

Of the ten trainees who completed training, there were: 2 - Experts; 6 - Sharpshooters; and 2 - Marksman. The highest score was a 294 fired during qualification. I am sure the average final score for the group would have been much higher had we had a really competent instructor in combat firing. Unfortunately, the instructor had little or no experience in this type of shooting.

There was a tendency at first for the trainees to shoot too fast and reload too slowly. Practice with dummy rounds improved the speed of reloading and when the trainees learned that it was not necessary to rush through the shooting to finish within the time allotted, accuracy improved. After firing the course three times, none of the trainees had difficulty with the time limit.

Training should be continued with practice in firing in combat situations and night firing, but we were unable to do this before graduation. Nonetheless, each of the trainees enjoyed the service practice, improved their skill, and gained confidence in their ability to use the revolver in self-defense. Each of them has a good basic understanding of combat firing and with a little additional practice each of them could qualify as expert. I have every confidence in their ability to give a good account of themselves, if called upon to do so. Continued training in the use of sidearms may well be one of the most neglected phases of in-service training, for wildlife law enforcement officers.

I believe that every administrator has the obligation to insure that armed personnel under his direction have the ability to use those arms wisely and accurately, if the need arises. Firearms and ammunition should be furnished and there should be some incentive to encourage the individual officer to become proficient with the official sidearm.

References:

"Combat Shooting for Police"- Paul B. Weston

"Police Firearms" - Instructor's Manual, National Rifle Association

"The Handloader's Digest"

FEDERAL MAGISTRATES ACT

by

William R. Kensinger

A landmark in the United States judicial system was established through Congressional approval on October 17, 1968, of the Federal Magistrates Act. The passage of Public Law 90-578 by the 90th Congress will have far reaching impact and implications in the administration of Federal laws.

Until passage of this Act, officials in the field of conservation law enforcement operated within a restricted boundary in regard to availability of courts for case litigation. Prior to enactment of this law, violations of Federal wildlife regulations covering migratory birds or interstate transportation of fish and game animals, had to be processed in State courts, in United States District Court, or if the violation occurred on Federally owned lands, terminated in a United States Commissioner's court. These avenues for case disposition had several effects.

First, faced with ever-increasing crowded court dockets of pending cases, United States Attorneys have been confronted with a multitude of pending cases of a grave nature, such as organized crime, corporate conspiracies, bank robberies involving Federal lending institutions, and the like. Secondly, many court officials have not had an objective appreciation of the severity of wildlife violations and their impact on this dwindling renewable resource. Considering these two factors alone, it was obvious to the framers of this

legislation that some relief had to be obtained to expedite judicial process and provide a means for disposition of lesser offenses.

It has also been noted that the day of "conservation consciousness" has arrived, and public outcry of concern is resounding across the length and breadth of our county. With proper application of the Federal Magistrates Act, we envision a prosecutive avenue by which protection of our wildlife resources can be greatly enhanced.

The operational guidelines of this Act boil down to this. All previous responsibilities of United States Commissioners are transferred to the office of Federal Magistrates. In addition to these transferred to the office of Federal Magistrates. In addition to these transferred functions, the Magistrate's authority is extended to include the handling of minor offenses regardless of point of origin. Such misdemeanors are defined as cases punishable by a penalty not exceeding imprisonment for one year, or a fine of not more than \$1,000, or both. This jurisdiction includes cases arising on any and all lands or waters, privately or publicly owned, or Government owned or administered. The conditions prescribed by Congress in Public Law 90-578 for implementation of the Act are to be carried into effect by United States District Judges within their respective Judicial Districts. It will be their responsibility to select, appoint, and direct any Federal Magistrates within their districts. They will determine whether Federal Magistrates will serve on a full-time or part-time basis, and the types of cases to be heard by these officials.

Under a pilot system in operation in the Eastern Judicial District of Virginia, a Federal Summons Book was designed for use by field enforcement officers. Three options are available to the issuing officer: First, posting by mail an established rate of collateral with the Federal Magistrate's Office, appearance by the defendant before the Magistrate for trial, or citation for appearance before the Magistrate to be bound over for trial in United States District Court. A Summons does not have to be issued at the time of apprehension, but may be mailed to the defendant at a later date.

We are confident that our programs can be integrated smoothly into the operational procedures of the Federal Magistrate court system to the ultimate benefit of our protection programs. This represents an important forward step which will further support the National conservation effort and our mutual goal of perpetuating the wildlife resource for the greatest benefit of the public we serve.

U. S. Game Management Agent
Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife
Atlanta, Georgia

USE OF CIVILIAN CONSERVATIONISTS IN WILDLIFE RESERVE PROGRAM

by

James D. Reed
Information Officer
Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission

For many years, the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission has had the offer of assistance from numerous individuals who were interested in wildlife conservation and management and wanted to help our cause. All of these offers were appreciated, but the Commission's problem was how to utilize these well meaning and dedicated people.

Various types of programs and efforts were made to accomplish this. The first program consisted of issuing honorary wildlife officer cards to certain volunteers. These cards had no meaning other than to give the individual a warm feeling toward the Commission and influence him to be a better sportsman. Many abuses occurred during this program. Honorary wildlife officers used their ID cards to throw their weight around, especially during hunting season.

This program was terminated and a Deputy Wildlife Officer's Program was initiated. Deputy wildlife officers were made up of large landowners, ranch hands and land managers. The sole purpose was to give them more authority in protecting their lands. In most cases these people were also deputy sheriffs. Their authority was restricted to certain lands under their ownership and management. This program served a purpose and is still in effect; however, due to the qualifications many individuals could not meet the requirements.

Approximately ten years ago, the Commission appointed a special committee made up of various division personnel to investigate the possibility and feasibility of forming a GFC Reserve or auxiliary type program. This committee investigated the Highway Patrol Auxiliary and many sheriffs' and police reserve programs. A proposed plan was submitted to the Commission and for some reason was tabled. In 1968, through some prodding of civilian conservationists, the Commission again asked for an investigation to be made and for a proposed plan to be presented. The old plan was up-dated and approved by the Commission.

GFC RESERVE PROGRAM

- I. *Name:* GFC RESERVE
- II. *Purpose:* To give conscientious sportsmen of the state an opportunity to be trained in Wildlife Conservation Work and THEN use this training to benefit the overall Commission Program by working with the regular personnel on field problems. This program could give the sportsmen an outlet for their energies and relieve the regular personnel of some of their routine duties.
- III. *Firearms:* Members will not under any circumstances be permitted to carry firearms unless authorized by the Chief of Law Enforcement or his designated representative.
- IV. *Maximum Strength* of the GFC RESERVE will not exceed three (3) times the number of regularly assigned Wildlife Officers. The authorized strength, with the consent of the Director and Chief of Law Enforcement, will be determined by the Supervisors of Law Enforcement.