Standard Job No. N1017

LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER, GS-1802-05

Introduction

The incumbent of this position is responsible for performing full-time law enforcement duties including detection, apprehension, detention, and limited investigation activities which are associated with the enforcement of the laws, regulations, and rules relating to the protection and safe uses of National Forest System lands and resources. The incumbent performs as a Law Enforcement Officer within a restricted geographical area such as a large single recreation site, several campgrounds, wilderness area, or other areas with defined limits. The primary duty of this position is enforcement of criminal laws of the United States through investigation, apprehension, or detention of individuals suspected or convicted of offenses against the criminal laws of the United States. These duties constitute the basic reasons for the existence of this position, occupy a substantial portion of the Law Enforcement Officer's working time, and are assigned on a regular and recurring basis.

This position was approved for Law Enforcement retirement coverage in the primary category under both CSRS and FERS by USDA, March 2, 1995. Law Enforcement duties comprise more than 80 percent of the assigned duties and responsibilities. The position is subject to pre-employment drug screening, compliance with physical fitness requirements, and satisfactory results on a pre-employment Single Scope Background Investigation; the position is designated as high risk. The incumbent must successfully complete or have completed the Basic Law Enforcement for Land Management Agencies Program at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, Glynco, GA.

Major Duties

Apprehends and detains persons who have committed or are suspected of committing criminal offenses affecting National Forest System lands. This includes the arrest of suspects and transportation of prisoners to detention facilities.

Conducts preliminary crime scene investigations of misdemeanor crimes affecting National Forest System lands. Locates, secures, and protects crime scenes; collects and/or seizes evidence; assists more experienced officers in obtaining physical and documentary evidence; and assists in interviewing witnesses and suspects. Prepares portions of investigative reports and testifies at hearings and trials when required.

Detects and enforces criminal law offenses, including but not limited to: timber theft, wildland arson, livestock trespass, archeological resources protection and drug control laws that effect National Forest System lands.

Provides testimony for the prosecution of cases in U.S. Magistrate Court, State, and local courts, as authority dictates. Assists with investigations of civil and administrative matters which may result in a claim for or against the United States, including accidents involving public use of National Forest System lands or involving Forest Service personnel, vehicles, or activities.
Establishes contact with and informs forest users of proper procedures, laws and regulations to gain their compliance. Contacts violators and issues warning and violation notices as necessary.

Provides assistance to outside agencies conducting search and rescue incidents on National Forest System lands within agency policy and guidelines.

Conducts patrols to prevent, detect, and enforce violations of Federal laws and regulations on National Forest System lands related to resources, property, employees, and users.

**Factor 1, Knowledge Required by the Position**

Basic knowledge of Federal, State, local laws and regulations pertaining to the National Forest System, land uses, operations, and protection. Basic knowledge of ecosystem practices for recognition of resource damage violations is necessary.

Basic knowledge of the methods, techniques, and procedures of search and seizure, probable cause, crime scene investigations, and the ability to perform detention and apprehension.

Knowledge of commonly used interviewing and other information-gathering methods and techniques sufficient to permit the officer to establish, maintain, and improve interpersonal relationships in the collection of intelligence from suspects and from other individuals and groups with varying backgrounds, and to make proper disposition of facts obtained.

Basic knowledge of courtroom procedures for the purposes of providing testimony.

Skill in meeting and dealing effectively, at times under conditions of stress and sensitivity, with all sectors of the public.

Skill in preparing accurate documentation for criminal and civil incidents.

Skills to maintain proficiency with defensive equipment/tactics, including firearms.

**Factor 2, Supervisory Controls**

The supervisor assigns work on a routine basis in terms of objectives to be achieved, providing explicit instructions on work methods.

Working within established programs, the incumbent is responsible for planning and carrying out routine work. Incumbent seeks technical advice and assistance for work or contact situations not previously encountered from the supervisor.

Incumbent may frequently work with and assist a more experienced Law Enforcement Officer in complex situations and investigations.

Work is reviewed in progress and on completion for completeness, quality, conformance to instructions, and observance of appropriate procedures.
Factor 3, Guidelines

Guidelines include Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, Federal, State, and local laws and regulations, Regional, Forest, and District law enforcement plans, and Forest Service Manuals and Handbooks.

Guidelines are specific and allow for minor deviations in their application. Practical judgement must be used in recognizing situations requiring referral to the supervisor. The level of judgement used varies depending on the situation encountered.

Factor 4, Complexity

The work involves the application of a variety of institutionalized procedures and methods in controlled work situations and provides practical experience in the apprehension, interrogation, and processing of suspected violators of federal laws. Assignments typically involve aspects of work assigned to higher graded officers to provide specific types of practical experience or exposure to particular situations or problems.

Factor 5, Scope and Effect

Purpose of the work is to obtain compliance and provide full range enforcement of laws and regulations affecting the use of National Forest System lands. The effect of the work is to help prevent occurrences of violations and reduce their adverse effect, to ensure that public access and safety of users and employees is maintained and that natural resources are adequately protected.

Factor 6, Personal Contacts

Contacts are made with the public as complainants, witnesses, suspects, and forest users and visitors. Contacts are with Forest Service employees, field law enforcement personnel from other Federal, State, and local law enforcement agencies, and occasionally court officials, and attorneys. Such contacts are often established on a nonroutine basis and may take place in a wide variety of settings.

Factor 7, Purpose of Contacts

Contacts with the public are to inform forest users of regulations pertaining to the use of National Forest System lands, to obtain compliance, to conduct interviews during investigations, and when necessary, to apprehend persons suspected of regulatory and criminal law violations. Encounters may include persons of any socio-economic status who are uncooperative, hostile or dangerous. Contacts with coworkers and cooperating agencies are to exchange information.
**Factor 8, Physical Demands**

Enforcement and investigative activities are often conducted under hazardous conditions with walking, climbing, reaching, pulling, crouching or running over rough terrain as required, as well as prolonged periods of patrol work. Strenuous physical exertion is frequently required, such as, when apprehending individuals of varying strengths who may be combative or under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

Incumbent must remain in good physical condition in order to effectively perform arduous field duties over sustained periods.

**Factor 9, Work Environment**

The work is performed in field and office settings. Field settings often involve adverse environmental conditions and may involve potentially dangerous situations such as possible physical attacks by persons or groups who may be armed and/or under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Office setting usually involves the completion of reports and other information. Assignments are subject to change without advance notice.
1. References:
   b. OPM Position Classification Standard, Customs Patrol Officer Series, GS-1884, Nov 80.

2. Introduction. The volume and complexity of the law enforcement workload on many Ranger Districts have increased significantly in recent years. With this increase, there has developed a need for additional technical support for the Special Agents in investigations at the district level.

3. Determination of Series and Title. As discussed in subsequent paragraphs, several series were considered for this position. The GS-1802, Compliance Inspection and Support Series is the most appropriate. The GS-1802 series includes positions which perform or supervise inspection or technical support work in assuring compliance with or enforcement of Federal law, regulations or other mandatory guidelines and which are not classifiable in another, more specific, occupational series.

   This position performs this support work. Personnel in this position are usually the first law enforcement representative at the scene of an "incident" which requires investigation. Therefore, they initiate the investigation in support of the Special Agents. This support work is a very critical part of this position in that chains of custody of evidence, preservation of the "incident" scene, creditable court testimony, etc. are crucial to the investigation and legal proceedings.

   Since titles are not prescribed by the GS-1802 classification standard, the following title was developed by using the general guidelines on titling practices contained in Section III of the introductory material of the position classification standards. Although the word "officer" in a title usually indicates a level of responsibility which inherently includes supervision, in this case the use of the word "officer" is analogous to the use of the word "officer" in the title for some positions in the Police Series, GS-083. The title developed is Law Enforcement Officer.

   The GS-083, Police Series, which focuses on enforcement and preservation of life, property, and civil rights of citizens, is not appropriate as it only addresses a narrow aspect of the position. The investigative and investigative support duties expand the position beyond the scope of the GS-083 series. Additionally, this position requires knowledges in the natural resource area that are beyond the scope of the GS-083 Series.

   The GS-462, Forestry Technician Series, is not appropriate as the position does not involve performance of technical work requiring primarily the application of a practical knowledge of the methods and techniques of forestry. Some basic knowledge of forestry methods and techniques are required of the position but they are not the paramount knowledges required to successfully perform and carry out the duties of the position.

   The position has investigative responsibilities somewhat characteristic of the Criminal Investigator Series, GS-1811, but this series is not appropriate as criminal investigations conducted are of limited scope.

   In summary, the work is properly classified in the GS-1802, Compliance Inspection and Support Series. The official title of the position is Law Enforcement Officer.

4. Determination of Grade. Since the Compliance Inspection and Support Classification Standard does not have grading criteria reference b. is used. Using the factor evaluation process, the following levels and resulting points are assigned to each factor:
Factor 1. Knowledge Required by the Position 1-4 550 points
Matches GS-05 Benchmark (BMK) # 1, reference b.

Factor 2. Supervisory Controls 2-1 25 points
Matches GS-05 BMK # 1, reference b.

Factor 3. Guidelines 3-1 25 points
Matches GS-05 BMK # 1, reference b.

Factor 4. Complexity 4-2 75 points
Matches GS-05 BMK # 1, reference b.

Factor 5. Scope and Effect 5-2 75 points
Matches GS-05 BMK # 1, reference b.

Factor 6. Personal Contacts 6-3 60 points
Matches FLD, reference b.

Factor 7. Purpose of Contacts 7-2 50 points
Matches FLD, reference b.

Factor 8. Physical Demands 8-3 50 points
Matches FLD, reference b.

Factor 9. Work Environment 9-3 50 points
Matches FLD, reference b.

Total Points 960 = GS-05

Title, series and grade: Law Enforcement Officer, GS-1802-05