

Department of the Interior Departmental Manual

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Part 142: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Chapter 9: Assistant Director/Chief – Law Enforcement

Originating Office: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

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9.1 **The Assistant Director/Chief – Law Enforcement** is the highest ranking law enforcement officer in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service). The Assistant Director/Chief advises the Director, develops, recommends, and implements Service-wide law enforcement policy and operational procedures (with the exception of Refuge Law Enforcement activities). The Assistant Director/Chief supervises all law enforcement personnel within the Service's Office of Law Enforcement and oversees the Professional Responsibility Unit, responsible for conducting internal inquiries. The Assistant Director/Chief serves as liaison on matters relating to law enforcement with the Department's Office of Law Enforcement and Security; all foreign, Federal, and State law enforcement organizations; and intelligence agencies and oversees the following personnel:

A. The Division of Special Operations.

- (1) Plans and conducts investigations of national and international significance.
- (2) Provides digital evidence recovery and technical support for investigations.
- (3) Develops and provides training for officers in coordination with the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, the National Conservation Training Center, and other organizations.
- (4) Supervises Special Agent Attachés stationed overseas.
- (5) Analyzes, gathers, and provides intelligence for investigations related to wildlife trafficking.

B. The Division of Technical and Field Support.

- (1) Advises the Assistant Director/Chief on issues involving law enforcement data systems, budget formulation and execution, and workload and funding planning and analysis, and oversees a wide range of administrative services.
- (2) Researches and analyzes organization, resource allocation, efficiency, and effectiveness of law enforcement operations.
- (3) Responds to Freedom of Information Act requests.
- (4) Overseas the administration of the medical program, as defined in the Service Manual, for special agents, wildlife inspectors, evidence custodians, and laboratory employees.
- (5) Manages the recruitment and hiring program for new agents.
- (6) Provides national computer support for wildlife law enforcement offices through the Law Enforcement Management Information System (LEMIS).

C. The Clark R. Bavin National Forensics Laboratory, located in Ashland, Oregon, is a full service crime lab dedicated entirely to wildlife and solving wildlife crimes servicing both national and international communities. The Laboratory staff:

- (1) Identify and compare physical evidence in an attempt to link suspect, victim, and crime scene.
- (2) Help wildlife officers determine if a violation of law has occurred.
- (3) Determine animal causes of death.

D. The Regional Special Agents-in-Charge are located in the regional offices and perform the following:

- (1) Manage law enforcement field operations, including investigative activities and the wildlife inspection program.
- (2) Provide guidance on investigations of wildlife violations in the States within their regions.
- (3) Oversee the wildlife inspection program at ports.

E. The National Eagle Repository and the National Wildlife Property Repository, located in Denver, Colorado, is a facility dedicated to receiving, storing, and distributing dead bald and golden eagle parts and feathers to Native Americans as well as receiving wildlife items that have been forfeited or abandoned to the Service. The Repository staff:

- (1) Receive, inventory, store, and dispose of confiscated wildlife property.
- (2) Receive, evaluate, store, and distribute dead bald and golden eagle carcasses, parts, and feathers to Native Americans who are enrolled members of federally recognized tribes throughout the United States.
- (3) Develop and provide educational programs regarding wildlife trade.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Assistant Director/Chief – Office of Law Enforcement

