635/D-276

GULF ISLANDS NATIONAL SEASHORE
Annual Narrative Report
October 1, 2001 through September 30, 2002

MANAGEMENT OVERVIEW:

The Trust for Public Land conveyed to the National Park Service roughly half of Cat Island for inclusion in Gulf Islands National Seashore in March 2002. Work continues to purchase the remaining portions of Cat Island from the Boddie family. The management team identified immediate actions to be taken with the initial inclusion of this portion of Cat Island into the Park. Comprehensive funding requests (OFS & PMIS) were initiated and/or updated. Initial equipment purchases included an ATV, a mule vehicle, a trailer and a storage facility necessary to perform patrols, resource protection and inventory activities. Initial resources management needs and preliminary planning to address basic resource issues on this new acquisition were identified. Resource Management is expected to receive monies during FY'03 to begin archeological inventory, natural resource assessment and inventory and to census and quantify effects of exotic mammal species on the island. Additional needs such as literature search, vegetation, exotic, insect, bird, herpetological, and mammal surveys, GPS, and others have been identified. A site bulletin for Cat Island has been developed as well as a resource file for historic information and photographs. Boat patrols have been initiated and the caretaker who resides on Cat Island was recruited as a volunteer to provide assistance and to keep staff informed of activities and needs/issues.

In April 2002, the use of personal watercraft within the Seashore was banned. In late FY '02, work began on an environmental assessment to further consider the appropriateness of the use of personal watercraft within park boundaries.

The Park continues to support Homeland Security and wildland fire assignments, with Resource and Visitor Protection supporting 19 out-of-park assignments since 9/11/02.

Comprehensive internal audits were conducted on the credit card, fee demo and storm damage programs. A total of nine (9) OFS requests were submitted and more than 200 projects were entered into PMIS for park operations. The new AFS III program was implemented in July.

The Division of Interpretation updated the Annual Interpretive Plan to organize and direct interpretive activities in 2002.

Facilities Management employees were trained and the park began the implementation of the Facilities Management Software System (FMSS) and Maximo, assisted Blue Ridge Parkway with facility condition assessments and assisted Tuskegee Airman Unit with preparations for their national anniversary event.

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Construction documents for a new fire cache facility were developed in conjunction with the Southeast Region (SER) Facility Management and Engineering Division.

Through the Florida Exotic Plant Management Program, the park conducted extensive exotic plant containment and control. By agreement with adjacent landowners, management of Tallow tree infestations along park borders at the Naval Live Oaks (NLO) area and at NAS Pensacola was accomplished.

Sea turtle and shore bird protection and conservation programs continued. Through coordination with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, 24 Gopher Tortoise were relocated from den areas within the NLO maintenance compound to an established refuge in the NLO woodlands. An active program of Nutria removal from Horn and West Ship Islands continued.

Two ARPA permits were issued to the University of West Florida, one for research on sunken vessels and the second for archaeological research on the site of second Pensacola (Presidio Santa Rosa) in order to nominate it for listing as a National Historic Landmark. To protect Fort Massachusetts from further erosion and damage, 115,000 yards of sand was pumped onto the north beach of West Ship Island.

In April, the park held a Pre-General Management Plan (GMP) briefing and preparation for management staff planning session with David Libman, SER Planner, to gain insight into the planning process and identify activities which can be accomplished in anticipation of the GMP scheduled for FY '03. A decision to incorporate the commercial services planning process in conjunction with the GMP was made and SER Chief of Concessions Henry Benedetti and Concessions Program Center Planner Terry Goodrich also participated in the pre-planning session. All park management staff participated in this effort and two park staff members attended the DO-2 Park Planning training course.

Two tropical storms and one hurricane impacted the Park during the last month of the fiscal year. An Incident Command System (ICS) was established to handle park operations as a result of tropical storm Isadore and carried into FY'03 and Hurricane Lili. Assessments and emergency repairs were begun (and continue) to reopen various areas of the park as quickly as possible.

Partnerships

A tentative agreement with Federal Highways resulted in their commitment to provide funding in the amount $200,000 to the Seashore to purchase reader boards under the intelligent traffic management system (ITS). These reader boards will be used jointly by the NPS, Escambia County, Santa Rosa County, Santa Rosa Island Authority, and the City of Gulf Breeze for traffic management, congestion management, emergency evacuations and for public safety, with the NPS as the lead agency. The Seashore provided assistance to the Santa Rosa Island Authority with surf rescue issues and provided staffing assistance during busy holiday and special event weekends.

The park entered into an agreement with the General Services Administration (GSA) to provide office space for an employee after budgetary cutbacks. GSA has contributed over $1200 to the park to assist in offsetting any cost impacts.

Effective partnerships with the Florida National Scenic Trail Association and with organizations, agencies, and companies involved with the International Beach Cleanups were maintained.

As a result of the park's partnership with Unilever/Walmart in the National Park American Tours, a grant of $20,000 worth of recycled lumber for the Mississippi District's Nature Trail extension was received.

Safety

Gulf Islands National Seashore continues to emphasize the importance of the safety program and providing a safe work environment as a top management priority. The Safety Committee continued to conduct reviews for all employee injuries. As part of the Park's safety action plan, management staff reviews and discusses accidents with employees involved. Supervisors are required to report on safety issues and how they are promoting safety in the workplace at each monthly staff meeting. The Park is participating this year in the NPS Safety Program Assistance Contract. Keystone, International was selected as the contractor for the park and performed a park-wide safety inspection in May 2002. Under an agreement with the National Seashore and through donations from the Baptist Health Care Foundation and Gulf Breeze Baptist Hospital, a "Safe Day at the Beach" video was developed. It has received wide community distribution and won the Image Award from the Florida Public Relations Association for public service films or video. The interpretive staff assisted with the production of the safe visit to the beach video and focused further on water safety by producing a safety site bulletin, including a safety article in the park newspaper, and obtaining new safety wayside exhibits for beach access areas. The Park's Safety Officer presented and/or arranged for the following training sessions: Defensive Driving; Bloodborne Pathogens annual update; HAZCOM initial training; developed a Word version of the HAZCOM training for use by visually impaired employees, since the JAWS program they use could not be used for the Power Point presentation; and back injury prevention training. Quarterly Safety Newsletters were developed for distribution via electronic mail to all employees. A total of 13 non-lost time and 3 lost-time accidents occurred this year. The park continues to make return to duty and light duty assignments a high priority. With the 3 lost time accidents, there was only a total of 48 hours (6 days) of lost time, greatly reducing COP costs.

Diversity

The Park sent 2 recruiters to a Pensacola Junior College Minority Job and Career Fair, Louisiana State University, University of Southern Mississippi and Tulane University's Summer Camp Job Fair. The Human Resource Specialist attended a Southeast Federal Recruiting Conference in July. Referrals from the SER recruiter for lifeguard candidates were requested and although offers were made, all declined. Last year, the park converted

a female SCEP employee to permanent WG-4749-5/6 position and we are continuing with developmental opportunities to allow the candidate to meet WG-6 grade criteria. During FY '02, 15 STEP hires were made. For all positions filled during this year, 19 were females, 8 were known minorities, and 3 were disabled. The Park's YCC Program totaled 8 hires: 3 were minorities, 4 were female, and 1 was disabled. In the lifeguard program, 13 hires were made including 3 females and 3 minorities. One disabled Hispanic and one African American maintenance employees were selected to participate in the Preservation and Skills Training program. Minority male was hired as Chief of Facility Management, GS-1640-13. In September 2002, Park sponsored "Diversity: The Spice of Life" program presented by EAP provider (46 park employees participated in the Florida District and the Mississippi District session was attended by 20 employees). Additional courses were conducted in the park or on TEL (Technologically Enhanced Learning Center) on the subject of communication and/or diversity in the work place.

The EEO Committee has created the Robert Johnson Diversity award program. This program allows employees to nominate another park employee they feel has shown a spirit and substance reflecting a pledge to diversity, has shown a commitment to diversity, and has shown this spirit and commitment through acts and deeds such as mentoring, aiding or standing as an example.

INTERPRETATION:

Interpretive and education programs highlighted the significant features of the Seashore. Interpreters led a wide range of programs including fort tours, john boat salt marsh tours, beach walks, night hikes, full moon programs, cast net demonstrations, common soldier talks, night sky programs, sea star programs, and junior ranger programs. All visitor centers were opened year-round. However, as a result of multiple drownings, a well-publicized shark attack, and two lightning fatalities in 2001, the division acted to educate and inform the public of natural hazards through program presentations and non-personal media. Educational programs were presented and analyzed to determine effectiveness. Volunteers continued to assist the interpreters and new partners were made with local public agencies. The division published two editions of *The Guide,* the park newspaper and continued upgrading the site bulletins using the new National Park Messaging Project format. Eight interpretive products were sent for review for the Interpretive Development Program

Special Community Events

The 31st anniversary of the creation of Gulf Islands National Seashore was celebrated in both districts with presentations by wildlife photographer and author Robert Falls, who recently published the book, "Exploring Gulf Islands National Seashore".

Each November the Seashore traditionally celebrates the preservation of wilderness areas. Mississippi programs included information about the wilderness areas in the park and passage of the Wilderness Act.

A special evening program that celebrates the Native-American history of the Florida Seminole/Creek Indians was presented at the Fort Pickens area. Visitors viewed a reconstructed 1830s Seminole hunting camp. Clothing, weapons, tools and many other items of the early 1800s were part of the display. Farris Powell then presented a one-hour historical impression of the Seminole/Creek warrior, "Blue Heron". A special open house at Fort Advanced Redoubt was held during National Parks Week that highlighted recently completed restoration projects on the fort.

Both districts participated in local Mardi Gras parades attended by thousands of park neighbors and visitors. Florida District volunteers and staff entered the award winning sea turtle float for a second year and were rewarded with another first place entry.
The Mississippi District featured park volunteer, Jim Kalis, dressed as "Smoky the Bear" for the Ocean Spring parade.

The Mississippi District's annual Earth Day celebration that featured world renowned wildlife photographer, Tom Ulrich, and the *Leave No Trace* Traveling Trainers drew over 2,000 visitors. Tom Ulrich conducted two multi-media presentations on North American Wildlife for festival-goers. Subaru sponsored the *Leave No Trace* Traveling Trainers who were onsite at Fort Pickens and also visited one Pensacola school and six coastal Mississippi to teach elementary and high school students the principles of outdoor stewardship. The Rochelle Harper Band performed on the park grounds during the festival. The Florida District staff participated in the "Earth Day at Seville Square" and other community events including the "Market Place of Ideas."

In addition to career day programs at different schools, the Mississippi District installed a temporary display, *"Thank God My Regiment An African One"* in the lobby of the St. Martin Library. The exhibit covered the history of the African-American Louisiana Native Guards on Ship Island during the Civil War. Historic photographs, quotes, and reproduction uniforms contributed to the display. Coverage of the special exhibit was featured in the local newspapers.

In August, a commendation of the founding of the National Park Service was offered in Mississippi with a talk on the history of the service and a month long *"National Park Service"* temporary display. A special Florida District program was held at Langdon Beach for Founders Day.

Visitor Center and Interpretive Programs

The staffs at the Naval Live Oaks, Fort Pickens, Fort Barrancas, and Davis Bayou Visitor Centers plus two visitor contact stations (Fort Massachusetts Guard Room and Langdon Beach) contacted 155,000 visitors. Approximately 3000 interpretive programs including formal tours (Advanced Redoubt, Barrancas, Massachusetts, and Pickens), demonstrations

(cast nets), special events, and education programs were given to over 50,000 people. More programs would have been given except the schedule of activities was interrupted in September due to Tropical Storms: Bertha, Fay, Isidore, and Hurricane Lili.

Mississippi District

The Mississippi District experienced permanent staff changes in 2002. Two long-term permanent interpreters transferred causing a shortage in staffing until the positions could be filled. The first employee transferred in December with the new employee starting in mid-February. The second employee transferred in early May. This vacancy was not filled until fiscal year 2003. The district hired a seasonal Park Ranger with extensive West Ship Island and Fort Massachusetts experience to oversee these operations in the absence of the transferred permanent. The district relied on its seasonal workforce for the island operations: one "lead" GS-7 Park Ranger, one GS-5 Park Ranger, one GS-4 Park Guide (STEP), and one SCA intern. The district employed a GS-3 Information Receptionist (STEP) full-time during the summer months and part-time (Saturday and Sunday) for the rest of the year. The Mississippi District offered new programs such as *"Shrimping", "Greens, Loggerheads, Kemp's and More", "Wonders of the Night Sky",* and *"Crabs and Critters".*

Florida District

The Florida District brought back Seasonal Park Ranger Don Holifield for his 19th season. There was a turn-over in STEP employees with four different ones at Naval Live Oaks and there were two different STEP employees at Fort Barrancas. A new summer program, *The Lost Key: Perdido Key,* was one of the 27 different ones given in the summer. A new twist on an old program, "Candlelight Tour of Fort Pickens" featured *living history* presentations of Union ghosts. The Escambia Astronomy Association's five programs at the Battery Worth amphitheater attracted visitors from the campground and community.

Non-personal Interpretation

The division made steady progress updating and converting several site bulletins and the Fort Pickens self-guided tour booklet to the National Park Messaging format. A new wayside exhibit that interprets the Rodman cannon in the Fort Pickens Parade ground was produced. Installations of wayside exhibits were completed at the Santa Rosa Area.

The new *Lighthouses on Ship Island* wayside was installed on West Ship Island.

Outreach

The District had over 27 community outreach programs in 2002. The seashore's extended webpage was launched in the winter and was updated with current interpretive activity news releases and program announcements.

Safety

In collaboration with our concessionaire, Ship Island Excursions, ferry safety information was printed on the back of the *"History Can Hurt"* site bulletin. Ship Island Excursions furnished funds to print the brochure that they distributed to all passengers purchasing a ferry ticket to West Ship Island. A shark photograph was printed on the front cover of summer edition of the park newspaper, *The Guide,* to illustrate the need for visitors to be safety conscious will visiting the national seashore.

The Division collaborated with other divisions to develop a beach safety video that was distributed in both districts and to local schools, businesses, and government agencies. Baptist Foundation funded the project.

Educational Programs

Over one thousand educational programs were presented to over six thousand students in both districts. Traveling trunks in the Florida District went out 31 times to local schools and were seen by two thousand students.

The wilderness curriculum guide was completed and will be made available when the wilderness trunks are finalized for distribution to Mississippi teachers.

Volunteers provided pre-visit activities to students participating in the education programs. Over 300 pre and post-tests were given to upper elementary students who attended spring curriculum-based interpretive programs. The test results were not valid in many of the classes because teachers gave all the students the test whether they attended programs or not. The Division learned lessons from the experiences and devised a plan for testing in 2002.

Volunteers and Park Partners

The Division of Interpretation continues to depend heavily on volunteers to provide visitor and interpretive services. The dependence on volunteers was expanded this year in order to provide pre-visit activities to students participating in the education programs. Volunteers with interpretation in the Florida District contributed 13,771 hours and Mississippi volunteers contributed 6,716 hours for interpretation. Without the assistance of these dedicated individuals, the interpretive services would be drastically reduced. During the spring season, the division became acutely aware as to how valuable these volunteers are to the operation. Primarily because of health issues, an unusually high number of volunteers were unable to complete their volunteer service. Consequently, new volunteers had to be recruited, hired and trained in order to meet the demands of the interpretive schedule.

The Division published a list of activities for the Service to America patch program for Boy Scouts of America and Girls Scouts USA. A troop from Ocean Springs, Mississippi,

filmed and produced a video on *Leave No Trace* that was shown at the Earth Day Festival in the Mississippi District.

Gulf Islands NS formed a partnership with the Escambia County Environmental and Neighborhood Services Department in 2001. Educators produced a comprehensive educational program on coastal beach habitat protection featuring the endangered Perdido Key Beach Mouse. The county's "Got Habitat" included production of theater slides, a 20-minute documentary, color brochures, and encouraged dune vegetation plantings with volunteers plus sponsored workshops. All the services produced focused on the Perdido Key Area of the park. The Division benefited greatly from outside assistance especially since the Seashore did not have the funding or the employees to produce such a comprehensive educational program. The video was entered in a national contest and placed second.

In the Mississippi District, volunteers contributed their time for the Mardi Gras Parade, Earth Day Festival, and Sea Star Programs. Over 150 volunteers showed up in March for the *"Go Park Day"* event. Sponsored by Wal-Mart and Unilever, volunteers cleared bush along a trail route, pulled weeds, picked up trash, and conducted landscape duties around the visitor center. Unilever donated recycled plastic decking to the park for use in trail extension project.

Non-personal Services

The Division published two editions of the newspaper, *The Gulf Islands Guide,* and began the process of upgrading texts according to the NPS interpretive standards and new NPS publication templates for 13 site bulletins. Three educational programs were reprinted for distribution.

Park rangers completed a park-wide accessibility survey and developed a park-wide patch program for scouts, 4-H groups, and other organized participants

For the Mississippi District, two new site bulletins were produced: *"Ship Island Lighthouse"* and *"Cat Island"*. *"Camping on a Barrier Island"* was revised using the new NPS messaging format.

Cooperating Association

Eastern National closed the outlet at Langdon Beach Pavilion at the Fort Pickens Area after a second slow summer with few sales. New merchandise included the Gulf Islands National Seashore Junior Ranger patch.

Florida District

Eastern National operations have again provided excellent interpretive services to the public and valuable assistance to Gulf Islands National Seashore. Dana Frederick completed his first full year as the Eastern National Unit Manager at Gulf Islands National

Seashore. Overall, district sales figures were well above the previous year. Although the figures show very little change at Naval Live Oaks and Fort Barrancas, the figures show a significant increase at Fort Pickens. Dana Frederick was constantly on the lookout for new sales items and evaluating the salability of existing sales items. Visitation and sales at the Langdon Beach Eastern outlet were disappointing. From Memorial Day weekend to Labor Day weekend the Langdon Beach Eastern Sales area had 1,847 visitors and had sales of $1,332.15. Because of the poor visitation and sales, a decision was made to discontinue the Langdon Beach Eastern outlet.

Overall, sales at the Florida District for FY 2002 compared to FY 2001:

	Fort Pickens	**Naval Live Oaks**	**Fort Barrancas**	**Total**
2001	$89,917	$19,197	$27,068	$136,182
2002	$113,904	$22,109	$25,848	$161,861

The decrease in sales and visitation at Fort Barrancas located on board Pensacola Naval Air Station may be associated with the War on Terrorism and the aftermath of the terrorist attack on September 11, 2001.

Expenses in the Florida District from the Eastern Percentage account were $10,031.93 and from the AKA Reserve account was $8,939.33.

Eastern National donations contributed to the spring and fall volunteer appreciation picnics, purchased interpretive supplies and props, provided refreshments for teacher training workshops and special events, assisted with interpretive training expenses, paid for the living history presentation by Farris Powel, and assisted with printing costs of interpretive site bulletins and park newspaper.

Mississippi District

Mississippi District's Eastern National sales associate, Barbara Luedke, conducted monthly inventories, processed received merchandise, conducted weekly deposits, and requested new merchandise under the direction of the Eastern Coordinator. This was especially beneficial this year since two long tenured Park Rangers transferred and new personnel were hired who were unfamiliar with the Eastern National operations.

Visitation increased for the Visitor Center, but dropped at Fort Massachusetts from 2001 to 2002. An increase in sales of $4,544.31 occurred in the Visitor Center. Though there was decreased visitation for Fort Massachusetts, sales increased by $1,569.98. Due to cutbacks in personnel, volunteers were depended on to help operate the sales outlet.

	Visitation		Sales	
	2001	2002	2001	2002
Visitor Center	35,727	37,904	$21,596.70	$26,141.01
Fort Massachusetts	14,360	11,782	$2,357.14	$3,927.12

Many new sale items were added to the inventory this year. Items included books such as A Legacy in Brick and Stone; Fandex Field Guides: Civil War Generals, Trees, Wildflowers; What a Hell of a Place to Send 2,000 Men 3,000 Miles; The Gulf Gourmet Cookbook; and Camping with the Corps of Engineers. New non-book items were added to this year's inventory such as Ship Island Lighthouse Cross Stitch Kit, a kids "Story Behind the Scenery" Civil War Coloring Calendar, Birdsong Identifier, Portable Binoculars, Deck Prism, American Flag Screen Saver, American Flag Pins and Patches, Gulf Islands Junior Ranger Patch, Jaw Harp, Lighthouse Keeper Service Patch, and Miniature Cannon. These new items helped increase sales and kept the interest of Gulf Islands repeat visitors. Popular items that appealed to the young children were Dover's Little Activity Books because of their subject matter and cost. These items gave the children more of a hands-on learning experience. Framing prints and graphic nature postcards were our top selling items at the William M. Colmer Visitor Center bookstore and Confederate and Union money and The Fort Massachusetts Story were popular at the Fort Massachusetts outlet. Visitors contributed $838.34 to the donation boxes at the Visitor Center and Fort Massachusetts on Ship Island. These reserve account funds made Gulf Island's annual Earth Day festival on April 20th possible. Twenty-five exhibitors from various government and state agencies and local organizations participated in the event. A total of 2000 visitors attended the festival. Eastern percentage account funds were also utilized during the Earth Day Festival. These monies provided the opportunity for Tom Ulrich, wildlife photographer, and the *Leave No Trace* traveling trainers to educate festival-goers about North American wildlife and Wilderness Ethics.

Both the reserve and percentage accounts were used to fund other events this past fiscal year. Funding made it possible to participate in the Ocean Springs Mardi Gras Parade on January 19th, provide the holiday tree for the visitor center, celebrate the National Park Service's birthday, offer the recognition picnic for the park volunteers, and reward children who completed the summer Junior Ranger program.

ADMINISTRATION:

Progress continues to be made in the area of program management, planning and customer service. This fiscal year, customer service, internal controls, planning and safety were stressed.

Comprehensive internal audits were conducted on programs (credit cards {40}, third party drafts, storm damage, repair/rehab, line item constructions, reimbursable accounts, and fee demo, etc.). The Third Party Draft Agents wrote over 800 checks worth $259,345. The Budget Technician audited and processed over 200 travel vouchers totaling over $125,000. Three permanent change of station moves were funded by the region account for $88,596 and two moves were funded by the park for a total of $8,700.

The park requested and received $46,000 storm damage for Ship Island pier repair, $24,400 for Ft. Pickens storm damage repair, and $55,200 for Tropical Storm Hanna for a total of $125,600. These funds meant the park did not have to spend operating dollars on storm repair and allowed the park to meet the additional needs.

The Administrative Office identified the need for, and assisted in the writing of, an Operation Formulation Increase Request for base funding the lifeguard program that resulted in receiving $197,000 in base funding in FY02.

The Contracting Officer and Administrative Officer worked with the regional office in a pilot study to contract out (Competitive Out-Sourcing) the lifeguard services for FY02. The program was not contracted out but a good-faith effort was made and documented and the information we provided the Contractor, All Points Logistics, assisted the Contractor in successful contracts at two other NPS sites.

Budget worked extensively with park staff on the Service-wide Comprehensive Call (from November to May). Expanded OFS requests to nine and PMIS projects to over 200. Met all deadlines. This endeavor has already netted several approved projects for more than $679,000 dollars for FY 2003.

Administration assisted with the arrival of the new Chief of Maintenance in an effort to make the relocation from the Virgin Islands smooth. Upon his arrival, the administrative team worked with maintenance staff to arrange the best possible orientation to the park including visits to park facilities and review of park-wide programs such as budget/PMIS, employee relations issues, etc. Funding to move the new Mississippi District Law Enforcement Supervisor was obtained and assistance to ensure a smooth transition of this key position was provided. The division was also instrumental in the orientation of the acting Mississippi District Facility Manager during the spring and summer of FY2002.

In the area of maintaining productive partnerships, administration has maintained a good working relationship with the Florida Department of Transportation. The Budget Analyst worked with the area Chambers of Commerce in reviewing the area's GSA authorized per diem rates. The Contracting Officer made contact with the Small Business Administration to discuss how the new "Ideas" program will impact area businesses and the need to coordinate related training.

The Administrative Officer and Human Resource Officer developed a new Employee Assistance Program with Baptist Hospital after entertaining several proposals. The new

contract saved the park $1,500 and provided expanded services (three park-wide training sessions per year, financial and legal services for employees, employees family members incorporated).

The Budget Analyst conducted three in-house training sessions for park staff and implemented AFSiii in July. In addition, the Budget Analyst participated on a team of AFSiii instructors for four southeast parks. This commitment to support region required six training sessions at different parks in the Southeast Region and follow-up assistance to other parks during implementation and beyond.

The division assisted with gaining approval for funding ($350,000) of the Ship Island Beach Renourishment project (ACOE) from SER and WASO. This required developing a current/future spending plan and obtaining Director's approval for expenditure of construction funds (previously approved and allocated to GUIS).

The administrative team coordinated the accomplishment (with funding and contracting) several hurricane projects such as the road-paving project at Ft. Pickens, utility system repairs in the Florida District and pier repairs and dredging in the Mississippi District (these projects totaled more than $900,000).

Administration conducted recruitment, hiring and orientation for a much expanded '02 YCC program.

Administration coordinated two weapons inventories; the annual property inventory; conducted annual housing inspections, responded to PMDS report requests and met all deadlines.

The Human Resource Officer transferred to another park in July and the Human Resource Specialist, Human Resource Assistant and the Administrative Officer supported that function and handled several employee relation cases in addition.

The park was impacted by the DOI internet disconnect for two months. This situation put employees behind schedule in several areas such as AFSiii implementation, payroll, and IDEAS. One of the results of the internet shutdown was that over $99,000 in undistributed labor had to be manually cleared, as well as two months of backlog in credit card adjustments and deposit input into FFS that had to be corrected or entered.

Contracting wrote and received equipment replacement funds to replace HQ's photocopier. Assisted with finding funding and supervised the design/installation of new phone system for Davis Bayou Headquarters/Visitor Center.

The GPRA 2002 plan for Goal IVa6A was to provide additional training to supervisors and employees to increase employee awareness, implement safety strategies, take necessary corrective actions, and to reduce our number of lost time injuries from 5.6 to 4.2 - we had 3. Goal IVa6B was to reduce the COP hours to 500. The park had 48 COP hours.

Diversity initiatives were supported and goals established in the GPRA FY 2002 Annual Performance Plan were met. Human resources were managed in accordance with merit principles and applicable regulations. The park engaged in a variety of activities to implement diversity which resulted in recruitment and hiring of highly qualified, diverse candidates and diversity education was provided for all employees.

Administration participated in planning efforts for the addition of Cat Island to Gulf Islands NS including identifying operational and human resource needs, and developing plans for addressing those needs. The division assisted with putting appropriate plans for short-term operations of the new area in place by Oct. 1, 2002, and in identifying long-term planning needs. The AO constructed binder for each division containing OFS, PMIS, and start-up costs for Cat Island for reference in developing local divisional plans and in writing future project requests and assembled a year-end spending list and advocated the allocation of year-end funds for Cat Island. This resulted in the purchase of two vehicles (an ATV and "Mule"), a trailer and a storage facility at a cost of $20,000.

Administration participated in GMP planning by making initial contact to set up the GMP scoping session and making copies of planning documents (brochure/DO-2) for all divisions. They assembled planning documents, statistics, information and addresses for GMP process.

The entire park was converted to the WASO mandated Windows 2000 domain. This includes installation of two new servers, replacement of three additional servers, and upgrade of two other servers. Implementation of the new DOI Network Security Policies included the removal of all generic accounts and the creation of individual accounts, as well as updating dial up services to accept individual accounts. Thirty-two new computers were installed to replace units in the park that were at the end of their lifecycle.

The migration to the NPS standard operating system, Windows XP and word processing suite Office XP was initiated. Smartcop software was installed to replace the current antiquated Criminal Investigation Records Service.

Davis Bayou's Visitor Center local area network (LAN) was extended to the outlying maintenance area. This action increased productivity and included a substantial cost saving in the removal of dedicated phone lines.

FACILITY MANGEMENT:

Florida District

Fort Pickens district received asphalt overlay, striping and installation of wheel stops to roads and parking lots, from the ranger station to the public fishing pier including campgrounds, campground store, picnic and historic fortifications areas.

The old blackbird marsh boardwalk was demolished and removed and a new boardwalk structure (Regular Cyclic) was constructed in June 2002, with hand rails, which were added for safety to all four sections.

Electrical upgrades were performed and completed for the second floor area of the Naval Live Oaks Visitor Center and Administrative Office Building.

Rehabilitation work due to safety concerns was performed and completed for the district offices.

Rehabilitation work for the old concession building, including conversion to additional office space for protection rangers at Perdido Key was performed and completed.

A new outside registration desk was constructed and installed at the Perdido Key entrance station area.

The Okaloosa restroom facility received extensive repairs to the exterior envelope including; replacement of shower devices, roof repairs and painting.

Hardy plank material was painted and installed onto the Amphitheatre facility at Fort Pickens.

Rehabilitation work for the damaged wood frame stair package behind Battery Payne, which provides access over the seawall structure was performed and completed.

Preventive maintenance repair work was performed for metal security gates including sanding, welding and painting.

Preventive maintenance repair work was performed to the chlorination system including replacement of disinfection components, for the water treatment system at Fort Pickens.

Due to storm damage, a new copper roof was installed on the Visitor Center restroom facility and the lead roof was repaired in place on the quartermaster facility at Fort Pickens.

Deteriorated doors were replaced on the Fort Pickens water treatment system building.

Replacement of base structure and rehabilitation work for the entrance sign at Fort Barrancas was performed and the new approved NPS Arrowhead was installed.

The flagpole that was struck by lightning within the Fort Pickens Historic District was replaced.

Preventive maintenance repairs were performed on backsplash areas at the Santa Rosa restroom facility.

The interior envelop was painted at the Santa Rosa entrance station.

The rusted hurricane clips on the Langdon Beach Hut facility were replaced.

Non repairable absorption drain lines for the waste water treatment system within the Fort Pickens main campground were replaced.

Electrical upgrades were performed and completed in loops, B and D within the Fort Pickens main campground.

Deteriorated door was replaced at the Fort Pickens entrance station.

New tile floor was installed and interior envelop was painted at the Fort Pickens entrance station.

Safety stripes (yellow) were painted on steps and ramps at the Perdido Key crossover boardwalks.

A loading dock structure was constructed at the Carpentry shop facility.

Rehabilitation work was performed and completed to rebuild and reinstall the metal door at Battery Pensacola.

Repair work was performed and completed on Fort Pickens seasonal quarters 7-B including replacement of water damaged sheetrock, carpet installation and interior painting.

Preventive maintenance repair work and painting was performed and completed for picnic tables district-wide.

Damaged barbeque grills were replaced district-wide.

Defaced signs were replaced district-wide.

New signs, approved by the sign committee, were installed district-wide.

One work leader and six enrollees for the Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) program were hired.

Flammable storage lockers (Hazardous Materials-Waste Reduction and Management) were purchased.

The fire cache construction project (Fire Pro) pre contractor bid meeting was postponed in October 2002, until the funds are reallocated to the park. This project should be completed in 2003.

Mississippi District

Re-decking of the Visitor Center boardwalk (Regular Cyclic) with composite recycled T-Rex material and re-decking of the government boat dock piers with pressure treated lumber was completed.

Rehabilitation work was performed and completed for approximately 2000 sq. ft. of the Horn Island Pier.

A concrete slab was constructed for the 20'x 15' hazardous material building.

A concrete slab was constructed for two additional parking spaces within the maintenance compound.

Over 11,000 sq. ft. of interior and exterior envelope painting to buildings and facilities was completed.

Vegetation removal and maintenance from roadways and boundary areas was accomplished.

The bulkhead project was completed in December 2002

The paving and striping project was completed in January 2002.

Preventive maintenance for road shoulders was performed and completed including placement of new gravel along shoulder areas.

A crossover boardwalk for equipment to access the beach areas for beach sand renourishment projects was constructed.

Two enrollees for the Youth Conservation Corps (Youth Program) were hired.

Preservation crew performed and completed work on entrance archway to Fort Massachusetts.

The solar hot water/and insulation barrier project (Fee Demo20%) is waiting for approval of additional funds to proceed and should be completed in 2003.

The Emergency Roof Replace (Repair/Rehab) for the Visitor Center project contract was awarded in August 2002 and the work will be completed in early 2003.

A hazardous material building and storage containers (Hazardous Materials-Clean up of contaminated sites) were purchased.

Employee Development

Supervisor-WS-06 attended the Supervision II Training Course, October 2001.

Maintenance Worker-WG-07 attended the Carpentry Workshop (PAST) Program at Pea Ridge, Arkansas, November 2001.

14-Employees attended the HAZCOM Training, November 2001.

Maintenance Worker-WG-05 attended the Fundamental I (NPS Recreation & Preservation and Program (TELNET), December 2001.

19-Employees attended the Ethics Annual Refresher Training, December 2001.

4-Employees attended the Fire Refresher Training, January 2002.

Supervisor-WS-06 attended Communication: Key to Performance Management (TELNET), January 2002

14-Employees attended the Fall Protection Training, February 2002.

13-Employees attended Back Injury Prevention Training, February 2002.

8-Employees attended Genie Lift Training, February 2002.

Supervisor-WS-06 attended Positions, Descriptions: What Every Supervisor Should Know, March 2002.

Carpenter-WG-09/Maintenance Worker-WG-05 (Detail) Preservation Assignment-Hot Springs, Arkansas, April 2002.

15-Employees attended Blood borne Pathogens Training, April 2002.

Maintenance Worker-WG-07, graduated from the Preservation and Skills Training (2 year Program) certified by the Historic Preservation Training Center, Frederick, Maryland, April 2002.

Chief of Facility Management participated as a Board Member of Evaluations, for the trainees from the graduating class of 2002 (PAST) Program, Frederick, Maryland, April 2002.

Chief of Facility Management participated on the Equipment Replacement Committee, Evaluated and approved PMIS projects, at the Southeast Regional Office, April 2002. Facility Manager (FL) participated as a mentor, with the Preservation and Skills Training (PAST) Program, at the Historic Preservation Training Center, Frederick, Maryland, April 2002.

Maintenance Worker-WG-05 attended orientation meeting for Preservation and Skills Training (2 year program) Historic Preservation Training Center, Frederick, Maryland, April 2002 and will graduate in April 2004.

Facility Manager (FL) and Budget Technician/Facility Manager Assistant attended and completed the FMSS/MAXIMO Training Course, at the Southeast Regional Office, April 2002.

2-Supervisors -WS-06/WL-09 (Detail) Facility Condition Assessment Support to Blue Ridge Parkway, May 2002.

Electrician-WG-10- (Detail) Facility Condition Assessment Support to Blue Ridge Parkway, June 2002

Engineer Technician-GS-07 (Detail) Facility Condition Assessment Support to Blue Ridge Parkway, June 2002.

20-Employees attended IT Security Training, June 2002

Maintenance Worker-WG-05/WG-06 attended the Equipment Operator Safety Training, Middleboro, Kentucky, June 2002.

4-Employees completed the Small Water & Water Distribution/System Operations & Maintenance Correspondence Course, July 2002.

Maintenance Worker-WG-05 attended the Fundamental I (History, Mission, Government Partnership) TELNET, July 2002.

The Facility Management Division sponsored a COR/COTR Certification Course, with Northwest Procurement Institute, Inc. We were able to certify 15 of our employees, August 2002.

3-Employees attended the HAZWOPER Refresher Training, September 2002.

18-Employees attended the Diversity in the Workplace Training, September 2002.

RESOURCES MANAGEMENT:

Natural Resources

In the Florida District, sea turtle nesting was about half of the previous 8-year average. There were 18 nests: 5 green and 13 loggerhead. Two nests were lost to tropical storms Hanna and Isidore. Overall nest success was 59.9 percent. Hatchling disorientation due to light pollution from surrounding communities continues to be a problem. In this last year of the 2-year nesting sea turtle disorientation project, 30 percent of nests experienced light disorientation, but staff and volunteers redirected more than 1200 hatchlings safely into the Gulf of Mexico. Nest depredation was zero percent for the fourth year in a row due to an active staff and volunteer turtle management program. FY02 was the final year of 3-year project to satellite tag and track sea turtles to determine their migratory routes and over-wintering/foraging sites. Two additional female turtles, one loggerhead and one green, were outfitted with satellite transmitters. All six turtles tagged during the project have remained in the Gulf of Mexico. To the complete surprise of most scientists, three remained in the northern Gulf over the winter. One turtle migrated less than 10 miles from its tagging location in the park. The data from the tagging project supports cutting edge research on the location and range of the northwest Gulf of Mexico breeding population of marine turtles.

Under agreement between NPS and the Santa Rosa Island Authority, Gulf Islands continued to conduct nesting turtle patrols on Pensacola Beach. Nesting levels were low on Pensacola Beach with 4 nests located and monitored.

Funds were not available to overfly the Mississippi Islands on a regular basis this year so sea turtle nesting cannot be compared with previous years. Sporadic overflights documented 14 turtle crawls, 5 of which had body pits indicating eggs were laid. Nest success is unknown. Ten crawls were documented on Horn, one on Petit Bois, two on East Ship, and one on Cat Island.

Staff documented 13 stranded marine turtles in the Florida District. One was found alive and was taken to the Gulfarium in Fort Walton Beach for rehabilitation. In the Mississippi District, staff documented 27 sea turtle strandings (loggerhead and Kemp's Ridley) and 3 dolphin strandings from the park and adjacent Mississippi Gulf Coast.

As part of the park's gopher tortoise relocation and habitat restoration project, following development and implementation of a revegetation plan, 22 tortoises were either trapped or excavated and moved to new 6-acre site containing more suitable habitat in a more remote section of the Naval Live Oaks Area. Park staff and volunteers installed silt fence temporarily to keep the relocated tortoises from migrating back to their original site. Indications are that the tortoises have accepted their new location. Radio transmitters were obtained; when the tortoises emerge from their new burrows in the spring, a graduate student will tag and monitor them to determine dispersal and migration patterns.

The park conducted three prescribed burns: an 8-acre burn in Davis Bayou, and 22-acre and 62-acre burns in Naval Live Oaks for a park total of 92 acres. The Davis Bayou burn was the first prescribed burn ever held in the Mississippi District was conducted in February 2002. The Davis Bayou burn, in remnant pine savannah wetlands, reduced the fuel load and opened the canopy. Sun loving insectivorous plants such as sundew and yellow pitcher plants flourished following the burn and other species of orchids, club mosses and wiregrass re-established themselves in the burned area. Mechanical fuel reduction operations were conducted on Horn Island around the Ranger Station enclave and in Naval Live Oaks.

Ninety shorebird surveys were conducted on Florida park beaches on the Gulf of Mexico by staff and volunteers. Of these 15 were for the threatened piping plover on the north shore of the Santa Rosa Area. Snowy plover monitoring continued for the 5th season with 35 nests found and monitored. Mortality on park roads continues to be a problem because birds cross the road frequently in search of food. Depredation rates on nests were low, and no non-native depredation was documented.

In the Fort Pickens area, two large shorebird colonies of more than 100 pairs abandoned their eggs after two weeks of incubation. There were no indications that depredation was the cause. In other areas of the park, other smaller colonies nested successfully.

Shorebird, osprey and eagle surveys and monitoring were conducted on Horn, East Ship and Petit Bois Islands. On Horn Island, the one pair of bald eagles successfully nested and fledged a chick. Low nesting success of osprey continues to be problematic on Horn, Petit Bois and East Ship Islands. From the 60 nests on the 3 islands, only two Horn Island chicks fledged. In 3 colonies of shorebirds on Horn Island, 549 adult black skimmers produced 217 confirmed fledgling chicks. Two colonies on Spoil Island (between Horn and Petit Bois) of 230 birds comprising mostly black skimmers and a few gull-billed terns fledged 65 chicks. The islands continue to provide post-nesting season habitat for royal and sandwich terns and their young and a spring courtship area for least terns.

Non-native predator removal continued in the Florida District on a regular basis in close cooperation with the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. In the Mississippi District, the park consulted with the Louisiana Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries on the development of a nutria control plan for the barrier islands. The park has submitted a PMIS proposal to implement the plan. In FY02 the park conducted preliminary activity counts to identify nutria locations and experimented with baiting techniques. In contrast to other areas of the Gulf Coast where cold weather control has proven effective, the park determined that on West Ship Island control action is most successful at the beginning of warm weather in late March.

Seventeen Perdido Key beach mouse track surveys were conducted on four separate transect locations across Perdido Key. Track counts and separate trapping sessions by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service indicate the mice are currently well established in the

Perdido Key area of the park. In cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Auburn University, the park facilitated the first year of a multi-year Santa Rosa beach mouse research project in the Fort Pickens and Santa Rosa areas of the park. The park, the University of Florida and the U.S. Department of Defense-Air Force began a cooperative effort to determine effects of hurricane fragmented landscape on beach mouse preservation.

The park, through the Florida Exotic Plant Management Team, participated in a joint effort with the State of Florida and the Department of Defense-Navy to control invasive, exotic vegetation on the Naval Air Station at Pensacola, a seed source for invasive exotics in the park. Through the Gulf Coast Exotic Plant Management Team, the park stepped up control of invasive exotic vegetation on Horn Island and in Davis Bayou. In Davis Bayou control of cogon grass, Chinese tallow tree, and privet continued. The park contracted with Dr. Steve Brewer of the University of Mississippi to investigate the 100-acre Big Lagoon Fire arson area in the Horn Island wilderness for native plant recruitment, invasive exotics, and erosion effects. Aerial photos were taken of the area; park staff mapped exotics distribution and began removal of exotics. Fifty acres of Chinese tallow were treated by hand pulling approximately 3000 seedlings of an average 6 foot height.

In the first year of a two year project to restore relic dune habitat on Horn Island, the park researched impacts and restoration techniques, mapped the established and social trails, made contacts with local nurseries to propagate native relic dune species for revegetation of trampled areas, and obtained and staged geotextiles which will be used to stabilize the trail.

The park increased its ability to provide GIS for management needs. The Arcview upgrade was installed, maps were produced for public meetings and environmental documents, and, in cooperation with the Southeast Regional Office, the University of West Florida was established as a regional GIS technical support center. The park and the University of West Florida began a project to migrate park GRAS data to Arcview.

Resources Management staff represented the park on several organizations including:

- University of Florida Natural Resources Advisory Committee
- University of West Florida Environmental Studies Advisory Board
- Steering Committee for the Maritime Studies Institute of Escambia County Schools

With Escambia County agencies, the park organized several sea oat planting projects to revegetate damaged areas at Perdido Key. Park staff facilitated and cooperated with Escambia County's West Nile Virus surveys and monitoring program, and participated in review of the Natural Resource Management Plan for Naval Air Station-Pensacola installations. The park coordinated with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on the following permit applications:

- Little Sabine jetty
- Pensacola Beach sand nourishment
- Pensacola Pass dredging

- Ft. McRee disposal site management
- Beverly Place subdivision

Resources staff prepared the determination and analysis for the closure of the park to personal watercraft under the NPS regulation.

The park reviewed applications, coordinated with researchers, and issued 16 research permits and 5 educational permits for projects in the park. Resources staff also reviewed applications for special use permits which could impact resources.

During FY02 the park hosted a Geoscientist-in-the-Parks student to develop a management plan to guide reconstruction of park infrastructure and facilities following storm impacts. Resources staff assisted in planning and restoration following tropical storms Hanna, Isidore, and Lilly, including GPSing shorelines before and after storms. Staff also responded to the grounding of the Captain Tam in a park grassbed in Mississippi and provided a damage assessment following removal of the boat.

Resources staff supervised 4 Boy Scouts of America Eagle Scout projects in the park:

- Justin Hildebrand-install dune closure signs and plant sea oats at Perdido Key
- Jonathan Davis-construct and install 'Share the Shore' waysides at Perdido Key
- Robert Austin-install dune closure signs and remove old sand fence at Santa Rosa
- Jason Anderson-install fencing around gopher tortoise relocation area Naval Live Oaks

The park completed a project to improve its capability to respond to the appearance of hazardous or suspected hazardous substance containers on the beaches of the Mississippi Islands. A 400 square foot locker for temporary storage of hazardous material containers was obtained and installed on a concrete pad at the Davis Bayou boat dock. Aerial surveys for containers and ground truthing was conducted, and orphaned barrels were disposed of properly.

Cultural Resources

In FY02 the park again hosted training sessions by the servicewide Preservation and Skills Training (PAST) program, this year focusing on repointing and restoration of historic features at Fort Massachusetts. Along with park staff, the PAST trainees made significant repairs to this historic fortification.

Resources staff rebuilt the arch in Bastion B (Southwest Bastion) of Fort Pickens. This area had been closed to visitors due to falling brick and the threat of collapse. Additional work on Fort Pickens included restoration of the embrasures of Bastion B and repointing of about 300 square feet of the wall of Bastion B. At the Advanced Redoubt vegetation was removed and the masonry repointed and stabilized along the length of the cunnette (drainage ditch) in the dry moat.

Battery Pensacola doors and metal work were re-painted. More than 700 linear feet of the top of the counterscarp wall at the Bateria San Antonio (Water Battery) was re-stuccoed and the counterscarp walls repointed. Resources staff replaced the rear steps at the Captain's House. These steps had been closed to use as a safety hazard.

Park staff represented the park on the Pensacola Historical Council, an organization of cooperating historical organizations in the community.

The cooperative project with the Southeast Archeological Center to perform condition assessments on all the park's archeological resources was completed and the ASMIS data base updated to reflect current conditions. An ARPA permit was issued to the University of West Florida Archeological Center for survey, testing, and excavation needed to prepare a nomination for the 8ES22, 2nd Pensacola, archeological site as a National Historic Landmark. The University literature review, survey and initial testing conducted in FY02 recovered about 1000 artifacts from the site. The University is curating, cataloging and preparing these artifacts for storage at the NPS Southeast Archeological Center. The FY02 investigations indicated the site is likely to be intact enough and of sufficient historic and archeological significance to merit nomination as a National Historic Landmark. Work on this site will continue in the summer of FY03 and FY04.

Several newly washed up pieces of historic shipwreck were located and reported to the Underwater Archeological program of the University of West Florida for documentation. Work continued under ARPA permit during the summer of FY02 on the underwater excavation of an historic vessel in the Santa Rosa Sound adjacent to the Fort Pickens Area.

Environmental monitoring and curation of park museum collections resulted in the replacement of the air conditioners in buildings 17 and 12 which house museum storage in the Fort Pickens area. The park also replaced the dehumidifier in the main Battery Cooper exhibit area. In response to a request for a new exhibit for the Campground Registration area in the Ranger Station, the lyle gun, carriage and projectile were measured and possible exhibit cases researched. A piece of shipwreck from a small vessel, probably an 1800's snapper fishing smack, was recovered from the beach where it had recently washed ashore and stored for use as part of this exhibit.

Park funded backlog cataloging of archeological artifacts continued under SEAC contracts with the University of West Florida and University of Florida. Park staff began mounting and cataloging two collections, estimated to contain about 600 specimens of Mississippi island plants, collected by university researchers in the 1970's. Cataloging for about 100 plant specimens was completed with another 100 catalog records in draft. Notable FY02 accessions to the park museum collections included a circa 1911 photo album containing 65 sepia tone photos of activities at Fort Barrancas and Fort Pickens.

Park staff prepared written instructions for holders of park research permits regarding their responsibilities for curation and cataloging of natural history specimens collected in the park and not consumed in research. During FY02 Park staff completed and submitted the

annual inventory of museum collections, automated checklist, collections management report, and national catalog submission.

RESOURCE AND VISITOR PROTECTION:

Law Enforcement and Emergency Services:

Annual Law Enforcement/EMS Report

2002
Part I Offenses: 71
Part II Offenses: 5053
EMS Incidents: 578
Fatalities: 6

2001
Part I Offenses: 75
Part II Offenses: 4245
EMS Incidents: 581
Fatalities: 10

Rangers participated in eleven Homeland Security Details to protect visitors, national treasures, and significant sites. These included details at Independence (three), Shasta Dam (two), Mount Rushmore, and Washington, D.C. In addition, Ranger Bova worked a special detail over the July 4th weekend at Mt Rushmore and Rangers Parsons and Hughes worked the opening of Tuskegee National Historical Site. Ranger Parsons assisted in a special detail at Biscayne National Park at the annual Blessing of the Fleet. One protection ranger went on a wildland fire security assignment to Oregon.

Successful apprehension, investigation, and conviction of two subjects breaking into parked vehicles was accomplished. The two subjects were responsible for a dozen break-ins within the Fort Pickens and Opal Beach areas.

The newly acquired portions of Cat Island were patrolled up to several times per week by vessel and vehicle in order to provide for the safety of visitors and protect park resources. The caretaker of a lodge on the island was recruited and signed up as a volunteer in order to assist visitors, ensure their safety, and report violations to ranger staff.

NPS protection rangers participated in two interagency HIDTA operations, allowing for an increased presence on the waters of the park by enforcement personnel from U.S. Customs, the U.S. Coast Guard, and Harrison County Sheriff's Office. These HIDTA operations resulted in narcotics being seized and suspects arrested, leading to a safer park environment for visitors.

Numerous commercial fishing and recreational fishing stops resulted in increased protection for endangered marine mammals and fish species found along the upper Gulf Coast. The successful nesting of sea turtles along the island beaches is partially due to the park's commercial fishing prohibition and enforcement efforts. Eight commercial fishing were successfully prosecuted.

Two suspects in an arson case were indicted and pled guilty to starting the illegal fire on Horn Island in a federal designated wilderness area.

Protection rangers investigated an incident on Horn Island where persons brought motorized equipment onto the island to salvage a grounded vessel. This resulted in disturbance of the shoreline. Also, one of their vessels they brought in to assist them was broken into pieces in the rough surf and there was a large amount of debris on the beach. The operator of the track-hoe was issued a violation notice and will be appearing in federal court to face charges.

The park's law enforcement information management technology was upgraded by fully implementing a computer-aided dispatch, mobile data terminals and a records management system. This system replaced the outdated CIRS system. Selected ranger division personnel also received additional "Train the Trainer" SMARTCOP training. This was accomplished through a $300,000 donation from SMARTCOP.

The Emerald Coast chapter of MADD recognized Gulf Islands National Seashores Rangers for their excellent efforts in reducing DUIs. Rangers DUI arrests increased from 24 to 60. Ranger Ryan Parr received recognition from MADD for his outstanding DUI arrest record.

The ranger division oversaw yearly preventative maintenance service by Panhandle Alarm Company to the park's alarm system and the reconditioning and servicing of Opal Beach gates.

Tropical Storm Isadore caused considerable damage to natural resources. Sand covered the Fort Pickens access road up to a depth of 4 feet. Additional closings occurred on the Navarre Beach Road between the end of Pensacola Beach and Opal Beach, where the roadbed was washed out. The park was closed for a period of three weeks while the roads and parking lots were uncovered and major road repairs were made to Navarre Beach Road. The park functioned under ICS for two weeks with damages exceeding 5 million dollars.

Rangers assisted local agencies with the Navarre Beach Run, the annual Memorial Day activities on Pensacola Beach, and the Blue Angels. The Santa Rosa Island Triathlon was cancelled due to Tropical Storm Isadore.

Ranger Carl Dyer successfully completed an eighty-hour physical security specialist program at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center at Glynco, Ga. All structures were inspected for

physical security deficiencies and an improvement plan has been implemented, with most deficiencies already corrected.

Commissioned personnel received training in numerous law enforcement subjects, including Weapons of Mass Destruction, flexible baton shotgun training, officer safety & survival, pursuit driving, radar operations, intoxilizer operations, non-lethal training ammo, and defensive tactics.

Surf Rescue

Surf rescue program was expanded with lifeguard services beginning in March. There were no drownings at lifeguarded beaches. Three Junior Lifeguard sessions were conducted for 36 young adults. The United States Lifesaving Association recognizes the park as a trendsetter for surf rescue in NW Florida.

A temporary Lead Lifeguard was hired to fill in behind John Hunter who has been activated by the United States Air Force reserves. A second Lead Lifeguard was hired later in the season to fill a vacancy that had occurred.

Nine seasonal Lifeguards were hired for summer season. Four guards were brought on in early April to work Perdido Key and Langdon Beach to provide five-day a week coverage.

EMS

A $40,000 grant from the State of Florida's Bureau of EMS was received and administered. With this grant the park purchased 15 additional Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) to bring the total within the park to 17 (FL 13/MS 4). In addition to the actual AEDs the grant covered training and ancillary equipment. This brought the park in compliance with the Presidential Memorandum dated May 19, 2000, requiring AEDs in all Federal buildings as well as with GSA Publication entitled "Guidelines for Public Access Defibrillation Programs in Federal Facilities" dated May 23, 2001.

The Chief Ranger negotiated MOUs with three of the four EMS providers for GUIS (**FL**: Escambia County & Rural/Metro) (MS: AMR). The fourth one (Arcadian - MS) has not responded back after repeated attempts. A ride-along program for the LE Rangers with the aforementioned EMS providers was arranged

EMS SOPs were updated and the EMS Coordinator assisted the park's Safety Specialist in reviewing & rewriting the Park's Bloodborne Pathogens Policy.

The Park's EMS CEU program has been improved upon and CEU classes/opportunities are being provided for the protection rangers. First Aid and CPR training was provided for the YCC group and all GUIS personnel.

Resource Issues

In order to protect the natural resources including air, water, animals, and natural quiet, personal water craft (PWC) were banned at the seashore in April 2002. Once the ban took place, there were 70 PWC contacts throughout the summer. Visitors were educated about the ban, warnings were given, and in one instance a violator was issued violation notices including one for reckless operation. A collateral fine was established by the Magistrate Judge for PWC violations.

Rangers assisted resource management staff with stranded marine mammals and endangered sea turtle programs. District Ranger Bandurski wrote and implemented the prescribed fire burn plan. Protection rangers assisted the RM division by monitoring dead and stranded sea turtles and marine mammals. This included photography, measurements, and documentation.

Staff members initiated monitoring the affects of the arson fire that occurred on Horn Island in 2001. Two suspects in the arson case were indicted and pled guilty to starting the illegal fire in a federal designated wilderness area.

Staff members initiated monitoring the affects of the arson fire that occurred on Horn Island in 2001.

Osprey and American Bald Eagle nesting on Horn Island was monitored and protected through the cooperative efforts of the R&VP and the RM divisions. Nesting shorebird closures for terns, skimmers, and other species were established on Horn and Spoil Islands this year, resulting in the successful hatching of over a thousand shorebird chicks.

Weekly water quality testing was conducted at the West Ship Island designated swim beach when the concession operation was running. Park personnel conducted the tests and samples were transported to a State-testing laboratory for analysis. Monthly water quality testing was performed at the residences on Horn and Ship Island.

Protection rangers monitored a training exercise held by Chevron's Oil Spill Response Team on Petit Bois Island to simulate oil recovery, using handheld GPS units to locate not only a simulated spill source but also track simulated oil slicks in water and give locations of sensitive areas of the islands that will need to be protected in the event that an oil slick is threatening them.

Fee Collection:

Gross Revenue Collected: FY2001

Net Income $1,245,006

Gross Revenue Collected: FY2002

Net Income $1,618,575

Increase of $373,569

Annual Park Pass sales increased from $20 to $25 and 7-Day entrance fee increased from $6 to $8 based on an extensive comparability study. Estimated increase in income is $250,000.

Perdido Key and Fort Pickens Entrance Stations security cameras were upgraded to digital remote access system. Panic alarms were installed at Campground Registration Office.

CoC Project – Electrical upgrade of B & D Loops was completed and electricity activated on February 1, 2002.

Monthly Public Contact Report was reassigned to Fee Collection operation. Public Contact Report Audit was completed by Butch Street, DSC. Butch will continue to work with us to establish boat use baseline information with over-flight protocol.

Statistical information was programmed into all entrance station computers to capture information pertaining to all entrances made into the park utilizing 7-Day receipts, Golden Age Pass, Golden Access Pass, National Park Pass, Golden Eagle, and GUIS Annual Pass.

Beta testing for NPRS (Spherix) web based reservation program was completed including the need for the installation of a satellite dish.

Perdido Key Backcountry Camping Self-Registration Station became fully operational.

Three seasonal VUAs were selected with Student Hiring Authority – 2 from local colleges and 1 from Nebraska. Furloughs (2 pay periods each) completed for seven GS-5 VUA positions.

An extended detail was completed by one employee with WASO Fee Revenue Program to assist with NPRS day to day field operations - duties included organizing and presenting two one-week session at NPRS call center in Cumberland Maryland, assisting with writing 2003 NPRS RFP, Monthly Refund Report and cancellation adjustment refund requests, and assisting parks with miscellaneous NPRS issues.

One employee participated on two fire details for approximately 14 days each.

Specialized accessibility training provided for two visually impaired employees on the use of JAWS and Lotus Notes.

Safety

Rangers completed on-line safety training and have had no lost time injuries.

Structures on Horn and West Ship Islands and the mainland in the district were inspected by personnel for fire safety deficiencies and a correction plan was implemented.

A twelve hour emergency patrol boat operations course for the Gulf Breeze Police Department was coordinated and instructed. This mutual aid agreement training was conducted over a two day period, and included both classroom and practical boat exercises. Gulf Islands also sponsored Motor Boat Operators Course for other park service employees.

Employees assisted FLETC by serving as instructors for four Motorboat Operator Instructor Certification Courses (@ Gulf Islands, Assateague Island, and two courses at Lake Mead).

Employees received training on bloodborne pathogens, preventing back injuries, aviation training, and surf rescue.

Employees were interviewed by Keystone International, who conducted a safety assessment in the district.

A hazardous materials storage building was acquired and installed at the Government boat dock parking lot, providing a safe storage area for flammable and hazardous materials used at on the islands. Fuel spill prevention and containment materials for boat refueling are located on Horn and West Ship Islands and the mainland fueling station.

All red-carded wildland firefighters received annual refresher training and successfully passed the Pack Test.

Personnel

One seasonal protection ranger was hired for summer season.

Ranger Parr was hired in April, and Jay Drinkwater was hired in June. Their professionalism is an asset to our staff.

Rangers Ryan Parr, Tim Wilkinson, and Lance Twombly attended FLETC.

Ranger Bova was awarded the Medal of Valor Award in Washington D.C. for his heroic life saving attempt to rescue a distressed swimmer during the summer of 2001. In addition, Rangers Hughes and Parr received an Exemplary Act Award for their attempts to resuscitate two visitors who had been struck by lightening, also in 2001.

All R&VP personnel's performance plans were directly linked to Annual Performance Goals.

All R&VP Division employees successfully completed the web-based Information Technology Security Awareness training course.