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August 2024

## 1948 Letter Discussing Use of Military Aircraft & Personnel to Assist National Parks During Emergencies

Army Air Rescue Service

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UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

December 15, 1948.

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	SUPERINTENDENT	<i>date</i>
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2	CHIEF CLERK	<i>Hahn</i>
3	CHIEF RANGER	<i>S</i>
	NATURALIST	
	ENGINEER	
	LAND ACQUISITION	
	REPAIR SHOP	
	PLUMBER	
	CARPENTER	

Commanding Officer,  
Headquarters, Army Air Rescue Service,  
Department of the Air Force,  
Pentagon Building,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Personnel from one of the national parks recently conferred with the Commanding Officer of a Western Air Force Base concerning the possibilities of making advance arrangements for obtaining assistance from his command in case of emergency involving rescues and fires in the remote mountainous terrain of that park. The Commanding Officer was agreeable to the arrangement but suggested that we get in touch with your office concerning general arrangements and clearance. He indicated that he and other commanders had been authorized to cooperate with the U. S. Forest Service in similar emergencies.

The proposed arrangement would involve use of military aircraft in the search for lost persons in remote areas, and transport of supervisory personnel, firefighters, and equipment during major fire emergencies. Very valuable assistance was furnished by the United States Air Force to this Service during the Maine forest fire disaster of last year. We have, on several occasions, cooperated with the Air Force in the search for lost persons including those on lost military aircraft.

It would appear to be desirable to make all possible arrangements in advance of the emergency, and we should like to have any information you can furnish concerning procedure, and whether such arrangements should be developed through this Office, regionally, or by local area personnel.

It is believed that all of our field personnel should be informed regarding whom to get in touch with when the need arises and what assistance is available.

Forwarded to *Rocky Mountain*  
from Region Two Office  
REF \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: *12/21*

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Attached is a map which indicates the location of our four regional offices at Richmond, Virginia; Omaha, Nebraska; Santa Fe, New Mexico; and San Francisco, California; and also the locations of all field areas of the National Park Service.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed)

Hilory A. Tolson,  
Assistant Director.

Enclosure: 775

cc: Region One  
Region Two  
Region Three  
Region Four