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12 Aug 85 (Jed)
Charles
Julian
Gerald
Movahhan

S AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS
e Corps Base
e, North Carolina 28542

7 August 85
Date

From: Director
To: ACS/Facilities
Subj: Endangered Species Protection

The attached memo from Mr. Gerald Movahan, our summer Sea Turtle worker does an excellent job of documenting a serious problem with potential to adversely affect this Command.

IT APPEARS THAT PMO and the Onslow Beach Area Commander have adequate authority to satisfactorily correct this problem, particularly since PMO also has the Game Wardens at his disposal. Recommend ACS/Facilities pursue meeting/contacts with these officers to address this problem.

Danny Sharpe
acting

Denny
Thanks for prompt action on beach activity. Maybe something will come of it. We had our first hatch noted last night - probably occurred Monday.
Jerry



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Copy File
12 Aug 85 (Add) Charles
Julian
Gerald
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Danny Sharpe
octens

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8/7/85

Danny,

We started having some cages messed with south of the pier in the area just beyond south tower. We found one nest to the main road and one back in the dunes and one is lost. Anyhow, in looking for them I saw a lot of tracks (fresh) all over, including accessing the beach at many different places.

I decided to come in for a few hours on Saturday because of the activity and see what was going on. The tides were high at night and I couldn't run the beach until after mid night anyhow. I went first to the pier and looked down the beach and could see 4 4WD vehicles south of the pier. I called the MP's to confirm that there was not supposed to be any there and they concurred. They so they were short personnel to patrol that area, I said I would and that was O.K.

All of those people I spoke to disclaimed any knowledge of any regulations preventing them from using that part of the beach. All appeared very agreeable and said they would return via the back road. However there were two 3 wheel ATV'S operating about 2 miles South of the pier when I arrived. They were running up and down the faces of the primary dunes and their tracks were all over behind prime up and over everywhere almost. There were many 4WD tracks also. I spoke to the individuals with the ATV'S and they also said they didn't know of any regulations against what they were doing and that many others did it too.

At that point I got a little hot because of the damage and after leaving them, I called the MP, who had a man on the island in a sedan. I went to pick him up, told him of the situation and before he got his car parked, a pickups truck was leaving with the 2 ATV'S in it. When he checked, these two guys were construction workers and only

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had a work pass. I think they were escorted from the base.

Later, I climbed south tower with my binoculars ~~and~~ ^{to} see if those people I had told would leave properly. While up the tower I could see all the paths the 4WD and ATV's had made and it was infuriating to see that kind of damage to the dunes and dune grass. The required military training is bad enough but the "Rec" vehicle dune jumping is completely out of line.

I do believe that signs should be erected in location (a) ^(on the beach) that they couldn't miss, including one marking the access to the back road ~~as the~~ on the south end.

I think those people with 4WD should be apprised of the base orders concerning ORV's when they get their desol. As far as I know, there is no 3 wheel ATV's permitted on the beach anywhere (the order says "for fishing only")

Also, the personnel patrolling the beach do not know or enforce the regulations much of the time. This includes the Beach Detachment (who abuse the ^{used} 3 wheelers also) and the Recon patrol. There seems to be a lot of ineffective sometimes environmentally damaging "patrols".

The sea turtles eggs should be hatching very soon and I'm afraid the condition of the beach is not going to be conducive to the hatching making it to the water. It is my understanding that there should be only authorized vehicles on the beach face and that they should travel below the high tide line whenever possible. I don't think they do that.

Anyhow, I think that south end of the beach is in serious trouble and is in need of some help. Perhaps you could get a look-see. I wish I had a camera on Saturday - it could have been enlightening - Jerry.

