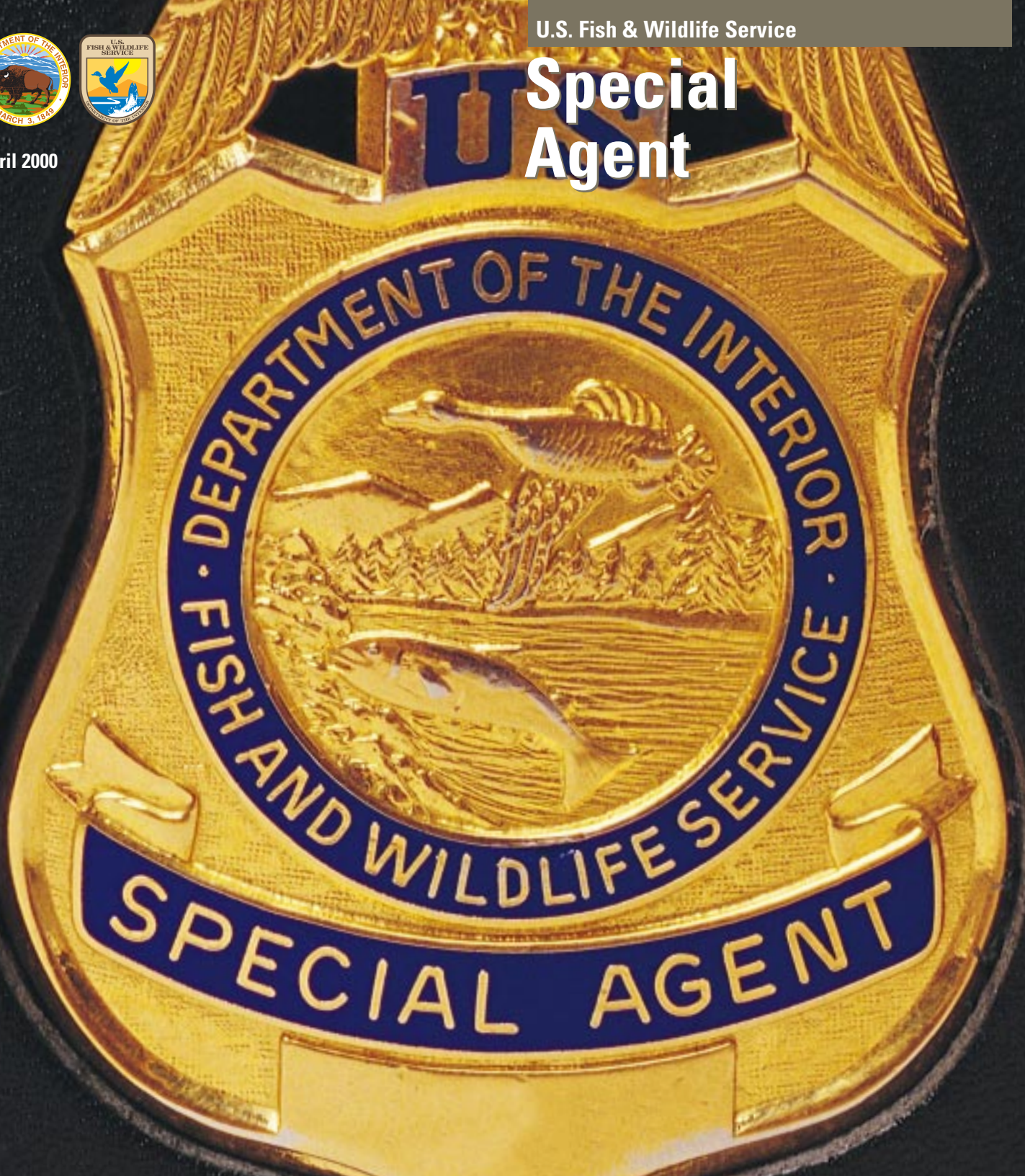




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U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

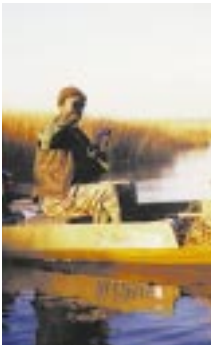
Special Agent



Special Agents of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service have challenging and rewarding careers. They are trained criminal investigators who enforce Federal wildlife laws throughout the United States.

Special Agents conduct law enforcement investigations that may include activities such as surveillance, undercover work, making arrests, and preparing cases for court.

They often work with other Federal, tribal, foreign, state, or local law enforcement authorities. Special Agents enforce traditional migratory bird regulations and investigate major commercial activities involving illegal trade in protected wildlife. Some agents work at border ports where they enforce Federal laws protecting domestic and foreign wildlife species that enter into interstate and international commerce.



Employment Opportunities

Only some 250 Special Agents work for the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. Special Agent positions are extremely competitive and highly sought after. Consequently, only the most qualified applicants are appointed. The duties of all Special Agents involve considerable travel with frequent periods away from home. Newly appointed Special Agents may be assigned to duty stations anywhere in the United States, including Guam and Puerto Rico.

How to Apply

Every year the Service anticipates hiring 10 to 15 new Special Agents. To begin the recruitment effort, the Service's Personnel Office in Arlington, Virginia issues vacancy announcements describing available positions. Individuals seeking information about Special Agent vacancies can check the Office of Personnel Management's web site at: <http://usajobs.opm.gov/>.



Position Requirements

To qualify for a Special Agent position, applicants must meet strict medical, physical, and psychological requirements. They must also participate in mandatory drug testing and psychological screening programs. The most highly qualified applicants will be interviewed. Academically, a four-year degree in wildlife management, criminal justice, or other related fields is preferred. Those chosen will undergo an extensive background investigation to determine suitability for appointment to a Special Agent position. All appointees must be citizens of the United States, at least 21 years of age, but less than 37 years of age at the time of entrance on duty. A mobility agreement must be signed which indicates a willingness to accept a reassignment to any location in the future.

Appointees must be in excellent physical condition and pass a comprehensive medical examination, which is provided at no cost to the applicant. The appointee must also successfully pass a battery of tests to determine physical fitness suitability.



Career Pattern and Pay

Starting salaries for Special Agents begin at one of the GS-5/7/9 levels, depending upon education and experience. The full performance level of pay is GS-12. In addition to base pay, agents are compensated for availability pay and those agents stationed in high-cost geographical areas receive additional locality pay. Special Agents can expect to serve in several locations during a typical 20-year career. With each transfer, employees have the opportunity for a more diversified career progressing to their full potential. After gaining experience in field investigations, some agents may decide to enhance their careers and move into management positions. These positions are found in the Senior Resident Agent Offices, the Regional Offices, and the Chief's Office in Washington, D.C. The selection process for management positions is competitive and provides for upward mobility at the GS-13, GS-14, and GS-15 levels.



Training

Special Agents begin their careers with 18 weeks of formal training in criminal investigative and wildlife law enforcement techniques at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center at Glynco, Georgia. Basic Training includes comprehensive courses in protective techniques, criminal law, use of special investigative equipment, use of firearms, and defensive measures. Rules of evidence, surveillance techniques, undercover operations, and courtroom demeanor are also studied. Classroom study is supplemented with on-the-job training when agents report to their assigned field stations. As agents in training, they assist in carrying out surveillance activities, participating in raids, interviewing witnesses and suspects, searching for physical evidence and clues, seizing contraband, and serving search warrants. The emphasis on training and the vast experience they gain make U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Special Agents among the best wildlife law enforcement professionals in the world.



Benefits

Full retirement benefits are available to Special Agents with 20 years of Federal law enforcement service at age 50. Retirement becomes mandatory at age 57. Other benefits are also attractive. Availability pay is earned at the rate of 25% of base pay. This pay is designed to compensate the criminal investigator for at least 2 hours of unscheduled duty per regular workday. In addition, low-cost health and life insurance may be obtained through Federal employee programs. Insurance plans are available to immediate family members. Financial protection is provided, without cost, in the event of job-related injury or death. Annual leave accrues at the rate of 13 to 26 days per year, based on length of employment. Prior Federal civilian or military service is creditable. Sick leave is earned at the rate of 13 days per year and there are 10 paid Federal holidays per year.

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service is an equal opportunity employer. All candidates will receive consideration without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age* (see requirements), political affiliation or any other nonmerit factor.



State/Territories

For More Information
For more information about career opportunities for Special Agents, position requirements, and Federal wildlife law enforcement, write to the Assistant Regional Director for Law Enforcement of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Office nearest your home.

*CA, HI, ID, NV,
OR, WA, GU,
AS, CM*

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AZ, NM, OK, TX

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*IL, IN, IA, MI,
MN, MO, OH,
WI*

Assistant Regional Director
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*AL, AR, FL, GA,
KY, LA, MS, NC,
SC, TN, PR, VI*

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*CT, DE, DC, ME,
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*CO, KS, MT, NE,
ND, SD, UT, WY*

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AK

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Headquarters

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You may also obtain additional information about the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service from our web site at www.fws.gov.





Region 1

Region 2

Region 3

Region 4

Region 5

Region 6

Region 7