

GULF ISLANDS NATIONAL SEASHORE
Annual Narrative Report
October 1, 2002 through September 30, 2003

MANAGEMENT OVERVIEW:

In January of 2003 two public scoping meetings were held to consider the use of personal watercraft (PWC) within Seashore boundaries. The park staff worked with the WASO Environmental Quality Division (EQD) and the initial contractor, EDAW, to complete the draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for PWC use within the Seashore. Internal scoping, as well as public scoping meetings were held and communication with political interests, the PWC Industry, the Wilderness Society, Washington (WASO) Special Regulations Office, and other interested parties is on-going. All draft documents were reviewed and submitted to EQD and EDAW as requested. Although the PWC EA was expected to be available for public review in June, 2003, due to contracting conflicts, a new contractor was selected and is in the process of completing the final EA, which is tentatively expected to be released in December, 2003.

The Park began work on a new General Management Plan (GMP) to replace the 1978 plan. Two orientation/planning sessions were held with GMP team members from the park, Denver Service Center, Southeast Regional Office and Mather Training Center. Data collection needs were identified and work began to strategize for FY '04 activities. Mailing lists were developed and initial notifications to interested parties were initiated for GMP planning. The Park plans to incorporate the Commercial Services Plan (CSP) process in conjunction with the GMP and the SER Chief of Concessions and Concessions Program Center Planner Terry Goodrich also participated in the planning sessions.

Funding for the second purchase for land on Cat Island was obtained and work continues to finalize the appraisal so the final purchase can be completed. Temporary docking and storage facility were constructed on the island and a four wheel drive vehicle procured to allow initial resource and protection activities to occur. Dialogue and communication with the Regional/WASO lands office, MS political interests, the Boddie family and the Trust for Public Land continues.

The Park participated in the Business Plan Initiative and completed the plan during the summer of 2003, working with two consultants for eleven weeks to collect, analyze, and assemble the required information.

In June of 2003, a Pre-Planning Project meeting was held with representatives from the Denver Service Center, SERO, Federal Highway Administration, Federal Transit Authority, and Volpe Center staff, for an alternative transportation project which involves construction of a passenger ferry pier and potential concession contract for services to the Fort Pickens area of the Seashore.

The park entered into an Interagency Agreement with the Federal Highway Administration and received a grant of \$200,000 to procure portable variable message signs to address congestion and emergency evacuation. Project partners for this project include the City of Gulf Breeze, Escambia County Emergency Management, the Santa Rosa County Sheriff, the Santa Rosa Island Authority, the Pensacola Police Department, and the Florida Department of Transportation.

The two priority targets identified in the park's GPRA plan were: 1) Goal IVb1 – Increase volunteer hours - The total number of volunteer hours for FY '03 was 55,393, plus 3, 077 SCA hours. This exceeds our five year goal of increasing volunteer hours to 44,629. 2) Goal IVb2B – Increase cash value of donations - The cash value of donations, grants, and services provided to the park during FY '03 by the Friends Group and other organizations was \$111,783.

This included \$103,680 for a building which was constructed by the U. S. Forest Service and was officially added to the Seashore's real property records in September, 2003. The building is being utilized by the Forest Service for a three-year wind research project, while the Park is also utilizing it as office space for the Division of Facility Management. In addition, we received a \$3,000 donation from Clear Seas Communications and \$155 from the Institute for Human and Machine Cognition to the general donation account, and two donations from Eastern National: \$2,348 to cover National Association for Interpretation training for park Interpreters and \$2,600 to cover printing site bulletins and the park newspaper. This exceeds our five-year goal to increase donations, grants, and services to \$1,000.

The park presented the first annual Robert Johnson Diversity Award to Amanda Carrigan-Grissom. This award was implemented by the EEO Committee and allows employees to nominate someone they feel has shown a spirit and substance reflecting a pledge to diversity, has shown a commitment to diversity, and has displayed this spirit and commitment through acts and deeds such as mentoring, aiding or standing as an example. Family members of the late Mr. Johnson were present for the presentation. A plaque was also presented to Mr. Johnson's family members.

The YCC program more than doubled this fiscal year and of the 18 participants, seven minorities, seven females and one disabled person were hired. In an effort to maximize applicant diversity, the park participated in one of the local high schools' career fair. Despite some challenges, the YCC program was a huge success.

For new permanent hires, one minority was selected in the 0025 series and one minority selected in the 0201 series. There were five career ladder promotions in the 0025 series, one a female; one female was promoted in the 1101 series; one minority was promoted in the 1640 series; and one female career ladder promotion in the 0303 series. Nine appointments under the STEP program were made, six of which were minorities.

Diversity statistics of the permanent workforce (88 total) are: 21 minorities (24%), 26 females (30%), and 13 disabled (15%).

The park looked into the feasibility of contracting lifeguard services and completed a competitive sourcing cost comparison for these services during FY 03.

On-going communication and partnership activities continue with organizations such as the Florida National Scenic Trail, the Unilever National Park America Tour, the University of West Florida, and the City of Gulf Breeze.

Two late tropical storms in the summer of '02 and one storm during the summer of '03 affected the park with resulting road, trail and pier repair completed. Pier repair as well as fuel line installation for both Horn and West Ship Islands was necessary due to storm damage.

Funding to construct a fire cache in the Naval Live Oaks Area was obtained and construction began in July, 2003.

The park continued to support Homeland Security, fire, special event and other special need or disaster events.

Total fee revenue collections for the park were \$1,681,048. Fee demonstration projects included rehab of historic structures at Fort Pickens and rehab work at Fort Barrancas, work on the Davis Bayou Nature Trail, and upgrade of utility systems in the Fort Pickens Area.

Safety Program

The park continued to work with Keystone International through the NPS Safety Program Assistance Contract to complete a documented risk management program and the contractor conducted training sessions on developing a Documented Risk Management Program, Job Hazard Analysis preparation, and Conducting Supervisory Safety Inspections.

· GUIS hosted an OSHA 600 course on Pensacola Beach in February, 2003, and ten supervisors from the park staff attended.

There were 7 sessions of the annual Bloodborne Pathogens update training presented by the Safety Officer and there were 5 sessions of the annual HAZCOM update training presented.

As a result of these training courses, supervisors have begun preparation of Job Hazard Analysis (JHA) for work assignments. Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) are being updated and new ones acquired as new products are brought into the workplace. Work continues on updating the master MSDS file for the Seashore and the inventory of chemicals on hand.

In May 2003 a HAZWOPER 24-hour first responder course was conducted at Fort Pickens and it included the 8-hour annual refresher course. Several park employees attended one or both parts of the training.

A follow-up environmental audit was completed during FY 03 with many improvements noted since the original audit in 2001.

In lieu of an annual park-wide hazard inspection, the Safety Officer conducts monthly inspections of various work areas to identify hazards and schedule them for abatement. In addition, some supervisors have begun monthly inspections of work areas of employees under their supervision.

Volunteer Program

For FY 03 a total of 55,393 hours of time was contributed by 1505 volunteers. Breakdown of hours by activity follows:

Administration =	590	Maintenance =	5,580
Campground Host =	16,448	Natural Resource =	4,000
Cultural Resource =	6,997	Protection/LE =	680
Interpretation =	21,098		

The Seashore exceeded the GPRA goal of a 10% increase from FY 97.

A Volunteer Manual for use by new volunteers was prepared. It was issued to all volunteers seeking comments and ideas for improvement. It will be updated as the need arises and will be given to all new volunteers when they first arrive in the Seashore.

The International Beach Cleanup, sponsored by the Center for Marine Conservation, coincided with National Public Lands Day in September. 1163 volunteers from the local communities turned out and cleaned up 97 miles of shoreline in the park. They worked a total of 5433 hours, picking up over 9 tons of debris.

INTERPRETATION AND EDUCATION:

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, junior ranger programs, school programs, and special events. All visitor centers were opened year-round with the assistance of other division personnel and volunteers. Non-personnel services including preparing site bulletins, wayside exhibits, and updating the park's webpage were accomplished.

Staffing

In 2003 the Division had a permanent staff of three supervisory park rangers, one interpretive staff assistant, and six permanent rangers. Florida District Rangers were detailed to West Ship Island to support interpretive operations during the busy summer season. Because of their absence, Florida summer interpretive program offerings were decreased.

Four part-time STEP employees provided assistance primarily at the Davis Bayou, Naval Live Oaks Visitor Centers and Fort Barrancas. Due to lack of funds the part-time STEP position at Fort Barrancas was eliminated. Visitor Use Assistants staffed the Naval Live Oaks Visitor Centers; Mississippi Program Assistant and a temporary STEP employee assisted with operations at Davis Bayou Visitor Center.

The Seashore did not hire seasonal rangers in the Mississippi District but selected two Student Conservation Association "Transportation Interpreters" with grant money from the National Park Foundation and Ford Motor Company. These two interns, Michael Haberecht (University of South Alabama) and Kallie Smith (University of Southern Illinois graduate), rode the concession ferries providing visitor information about the park and conducted "Island Treasures" programs during the trip from Gulfport, MS to West Ship Island. They also assisted rangers with Fort Massachusetts operations, maintained West Ship Island bulletin boards, and prepared an alternative transportation brochure. An additional SCA Mary Catherine Hartley, a student at Mary Washington College, was hired to assist the rangers and present fort tours on the island.

Special Events

Interpretive and education programs highlighted diversity at the Seashore through new programs throughout the year. For African American History Month the program "Local Heroes: General Chappie James and Rosamond Johnson" was presented in the Florida District. Support for this program was given by a member of the Fee Collection Operation staff, Visitor Use Assistant Joseph Herring, who produced a PointPoint program containing interviews, historic photographs, and music. The Great Baptist Union Church choir performed as well. "Life Experiences of Lanier Phillips: WWII, Korean Conflict Veteran and Civil Rights Activist" was presented in the Mississippi District. To honor National Women's History Month "Women of The Civil War" was presented in both districts. To commemorate National Asian-Pacific Month a special program, "Nisei Soldiers on Cat Island" was presented in the Mississippi District. To educate the public about the role of the Spanish for National Hispanic Month, Ann Dalton, was hired to present a first person account of a French woman that visited the Spanish settlement Santa Maria de Galve in 1701. Other special interpretive programs included 13th Coastal Artillery Open House at Battery Cooper, Wilderness Celebration, 32nd anniversary of Gulf Islands National Seashore programs, National Parks Weeks, International Migratory Bird Day, archeology programs, "Unearthing Santa Rosa Pensacola", National Trail Day, and Mississippi District Earth Day Celebration "The Earth: Only Ours to Borrow, Leave some for Tomorrow".

Outreach activities included Earth Day in Pensacola, Water Festival in Milton, Mardi Gras parades in Ocean Springs and Pensacola Beach, Christmas Parade in Gulf Breeze, Celebrate the Gulf in Long Beach, various career fairs in Mississippi, Reach for the Beach Clean-up in MS, International Coastal Clean-up in both districts, and Market Place Expo in Gulf Breeze.

Almost all hands provided assistance at the Boater's Rendezvous on West Ship Island in June.

Non-Personal Services

The division published two editions of *The Guide* that highlighted Seashore changes as a result of late 2002 tropical storms, safety, personal watercraft use, Youth Conservation Corps, archaeology at Santa Rosa Pensacola 1722-1752, sea turtles, Pensacola's "First Shot." New site bulletins: *Endangered Species of the Seashore*, *Naval Live Oaks*, *Florida Animal Checklist*, *Cat Island*, and *Ship Island Lighthouses* were published using the new National Park Messaging Project format. Two new trailhead exhibits were installed at Naval Live Oaks. The Fortified Site exhibit at Fort Barrancas Visitor Center with new information about the Spanish Fort San Carlos de Austria was updated as well as the new "Save the Birds" exhibit in the Fort Pickens Museum. After eight years the two audio stations for "Sea of Plenty" and "Vanishing Landforms" exhibits in the Fort Pickens Museum were repaired. A new kiosk at Opal Beach for the Florida Scenic Trail was dedicated in June. Temporary exhibits in the Mississippi District included the "Louisiana Native Guards" and "National Park Service". The Mississippi District displayed Southeast Region's "Managing Fire in the Parks" exhibit.

Visitor Center and Interpretive Programs

The staffs at the Naval Live Oaks, Fort Pickens, Fort Barrancas, and Davis Bayou Visitor Centers plus Fort Massachusetts Guard Room contacted 192,503 visitors. Approximately 1,430 interpretive programs including formal tours (Advanced Redoubt, Barrancas, Massachusetts, and Pickens), demonstrations (cast nets), special events, and education programs were given to over 42,500 visitors.

Seven interpretive products were sent for review for the Interpretive Development Program.

Outreach

There were 34 community outreach programs in 2003. The seashore's national website was replaced with a new format including new digital images. The National Park WebRanger was launched nation-wide.

Safety

The division's supervisors attended OSHA 600 safety training. The Mississippi District Interpreter led CPR, AED, and First Aid Training for the Mississippi staff and the Marine Education Center in Biloxi. Interpretive Ranger Ann Schlichting chaired the safety committee. One employee was involved in an accident with no lost time. Surf flags and an exhibit panel describing the flags were installed on West Ship Island swim beach.

Educational Programs

Forty-eight educational programs were presented to over 3100 students in both districts. Traveling trunks in the Florida District went out 38 times to local schools and were seen by 5,220 students.

Gulf Breeze High School students under the direction of their instructor, Mary Easley, started a program to document the natural resources of the Naval Live Oaks Area and made PowerPoint programs from their digital images and booklets for elementary students. Student interns Shelby Kimbrough and Michael Westafer assisted the park with the scanning historic photographs and developing an educational program for the Naval Live Oaks Area.

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 result showed there was an overall improvement made by those students who attended the ranger-led programs and an even greater improvement made by those students who attended a pre-visit from a ranger or volunteer in their classroom. Based on last year's "lessons learned", new, student-friendly lists of questions were devised for both districts.

Volunteers and Park Partners

The Division of Interpretation continued 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 13,864 hours and Mississippi volunteers contributed 7,234 for interpretation. Without the assistance of these dedicated individuals, the interpretive services would be drastically reduced. Through out the year, the division is acutely aware to how valuable these volunteers are to the operation. Primarily because of health issues, many volunteers are unable to complete their volunteer service. Consequently, the volunteer program is a revolving door with new volunteers that continuously need to be recruited, hired and trained in order to meet the demands of the interpretive schedule.

Cooperating Association

Florida District

Eastern National operations have again provided interpretive services to the public and valuable assistance to Gulf Islands National Seashore. Dana Frederick was replaced by Jim McEachern in June as the Eastern National Unit Manager at Gulf Islands National Seashore. Overall, district sales figures were slightly above the previous year. Although the figures show a decrease in sales at Naval Live Oaks and Fort Barrancas, the figures show an increase at Fort Pickens. Keeping the outlets well-stocked is a goal for 2004. Overall, sales at the Florida District for FY 2003 compared to FY 2001 and 2002:

	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
2003	\$118,506	\$21,823	\$22,156	\$162,485

The decrease in sales and visitation at Fort Barrancas located on board Pensacola Naval Air Station is linked to closures of the base and reduced stock. Not having enough stock presented a problem at the Naval Live Oaks Area as well.

Expenses in the Florida District from the Eastern Percentage account were \$5,471.41 and from the Reserve Donation account were \$1,188.10.

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 Ann Dalton and provided donation money to cover printing costs of interpretive site bulletins and park newspaper.

Mississippi District

The part-time Eastern National staff member, Barbara Luedke, managed the Mississippi District bookstore operations. She conducted the monthly inventory, processed received merchandise, conducted weekly deposits, and requested new merchandise under the direction of the Eastern Coordinator. Her work allowed staff to concentrate on other projects and interpretive programming. Barbara assisted in the information desk operations when we were short staffed by answering the park phone and responding to visitor inquiries. Volunteers and staff sold Eastern merchandise.

Visitation increased for the Visitor Center and Fort Massachusetts in 2003. However, a decrease in sales of \$1364 occurred in the Visitor Center and \$1875 at Fort Massachusetts. Due to cutbacks in personnel, the staff depended on volunteers to help operate the sales outlet. Receiving merchandise was a problem in both locations.

Visitation

	Davis Bayou	Fort Massachusetts	Total	Change
2001	35,727	14,360	50,087	
2002	37,904	11,782	49,686	-401
2003	42,821	17,354	60,175	+10,088

Eastern Sales

	Davis Bayou	Fort Massachusetts	Total	Change
2001	\$21,597	\$2357	\$23,954	
2002	\$26,141	\$3927	\$30,068	+\$6,114
2003	\$24,776	\$2052	\$26,828	-\$3,240

Many new sale items were added to the inventory this year. Items included books such as: *National Audubon Field Guide to the Southeast*, *Sink or Be Sunk!*, *Fort Pickens Story*, and *Fort Barrancas Story*. New non-book items were added to this year's inventory such as: Ship Island Ornament, Optic Wonder, Bird Identifier, Gulf Islands Tote Bag, Confederate Coin Set, Scramble Squares Lighthouse, and Civil War Musket Rifle. High sales items at both outlets included postcards, Gulf Islands patch and pin, National Park Service Map and Guide, *Camping with the Corps of Engineers*, *The Fort Massachusetts Story*, Optic Wonder, mini binoculars, Confederate and Union paper money, and nature posters.

Percentage account funds made Gulf Island's annual Earth Day festival on April 12th possible. The Earth Day Festival is the largest event the park coordinates each year. Twenty-five exhibitors from various government and state agencies and local organizations participated in the event. Headliners Calloway Gardens and EarthQuest conducted "Birds of Prey" programs for the festival goers. Visitors witnessed the flights of falcons, owls, hawks, and a black vulture while learning about these magnificent birds. A total of 1841 visitors attended the festival.

The percentage account was also used to provide the visitor center with a holiday tree, celebrate the National Park Service's birthday, and reward children who completed the summer Junior Ranger program.

Visitors contributed \$1,224.83 to the donation boxes at the Visitor Center and Fort Massachusetts on Ship Island. These reserve funds were used for other events this past fiscal year. Funding made it possible to recognize the park volunteers with a picnic, celebrate wilderness, hand out marine animal toys to children during the Ocean Springs Mardi Gras Parade, celebrate the park's 32nd Anniversary, and purchase supplies for the *Wilderness Trunks*, a traveling trunk with curriculum based classroom activities for 5th graders.

Special Issues

The Division assisted with PWC public meetings, attended the initial planning meetings for the General Management Plan, provided extensive information and digital images for the Gulf Islands National Seashore Business Plan, and attended the 2003 Pensacola Bay Watershed Summit.

ADMINISTRATION:

The year began with Tropical Storm Isidore. The park went into incident command system (ICS) mode to cope with the storm recovery and those efforts continued for several months. T.S. Isidore resulted in approximately \$5,000,000 worth of damage and the park submitted six PMIS recovery project requests totaling \$3,678,772. See budget section for additional information.

The FY02 and FY03 GPRA annual accomplishment reports were completed and the PMDS updated. GPRA '03 plan and news release were accomplished and GPRA cross linked to PMIS, OFS, and performance critical results and budget.

The Park's Operation Formulation System (OFS) information (base funding increases) was revised. Ten requests for operational increases totaling \$4,559,000 were submitted. The Performance Management Information System (PMIS) Servicewide Comprehensive Call (SCC), November through February, was accomplished. The park entered 272 proposals in PMIS for a total of \$36,136,452. Throughout the year PMIS projects were reviewed, edited and accomplishment report information entered by park staff. Preparations began in August for the 2004-08 SCC (opening November, 2003). Twenty-seven park staff were trained in two sessions (one in each district) on PMIS.

The Park applied for and received funding to complete a Business Plan. Two student/consultants, Justin Davis and Lena McDowell, were involved for 11 weeks to assist in collecting, analyzing information, and assembling the plan. The Administrative Officer attended training in Yosemite.

Administration coordinated and participated in a planning workshop for an alternative transportation project (Ft. Pickens Ferry Pier) June 10-12. Members of the planning group included: Karen Pinell, Eastern Federal Lands Highway Division, Community Planner; Mark Tabor, NPS, Denver Service Center; Mike Dyer, Volpe Center; Derek Scott, Federal Transit Administration; Mariano Berrios, Florida DOT, Environmental Development Engineer; Mary Robinson, Senior Planner, Metropolitan Planning Organization; Kent Cochran, NPS, SER Engineer, Federal Lands Highway Program; Henry Benedetti, NPS, SER Chief Concessions and park staff.

DOI/NPS began implementation of a new activity-based costing/management (ABC/M) system in August to be fully operational by October 1. The park's budget had to be reconstructed manually in the financial system.

Year end procurement dates were published May 29th. Cooperation was critical due to tight dollars and accelerated year-end closeout dates.

Last day for awards was August 8, last day for credit cards was August 15, purchase orders were complete by September 5 (MS) and September 12 (FL). IDEAS closed September 22.

Information Technology

The park Information Technology Specialist, Donnie Majors, hosted basic windows training for employees in MS and FL districts. In addition, working in concert with the Administrative Officer, Administrative Team and other park staff accomplished the following:

Set up Ideas, AFS3 training classes for 15+ students including computer and internet access.

Installed satellite internet service at Ship and Horn islands to allow remote users adequate access for email and other applications; set up networks at each site so the connection can be shared.

Purchased and Installed 20 new computers to replace units in the park that were at the end of their lifecycle.

Implemented Smartcop software to replace antiquated Criminal Investigation Records Service. A Citrix server was installed to ensure remote access to files.

Verified park computer inventory, changed computer naming convention to ensure the park's computers are correctly identified. SER/WASO will use this inventory to order replacement computers for non XP compliant system if funding becomes available. GUIs currently has:

- 27 ea Windows 95 computers
- 35 ea Windows 98 computers
- 21 ea Windows 2000 computers and servers
- 36 ea Windows XP Computers
- 119 Total

Replaced Point-of-Sell server for Fee Collectors. This unit is the heart of their remit system and collects data from all cash registers in park.

Secured 3 new licenses for Arcview for the Park (through NPS site license for arcview). Installed one additional license for Fort Pickens Ranger station LAN, and upgraded existing license. Rewired Network at Building 3 including lightning arrestors and surge protectors. This LAN sustained damage from several lightning strikes this year. These precautions should reduce equipment failures.

A portable air conditioner was installed in the NLO computer room. The unit was needed due to heat build up in the afternoons in computer room, sometimes up to 83 degrees. Computer rooms are normally kept at 65 degrees.

Received waiver for 7 LE and 1 MS GIS Laptops, processed IT end of year purchase for 16 desktop computers to replace units at the end of their lifecycle.

Created parks Share point intranet site. This is an interactive website where users can access shared calendars, share documents, to do list, and bulletin boards.

Upgraded park to Lotus Notes 6.0, a required upgrade.

Installed current server software such as the latest version of Travel Manager.

Setup a toll free number for internet access to NLO.

Created a new Training database that captures training information and fills out and prints a SF form.

Contracting and Procurement

FY 03 Blanket Purchase Agreements and Service agreements were in place by October 1, 2002.

Contracts and orders for damage repairs caused by tropical storms Hanna and Isidore were completed. All emergency resource orders pertaining to the storms and related incidents were completed.

Twenty Solicitation/Requests for Quotations were issued resulting in 20 procurement/contracts that exceeded \$1,614,988.00. The contracts consisted of Ship Island pier repairs, multi use path repairs, road repairs, along with several other service, construction, and supply contracts, of which 3 of the contracts were issued to minority 8A firms worth an estimated \$330,300.00. They were for engine replacement and boat repairs to the Miss. Teak, the reproofing of the triplex on Horn Island, and the construction of the fire cache building in the Naval Live Oaks Area.

Issued 77 Purchase Order documents totaling over \$522,000, 136 Procurement Card transactions exceeding \$63,865.00, and 113 GSA orders that exceeded \$13,228, for a grand total of \$2,214,086 in contracting and procurement requests.

The park entered into a new Cooperative Agreement with the city of Gulf Breeze in support of the Communication Center Operations, along with entering into a new Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Navy in support of the parks operations aboard NAS Pensacola. Several other modifications and amendments were issued to extend and or update existing agreements.

Arrangements for onsite Procurement Desktop training for the parks Maintenance staff, conducted by the SER contracting office, were made and program implementation began in November, 2002. This software is the NPS standard and its use is mandatory.

Budget and Finance

The park's base ONPS funding and additional annual project funding in the amount of \$6,524,000 were planned and tracked. Of this authorization, there were nine annual projects funded (\$500,600). With the absence of the program assistant in Natural/Cultural Resources Division from June through September, the Budget Analyst was responsible for assisting with the planning, tracking and closeout of seven annual projects. FY '03 was the first year utilizing AFS3. The budget office assisted program assistants and other parks utilizing the program and acted as an interface with Accounting Operations Center (AOC) IT to resolve system problems.

Hurricane Georges projects were finalized and \$88,000 was returned to SERO. The park received \$15,000 of these funds for lightning damages to the Captain's House. Participated in planning and reporting status to Regional office for Tropical Storm Isidore. This enabled the park to secure funding for 4 projects (\$695,009). The Ship Island Pier was repaired, clean up and assessments after the storm, debris was removed including the Captain Tam vessel, and some signs were rented and purchased.

Tracked costs for repairs to roads and the multi-use path and secured funding from WASO for Emergency Relief, Federally Owned Roads (ERFO) funds - \$262,875. Several key pieces of equipment were procured for road repairs and multi-use path repairs with these funds.

Coordinated the development of a spending plan for the Fort Massachusetts Erosion Control line item construction project. Studies with Louisiana State University were obligated \$72,000. The remaining \$302,000 funds will be requested next fiscal year.

Equipment replacement funds were \$107,300. A boat motor for MS was procured and re-powered Miss Teak at a cost of \$86,530. Returned \$13,470 of the \$100,000 authorized.

Received/Deposited \$6,655 in donations to the general donation account.

Received \$135,200 for repair/rehab of the MS visitor center roof. Returned \$15,512.

The park had two active reimbursable accounts the Santa Rosa multi-use path with FL DOT and turtle surveys with SRIA. Set up the reimbursable account with AOC cash and debt, secured the advance of funds and actively assisted with planning the turtle surveys project and assisted with tracking funds in the absence of program assistant from June-September. The multi-use path project formally closed 1/16/03. Continued to work with Army COE, FL DOT and AOC to reimburse FL DOT \$33,063.93. Reimbursement has been made however, Army COE and AOC have an accounting error to work through. They continue to seek payment information regarding the 10 receiving reports associated with the project.

Tracked approximately \$1,500,000 fee demo collections and applied 80% (approximately \$1.2M) of the collections to 4 projects and the cost of collections. The Budget Analyst worked closely with project managers and successfully covered all project expenditures using prior year carryover and current year income. Assisted with the tracking of the funds. Provided 5 year status report of projects and 5 year spending plan to the Regional office. Estimated carryover to FY 04 is \$749,000.

The Fire program was massive this fiscal year (\$287,281) and a variety of fire activities took place:

Personal Protective Equipment- \$2,000

Hazardous Fuels and Wildland Fire - 5 projects \$61,597

Construction - Fire Cache \$208,504. Corresponded with WASO/BOISE/SERO regarding the project and was able to secure carry over funds from FY 03 and continue with solicitation that was cancelled due to fiscal troubles in fire program.

Research - \$11,865 for GIS - fire history data and related fire management data development \$3,315 to study relic dunes

Finance

TRAVEL:	(includes local travel & PCS travel - approximately 46% reduction from FY 03)	\$62,034.21
PCS:	REGION FUNDED MOVES (2):	\$115,949.64
	PARK FUNDED MOVES (3):	\$82,138.84

The Budget Analyst assisted two employees leaving GUIS with moves due to lack of support from SERO and FLETC/WASO. Her activities allowed one individual report to VIIS in a timely fashion and another to report to FLETC and receive reimbursements.

CREDIT CARD CHARGES	(1,937 transactions)	\$330,833.42
THIRD PARTY DRAFTS	428 (as of 9/10/03)	\$143,313.14
CONCESSIONS	franchise fees	\$46,520.54
	Retain 80% =	\$40,624.59
INCIDENTAL BUSINESS PERMIT	(INCOME)	\$7,400.00

Human Resources

FY 03 was a fairly eventful year in the Human Resource Office (HRO). The year started out with a new HRO Officer coming aboard in November. Funding and budget limitations had a definite impact on HRO operations. The normal lifeguard recruitment period was delayed due to contracting out efforts that eventually were not successful. This resulted in a shortened recruitment period which challenged the HRO ability to get the required number of lifeguards on duty in a timely manner. Likewise, seasonal recruitment was impacted by funding and budget uncertainties. The parks FY 03 funding was not known until later in the seasonal recruitment season and impacted the type of recruitment activity that the park normally does. It also shortened the period during which recruitment occurred. In both instances, the HRO was able to overcome those obstacles and satisfy the parks recruitment requirements.

During FY 03 the HRO newsletter was reinstated. The newsletter will be a monthly issue and will seek to provide employees with timely and informative news. Effort was also made to update and clarify SOPs and other park guidance.

FY 03 also saw the expansion of the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) with Baptist Hospital. Flu shots were made available free of charge to all employees and family members (at cost) during a park sponsored health fair with Baptist Hospital.

The amount of the annual pay adjustment was increased after the initial amount was approved in January. As a result of the increase, HRO was required to cancel and re-enter all personnel actions that reflected the initial pay adjustment. Additionally, the time frame for making the corrections was limited to a specified one week period. This involved approximately 100 personnel actions.

FY 03 was also fairly active in the employee relations area. There were a number of informal issues throughout the year. Formal issues consisted of two grievances, several letters of caution/warning, 1 Reprimand, 3 suspensions and 1 Performance Improvement Period (PIP).

Staffing & Recruitment

The STEP program continues to be an integral part of the recruitment effort and has produced very good results.

A total of six new hires were made this fiscal year. Two from outside the NPS and four from other parks. There were 26 seasonal/temporary employees appointed to the workforce during this fiscal year.

Diversity

The park's diversity of employees for the fiscal year includes 9 American Indian, 5 Asian/Pacific Islander, 8 African Americans, 4 Hispanics, 32 white females and 36 white males. Additionally, 22 employees were identified with a handicap condition. This includes an increase of 12 employees who self identified in response to a SER inquiry.

Employee Development

GUIS hosted and/or sponsored 9 training sessions during the fiscal year, they included:

Risk Management Program Development – November 18, 2002, 20 attended
Jon Hazard Analysis/Keystone – November 19, 2002, 47 attended

Supervisory Training/Keystone – November 19, 2002, 16 attended
Project Management Information System (PMIS) – January 7, 2003, 7 attended
Project Management Information System (PMIS) - January 14, 2003 21 attended
Law Enforcement Refresher – January 27, 2003, - January 31, 2003, 19 attended
Interpretation Module 370 – February 4, 2003 – February 6, 2003, 28 attended
OSHA (600) – February 11, 2002 – February 14, 2003, 10 attended
Sexual Harassment - June 26, 2003, 8 attended
Sexual Harassment - July 22, 2003, 18 attended
Sexual Harassment - August 14, 2003, 26 attended
Stress Management - July 22, 2003, 18 attended
Time Management - August 14, 2003, 28 attended

Awards

The FY 03 awards consisted of 13 monetary awards, 21 non-monetary awards, 19 time-off awards and 5 QSI's.

Property

Housing inspections conducted (FL 3/6, MS 4/22), housing rental rates increase effective 3/9, and submitted required reports on 3/14. Semi-annual weapon inventory submitted 3/7 and final weapon inventory as well as annual property inventory completed 9/22.

The park processed the following property related actions during the fiscal year:

- 28 Certificates on Unserviceable Property
- 6 Reports of Survey
- 5 Reports of Lost and Found items
- 27 Items of IT equipment donated to area schools
- 6 Items transferred or traded

Concessions

The Florida District Concessions Contract was renewed with the current concessions vendor, Dudley Food and Beverage, on March 1, 2003, for a contract period of seven (7) years.

The Mississippi District Concessions Contract with Pan Isles, Inc. has been re-written for renewal and forwarded to the Southeast Regional Chief of Concessions Management for review and approval, after which it will be released to the general public for receipt of contract proposals. This action is expected to be completed in FY-2004.

FACILITY MANGEMENT

The most significant activities of the year were the rehabilitation work for the West Ship Island Pier, Dock and Fuel Line installation. Tropical Storm Isidore landfall on September 26 and 27, brought 10 foot surf conditions and winds of more than 50 miles per hour, destroying the pier, dock and fuel line. At years end, the contract had been let to Parnell Construction Company of Vancleave, Mississippi for \$384,500.

Facility Managers and Cultural Resource Specialist received Facility Condition Assessment Survey Training (FACS) prepared Asset Priority Index (API) information, computed Current Replacement Values (CRV's) coordinated Condition Annual Assessments (CAA's) entered Condition Assessment Work Orders, generated Asset Deficiency Work Orders (ADWO's) estimated into the Cost Estimating Software System (CESS) and interfaced into the Facility Management Software System (FMSS), meeting the FMSS deployment of the September 01, 2003 deadline.

Special Funding Projects

Regular Cyclic Project

Replaced nine (9) deteriorated Entrance Signs-\$60,336, PMIS # 85302.

Repair/Rehabilitation

Rehabilitation of the Mississippi District Visitor Center Roof - \$119,688, PMIS # 64115.

Equipment Replacement

Installed two, four cycle marine engines along with two twin disc transmissions and hull maintenance - \$86,530, PMIS # 66914.

Fire Pro

Constructed a 2200 SF concrete Fire Cache Building, located at the Naval Live Oaks North Compound - \$208,501, PMIS # 56377.

Federal Highway Administration

FHWA (Federal Highway Administration) conducted Design Scoping for the Permanent and Betterment Road repair work project for Park Roads and Multi-Use-Path that were damaged during Tropical Storm Isidore. Damaged roads are located in the Santa Rosa, Fort Pickens and Perdido Key Districts in Florida and Davis Bayou in Mississippi.

Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) Program

The Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) Program started its 8-week program on June 02, 2003 and ended on July 25, 2003, with a total 19 Enrollees in the Florida and Mississippi Districts. Enrollees accomplished work on 32 projects throughout the park, performing tasks related to Facility Management, Resources Management and Interpretation including; West Ship Island and Horn Island. Enrollees attended 8 environmental awareness and educational programs, receiving an excess of 60 hours of training including; historical and cultural education, Safety, Basic First Aid and CPR Certification Training.

Florida District

Repair and Rehabilitation work was performed on the Fort Pickens lead roof after Tropical Storm Hanna.

Graded and resurfaced Fort Pickens Group Area and Naval Live Oaks primitive picnic entrance roads with limestone.

Preventative maintenance repair work performed on Loop-D restroom including; interior painting, installing new light fixtures and replacement of rusty partition hardware.

Repaired picnic tables, replaced rusty pedestal grills in campgrounds, with ground level fire rings.

Sedimentation filters and new manhole lids were installed onto district septic tanks.

West side of Battery Langdon was cleaned out; East side was reorganized to accommodate the storage of excess building materials.

Dune Nature Trail was re-decked with Trex composite lumber, rotten joists and supports were replaced also.

Constructed a Kiosk at the Opal Beach site for the Florida Scenic Trail. The Florida Scenic Trail Association provided funding and design, construction was performed by NPS employees.

Rewired additional IT equipment for Cultural Resources in Building 3.

Reconstructed the brick chimney and replaced shingles on the Captain's House due to lightening strike damage.

Florida district carpenters constructed a temporary boat pier and storage shed building on Cat Island.

Security fence installed around Buildings 13, 14 and the water tank, housing the districts water system, wells and chlorination equipment.

Preservation And Skills Training (PAST) Program participants provided assistance with the annual condition assessments and replaced rotten columns and porch decking on several historic buildings.

Pressure washed, primed and painted 7500 gallon water tank.

Installed security fence around the Fort Pickens potable water system facilities.

Installed new septic tanks and drain-fields at the Fort Pickens Carpentry Shop and Loop-A Campground.

Removed sand from Fort Pickens and Santa Rosa main roadways, due to Tropical Storm Bill.

Assisted Cultural Resources with the removal of two ammunition lifts from Battery Cullum and Sevier for shipment to the Northwest.

Boundary gates were installed at the entrance to the Fort Pickens and Santa Rosa Districts. Gates will be used for emergency road closures.

Re-screened restrooms at Perdido Key and installed new entrance door onto maintenance building.

Installed new lighting in Fort Pickens casemate area for new carriage display.

Installed new decking and handrails onto the Florida Scenic Trail canal bridge.

Concrete placement and Fiberglass cover installation for the 6" backflow prevention for the Santa Rosa water system.

Share the Road signs were installed onto the Fort Pickens, Santa Rosa and Perdido Key main roads.

Painted striping and installed crosswalk signage onto the Fort Pickens roadway for the Battery Worth Area.

Constructed a bird exhibit stand for the Fort Pickens Area.

Installed new electrical fixtures and exhaust fans into the A, B & C restroom facilities in the Fort Pickens Campground.

Installed a new 3-ton air conditioner unit for the Naval Live Oaks Visitor Center and Administrative Office Building.

Participated with Business Plan interview process with consultants.

Conducted annual hazardous waste removal from the district.

Completed scoping inspection of district roads with Eastern Federal Highway Administration (EFHWY) and Emergency Relief, for Federally Owned Roads (ERFO) staff.

Permanent/Seasonal Quarters

Housing inspection completed on April 06, 2003 and deficiency repairs completed September 19, 2003. Repairs included: Installing thermostat/timer/ground fault interrupter devices into F7A&B and F8&B; installing shower door units into F7A&B and F8&B; installing ceiling fans with light kits into F7A&B and F8&B; installing window coverings into F7B; performing interior painting in F7A; and replacing air condenser unit in F2.

Employee Development

Maintenance Worker, WG 4749-05, attended an 80 Fundamentals II session at Albright Training Center and completed the final 40-hour Fundamentals session at Mather Training Center in August 2003.

Eleven employees attended a three-hour Job Hazard Analysis session in November 2002.

Supervisor, WS 4749-06, attended Risk Management session in November 2002.

Supervisor, WS 4749-06, attended the 40-hour. Managing People training in Atlanta in December 02, 2002.

Nine employees attended the Annual HAZCOM Update and Blood borne Pathogen sessions in January 2003.

Seven employees attended the Annual HAZCOM Update and Blood borne Pathogen sessions in April 2003.

Maintenance Worker, WG 4749-07, attended a two week training session in house under the Computer/Electronic Accommodation Program (CAP) in February 2003.

Three programs were downloaded to a district computer and a scanner was assigned to the employee.

This equipment is to be used in performing job related computer tasks (e-mail, writing reports, filing out forms, etc.).

Supervisor, WS-4749-06, Maintenance Mechanic 4749-09 and a Maintenance Worker 4749-07, attended a 32-hour. OSHA 600 session in February 2003.

Four Supervisors and the program assistant attended an 8-hour. IDEAS Training session (new procurement software program) in February 2003.

Maintenance Worker 4749-07 and 4749-06 employees attended an 8-hour. refresher training to maintain their Class D Water Treatment Certification. Another Maintenance Worker 4749-05 passed the certification exam in April 2003.

Three Maintenance Workers 4749-05 completed the training course for water treatment in August 2003.

The 2003 IT annual security awareness training was completed by 10 employees in April 2003, 2 employees in May 2003 and 3 employees in June 2003.

As a result of a field audit, 2 Motor Vehicle Operators WG 5703-05 were reclassified as Maintenance Workers 4749-05 in May 2003.

Facility Manger GS 1640-11 and a Maintenance Worker 4749-05 went on a one week detail and performed preservation work at Dayton Aviation Heritage Site.

Three employees attended an 8-hour. HAZWOPER Refresher in May 2003.

Six employees attended the 24-hour. HAZWOPER session.

Florida District Facility Manager and a Maintenance Worker 4749-05 from the Mississippi District completed the first year of the Preservation and Skills Training (PAST) Program.

The FMMS Training was completed in Orlando. Facility Managers completed the post class assignments, were certified to use the National Program.

Work Supervisor, WS 4749-06 and Electrician/Plumber, WG 4749-10 completed the E-Course certification for the Facility Management Software System (FMSS).

Mississippi District

Repaired fuel line on Horn Island pier.

Completed HVAC duct cleaning in the Visitor Center, Yates House and Maintenance Office Building.

Repaired northwest generator on West Ship Island.

Hauled out Ms Teak and replaced broken port propeller.

Transferred four obsolete 30 KW generators to K and R Services.

Transported Department of Marine Resources to assist with salvage operations with the removal of shipwreck debris on Petit Bois Island.

Completed inspection of district bridges and expansion joints with Federal Highway staff.

Installed flagpole on end of boardwalk of North beach on West Ship Island.

Installed wayside exhibit at the end of West Ship Island.

Constructed boat pier and storage shed on Cat Island.

Completed repairs to Visitor Center HVAC air handler unit.

Replaced HVAC condensing unit in visitor center/administrative conference room. Replaced two HVAC air handlers in the visitor center auditorium.

Removed fallen trees from Nature Ways Trail.

Completed over 1200 SF of interior painting to Davis Bayou facilities.

Cleared roadsides and boundaries of overgrown vegetation throughout the Davis Bayou Area.

Preservation crew completed work on the entrance archway and painted main doors on Fort Massachusetts.

Placement of limestone to address road shoulder erosion.

Completed emergency repairs to lift station on West Ship Island.

Participated with the Business Plan interview process with consultants.

Replaced door on oil storage shed at government boat dock

Replaced window A/C unit on government boat dock building.

Conducted annual hazardous waste removal from district.

Replaced vandalized signs throughout the district.

Performed preventative maintenance on picnic tables.

Replaced all campsite back-flow prevention devices.

Replaced exhaust fan in campground bathhouse.

Replaced heater in Carpentry Shop.

Replaced damaged grills in campground and picnic areas.

Hired 2 Maintenance Workers 4749 WG-05, to backfill vacant positions.

Completed scoping inspection of district roads with Eastern Federal Highway Administration (EFHWY) and Emergency Relief for Federally Owned Roads (ERFO) staff.

Upgraded lift station # 64 pumps and electrical system in the visitor center.

Repaired campsite electrical hookups throughout the campground.

Repaired generator on the Miss Teak (42' motor vessel).

Installed new bench on Nature Way Trail overlook.

Replaced deteriorated deck boards and support beams on Nature Way Trail.

Repaired ice machine at the government boat dock building.

Elsie M (56' motor vessel) used to transport trash and other debris during Earth Day and Coastal Cleanup events.

Performed preventive road shoulder and ditch maintenance.

Removed vegetation from bridge abutments.

Share the road signs were installed onto the Hanley, Boat Launch, VFW roads and the main park roadway.

Permanent/Seasonal Quarters

Housing inspections completed April 22, 2003 and deficiency repairs were completed September 19, 2003. Repairs included: installing ground fault interrupter devices, performing interior repairs, painting and replacing washer in M33; performing electrical upgrades to main panel in the Yates House and M8; installing window coverings in the Yates House; completing industrial cleaning in the Yates House, M8 and M9; repairing HVAC air handler unit motor, fan and condenser discharge line; completing air quality tests in the Yates House; replacing heater in Triplex quarters M31A, B & C on Horn Island; and installing lift station system at the Yates House and connected to city of Ocean spring commercial sanitary service.

Employee Development

Two Maintenance Workers 4749 WG-05 completed Basic First Aid/CPR Training, May 2003.

Two Maintenance Workers 4749 WG-05, attended defensive driving class, April 2003.

Five employees attended Hazard communications and Blood Borne Pathogen training, May 2003.

Motor Vehicle Operator 4749 WG-05 attended Preservation and Skills Training (PAST) Program assignments in Daytona OH, Pensacola FL and West Ship Island.

Carpenter/Plumber 4749 WG-09 and Maintenance Worker WG-05 attended Refresher Fire Training, March 2003.

Small Craft Operator 4749 WG-09, selected as EO Counselor

RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

A total of thirty-three sea turtle nests were located and monitored, including three Green Turtle which is unique for the nesting cycle. There were eleven turtle standings, six nests relocated from the Pensacola Beach re-nourishment area, and four turtle nests lost during Tropical Storm Bill.

Four Piping Plovers observed in the Santa Rosa hunting exclusion area.

Twenty-four Snowy Plover nests were located and monitored; predator pressure continued to be a problem.

Two Wilsons Plover family groups were located and monitored, this is notable for this extremely rare and endangered bird.

The Black Skimmer colony failed because of Tropical Storm Bill.

The Wilderness Management Plan Environmental Assessment was completed in coordination with the Regional Office staff and stakeholders were notified.

The speed limit was reduced through nesting bird colonies and the gross mortality due to vehicle strikes was reduced by about 50%; 49 road kill birds were counted in 2003.

The relocated Gopher Tortoise population was un-penned and allowed to disperse. This was a good example of the use of fire to aid a threatened species. Also, a low barrier fence to exclude the tortoise from Highway 98 was installed and no road kill tortoises were reported.

We burned 70 acres in NLO, thirty five acres of new fire treatment and thirty five acres re-burn of the 1999 burn area. The re-burn area was the preferred relocation site for the Gopher Tortoise.

We participated in interagency call out and support through dispatch services and as training instructors.

Five hundred long leaf pine seedlings were planted on the sand ridges of the Villa Venice burn to replace sand pine removed by the fire.

Planted 17,000 sea oat, beach panicum and beach bluestem grass seedlings on Ship Island.

Improved one-half mile of sand trail crossing Horn Island with a specially designed sand trail support system.

A mechanical clearing project took place at Davis Bayou in August/September 2003 to protect the park and local community in case of a wild fire. This reduced fuel levels by removing undergrowth around the perimeter of an area where there may be a prescribed fire next winter for increased protection and ecological restoration. This project also provided for increased safety/visibility for joggers, bicyclists, and motorists on Park Road.

Installed 900 feet of sand fence on Ship Island to build dunes at the Lighthouse and Fort sites.

Posted over 150 bird protection signs at four colonies and five osprey nests on Horn and Spoil islands.

Responded to two boat and barge groundings.

Controlled and monitored a 300-acre wildfire in the Horn Island Wilderness.

Repaired 600 feet of storm damaged pier on Ship Island

Re-pointed over 10,000 square feet of brickwork on north curtain wall, Fort Pickens.

Re-pointed over 1000 square feet of brickwork on east counter scarp, Fort Pickens.

Re-pointed over 500 square feet of complex vault and groin brickwork in Bastion B at Fort. Pickens.

Installed a water impervious membrane at the Water Battery.

Replaced doors on welding shop with period replicas and rebuilt lintel arch.

Curated with decorative frame and protective shield, historic Cat Island war dog sign.

Built three benches for visitor use at Civilian Conservation Corps overlook Davis Bayou.

Prepared casemate with lighting, handicapped access, and painting prior to installing cannon carriage.

Installed 32-pounder seacoast cannon on new carriage.

Disassembled and transported two 10-inch ammunition lifts from Battery Cullum-Sevier.

Constructed and assisted in installation of new lids for park septic tanks.

Repaired side walk leading to visitor center at NLO.

Repaired chimney on Captain's House.

RESOURCE AND VISITOR PROTECTION

Fee Collection Program

The FY2003 Cost of collection Project funding was authorized at \$653,234 with expenditures being \$621,135. Three entrance Stations and two campgrounds were staffed and managed utilizing this funding source. Gross revenue collected was \$1,396,768. This was the sixth year that the Fort Pickens Campground was a part of the National Park Reservation Service (Spherix Inc.)

Five seasonal positions were hired this year and two term positions expired. One permanent subject to furlough VUA was vacated in November and filled in January.

Protection & Law Enforcement Program

Mississippi District

Protection rangers increased boat patrols at the start of the commercial shrimp season, to enforce regulations and protect sea grass beds from disturbance. There were no commercial fishing cases in the Mississippi District of the Seashore. This may be due in part to the news release sent out to remind fishermen that commercial fishing is prohibited within the boundaries of the Seashore, contacts with the Vietnamese-American Commercial Fisherman's Union, and a less productive commercial shrimp season.

A 65-foot fiberglass-hull fishing vessel was grounded during a storm in sea grass habitat within park waters north of Petit Bois Island. A resource damage assessment was performed indicating two depressions in the ocean floor and damage to sea grass beds/habitat. There was also debris left behind on the ocean floor.

The operator of the vessel pled guilty in court to abandoning property and damage to natural resources.

An attempt is being made to obtain restitution for the recovery of our response costs including removal of the vessel and to refill the holes with sand, replant sea grass rhizomes, etc.

In order to protect the natural resources including air, water, animals, and natural quiet, rangers continued to enforce the personal water craft (PWC) ban in the Seashore, which was instituted in April 2002. Visitors were educated about the ban, warnings were given, and/or citations were issued when appropriate.

Osprey and American Bald Eagle nesting on Horn Island were 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, resulting in the successful hatching of shorebird chicks.

Numerous 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.

Protection rangers assisted the RM division by monitoring the majority of dead and stranded sea turtles and marine mammals found on beaches. This included photography, measurements, and documentation.

Weekly water quality testing was conducted at the West Ship Island designated swim beach when the concession operation was running. The tests were conducted by park personnel 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.

The Boaters Rendezvous and Blessing of the Recreational Fleet was held at West Ship Island on June 1st. The public safety aspect of the event was successfully managed under a unified incident command system with the NPS, U.S. Coast Guard, Harrison County Sheriff's Office, the Department of Marine Resources, and American Medical Response.

The NPS 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, who is signed up as an NPS volunteer, assisted visitors and helped ensure their safety.

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

NPS protection rangers participated in interagency High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (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, U.S. Border Patrol, 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.

Rangers participated in Homeland Security Details to protect visitors, national treasures, and significant sites. These included details at the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial in Saint Louis, Independence National Historical Park in Philadelphia, and the DOI Watch Office/National Mall in Washington, D.C.

A ranger also participated in the NPS Boating Regatta enforcement/safety operation at Biscayne National Park.

The Park Hurricane Plan was revised, CPR/EMS training was attended, and monthly fire extinguisher inspections were performed in an effort to reduce both visitor and employee injuries and to provide for their safety.

Surf warning signs and a flag system were installed at West Ship Island to increase the safety for the public and advise persons of surf conditions.

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

Commissioned personnel received training in numerous law enforcement subjects, including Weapons of Mass Destruction, radar training, defensive tactics, the SmartCOP program, and officer safety & survival.

Two rangers attended (and successfully completed) the Basic Law Enforcement training program at FLETC. One ranger attended Special Operations training in Arizona.

All red-carded wildland firefighters received annual refresher training. All except for one took the Pack Test. One protection ranger went on a wildland fire assignment to Montana.

All commissioned employees received advanced law enforcement training using Non-Lethal Training Ammunition, which emphasized the use of cover.

All R&VP Division employees successfully completed the web-based Federal Information Systems Security Awareness Training course.

Employees served as instructors for Motorboat Operator Certification Courses at Christiansted National Historic Site and Gulf Islands.

Employees received training on Blood Borne Pathogens, stress management, surf rescue, special park uses, and the prevention of sexual harassment.

Employees attended Keystone International Safety Training in November.

All protection rangers have received training in Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD); have been issued Personal Protective Equipment

Florida District

The Emerald Coast chapter of MADD recognized Gulf Islands National Seashores Rangers for their excellent efforts in reducing DUIs. Rangers DUI arrests increased from 60 to 70. Ranger Ryan Parr received recognition from MADD for his outstanding DUI arrest record.

Florida Rangers assisted local agencies with the Navarre Beach Run, the Santa Rosa Island Triathlon, the annual Memorial Day activities on Pensacola Beach, and the Blue Angels.

Rangers performed details at Cumberland Island National Seashore totaling 9 weeks to augment their protection staff. Rangers traveled to Cape Lookout and Cape Hatteras to assist with storm recovery efforts. One Ranger also went on a wildland fire detail. Rangers also traveled to Boston and St. Louis for Homeland Security details. A number of Rangers also participated in the First Flight Centennial.

Ranger Drinkwater graduated from FLETC in July 2003.

The park was without a Chief Ranger from January - June 03'. The Florida and Mississippi District Rangers rotated as acting Chief Ranger and did an outstanding job.

Lifeguard & EMS Program

The following is a summary of all the incidents that lifeguards responded to/took part in this summer. The total is from all three Florida District Beaches, Opal, Langdon, and Johnson.

Summer 2003	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept	Total	2002	2001
Drownings	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	3
Rescues	0	1	2	5	3	6	6	23	14	24
Preventive Actions	0	0	0	27	9	125	75	236	96	246
EMS Calls	0	0	1	1	1	2	0	5	10	7
Minor First Aid	0	10	14	11	14	4	4	57	18	71
Jelly Fish Stings	0	0	14	20	175	120	0	329	25	425
LE Ranger Calls	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	3	2	4
Missing Person	0	0	1	2	2	0	0	5	3	7

This summer the lifeguard program consisted of 12 total guards, eleven full time and one part time. Galin Knight, was brought on to assist in the springtime hiring and recruitment process.

This year's season began mid-March, with guards working Friday, Saturday, and Sundays at Johnson Beach and five days a week at Langdon Beach. The rest of the guards began guarding Memorial Day, May 26th after participating in the 40-hour Emergency Responder course and the 40-hour USLA Open Water Training course.

The Park hosted an American Red Cross Emergency Response course with 5 Pensacola Beach lifeguards and 7 NPS Guards in attendance. Pensacola Beach Guards also participated in the Life Flight training at Langdon Beach, May 22nd. This is the first time in recent years that we have held joint training with Pensacola Beach; hopefully this will be something that will continue.

This year guards made 23 water rescues, both in the guarded area and outside the guarded area. Guards also responded to calls outside the park at Johnson Beach, Tower 122, responding to calls of swimmers in distress down by the condos on Perdido Key. Opal Beach, Tower 123 received a call for a drowning Labor Day weekend at parking lot #1.

Guards assisted visitors with 57 minor first aid calls. Guards also assisted visitors/Park Rangers with 5 calls, which required EMS response.

The jellyfish season was mild again this year. Guards reported a total of 329 stings within the guarded beach. All the stings were minor, none requiring EMS or further first aid care.

Preventive actions this year involved impromptu talks with Park visitors and a water safety demo at Langdon Beach every Saturday, June through August. Turn out for the water safety demo was low. Guards reported a total of 236 total district wide preventive actions. These preventive action ranges from patrolling the beaches during red flag conditions to talking to visitors about water safety. I suspect these numbers are low since some contacts were not recorded.

Junior Lifeguard Program

The popularity of the Junior Lifeguard program required the Park to expand the program by adding an extra class. A forth class was added at Langdon Beach due to the high volume calls. A total of 45 Junior Guards attended this year's program: 21 boys, 23 girls. There where a total of 3 no shows due to illness, and/or cancellations. All Junior Lifeguards went through the American Red Cross Adult CPR and First Aid class.

Once they complete this class they are certified in Adult CPR and First Aid. They will also work through the American Red Cross Guard Start workbook, which covers a wide range of topics like Save Your Spine, Water Safety, more first aid, and water survival tips. Randy and Terry Hurd from Gulf Coast Wilderness Adventures came out and did an outstanding job teaching the Junior Guards, boating and kayaking safety. This seems to be the highlight of the week for most of the Junior Guards. At the end of each week, Junior Guards conduct a demonstration for the parents and this year the turn out at each of the beaches was high.