the Southern border will consist of the green task force cap, forest green shirt and trousers of good quality, Eisenhower Jacket of same color and cloth, with heavy type leather gun belt and suitable foot wear. No over strap will be worn on the gun belt. Insignia will consist only of the badge, shoulder patch, and insignia of rank.

The suntan rough duty uniform items now being worn are authorized until they can be replaced, not later than May 1, 1955.

For any duties not given above, it will be the Chief Patrol Inspector's responsibility to see that officers are appropriately dressed in accord with the spirit of this instruction.

J. W. P.