

12 March 2001

CECW-ON

MEMORANDUM FOR COMMANDERS MAJOR SUBORDINATE COMMANDS
AND DISTRICT COMMANDS, ATTN: CHIEFS,
CONSTRUCTION-OPERATIONS DIVISIONS

SUBJECT: Southwestern Division, Fort Worth District Pepper Spray Test

1. The Director of Civil Works has approved a one-year test of Oleoresin Capsicum (pepper spray) for all projects within the Southwestern Division, Fort Worth District. This decision was made following a successful two-year pepper spray test at the Belton/Stillhouse project in Texas.
2. The purpose of the test is to further study the appropriateness of pepper spray as a USACE park ranger tool for self-defense purposes. A detailed district Position Hazard Analysis and associated project Activity Hazard Analysis will be conducted. CESWF park rangers who are covered under the hazard analysis process will be encouraged to participate in this test on a voluntary basis.
3. Approval of this test does not alter the basic authority and role of the Corps park ranger as specified in ER 1130-2-550, Chapter 6. The spray will be used only when there is an imminent threat of physical harm from an animal or human being. It will not be used in any offensive manner or against a person complying with the park ranger or to retaliate against language that is offensive but not immediately physically threatening. Detailed policy requirements and procedures have been furnished to CESWD.
4. At the conclusion of the pepper spray test, the results will be evaluated and presented to the Director of Civil Works for possible Corps-wide consideration and decision.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

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CHARLES M. HESS
Chief, Operations Division
Directorate of Civil Works