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From the Deputy Director

The first thing I want to do in 2010 is thank all my friends and shipmates for the outpouring of support they gave me during my recent bout with kidney stones. All the stories you hear about how painful these tiny deposits can be are true and I am grateful for all the well wishes, support, and vicodin. It's good to have that episode behind me, THANK YOU ALL!!

The DoD Fire & Emergency Services Working Group recently approved several changes to the annual DoD F&ES Awards program effective with this year's nominations. Among the changes;

- Adjusted the Fire Department of the Year categories to account for large, consolidated or regional fire departments. The new Fire Department of the Year categories are Small (three or less staffed companies), Medium (four to eight staffed companies), and Large (nine or more staffed companies).
- Replaced *Implemented Quality Management Principles* with *Firefighter Health and Safety Initiatives* in the Department of the Year criteria.
- Address forward deployed, expeditionary operating location, consolidated, regional, and district fire departments.
- Address firefighter and fire officers assigned to Joint Bases.
- Moved Lead Firefighters into the Fire Officer of the Year category.
- Removed Headquarters staff and Fire Chiefs from the Officer of the Year category.
- Expanded the Instructor of the Year category to include Assistant Chiefs of Training, Training Chiefs, Training Managers, and all Fire Service Instructors.
- Changed the Heroism Award to a noncompetitive category by recognizing each service component Heroism nominee as a DoD Heroism Award recipient.
- Changed the nomination submission due date from 1 June to 1 May for DoD awards. This means Navy nominations are due to CNIC by 1 April 2010

The official notice should be reaching you shortly but take this as a heads up to begin working on your nominations now.

From the Director (Cont.)

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This is also the time of year to look back at the history of your organizations and consider some your pioneering members for the Navy F&ES Hall of Fame and Lifetime Achievement Awards. We currently recognize 15 Navy F&ES Hall of Famers and a single Lifetime Achievement Award recipient. We know there are many deserving nominees out there and look forward to seeing your nominations. Those nominations are also due to CNIC by 1 April.

All Navy awards will be presented at the annual DoD F&ES Training Conference at the Chicago Hyatt Hotel on August 26.

We are very pleased to announce the publication of the Navy Fire & Emergency Services Vision and 2008 Annual Report highlighting the future direction of Navy F&ES as well as our accomplishments in 2008. Both documents are available on the CNIC Gateway at

<https://cnicgateway.cnic.Navy.mil/ws/HQN3/N30/Documents/Forms/AllItems.aspx?RootFolder=%2fws%2fHQN3%2fN30%2fDocuments%2fFES%20Strategic%20Vision%20Plan&FolderCTID=&View=%7bEE40039D%2dE5B2%2d47AA%2d9B65%2dECA5D1F09A0D%7d>

and

<https://cnicgateway.cnic.Navy.mil/ws/HQN3/N30/Documents/Forms/AllItems.aspx?RootFolder=%2fws%2fHQN3%2fN30%2fDocuments%2fAnnual%20Reports&FolderCTID=&View=%7bEE40039D%2dE5B2%2d47AA%2d9B65%2dECA5D1F09A0D%7d> respectively.

I am also thrilled to be able to report that two of our Navy Fire Departments have moved one step closer to accredited agency status and our expectation is one or both of them will receive accredited status at the annual Commission for Public Safety Excellence banquet in Chicago this August.

Federal Fire Navy Region Hawaii has been recommended for accredited status by their peer assessors and will meet with the CFAI Commission on 9 March in Orlando, FL to learn whether they will attain that milestone. I have a personal stake in this department as I have worked closely with Fire Chief Glenn de Laura, Deputy Chief Gayland Enriques, and Fire Captains Eric Pratt and Leonard Sarsona on a couple of occasions to lend my support. I will attend the CFAI meeting in Orlando with the complete expectation of seeing this organization recognized as an accredited agency.

Naval Station Rota (Spain) met with their peer assessors recently to fine tune a few items and get some direction to help them prepare to host a peer assessment visit later this year. Chief Tim Ybarra and his accreditation manager Chris Hubmer are working diligently to hone their package to accommodate a peer assessment team visit this year.

BRAVO ZULU Hawaii and Rota!!

Here's to safe and prosperous 2010, let's all go home at the end of the shift,

- Rick

Last Alarms

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2009 Totals

♥ 54 (58%) ⇄ 12 (13%)

♥ Indicates cardiac related death

⇄ Indicates vehicle accident related death

2010 Totals

♥ 5 (83%) ⇄ 1 (16%)

♥ Indicates cardiac related death

⇄ Indicates vehicle accident related death

Taking Care of Our Own Update



Newest ARFF Rig



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Last Alarms

To date, 93 deaths were reported for 2009 and 6 reported for 2010. The following line of duty deaths were reported since we published our last issue:

2009

Gary Neidig, Jr. ♥
Age: 36
Mount Carmel, PA

Jimmy Davis, Sr. ♥
Age: 63
Maysville, NC

Tommy Adams
Age: 51
Shreveport, LA

Bobby Mullins ♥
Age: 52
Dante, VA

Paul Holmes ⇄
Age: 37
Douglasville, GA

Clair Pierce ♥
Age: 68
Wellsboro, PA

Craig Starr ♥
Age: 44
Plymouth, UT

Richard Miller ♥
Age: 24
Belmont, NC

Steve Koeser
Age: 33
New Holstein, WI

2010

Urban Eck ♥
Age: 51
Wichita, KS

Leroy Kemp ⇄
Age: 85
Tioga Center, NY

Jerry Thompson ♥
Age: 55
Union, MS

Joseph McCafferty ♥
Age: 59
Lancaster, OH

Terry Cannon ♥
Age: 52
Louisville, KY

Taking Care of Our Own

Check with your Fire Chief if you wish to make a leave donation. There are currently seven DoD firefighters in the Taking Care of Own program.

Name	Location	Point of Contact
Aaron Hunter	Fort Leonard Wood, MO	Jeff.Sheeley@us.army.mil
Ralph Huston	DSC Richmond, VA	Clyde.Hipshire@dla.mil
Anthony Gerich	NAS Key West	Richard.Hadlock@navy.mil
Darick Fisher	Norfolk Naval Shipyard, VA	Marc.J.Smith@navy.mil
Christopher Capps	Fort Sill, OK	Ronald.D.Pyle@us.army.mil
Gregory Feagans	NIOC Sugar Grove, WV	Nanette.Kimble@navy.mil
Martin Smith	NAS JRB Willow Grove, PA	Edward.McCue@navy.mil

Navy's New Oshkosh 3000 Gallon Striker



Donald Huber

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Marine Corps F&ES Icon Passes Away

By Jeff Ristine, San Diego Union-Tribune Staff Writer

Donald Huber, the founding fire chief at the Marine Corps' San Diego air depot during World War II who would later lead development and testing of a new foam to battle aviation-fuel fires, has died. Mr. Huber, 88, died of natural causes in his sleep December 28 at the Point Loma house he and his wife had occupied for 60 years. A memorial service was held January 12.

Mr. Huber enlisted in the Marines in his native Minnesota in 1942 and expected to be deployed from San Diego to the Pacific. Instead, he was assigned to the Marines' section of the sprawling military facility that would initially go by the name Camp Kearny. His experience with a family welding-supply business, volunteer firefighting in Minnesota and the ability to drive a truck helped Mr. Huber get appointed chief of the nascent Marine air station's fire department, his family said. He wound up spending his four years of active duty at the air station, ultimately renamed Marine Corps Air Depot Miramar, and was discharged as a master sergeant. After the war, he stayed on, first as a civilian assistant fire chief and then as fire chief as the facility evolved into a naval station.

It was toward the end of the war that Mr. Huber began his interest in improving firefighting materials. In an August 2006 interview in Iowa's Globe-Gazette newspaper, "I was determined to try to do something about developing foam. When you have guys dying and you're pulling bodies out of planes all the time, you want to do something about it." Mr. Huber told a columnist who interviewed him at a family gathering. After some preliminary findings, he wrote a four-page letter to the head of the Naval Research Laboratory in Washington, and the project ended up being turned over to researchers at the Minnesota Mining & Manufacturing Co. (now 3M), leading to major improvements in a material called Aqueous Film-Forming Foam.

When Mr. Huber left Miramar in 1969, he was thought to be the longest-tenured person ever stationed there, Knight said. He went on to take the fire-marshall position for the 11th Naval District, overseeing 38 stations in California and Nevada. He ended his career in fire service with two years as chief at North Island Naval Air Station, retiring in 1976.

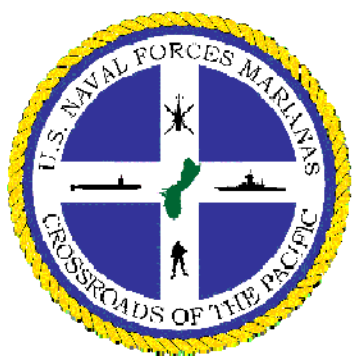
Family lore holds that Mr. Huber believed he was instrumental in naming the Marines' portion of Camp Kearny "Miramar." With the name already in use by a post office and grocery store serving the base, Mr. Huber told his family, he took the initiative to have Miramar used in mail addressed to his fire crew and later suggested it as the base name to a senior officer.

Mr. Huber is survived by his wife of 67 years, four sons, a daughter, nine grandchildren; and one great-granddaughter.

Mr. Huber's ashes were inurned at Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery.

Off Duty – Guam *Naval Base Guam Firefighter Wins Championship*

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Firefighter Frank Cruz of U.S. Naval Base Guam Fire & Emergency Services, competed in the 2009 Tokyo Open Jiu-Jitsu Championships held at the Tokyo Budokan in Ayase Prefecture, Tokyo, Japan.

He conquered the Master's Purple Belt middle-weight division in four straight fights. Not being completely satisfied, the very next day he fought his way to victory in four more to harness the Purple Belt Master "Absolute" Title.

Frank is a proud husband and father of five and has been training in Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu for nine years at the Purebred Lloyd Irvin Gym under Sensei Stephen "Bert" Roberto, who received his Black Belt from Mike Fowler.

Upon winning this prestigious event, Frank was promoted to Brown Belt by Sensei Roberto. Frank continues his quest to train and compete in his journey to the Black Belt level and credits his Jiu-Jitsu discipline and training for success through the Probationary Firefighter Academy as well as the daily demands as a firefighter.

Cort D. Jamison, Regional Fire Chief, Joint Region Marianas, continues to emphasize to all Fire & Emergency Services personnel, "Diligent training and hard work produces impeccable results. We're all very proud of Firefighter Cruz and congratulate him on his success both on and off the mat."

On the Job - Northwest



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Firefighters Presented CNIC Lifesaving Awards



NRNW Fire & Emergency Services FF EMT Matt Krok, Nathan Sharp, Captain Phil Baumgras and FF EMT-I Mike Foreman were presented with CNIC Life Saving Awards by Naval Base Kitsap Commanding Officer Captain Mark J. Olson.

Decorated At Last!

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Retired Fire Chief Awarded Medals After 36 Years

By John Wilkens, San Diego Union-Tribune Staff Writer



Lewis E. Meyer put out fires. He didn't start them.

So after he came home from Vietnam in 1973 as a civilian firefighter who had been caught up in the war there, he didn't complain about the government not honoring his service and sacrifice.

It didn't much matter to him that no Purple Heart arrived, or that nobody gave him a Prisoner of War Medal. He knew what he had been through.

But it mattered to his friends and family, and their efforts to right a wrong paid off with a ceremony aboard the USS Midway Museum in downtown San Diego. In front of about 150 people, the 76-year-old El Cajon resident stood in his dress firefighter's uniform and couldn't stop smiling as Rear Adm. William French pinned the medals on him.

"I am so proud to be here," Meyer said after audience members rose from their seats on the hangar deck to give him an ovation. "You don't have to be in the military to serve and defend your country. That's the duty of all of us."

Meyer, a San Diego native who was in the Army during the Korean War, had already worked for 14 years in the federal fire service when he was ordered to South Vietnam in early 1968 to help train air-crash-suppression crews. A few weeks into his stint, the North Vietnamese army and the Viet Cong attacked his building compound in Hue during the Tet Offensive. Meyer was wounded, then captured after three days of fighting.

He spent five years as a POW at a place called Rockpile. He escaped once with two other men, but was recaptured days later. Prison officials interrogated and tortured him dozens of times.

Meyer said he doesn't remember much about the torture because during those times, he would train his mind to block out the pain by taking him elsewhere. "I always went to Hawaii," he said.

The prisoners joked at times about going on a hunger strike. "But we were already hungry," said Meyer, who lost 60 pounds in captivity.

In March 1973, Meyer was among hundreds of American prisoners released. One of his supervisors put in paperwork for the medals later that year, Meyer said. It got lost, bounced from the Army to the Navy and then into limbo.

Meyer went back to civilian life, to his wife and two sons and fire career. But it wasn't an easy transition. His family said he was different, scarred and edgy.

He eventually was divorced.

Lew Meyer (Cont.)

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“For the first few years, we had to be careful not to slam any doors around him,” his brother Bill said.

About four years ago, Meyer turned to face the demons still chasing him. He got counseling through the Department of Veterans Affairs. He started opening up with those around him about what he had been through.



Lewis E. Meyer was awarded two Purple Hearts and a Prisoner of War Medal, during the ceremony on the Midway. Navy Rear Adm. William French pinned the medals; former Rep. Duncan Hunter (right) attended.

One of his friends is Dean Erwine, a retired Air Force colonel. They’ve known each other for 60 years, since junior high. It bothered Erwine that Meyer hadn’t received his medals.

Erwine compiled witness statements from men who were at Hue or Rockpile with Meyer. He wrote letters and made phone calls.

“We hit a bureaucratic cement wall,” Erwine said. “First they told us he needed to be attached to a particular military unit to get the medals. Then

they said he wasn’t eligible because he was a civilian.”

Eventually, Meyer’s supporters contacted Rep. Duncan Hunter, R-Alpine, and Ross Perot, the wealthy Texas businessman and two-time candidate for president. Both intervened.

In November, Erwine heard through his military contacts that the medals had been approved — two Purple Hearts (one for wounds at Hue, the other for injuries during captivity) and the POW Medal.

He remembers calling Meyer and asking, “Lew, are you sitting down?” The medal ceremony had the kind of sweetness in the air normally associated with graduations and weddings. Everybody smiled and took pictures and hugged.

Tears of joy fell.

Relatives and friends mingled with firefighters and former POWs, including one who flew in from Thailand.

“This is a great moment of closure to see him finally rewarded for his heroism,” said Jeff Meyer, his youngest son, who was 12 when his dad was captured. “I always knew he was a hero. Now everybody knows.”

After he received the medals, Meyer told the crowd, “I’m speechless.” But he wasn’t. He talked about how honored he felt. He talked about supporting the troops fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan.

And he talked about opening old wounds, and how he was OK with that — at last.

“I finally came out of my cell,” Meyer said. “I’m home.”

Firefighter Safety

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Joint Program Aims to Reduce Firefighter Injuries

By Samantha L. Quigley, American Forces Press Service

Firefighting may be near the top of the Defense Department's list of high-risk occupations, but there's a move afoot to make it safer.

Defense Department firefighter injury reports -- more than 1,000 new incidents each year -- have cost the department nearly \$30 million a year.

When the Defense Safety Oversight Council realized more than a year ago that firefighters' injury-related lost time rates were higher than any other civilian occupation within the department, it sought help in turning the situation around.

Enter the Department of Defense Fire and Emergency Service Working Group.

"[The Defense Safety Oversight Council] wanted us to look into what was causing the injuries to see if we could come up with suggestions on reducing the injury rates and the lost work days," said Carl Glover, the director of the Navy Fire and Emergency Service for Commander Navy Installations Command. "[The working group] thought that the awareness training would be an opportunity to spread the word on the problem and create some awareness and potentially reduce the [accident rates]."

The Firefighter Injury Prevention Training project started with a 26-month analysis of firefighter injuries within the Navy, he said. Of all the injuries reported, 41 percent were classified as "falls, slip, trip, or bodily exertion." Of those cases, 40 percent, or 75 incidents, were directly related to the firefighter entering or exiting the fire apparatus and lifting patients.

The resulting effort to lower the rate of injury is an eight-lesson, Web-based training program. The multimedia program uses text, audio, video, photographs and graphics to demonstrate proper techniques for the actions determined to lead to falls, slips, trips, and exertion injuries.

Video for the course which was shot at Bolling Air Force Base in the nation's capital, and features participants from Defense Logistics Agency, the Air Force, Army and Marines. The Navy has been using it for about a year, Glover said. Funded by the Defense Safety Oversight Council, the course also has been provided to the other services.

Though it's being used and is creating awareness of the issues in question, it's too soon to tell if it's actually been effective in lowering incident rates, Glover said. "We've had some internal Navy feedback that it's well-received," he said. "We just don't know if it's achieving its desired result yet. I don't have any statistics to indicate that our numbers of injuries have reduced."

The plan is to evaluate the program's success once it's yielded enough data to study. "If it's successful, maybe we approach DSOC for a Part 2, but tackle a different specific type of injury," Glover said. "Or, if it's not successful, then we'll go back to DSOC and say, 'Is there some other option we can look [at] ... to see if there's some other program we could implement to reduce the injuries.'"

NFA Changes

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Management Science Curriculum Overhauled

The United States Fire Administration's (USFA) National Fire Academy (NFA) has completed a top-to-bottom review and update of its Management Science curriculum. This comprehensive review includes new course content, addressing emerging issues and challenges faced by the nation's fire and emergency medical services. Course names now reflect the increasingly diverse role contemporary fire and emergency medical services leaders play in their communities.

"Emergency services management skills have changed over the last few years, and the USFA's NFA is modernizing several of its more popular courses to stay on top of this trend," said NFA Superintendent Dr. Denis Onieal. "The Management Science curriculum now offers some of the leading courses that prepare today's fire service leaders to better handle the challenges of managing organizations in today's rapidly changing economic, political, regulatory and social climates."

Located on the campus of the National Emergency Training Center in Emmitsburg, Maryland, the NFA has trained more than 120,000 students in 2009 through face-to-face deliveries; long-standing partnerships with State and metropolitan fire service training organizations, colleges and universities; and online learning. More than 8,000 students attend classes at the Emmitsburg facility each year.

"We are particularly pleased with the efforts of Management Science training staff, who so diligently contributed to these curriculum revisions and modernization," said United States Fire Administrator Kelvin J. Cochran. "The creativity and vision of NFA leadership resulted in content designed to challenge students."

New on-campus course titles include R107 - Communications for Emergency Services Success (formerly Fire Service Communications), R331 - Strategic Organizational Issues in Fire and EMS (formerly Organizational Theory in Practice), and R332 - Effective Leadership Skills for Fire and EMS Organizations (formerly Interpersonal Dynamics in Fire Service Organizations).

Three other courses in the Management Science curriculum were updated to include lessons learned and activities emphasizing the NFA's Congressionally-mandated role to expand its presence in fire-based emergency medical services management training and education. The popular two-day courses Leadership I, II and III also have been re-titled to Leadership I, II and III for Fire and EMS to recognize the increasingly important role of emergency medical services in fire service delivery.

For more information about the new Management Science curriculum or other United States Fire Administration programs and offerings, visit www.usfa.dhs.gov.

On the Job – Djibouti

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Safety Follow Up



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Made-In-USA Djiboutian Firefighters

La Nation (Djibouti daily newspaper) Translated by Mahamed Abdillahi

After a combatant itinerary that took them two years to complete, seven young Djiboutian men enter the Fire Fighting Department of Camp Lemonnier.

At the beginning, they were twelve; twelve daring guys on their way to become fire fighters. They first started as janitors, builders or plumbers at Camp Lemonnier. But they were nourishing another dream, they were dreaming of wearing the uniform of the heroes: the fire fighters'. Two years later, seven only achieved their dream. They needed to be patient and assiduous as well as courageous and disciplined.

Today, they are fire fighters. Not any fire fighters, but they are firefighters that are recognized by the American Department of Defense. "The U.S. Department of Defense requires fire fighters to be certified in order for them to be able to work as fire fighters on an American military base. So, for the DoD as well as for the Association of the American Fire Fighters, there are certain standards that are required before someone is declared a "fire fighter";" according to F.G. Fox, Deputy Chief of Camp Lemonier Fire Department.

"The fact that this certificate is valid in any American military base around the world is most significant. This certificate will enable these young Djiboutians to work as fire fighters not only in Djibouti but in many other foreign countries as well," Fox said.

Fox added that these new recruits will be given more responsibilities. "Their next step will be the ARFF (Aircraft Rescue Fire Fight) certificate that will enable them to put out a fire aboard an aircraft. Just like any American fire fighter, they started with completing their "First Responder" certificate," he concluded.

Readers Spot Safety Issues in Photos

Several readers alerted us that the photo accompanying the Djibouti article in the November issue of *What's Happening* (page 16) illustrated some serious safety violations (lack of proper PPE) and appropriately called us out for not screening these photos. Thanks for all the comments.

While we are usually pretty diligent about these things, we will miss one every now and then. Stuff happens and people take pictures whether we publish them or not.

Think about this; we received numerous comments chastising us for printing that photo. We did not receive a single request for the e-mail, phone number, or contact information for Djibouti so someone could share their safety and PPE SOP's or extrication lesson plans. Our safety culture will be there when our first reaction to something like this is to reach out to help instead of criticizing. Let's all work on that.

USMC News

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Cherry Point EMS Plays a Major Role in Survival

On October 15 at 1236, Cherry Point F&ES Medic 1 responded to the urgent care facility on the installation for a report of chest pain. Upon arrival, Firefighter Paramedic James Johnson and Firefighter Amanda Krelie found a 53 year-old male who had arrived at the facility a short time earlier, complaining of chest pain.

Treatment of the patient, which included a 12 lead EKG, began. FF Johnson examined the EKG and determined the patient was possibly having a heart attack. He immediately contacted a local hospital and advised them the patient was possibly experiencing a ST-Segment Elevation Myocardial Infarction, better known as STEMI.

Based on his assessment of the patient and early notification of the incident, the receiving hospital activated the cardiac catheterization lab and its personnel. During transport, FF Johnson administered medications that may have prevented additional damage to the patient's heart. Upon arrival at the hospital, the ambulance crew was able to bypass the emergency department and transport the patient directly to the cath lab, thus saving additional time.

Hospital personnel later contacted Cherry Point F&ES and advised them that the patient had definitely experienced a life-threatening emergency and went into cardiac arrest in the cath lab. The patient was successfully resuscitated by the cath lab team and received treatment for blockages of the coronary arteries. The patient was later released from the hospital with a positive outcome.

In a STEMI, the goal is for the patient to receive definitive cardiac treatment within 90 minutes from the time they first enter the hospital. This is commonly referred to as the door-to-balloon time. In this situation, the door-to-balloon time was 20 minutes. Even more impressive was fact that the patient received care in the cath lab 68 minutes from the time Cherry Point F&ES personnel first made contact with him. Obviously, this was well within the accepted guidelines.

The prompt recognition, treatment, and notification by prehospital providers of a patient experiencing a STEMI is not included in this time, but plays a major role is reducing the door-to-balloon time. In this situation, Firefighter Johnson immediately recognized the seriousness of the incident, treated the patient appropriately, and gave the hospital advance notification of the situation. This allowed the patient to bypass the emergency department, which drastically reduced the door-to-balloon time and led to a positive outcome.

Congratulations to Firefighter Paramedic James Johnson and Firefighter Krelie for a job well done!

Accept the challenges, so you may feel the exhilaration of victory.
-General George Patton

Mid Year Meetings

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Help for Haiti



On the Job - NDW



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Save the Dates!

The USMC F&ES mid-year meetings are scheduled for 23-25 February 2010. Travel dates will be 22 & 26 February. The location this year will be MCB Quantico. An agenda is being developed, but will include briefs on accreditation, health and safety, and updates on other programs.

Fire-Rescue Med, an annual conference sponsored by the EMS Section of the International Association of Fire Chiefs, will be held 1-5 May 2010 at The Orleans Hotel in Clark County, Nevada. Tentative plans are being made to hold USMC EMS meetings prior to the conference. It is anticipated that the EMSAB will be up and running prior to that date, with the initial meeting being held at the conference. A conference brochure will be distributed when issued, as this is an excellent conference for EMS Managers.

OPM Authorizes Special Solicitations

The earthquake that hit Haiti on January 12th came without warning and brought death and destruction on a scale that is difficult to comprehend. We are all moved, and after the quake struck, the United States and other nations immediately began relief operations for the Haitian people.

The Office of Personnel Management has authorized Special Solicitations outside of the Combined Federal Campaign to support this effort. The need for donations is immediate. The most expeditious means of providing financial support to the organizations conducting the relief effort is to make a direct donation. The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) has recommended cash contributions as the most effective way to help. USAID has provided a list of relief organizations and further information on its website at:

<http://www.usaid.gov/> ("How Can I Help" is on the right side of page)

NAVFAC Recognizes NDW Inspectors



NDW Central Washington DC Fire Inspectors Chris Schaefer and Scott Strandberg were awarded NAVFAC Safety award coins (below) on December 15, 2009 by Mr. Joe McKinley III, NAVFAC PWD Safety Manager.



On the Job - Atsugi

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\$31 Million Aircraft Maintenance Complex Saved



On 14 September at 1155 local, the Naval Air Facility Atsugi Security Police notified the CNFJ Regional Dispatch Center-Atsugi of smoke and fire coming from Hangar 183. Atsugi fire fighters immediately sprang into action and responded the scene. Upon arrival, District Chief Hiroshi Takahashi transmitted “heavy smoke and fire showing on the west (street) side of Hangar 183”. He established 183 Command and committed to an offensive fire attack. His strategy was simple; stop the fire’s progress and contain it within the area of origin until extinguished. This would prove to be easier said, than done.

Hangar 183 is an 89,000 square foot (dual hangar) aircraft maintenance complex that was constructed in 1941. The current replacement value of the complex is 31.4 million dollars. The hangar portions of the building are Type II noncombustible and the attached shop/admin areas are Type III construction. There is no fire suppression system, and no separation between the two hangar bays. Ironically, the hangar is undergoing an 11.7 million dollar renovation project that includes the installation of AFFF systems, a fire wall in the hangar bays, and a pre-action water sprinkler in the shop/admin areas.

Atsugi 2 was the first structural fire apparatus on scene; the crew made entry from the west side of the hangar and commenced their attack on the main body of fire. Crew Chief Takahashi Sato reported heavy fire conditions and that the fire was extending through the ceiling—more crews were need to control and stop the fire from spreading. Within minutes, the Japanese Maritime Self Defense Force (JMSDF) Fire Department arrived on scene and was assigned to assist Atsugi 2 with the interior fire attack. The JMSDF worked on stopping the fires horizontal progress by applying water through the partially collapsed ceiling adjacent to the main body of fire; this kept the fire from spreading throughout the ceiling void.

Fire Chief Freddie Thompson Jr. arrived shortly after the initial attack began. After assessing Takahashi’s strategy and the progress of the fire fighting efforts, Chief Thompson assumed Incident Command. He immediately, requested an additional ladder company from Ayase City and assigned Fire Officer Brett Johnson as Sector A (interior) command. “District Chief Takahashi’s initial size-up and commitment to an offensive strategy made the difference in this highly successful fire fighting effort”; commented Chief Thompson. Without further request, additional fire companies from the Cities of Ayase and Yamato were in route to NAF Atsugi. NAF Atsugi’s Commanding Office Captain Eric Gardner was also on-scene making sure that resources to support the fire fighting operation were available on-scene or postured for immediate response.

Atsugi (Cont.)

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Atsugi 1, Crash 1, and additional JMSDF fire fighters were assigned to the east (airfield) side of the hangar. Their task was to make entry through the main hangar doors and stop the fire from spreading into the main hangar bay. Visibility was near zero as the crews advanced through the smoke filled hangar bay towards the fire. As feared; the fire had already advanced into the hangar bay and was spreading vertically to the high bay ceiling and horizontally along heavy timber structural members. The horizontal spread was of particular concern because it threatened to involve the second hangar bay. CNFJ and JMSDF fire fighters aggressively attacked and stopped the fire's spread in the high bay; they then moved in to assist Atsugi 2 with the main body of fire. With five hose lines on the fire, it was declared under control at 1215, however, fire fighters would continue cutting vent holes, fighting spot fires, and extinguishing smoldering embers for another three hours. The Incident Commander declared the fire out at 1530.

Seven Japanese asbestos abatement workers, who were at the point of origin when the fire suddenly erupted, escaped through the flames prior to the fire department's arrival. Three of the workers were injured and required emergency medical treatment. The JMSDF and Ayase City ambulance crews stabilized and transported them directly to an off-base medical facility. One victim was treated for second degree burns and released, and the other two victims remain hospitalized with second and third degree burns to the legs and torso. There were no other injuries or fatalities.

A fire cause determination briefing was held at the NAF Atsugi Fire Department. One of the injured workers was present during the briefing, and described the events leading up to the fire. The worker was one of seven that were in an enclosed area removing asbestos floor tiles. They sprayed a highly flammable liquid thinner over the floor to dissolve the remaining tile adhesive. He was attempting to relocate a portable electric lamp when it fell to the floor. The light bulb burst on impact and the spark ignited the flammable liquid. The entire room erupted in flames, and the workers all escaped by running through the fire. The evidence observed during the on site investigation substantiated the workers description of the events. The floors were saturated with the flammable thinner which served as an accelerant; this explained how the fire erupted and spread so quickly. Also, the broken light fixture was also recovered at the point of origin. The damage was extensive; there was some structural collapse, deep charring and burn-through on major support timbers, and warping of steel support frames in the main hangar area. Damages to the structure were estimated at \$500K.

“We consider this a successful fire fighting effort. At a point, the fire had the upper hand, and we could have lost both structures. But our guys hung in there, and fought this fire to submission.” said Fire Officer Brett Johnson.

Chief Thompson further commented; “Because of good decision making by our fire officers, aggressive fire fighting, and outstanding support from the NAF Atsugi team, we were able to contain and extinguish the fire within its area of origin. \$500K in damage -- \$30.9 million saved. I can live with that.”

CPSE News

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Kelvin Cochran to Speak at CPSE Conference



The Center for Public Safety Excellence (CPSE) announces the dates and program for the CPSE 2010 Excellence Conference. If you are seeking excellence in your professional development and excellence in the services provided by your agency to your community, this conference was designed for you. The Excellence Conference will be held in Orlando Florida March 9-12, 2010 at the Caribe Royal Suites Hotel and Convention Center.

The Excellence Conference will include a daily keynote speaker led on the first day by US Fire Administrator Kelvin Cochran. Chief Cochran will provide his national vision for the fire and emergency services and update attendees on issues of national interest.

Dr. Lori Moore-Merrill, Assistant to the General President, International Association of Fire Fighters, will provide a high level briefing on the results of field experimentation conducted as part of on-going research in the multi-phase Fire Fighter Safety & Deployment Grant.

Ronny J. Coleman will address conference attendees as a keynote speaker, and will be presenting a new program on the “Compleat Fire Officer” (no misspelling, it’s French!). Ben May, a Disney executive, former fire fighter and fire executive, will provide the final days keynote, challenging the attendees with his presentation, “Marketing Leadership for Change in the US Fire Service.”

In the core conference registration, attendees will have options including 16 mini-workshops, a full day advanced technology class, and half day classes on building relationships with code officials and operational deployment of resources at fire scenes. Additional options include three days with Ronny Coleman discussing how to become the Compleat Fire Officer, or three days with Paul Rottenburg learning to tell your story through advanced Data Analysis and Presentation using Excel.

The Caribe Royale is honoring our reduced conference rates for three days before and three days after the conference so that you may plan an excellent mid-winter vacation for your family along with your excellent conference for your professional development. There are no resort fees and internet access is provided complimentary to conference attendees. Disney is offering reduced park admission rates for afternoon and evening tickets, as well as special conference rates for your family or for you (after the conference is over!)

Please view CPSE Excellence Conference

<http://web.memberclicks.com/mc/adminUI/community/eventdetails.do?eventId=251852&hidOrgID=cofai> for schedule and registration details.

Guest Editorial

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Change Your Mind, Change Your Culture

By Jim Wilson

Last month, the Colorado State Fire Chiefs Association held its Fire Leadership Challenge, “Changing Our Culture: Safeguarding Our Most Valuable Assets — Our Firefighters.” Considering line-of-duty deaths in 2008 passed the 100 mark by October, the theme certainly was timely and extremely important. How does the fire service, both as a whole and the sum of its parts, accomplish a change in organizational culture?

This has been debated for decades. In 2004, fire service leaders met in Tampa, Fla., to set some measurable goals for reducing LODDs. The goals developed at this Firefighter Life-Safety Summit called for a 25% reduction of LODDs in five years and 50% in 10 years. Developed in tandem with the 2004 summit goals was possibly the single most important document in fire service history — the 16 Firefighter Life-Safety Initiatives.

How is the fire service doing? From January 2004 to mid-November 2008, 520 firefighters died serving their communities. The number dipped below 100 in only one year (87 LODDs in 2006). Clearly, the fire service hasn't achieved the desired goals.

What are we doing wrong and how do we steer the fire service in a direction that will achieve the desired results? Ask 100 fire chiefs and you will probably hear 150 different opinions. So let's start at the beginning, in this case the first initiative: “Define and advocate the need for cultural change within the fire service relating to safety; incorporating leadership, management, supervision, accountability and personal responsibility.” Emphasis here is on the need for cultural change.

The life-safety initiatives document wasn't the first time the fire service advocated cultural change for LODD reduction. In June 2005, the National Fire Service Research Agenda Symposium convened in Emmitsburg, MD, to “produce a document that will identify and prioritize the areas where research efforts should be directed to support improvements in firefighter life safety.” That 50-page document identifies dozens of potential avenues of research that may assist in reducing firefighter injury and death. Each issue was double-rated in importance. The “Analysis of Fire Service Culture” project was rated 1A, or highest priority. “This issue is believed to be one of the key factors in reducing firefighter's injuries and fatalities,” the report stated.

This issue couldn't be any clearer, nor could the leadership challenge theme be any more timely or important. If the primary villain in this fire service drama is its own culture, the solution should be pretty obvious. Yet annual year-end statistics don't lie.

An age-old axiom says, “Change your mind and change your culture.” But consider how often you really do change your mind. Once they have made up their minds about something, most fire chiefs are loathe to change it. Sometimes, this is a stellar trait. After all, if you have done due diligence and thoroughly researched an issue before taking a position, you should be able to defend it and stand by it.

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However, circumstances change, technology improves, techniques evolve and experience often alters processes for the better. For a fire chief to blindly stick to a position because of tradition is not only absurd, it's dangerous.

A critical thinker is someone who has changed his or her mind about an important issue based on new evidence. Have you? Do you regularly re-examine long-held views based on new evidence? Do you seek out new evidence to evaluate? Do you ever re-examine your positions on member health and wellness, apparatus or personally owned vehicle operations, inspection and maintenance of personal protection ensemble, or even how your department approaches structure or wildland fires?

Until the fire chief makes a firm commitment to change an organization's culture, members won't positively alter their behavior. Learn to change your mind, support vital change, and stand firm against those who resist.

But how are firefighters dying? These incidents will illustrate a few of the many changes that can help prevent future LODDs.

In December 1999, six firefighters died in an abandoned cold-storage warehouse in Worcester, Mass. The investigation report strongly recommended against risking firefighter lives to suppress fire in vacant or abandoned structures.

Unfortunately, every year since 1999 more firefighters have died inside vacant structures. What happened to the axiom taught in incident safety officer training that says, "Risk a lot to save a lot (human life); risk a little to save a little; risk nothing to save nothing?"

Worcester built a new fire station on the warehouse site and dedicated it to the six firefighters. I can't think of a more fitting use for that property, but with all due respect to all those who have made the supreme sacrifice both before and after Worcester, we do not need more monuments. We do not need more Worcesters or Charlestons. We need more fire chiefs to change their approach to structure fires. Can you change your mind?

In August 2008, nine wildland firefighters died in a helicopter crash while combating a rural and isolated forest fire in northern California. The fire was not threatening life or property. If that were an isolated occurrence it would not reflect so poorly on the fire service, but it wasn't. And there are common threads woven through most, if not all, fatal wildland fires. One of those threads most commonly cited is the can-do culture of the wildland firefighting community. In the case of the 2006 Esperanza Fire, in which five firefighters were killed, investigators cited that culture prominently.

Perhaps change is on the way. According to Tom Scott, a prominent University of California Wildland-Urban Interface planner, "You don't see people saying, 'If we can fill one more sandbag, we can stop the hurricane.' And the most sophisticated fire leaders are saying, 'We can't save every house, we can't fight all the fires and, in some cases, with all the technology in the world, there's not a thing we can do to stop it.'" Are you one of those sophisticated fire leaders? Year in and year out, more than half of all LODDs are attributed to heart attacks and other major medical maladies. In his paper, "Reducing Firefighter Deaths

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and Injuries: Changes in Concept, Policy, and Practice,” cardiologist James S. Cole outlines how one rural fire protection district chose to combat coronary artery disease:

“We have approached the early detection aspect of the problem using our County Occupational Health Program to obtain regular examinations and stress testing for all personnel. We have also set up a fitness center at each duty station which includes a Universal Smith machine and an Elliptical Trainer. The fitness program follows a vendor's program approved by the American College of Sports Medicine. It is based on the initial evaluation and subsequent improvement of aerobic capacity, muscle strength, flexibility, and body composition. The program provides a score, adjusted for age and gender, so individual comparisons can be made and individual progress evaluated.”

Cole concludes that coronary artery disease is the primary cause of LODDs and found that data suggests early detection, modifying risk factors and initiating therapy should reduce this problem significantly. How many volunteer and combination departments have NFPA 1582? and 1583? compliant medical and wellness programs in place?

A 2007 double-blind study through the University of Edinburgh of 20 healthy men of prime firefighter age clearly demonstrated exposure to as little as 300 micrograms of diesel exhaust (a level comparable to curbside exposure on a busy street) temporarily increases the blood's clotting factor. That could lead to coronary artery blockage and heart attack. Particulate matter contained in diesel exhaust also is one of the most potent known carcinogens. How many fire stations have positive-pressure vehicle exhaust evacuation systems?

Many states now recognize at least seven types of cancer as “presumptive” to firefighting. More cancer types may fall into that category with additional research. There was a time not so long ago when sporting soot-stained and smoke-permeated PPE was considered a badge of honor. No self-respecting firefighter would be seen in sparkling yellow turnouts. We now know that soot and smoke can be a killer to both firefighters and their families. How many volunteer and combination departments have NFPA 1851-compliant PPE cleaning, inspection and maintenance programs? When it comes to health and wellness of your members, can you change your mind and your department's culture?

Volunteer and combination departments seem to dominate LODD statistics for vehicle operations; water-tender fatalities are almost exclusively the domain of volunteers. Tenders are invaluable to rural fire suppression operations, but they also are inherently dangerous. Is it absolutely necessary for water tenders to respond to a code 3 with warning lights and siren? Is that extra 30 to 60 seconds going to make that much difference in a fire's outcome? Many departments' policies dictate water tender response as code 2 unless its arrival can make a difference in preserving a life. What is your response policy? Can you change your mind?

Statistically, another major LODD cause is volunteer members responding in privately owned vehicles. Does your department permit POV emergency

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response? Does your department have strict traffic and speed policies in place? Has your department debated eliminating volunteer response in POVs? Can you change your culture?

Those are but a few of the hundreds of issues that can and do lead to LODDs. The list is long and the list of causes even longer. Every volunteer and combination organization is at a different phase of development. During the development stage, every organization can learn from studying the statistics. What element of your organization could benefit from changing your mind?

Do you listen carefully to those with whom you may disagree to determine if they have information that might change your position? Or do you avoid thinking, sticking to your tradition no matter what?

We should never be too old, too smart or too traditional to change our minds. For the past decade, attendees at symposiums, summits and conferences have debated how to reduce LODDs. They have developed and published strategies, tactics and goals from those noble meetings. Unfortunately, positive results have been sketchy, at best.

As fire chiefs and chief officers, we all need to look in the mirror and realize that we may be our own worst enemies. We must come to the realization that priority number one in the 16 initiatives document is the most important. The Colorado chiefs were right on; changing the culture of the fire service is job one for all of us. Learn to change your mind and the rest becomes much easier.

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Combs Cartoon



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Routine Response



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On the Job – Mid Atlantic

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CNRMA Brings More Assets in Haiti Rescue Effort

By MCS1(AW) Tim Comerford, Commander, Navy Region Mid-Atlantic Public Affairs

The Mid-Atlantic fire fighting team was activated as part of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Virginia Task Force 2, urban search and rescue, to deploy to Haiti Jan. 14.

Battalion Chief Donald Washburn, Dam Neck Annex and two others from the Mid-Atlantic firefighting team were activated to deploy. "I got a call last night around 11:30, and I didn't know until two or three in the morning if I was actually going," Washburn said. "We are waiting on aircraft until we can go."

Since then, he and more than 80 firefighters from the Hampton Roads area have been busy gathering and loading equipment onto palettes and securing them.

According to Washburn, the long days of work are just beginning. "We will be working every day; digging through rubble, shoring up structures, providing first-aid and doing whatever we can to help people out," said Washburn, a veteran firefighter of 23 years. Washburn feels that he is well prepared to handle the situation he is about to face. "I have pretty much specialized in technical rescues through out my whole career," Washburn said.

And being a rescue technician is just what is needed for becoming part of the task force. Technical rescue refers to those aspects of saving life or property that employ the use of tools and skills that exceed those normally reserved for firefighting, medical emergency, and rescue. These disciplines include rope rescue, swift water rescue, confined space rescue, ski rescue, cave rescue, trench/excavation rescue, and building collapse rescue, among others.

For Michael Scott, supervisory captain at Little Creek and Christopher Connelly, supervisory captain at Naval Air Station (NAS) Oceana, this mission represents a culmination of years of training.

"This is my first deployment, I have been on the team for about five or six years now and had a whole lot of training, I am ready to put it to use," Scott said. "I have only been on the FEMA Team for two years and this is also my first deployment."

The team brought everything they could think of. "We are bringing everything and the kitchen sink," Connelly said. "Common tools like you have in your garage up to special breaching equipment and computer-based search and rescue programs."

But search is only one of their jobs, the other is rescue. "We are all trained up to ALS (Advanced Life Support or paramedic) level, and we bring everything that we would need for providing medical help for the people that we are rescuing as well as ourselves," Connelly said. They may need to give medical help to their fellows if a structure collapses on a searcher, but they trust in their teammates to keep them safe.

But all of them are looking forward to helping. "I am 100 percent excited, I'm looking forward to using the skills we learned in training," Connelly said.

On the Job – CVN 73

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GW Sailors, Firefighters Exchange Knowledge

By MCS2 (SW) John J. Mike, USS George Washington (CVN 73) Public Affairs



USS George Washington (CVN 73) Sailors and members of the Commander Naval Forces Japan Fire Department (CNFJFD) participated in a joint-training exercise on board GW Jan. 19.

GW Sailors used a winch and crane to free a 180-pound mannequin trapped in an 80-foot deep shaft as part of a deep-void rescue drill meant to increase interoperability between Sailors and the predominantly Japanese CNFJFD.

"We don't just do these drills because they are required," said Dan Vogel, the fire chief for Fleet Activities Yokosuka, Japan, and smaller military installations in the area. "The base's fire department is the first to assist any ship during an emergency in port; so my firefighters must be able to assimilate with GW Sailors during all types of emergencies."

GW Damage Control Assistant (DCA) Lt. Cmdr. Antonio Martinez agreed that training with the CNFJFD is a key component of building trust between Japanese and the Navy and keeping GW safe.

"The more we communicate and share with CNFJFD, the better we can plan a joint response during an emergency," said Martinez.

Jungi Kameyama, one of 16 CNFJFD firefighters observing the drill, said he welcomed the opportunity to train aboard GW because it allows for a professional exchange of knowledge between shore and ship-based Navy firefighters.

"We are happy to be working with each other so we learn how to overcome differences in rescue procedures and help support the ship," said Kameyama.

Martinez added that the training was also meant as a way for CNFJFD firefighters to familiarize themselves with the Navy's only permanently forward-deployed aircraft carrier.

"GW is special on the waterfront so it is imperative that CNFJFD members understand our ship and how we operate," said Martinez. "They haven't been exposed to this type of drill aboard GW before, so this was a way for us to show them how we respond during a casualty."

GW practices deep-void rescue drills at least four times a year to ensure an injured or incapacitated person can be safely rescued from a space not easily accessible by conventional means. Martinez said GW has many safety procedures in place to prevent such a situation, but Sailors still must be trained for any possible emergency during the ship's Selective Restrictive Availability at Fleet Activities Yokosuka.

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Apparatus Safety Issues

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Take Responsibility, Not Blame

By Janet Wilmoth

Were your ears burning this week? If they were, you might be among the fire chiefs who don't take responsibility for apparatus safety — we were talking about you this week at the 22nd Annual Fire Department Safety Officers Association Apparatus Symposium.

The event included my favorite straight-talking attorney, Jim Juneau, who spoke about “Learning from our Mistakes.”

“Every year in the U.S., there are 15,000 fire-apparatus accidents,” he said. “They range from open apparatus doors knocked off to incidents that result in 5,500 lost-time firefighter injuries for a cost of \$7 to \$8 billion.”

Juneau applauded the fact that the 93 line-of-duty deaths in 2009 was the lowest number in 10 years, but pointed out that 16 of those line of duty deaths (LODDs) resulted from vehicle collisions — and excessive speed, improper seatbelt use and intoxication often were contributing factors. In fact, Juneau said that there has been an increase in intoxicated apparatus drivers.

“You have a responsibility to stop someone who has been drinking from getting behind the wheel of an emergency vehicle,” Juneau said.

While the ratio of LODDs compared to the total number of firefighters is small, many of the firefighter deaths — especially related to apparatus — are preventable.

“Do you have a full-stop policy in your department?” Juneau asked the attendees. “Last year was a bad year for intersection accidents. Intersection policies should state a full stop must become the accepted SOP in the professional fire service. I'm including volunteers — I mean a professional attitude.”

Juneau also shared lessons on:

Older apparatus: “If you're driving a 1964 engine, take the lights off that vehicle because you're driving a piece of junk, not a fire truck.”

Training on new equipment: “Get familiar with new equipment in a safe environment,” he said, referencing a fatal accident that occurred during training on a new mid-mount platform.

Power lines: “Treat all [power] lines as hot — even when they are reported as de-energized.” He encouraged that departments purchase an AC current detector and keep it in the baskets of platform units.

Seatbelts: “Enforce the seatbelt policy. Send [firefighters] home if they won't wear their seatbelts and tell them that in your department they will wear seatbelts.”

Safety (Cont.)

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In another program, expert witness Ralph Craven and Bureau Chief Brian Brown talked about apparatus problems in Boston Fire Department. Craven was called in three days after Boston Fire Department's Ladder 26 lost its brakes and crashed through a tree, killing 30-year veteran Lt. Kevin Kelley.

Craven was asked to examine the wreckage of Ladder 26 alongside the police forensic team. "It took me 14 hours to take the right side wheel assembly apart," Craven said, adding that there were no brakes in the left rear wheel.

Craven stressed that many of the problems with Boston's fleet were from a lack of a preventive maintenance program. "Many of the problems we saw would have been discovered if the department had a P.M. program," Craven said. "Fire chiefs must insist that not only a P.M. program is instituted, but that daily checks are done on each and every shift."

According to a recently released district attorney's report, several of the problems revolved around the Ladder 26's brakes, including issues because an outside vendor uses the wrong parts on the brake system.

"If your fire department uses an outside vendor, make sure they are in compliance with Title 49, Part 396, which refers to training of individuals certified to work on air brake systems," Craven said. "NFPA 1911 is the standard by which you will be judged and includes the out-of-service criteria."

Stay tuned next week for discussion about the trial of manufacturer who delivered a fire truck and the fire chief who signed a statement of exception

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Legislative Action



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Fire Sprinkler Incentive Act Introduced

On January 22nd, Senators Tom Carper (DE) and Susan Collins (ME) introduced the Fire Sprinkler Incentive Act in the Senate. This bill would amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to classify automatic fire sprinkler systems as 5-year property for purposes of depreciation. The bill, S. 2947, was referred to the Senate Finance Committee for consideration. Both Senator Carper and Senator Collins are co-chairs of the Congressional Fire Services Caucus.

"Senator Carper and Senator Collins are to be commended for introducing the Fire Sprinkler Incentive Act in the Senate," said CFSI Executive Director Bill Webb. "Passage of this legislation can have a significant impact in reducing the number of deaths and injuries caused by fire."

On February 25, 2009, Congressman Jim Langevin (RI-2) introduced similar legislation, H.R. 1194, in the House of Representatives. The House version currently has 111 co-sponsors and was referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means.

On the Job – El Centro

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NAF El Centro Honors Firefighters, Patrolman

By Elizabeth Varin, Staff Writer

Five firefighters and one federal patrolman were honored with the first certificates of lifesaving presented to Naval Air Facility El Centro.

Fire Captain. Julio Martin, Federal Patrolman Gary Heines and firefighters Jose Valencia, Andrew Loper, Ricky Garcia and David Wallace received recognition for saving a man who had a serious heart attack July 22 at NAF, Cmdr. Todd Mitchell said.

“They did the ultimate thing; they saved a life,” he said. “That person is, no doubt, alive because of them.”

The fire department has taken over medical transportation duties on the base since October 2008, yet this is the first time the department has received the certificates, NAF Fire Chief Raul Valenzuela said.

“We’re very thankful that the training they did paid off,” he said.

Though the group was “just doing their job,” it was nice to be recognized for it, Valenzuela said. Martin agreed.

“It feels great,” he said. “It feels good to be recognized.”

Martin said it was a great honor to receive the award from the person in charge of the fire stations in the region, which includes naval bases in California, Arizona, Nevada, Utah, Colorado and New Mexico.

Regional Fire Chief Jaimie Wood thought it was “awesome” to know that the men were able to save a life, she said.

“This was a great example of early activation of the EMS system, early intervention, early defibrillation; all the key things you look for,” she said. “It was just textbook, and we were very fortunate that this individual, we were able to assist.”

The Navy Region Southwest Fire Department Program, which won the regional large fire department award in June and the Department of Defense large fire department of the year in August, has had more lifesaving awards than any other region, she said.

“We’ve had quite a few throughout the region, but this is the first time we’ve had this opportunity,” she said.



JOSELITO VILLERO PHOTO

Cmdr. Todd Mitchell (center, wearing a cap), executive officer of Naval Air Facility El Centro, honors a team of Navy Fire & Emergency Services firefighters during a ceremony Friday at NAF. Each team member was awarded a certificate of lifesaving for saving the life of a patient on July 23. FROM LEFT: Andrew Loper, Jose Valencia, Firefighter Capt. Julio Martin, Regional Fire Chief Jaimie Wood, Cmdr. Todd Mitchell, Fire Chief Raul Valenzuela, Ricardo Garcia, David Wallace, and NAF El Centro Patrol Officer Gary Heine.

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On the Job - Mayport

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Navy F&ES Supports Ride 2 Recovery



On December 17, 2009, Admiral Gary Roughead, the Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) participated in the Ride 2 Recovery bike challenge that started in Tampa and finished in Jacksonville at the Naval Station Mayport. The CNO took part in the ride to show his appreciation and to recognize and contribute to the many rehabilitation programs for our wounded.

The Jacksonville Navy Metro F&ES Mayport division supported the event providing emergency medical services and checking participant's blood pressure and vital signs after the ride. The Mayport Department also assisted as part of the escort team from the beaches through the main gate of NS Mayport to the finish line. This event encourages the mental and physical rehabilitation of active duty service members and veterans in the great state of Florida while promoting awareness of their sacrifices in the line of duty.

On the Job – Gulf Coast



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Navy Gulf Coast F&ES Initiate New Trainers



Navy F&ES Gulf Coast firefighters break in the newest live fire trainer at NAS Pensacola. The new trainer simulates helicopter fires.

Navy F&ES POCs

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News Distribution

Job Links

Oshkosh Striker, E-One Titan and Oshkosh TI-3000 at Pax River

Navy Fire & Emergency Services (N30)

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What's Happening is now e-mailed to 861 monthly subscribers.

To receive this newsletter automatically, e-mail ricky.brockman@navy.mil to be added to the ***What's Happening*** distribution list.

Job Links

Interested in becoming a DoD firefighter? Follow these links;

OPM: <http://www.usajobs.opm.gov>

Army: <http://www.cpol.army.mil>

Navy: <http://www.donhr.navy.mil>

Marines: <http://www.usmc.mil/>

Air Force: <https://ww2.afpc.randolph.af.mil/resweb/>

