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From the Director

We just completed the annual DoD and Navy Fire & Emergency Services Training Conference, where the DoD F&ES Award winners were announced. **Special Congratulations** to our Navy winners, Fire Chief Paul Murray (NAS JRB Fort Worth) was named the DoD Civilian Fire Officer of the Year, CNRNW Regional F&ES Team (Firefighters Scott Berry, Jeremy Huston, Shane Reed, and Matt Camier) were named DoD F&ES Heroism Award Recipients, and CNRSW Regional F&ES was named the Large Fire Department of Year (for the second straight year). Again, congratulations to all the DoD winners from all services, as all of the nominees truly deserve these awards for their outstanding performance (see pages 4 and 5 for a complete listing of the DoD awards).

I may be biased, but I believe this year's conference was the best ever in the history of the DoD and Navy conferences! **Thanks**, to Ricky Brockman who led the DoD and Navy conference programs this year. We had some very dynamic and motivating speakers and the meeting agendas included useful and informative presentations. Also, the music slide shows during the Navy and Marine Corps Luncheon and the DoD Banquet was a little different musical style than I am used to, but turned out fantastic. Again, **Special Thanks** to Ricky, his daughter Sarah, and the musical artist Carlos Pozo for these outstanding productions. The music videos (*Eye of the Storm* and *This One's for the Firefighters*) can be downloaded to share with all of your department personnel (see download instructions on the next page.) As we wrap up this year's event, we are already looking forward to next year's awards programs and conference.

We are very pleased to announce the Navy Fire Apparatus Modernization program is continuing to go very well. FY10 apparatus contracts have been awarded for structural pumpers, 75ft Quints, 3000 gal ARFFs, ultra high pressure ATVs, and heavy and medium HazMat/Rescue units. In fact, the new 3,000 gallon ARFF units are being delivered this week. Bid evaluations have been completed for 1500 gallon ARFF units, right hand drive pumpers, and platforms, twin agent units, wildland, and brush units. We expect to have all contracts awarded by the end of October. Thanks to our fire vehicle team (Becky Fraley, Kevin King, and Dave Rupert) for the exhaustive efforts to procure and field high quality fire apparatus to our Navy installations. The outlook for the FY11 new procurement and rebuild program looks very favorable as we continue to provide our firefighters updated apparatus.

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We wanted to offer our public *Best Wishes to Regional Fire Chief Edward Stillwell*, who retired effective 2 July 2010. The Chief was the Naval District Washington Regional Fire Chief and the Chairman of the IAFC Federal and Military Fire Service Section. With his retirement Chief Stillwell wrapped up nearly 40 years of service to DoD/Navy F&ES. **Congratulations** to Chief Stillwell on his retirement, as he closes this chapter and prepares for future challenges. FYI, a retirement party is planned for 16 October, you can contact me for details.

We are also pleased to announce that Fire Chief Frank Montone (NAS Key West) has accepted the EURAFSWA Regional Fire Chief position and will be arriving later this year. **Congratulations to Frank!** While we are sad to see Chief Montone depart Key West, we are very pleased to keep him in our Navy F&ES family. Chief Steve Monteleone, who had been continuing to serve in EURAFSWA (as a retired annuitant), will officially retire after Frank's arrival. **Special congratulations to Steve** for his outstanding service and his retirement.

Buckle Up/Drive Safe ... and Make "Everyone Goes Home" more than a slogan !

v/rCarl



Eye of the Storm played during the Navy Marine Corps F&ES Awards Luncheon;

<https://fx.battelle.org/files.asp?ID=CD119C58-5CC7-A6E7-FA6E-D7A7BB143F5B&to=matt.garbow.ctr%40navy.mil>

This One's For the Firefighter played during the DoD F&ES Awards Banquet;

<https://fx.battelle.org/files.asp?ID=EAE48618-898A-C2AA-6E56-046AA4D3CF58&to=matt.garbow.ctr%40navy.mil>

These links will expire on 29 Sept 2010



The Navy's Newest Oshkosh Striker ARFF Units Ready for Delivery



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TCOoO Update



Key West Fun Run



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Last Alarms

To date, 59 deaths were reported for 2010. The following line of duty deaths were reported since we published our last issue:

David Sullivan ♥ Age: 70 Otis, MA	Chris Adams 🚒 Age: 25 Little Rock, AR	John Kelly Age: 51 Tarrytown, NY	Mark Johnson ♥ Age: 55 Hinsdale, IL
Posey Dillon 🚒 Age: 59 Rocky Mount, VA	Christopher Wheatley Age: 31 Chicago, IL	Jonathan Littleton ♥ Age: 40 Pine Level, NC	
William Altice 🚒 Age: 67 Rocky Mount, VA	Douglas Farrington ♥ Age: 44 Delta, PA	Edward Eckert Age: 71 Manahawkin, NJ	
Steven Costello ♥ Age: 46 Burlington, VT	Larry Suiter ♥ Age: 66 Lorraine, KS	James Owen ♥ Age: 56 Irvine, CA	

2010 Totals

♥ 32 (54%) 🚒 9 (15%)
♥ Indicates cardiac related death
🚒 Indicates vehicle accident related death

Taking Care of Our Own

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

Name	Location	Point of Contact
Christopher Capps	Fort Sill, OK	Ronald.D.Pyle@us.army.mil
Gregory Feagans	NIOC Sugar Grove, WV	Nanette.Kimble@navy.mil
Paul Hartman	NIOC Sugar Grove, WV	Nanette.Kimble@navy.mil
Joey Tajalle	NAVBASE Guam	Julie.Quinene@fe.navy.mil
Kurt McDonald	SUBASE New London, CT	Marc.J.Smith@navy.mil



Firefighters from NAS Key West participate in the Patriot Day 5K remembrance run.

Photo from NAS Key West Fire & Emergency Services Facebook page.

<http://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Key-West-FL/Naval-Air-Station-Key-West-Fire-and-Emergency-Services/188879184690>

DoD F&ES Awards

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DoD F&ES Award Winners for CY 2009 Are;



Military Firefighter of the Year
SrA Jessica Morehouse
U.S. Air Force Academy, CO



Civilian Firefighter of the Year
Mr. Golden Barrett
Hill AFB, UT



Military Fire Officer of the Year
SMSgt Joseph Orona
Vandenberg AFB, CA



Civilian Fire Officer of the Year
Mr. Paul Murray
NAS JRB Fort Worth, TX



Fire Service Instructor of the Year
Mr. Gerald Schiedwitz
Fort Knox, KY



Fire Prevention Program of the Year
Fort Detrick/Forest Glen, MD



Small Fire Department of the Year
F.E. Warren AFB, WY

DoD Awards (Cont.)

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Medium Fire Department of the Year
Vandenberg AFB, CA



Large Fire Department of the Year
Commander Navy Region Southwest
Regional Fire & Emergency Services



Firefighter Heroism
TSgt Jayme Scammahorn
Davis-Monthan AFB, AZ



Firefighter Heroism

Mr. Steve Hinch, Mr. Jimmy Ray, Mr. Gary Bott, Mr. Norman Bannon,
Mr. Wayne Heffner, Mr. Henry Hom, Mr. Glen Wilhelm, Mr. William Bond, Mr. Robert Soto
Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD



Firefighter Heroism

Mr. Shane Reed, Mr. Scott Berry, Mr. Matt Camier, Mr. Jeremy Huston
Commander Navy Region Northwest
Regional Fire & Emergency Services

Prevention Tips

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Renter's Insurance Important for Base Residents

By Wm. Cullen James, Navy Personnel Command Public Affairs

Hurricanes, earthquakes, floods and wild fires have all recently impacted the lives of Sailors and their families. Navy leaders are reminding Sailors about the importance of being prepared by having renter's insurance.

"We have learned a number of very valuable lessons from both Hurricane Katrina and our flood here in Millington," said Rear Adm. Don Quinn, commander, Navy Personnel Command. "One important lesson is that our Navy families own more things than either the government or our PPV Housing partners are prepared to replace. Renter's insurance is cheap and great for peace of mind. I strongly encourage all our Navy families who are renting or in base housing to invest in this very important safety net."

Sailors renting homes off-base generally purchase the amount of coverage they require to cover the potential loss of personal effects. Some residents of base housing mistakenly believe that they are provided full insurance coverage from the government. That is not the case.

Residents of public/private venture housing are generally provided limited insurance coverage under the terms of the rental agreement.

"Renter's insurance is important, it is the best way to protect your personal property," said Navy Personnel Command Force Master Chief (AW/SW/NAC) Jon Port. "And when you're busy dealing with all the various issues that happen during and after a disaster, having one less thing to worry about is a blessing."

Just like other insurance policies, there are limits to what renter's insurance will cover, what kind of deductibles may be required and policy costs.

For advice about renter's insurance, visit www.cnrc.navy.mil/insurance.htm.

Some basic tips from the site include:

- Take an inventory: Before purchasing insurance itemize your belongings with price estimates, serial numbers, receipts (if possible) and purchase dates.
- Make an informed decision: Ask your insurance company about theft limits, cash or replacement value, deductible options and discounts.
- Shop around: Call a variety of insurance agents, and keep track of the coverage and costs.
- Read the policy: It's a contract; ensure you understand the obligations spelled out.

For more information regarding government housing, service members are encouraged to visit their local housing office. For more information about emergency preparedness, visit

www.cnrc.navy.mil/CNIC_HQ_Site/WhatWeDo/EmergencyManagement/index.htm.

Social Network Tips

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Don't Get Fired For Facebook

By Steve Wirth and Doug Wolfberg, [Page, Wolfberg & Wirth LLC](#)

We've seen several cases in recent months where firefighters and EMS providers have gotten in hot water and even lost their jobs for posting what their employer believed were inappropriate images, videos, or comments.

Internet access to global electronic information resources and to social networking media has revolutionized information sharing. These networking capabilities are changing the way we work and communicate with each other.

But with this new societal free flow of "information sharing" comes legitimate patient privacy and business concerns for the public safety employer. Departments and agencies — both public and private alike — have a legitimate business interest to ensure that social networking is used in a way that does not violate patient confidentiality, harm the organization's reputation and business interests, or interfere with the work of others.

How can you make sure that your online activities do not interfere with your job or work activities at your department or agency? The main thing is to always think about how others in your agency or the public would perceive your comment before you post it.

In other words, think before you hit the "enter" key. One of the problems with "reacting" to an event or someone else's post is that your own reaction will likely reflect your emotions at the time. Ideally, you should craft a thoughtful response after some reflection. "Reacting" rather than "responding" may cause you to post something you may regret later.

Here are 10 helpful principles that can help you avoid any issues with your department or agency about what you post on Facebook or other social networking media. If followed, these principles can help keep your face on the company roster:

1. Don't post inappropriate pictures or images

It may go without saying, but your employer, patients or public officials do not want to see pictures of you in an intoxicated state or doing really stupid things. Beyond the pictures you would not want your parents or family members to see, seemingly innocent pictures of your personal life may not help to support the image you want to present in your professional life as a firefighter or EMS provider.

Certainly you should not post pictures of patients or post comments about them. Nor should you post images of accident scenes or company equipment, documents, or personnel without the permission of the company. This includes images taken around the station of equipment and other staff members during downtime while on duty. (Would you like a Facebook "friend" posting a picture of you at work sleeping on the couch with your mouth wide open without your permission?)

Social Networks (Cont.)

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2. Don't complain about your job, supervisors, or co-workers in a public forum

Any negative comments about your EMS agency or co-workers (even if not specifically named) should generally not be posted. These comments reflect poorly on you, the organization, and the persons that you criticize. Examples of inappropriate postings may range from a comment about the competency of your supervisor, to a comment about how your coworker always shows up late and you were stuck staying over.

We may complain about work and co-workers to a friend or family member now and then, but doing so in a public forum where it can be easily read by others who may not be so close to you is not a wise move. Negative and derogatory comments can also lead to claims of defamation and slander.

3. Don't post inappropriate "statuses"

Avoid any status updates that discuss patient care situations, your department, or other staff members, or that may implicate unprofessional conduct. You should avoid statuses like "I plan to call in sick tomorrow so I can go to the beach," or "I'm tired of transporting annoying old people from nursing homes," or "Sarah is watching the championship soccer game online at her desk". Statuses that imply you or others are unreliable, dishonest, deceitful, or unprofessional may jeopardize your employment status.

4. Be particular about your "friends" and associations

You can't control what your friends post to your profile (although you can remove it once you see it), nor what they post to their own profiles or to those of mutual friends. But you can control if they are your friend in the first place, or delete their postings from your page. For example, pictures your friend has tagged you in where he is falling down drunk, and you look intoxicated as well reflect poorly on you, even if you are not the direct focus of the image. You are who your friends are! Take a look at everything connected to your profile — including your friends list — and keep an eye out for anything you wouldn't want to show your parents or others. If a "friend" uses profanity or posts improper images, you might want to think about removing that person from your "friends" list.

5. Check your privacy and security settings and know their rules

Privacy and security settings on social networking sites can be confusing and hard to deal with. It is now possible to customize lists of friends and decide what each list can and cannot see. But many people do not fully understand these settings, or don't bother to check access levels. If you are going to use Facebook professionally, and even if you aren't, make sure you take the time to go through your privacy options.

At the very least, your profile should be set so that people who are not your friend cannot see any of your pictures or profile information. You should also become familiar with all privacy settings as well as the "terms and use" and "privacy policies" of the social networking application that you are using.

Social Networks (Cont.)

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6. Consider establishing a "professional" profile page

The best advice is to lock down your personal profile so that only friends you approve can see anything on that profile. Another practical suggestion is to consider creating a second, public profile purely for professional use. This profile functions like an online resume, and should only contain information you'd be comfortable telling your employer face to face.

Having a social networking profile is a good thing — it presents you as technologically and professionally savvy. Just make sure your profile is helping to present your best side — not the side that got drunk at your friend's party last week.

7. Don't use social networking while engaged in patient care or work activities

Access to social networking sites on your personal device should only occur in absolute down time as you would use a personal cell phone when on duty (if this is permitted by your agency). It is inappropriate to post statuses or to view social networking profiles while with a patient or engaged in company work activity.

An improper activity would be a status posting made from the back of an ambulance with a patient onboard such as: "Bored, Transporting another GOMER from the Nursing Home to ABC Hospital." This would be unacceptable both because of the context (where and when it was made) and the content of the message (disrespectful comment about a patient).

8. Don't misrepresent yourself or others

You should be careful that what you post about your training and education is accurate and consistent with information you have given to your employer. Your department or agency has the right to check out statements you may make from a variety of sources, including your social networking profile.

For example, if you call in sick and later that day you post a status that says "Off to the beach for the day to go surfing" and the department is made aware of it, you can expect them to investigate this further and initiate corrective action where appropriate.

Or if you claim on your job application that you have a college degree but your online profile states that you did not yet obtain a degree and are still going to school, your employer may question the accuracy of the information you supplied them.

9. Be who you are

Some posters and bloggers work anonymously, using false screen names. That is usually not a good idea. Transparency and honesty are the best policies to follow. Hiding behind a "handle" name may embolden you to post things you would not ordinarily post (and against your better judgment!).

Nothing gains you more notice in the online social media environment than honesty — or dishonesty. What you post may be forwarded and viewed by

Social Networks (Cont.)

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NFFF News



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many, so consider the content carefully. If you blog, consider using a "disclaimer" that states your postings are your own personal opinions and do not represent the opinion or position of your employer(s) or EMS agencies you work with.

10. Respect copyright and fair use laws

For your employer's protection as well as your own, it is critical that you respect laws governing copyright and fair use of copyrighted material owned by others, including your department or agency's copyrights, logos or images.

You should never quote more than short excerpts of someone else's work. And it is a good general practice to provide a "link" to the original source of your posting.

Steve Wirth and Doug Wolfberg are founding partners of Page, Wolfberg & Wirth, LLC, The National EMS Industry Law Firm™. PWW represents ambulance services and fire departments in a wide range of issues, including labor and employment law. Doug and Steve have years of experience as EMS field providers and system managers. They can be reached at www.pwwemslaw.com

From <http://www.firerescue1.com> July 28, 2010



Military Fallen Firefighters Recognized

By Donald Warner, CMSgt Ret, The Air Force Fire Chief

Your DoD Fire & Emergency Services Working Group has been successful in gaining recognition for our military firefighters at the National Fallen Firefighter Memorial. This honor is long overdue but there is no one at fault...it was a simple oversight that is now corrected. But we had help. In particular, Mr. Bill Killen, retired Director of Navy F&ES and past president of the IAFC, was instrumental in connecting all the right players with the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (NFFF) who is the authority. For his efforts, we are forever grateful.

This year will be the first time our military firefighters will be included along with the nation's other fallen firefighters. Five Air Force and two Marine Corps families will be present to witness the addition of their deceased loved ones (dating back as far as 1981) to the national memorial.

Henceforth, military firefighters will be immediately eligible for this honor but hopefully we will never be memorializing a DoD firefighter again!

The weekend of Oct 2 and 3 is when these activities will occur. The evening of 2 Oct is a candlelight service for the families. The memorial service is the morning of 3 Oct. This all occurs at the national memorial on the campus of the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg MD. You can learn more details at <http://firehero.org/>.

We strongly encourage all DoD firefighters, especially those in the vicinity of Emmitsburg, MD, to attend the events if possible. We are hoping to have a sea of DoD firefighters, especially military firefighters, present during the ceremony. If you or your firefighters are able to attend please make every effort to do so.

El Centro COMREL

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Fire Chief Luncheon



Captain Russ Thompson, Commanding Officer, Naval Air Facility El Centro, invited Imperial Valley Fire Chiefs along with the Chief Officers from Mexicali for a luncheon. The luncheon, held aboard NAF El Centro, celebrated cross border relationship through the Mutual Aid compact throughout the Imperial Valley and the City of

Mexicali. He told the gathered audience that the mutual aid program that the Fire Department operates with is a model for interagency relationships and community support and that he would love to be able to model that relationship in other aspects of the installation. He reiterated his thanks for the participation by all agencies and for the attendance of the Mexicali Fire Department as a demonstration of that cross border alliance. Mexicali Chiefs were recognized by Captain Thompson and Chief Valenzuela (NAF FD). In recognition, Captain Thompson presented his coin to local Fire Chiefs in attendance and gear bags to the Chiefs from Mexicali.

Pictured are Captain Thompson CO NAF El Centro, Tony Rouhotas Imperial County FD, Anthony Adams Centinela State prison, Chris Petree El Centro FD, Raul Valenzuela NAFECFD, Alex Silva Holtville FD, Fernando Rivera Mexicali FD, Steve Taylor Winterhaven FD, Pete Mercado Calexico FD, Commander Franzen, XO and kneeling CMDCM T. Gallinat.

Rota COMREL



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Rota FD Supports National Night Out

Story and photo by Tony Rice

Emergency responders collectively rolled out the red carpet for Naval Station Rota Spain's Third annual National Night Out on 3 August. Representatives from every aspect of emergency services brought out their favorite "toys of the trade" to help support this worth while cause. National Night Out is an annual event designed to raise crime awareness as well as give the community a chance to interact with responders. The evening started with a parade through housing and featured static displays of everything from fire trucks to robots. The evening was highlighted with a demonstration from the Spanish K-9 unit in San Fernando.



CPSE News

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First DoD Winner of Ray Picard Award



The Commission on Fire Accreditation, International received and considered the most nominations ever since establishing the prestigious Ray Picard Award in 2001. “The peer driven nomination process revealed an amazing amount of talent, dedication and passion that exists in our industry today” said Rick Black CFAI Program Manager. Black went on to say “Given the number and depth of the nominations received; the Commissioners had a difficult task of selecting the one recipient of this award.” Deputy Chief Kenneth Helgerson was announced the recipient of the award during the CPSE Awards Dinner, held in Chicago, IL on August 26, 2010.

The Ray Picard award is presented annually and recognizes individual superior leadership and outstanding contribution to the Commission on Fire Accreditation International and the accreditation of fire departments. The award bears the name of one of the most regarded and beloved Fire Chiefs who helped mold the self-assessment and accreditation process. Raymond C. Picard’s forty year fire service career included 23 years as Fire Chief of Huntington Beach, CA. Chief Picard served as a member of the California State Board of Fire Services for ten years, a member of the Public Safety Steering Committee of the National League of Cities, and President of the Fire Chief Section of the California League of Cities. He has edited and contributed articles to the Managing Fire Services manual published by the International City/County Management Association. Since retirement, Chief Picard has done extensive work as a consultant, with special experience and expertise in accreditation. He is a graduate of Pasadena City College and the University of Southern California and has done extensive teaching throughout the United States. He has also lectured in Canada, Great Britain, Ireland, China, Japan, and Korea.

Ken is the Deputy Fire Chief at the United States Air Force Academy near Colorado Springs, Colorado and has been serving in that position since November, 2005.

Chief Helgerson has served as an Accreditation Manager, Fire Chief of an Accredited Agency, and is a CFAI instructor for Department of Defense workshops. He also served as a mentor for numerous Department of Defense agencies pursuing Accredited Status and has served as a CFAI Peer Team Leader for several agencies. He is a certified Fire Officer IV, Fire Instructor III, Fire Inspector III, Hazardous Materials Train-the-Trainer, and Incident Commander.

Chief Helgerson was selected as the Department of Defense Military Fire Officer of the Year, 2002, the Air Force Academy Civilian of the Year, 2008, and the Air Force Civilian Supervisor of the Year, 2008. He is married and has two sons.

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On the Job - SoTex



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EVOC Instructor Training at GTMO



An Emergency Vehicle Operators Course (EVOC) instructor's class was taught by NAS Corpus Christi Fire Captain Curtis Heffner. The Naval Safety Center and Fire Chief Eric Tucker at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay F&ES coordinated a request for Master EVOC Instructor Heffner to travel to GTMO to provide training to seven foreign national (Jamaican) firefighters, six military personnel, and one civilian firefighter. These instructors are now qualified to teach the EVOC course at GTMO.

Guns & Hoses Blood Drive



Leticia Mondragon and Allison Merrick of the Coastal Bend Blood Center presented a certificate of appreciation to Assistant Chief Jerry Garza following NAS Corpus Christi F&ES participation in the 2010 "Guns n' Hoses" annual blood drive. The drive pits local fire departments against local law enforcement agencies as they compete for bragging rights on "most blood donated".

Coastal Bend area fire departments won this year's competition. Assistant Chief Garza served as NASCC F&ES coordinator for this year's blood drive.

"Historically the summer months are difficult times for blood drives, so each and every unit of blood donated is especially important and appreciated" says Leticia Mondragon of the Coastal Bend Blood Center.

On the Job - Hawaii

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College Humor

Navy Region Hawaii Investigates Wildland Fire

Photo and Story by Victor Flint, Battalion Chief, Federal Fire Department Navy Region Hawaii



Victor M. Flint, Lead Fire Investigator with the Federal Fire Department Navy Region Hawaii, shows burn patterns and other indicators that will show direction of burn to Inspectors Shannon Gipaya and Tristan Cortez, who were assisting with a fire investigation of a large wildfire at Makua Valley, July 24 and 25.

The investigation determined that this wildfire was incendiary,

meaning that it was started on purpose. This fire originated near Farrington Hwy and migrated into Makua Valley.

The fire burned 485 acres and encroached on native habitat that was endangered.

Federal Fire Department, Honolulu Fire Department, State Forestry and Army Garrison were successful in confining and extinguishing this stubborn wildfire without damaging any structures and with no injuries.

There were concerns from the Waianae community about the Makua fire that were addressed at a Waianae Neighborhood Board Meeting on August 3rd. Terry Selig (HFD), Victor M. Flint (FFD), Joe Otineru (FFD who was also the Incident Commander at this fire) and Scott Yamasaki (Army Garrison) explained to the overflow crowd what was done as a Unified Command. How this fire started, how it was confined and finally extinguished. Each of the Emergency Responding Agencies had an area of responsibility, and by working together, prevented this fire from expanding to other parts of Makua Valley and ultimately extinguishing the fire.

It was also brought to the attention of the Waianae community that this fire was started on purpose. This was an unnecessary fire that hurt the land, wasted thousands of gallons of water, threatened endanger plants and animals and put people at risk. We need to focus our efforts in Wildfire Awareness and Prevention. This message was well received and resulted in a very positive outcome at this community meeting in Waianae.



Proper Attire

Proper attire is required in the cafeteria at the University of Maine. To enforce that rule, the management posted this notice:

"Shoes are required to eat in this cafeteria."

Next to it, a student added, "Socks can eat wherever they want."

Walking the Walk

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Acting USFA Pledges to Wear Seat Belt

Acting U.S. Fire Administrator Glenn Gaines signed the National Fire Service Seat Belt Pledge at the conclusion of his first all-hands meeting with USFA staff. Chief Gaines emphasized in his remarks that wearing seat belts is an essential component of efforts to ensure the safety of firefighters in fire apparatus and vehicles.

Vehicle crashes remain the number two cause of firefighter on-duty deaths. After signing the Pledge, Chief Gaines relayed to USFA staff his experience attending the memorial services for Rocky Mount, Virginia Fire Chief Posey Dillon and Firefighter Danny Altice, who died as the result of an apparatus crash on July 26 of this year while responding to an emergency call. Neither Chief Dillon, who was driving the pumper, nor Firefighter Altice in the officer seat, was wearing their seat belt. Both were ejected and died from their injuries. No other firefighters were on the apparatus and no civilians were injured.

Chief Gaines also signed his name to the 100% Seat Belt Pledge Certificate. The Certificate is awarded to any fire department that has all members take the pledge. Leading fire service organizations that have endorsed the Seat Belt Pledge include the:

- International Association of Fire Chiefs
- National Fallen Fire Fighters Foundation
- National Fire Protection Association
- National Institute of Occupational Health and Safety
- National Volunteer Fire Council, and
- U.S. Fire Administration

So far, over 154,000 firefighters have taken the pledge and about 800 fire departments have achieved 100% participation. North Carolina, Illinois, Florida, and Georgia are leading the nation with number of fire departments that have achieved 100% seat belt pledge participation.

To find out more about the National Fire Service Seat Belt Pledge campaign, go to www.trainingdivision.com/seatbeltpledge.asp.

There you can access and download the pledge signature form, learn how to receive a 100% Certificate for your organization, find out which fire departments in your state have taken the pledge, read success stories, identify supporters, and receive additional campaign material.

Take the seat belt pledge and buckle up. The fire service owes it to each other and our families so Everyone Goes Home.

USMC News

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MCLB Barstow F&ES Becomes Accredited



Commission on
Fire Accreditation
International

MCLB Barstow F&ES Department became the first in the Marine Corps to become accredited when they were approved by the Commission on Fire Accreditation International on August 24, 2010. The final

approval from the CFAI Board of Directors came during the DoD F&ES Conference in Chicago, and was the culmination of a process that began two-and-a-half years ago.

Barstow's bid for accreditation involved the re-evaluation of the services they provide to their USMC community. They re-authored the standard operating guidelines and department management instructions, established management plans, developed fire demand zones, tracked deficiencies, developed strategic planning documents and risk assessments, among other things. Basically, the department started from scratch in their evaluation of every program and service they deliver.

Thomas Thompson, Chief of Barstow F&ES stated that many members from all ranks were involved from the start and were the key to success. MCLB Barstow's Commanding Officer, Colonel Daniel P. Ermer, was on-board with the department's efforts from the beginning and has supported them throughout the process. Mr. Danny Strand, Director of Security and Emergency Services for MCLB Barstow, also provided critical support throughout the process. Assistant Chief Paul Purdy was assigned as the Accreditation Manager and was able to balance the responsibilities of the position, all while managing his normal shift schedule.

Inviting an outside inspection team may seem intimidating, but Barstow F&ES welcomed the outside assessment of their programs from the CFAI. The peer evaluation took place during the week of June 21, 2010. Chief Thompson considered this process to be invaluable to their process improvement efforts.

In response to their accomplishment, Chief Thompson said "I am extremely proud of my staff and firefighters for their commitment to excellence. Being the first in the USMC Fire & Emergency Services to achieve this milestone is an awesome feeling."

Tom Ruffini, Program Manager for USMC F&ES added, "Chief Thompson and his Department have stepped out in front of the rest of the Marine Corps Fire Service. I personally appreciate their focused effort to self-assess and improve their programs. Being the first USMC F&ES Department to achieve Accredited Agency status from the Commission on Fire Accreditation International, is more than just a major accomplishment for Barstow.

This will have a long lasting impact throughout the USMC F&ES community, as others strive to match their efforts. Congratulations to all the men and women of MCLB Barstow F&ES Department."

Air Bag Safety

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Water Accumulation Can Cause Deployment

Keith Davis, Captain, Collingswood Fire Department, NJ

On Wednesday, July 14, 2010 the Collingswood Fire Department responded to several incidents due to flash flooding. We had assisted numerous stranded motorists that had been caught in the flooding. Our tactics were different depending on the situation.

During one of the assists we came across a female stranded in her vehicle in knee high water. We made verbal contact and determined the best way to remove her from the hazard was to manually push her vehicle to higher ground. We had her place the vehicle in neutral with the ignition off. Three firefighters took placement on the hood of the vehicle and I placed my hand on the driver's side 'B' post to push the car from that point. The vehicle was a 2009 Mitsubishi Galante. Due to the height of the vehicle this placed the left side of my head even with the opened window. We began to push the vehicle and almost immediately the driver's steering wheel air bag deployed. This created a loud noise and stunned me, which caused me to stumble back off of the vehicle. I immediately had ringing and hearing loss in my left ear. The driver of the vehicle was assessed and found to have no injuries by my crew. I was assessed at the ER and had a follow up with a specialist the following day. It was determined that I only had temporary hearing loss from the "explosion", and it should return in a short period of time.

We, as emergency responders, go through countless hours of training on the new technology of vehicles for fires and extrication and the dangers present from unintentional airbag deployment. To date I have never heard of air bags deploying due to water damage and have not seen any information to the emergency services community. After this incident it has caused us to do some research to see why this airbag deployed. There was no impact onto the vehicle at any time.

Through our findings it was found that the Air Bag Control Unit (ABCU), which reads the air bag sensors and triggers the ignition of a gas generator propellant to rapidly inflate the airbags, is commonly located under the driver's seat or floor boards. This places the unit at a very low point in the vehicle which subjects it to water damage. Once subjected to water the ABCU can trigger the pyrotechnic device and cause the air bags to activate. This can happen instantaneously or even days after the flooding. There have been several documented cases as to this happening.

The pyrotechnic device which causes the air bags to activate is commonly an electrical conductor wrapped in a combustible material. The conductor becomes hot and ignites the combustible material and initiates a gas generator. This causes a loud explosion that can reach 165 to 175dB. The air bag can deploy 3,000 to 4,000 lbs per square inch of force. This "explosion" has caused several injuries to occupants and emergency responders. There have been several documented cases of hearing injuries of passengers when the air bag deploys. Injuries include ruptured ear drums, inner ear damage and permanent hearing loss. This is most common in the passenger of the vehicle who is next to the air bag.

On the Job - Japan

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Useless Information

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Japanese and U.S. Children Participate In Tour

By Helene Hattori, Kanagawa Shimbun (Local)



A Japan-U.S. Fire Prevention Experience Tour, in which both U.S. and Japanese children learn about fire control and fire fighting together, was held at Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY) on July 30. Elementary school students from the local Yokosuka community and the base participated in the event.

Yokosuka City Fire Department and Commander Naval Forces Japan (CNFJ) Fire Department host the tour every year to provide both [U.S.-Japan] children the opportunity to promote international exchange through experiencing fire prevention. This year, the event marked its 15th anniversary.

Approximately 45 children visited CNFJ Fire Department in the morning and visited *Anshinkan*, Yokosuka city Fire Department's Civic Disaster Prevention Center, in the afternoon. The event deepened the students' knowledge of each other, by getting into a 40 meter tall fire ladder truck, wearing fire protection suits, observing fire trucks as well as experiencing smoke, water and fire fighting exercises.

"Usually I don't have the opportunity to mingle with other children on base, I am glad to have this opportunity to experience fire fighting together," said Yuuto Komatsu, a fifth grader at Yokosuka City Ooyabe Elementary School.

Gilbert Curt (age 9) who goes to an elementary school on base said, "I had fun going up high in a fire ladder truck."

[Translated by Fumiyo Sato, CFAY Public Affairs]



What Song Is This From?

Nearly 20 people correctly guessed July's lyrics were from the Beatles *All You Need Is Love*. Too easy.

Let's move to the 21st Century this month and see how well we do;

"I don't care what's in my way, I won't bend and I won't break."

I'll give you a hint on this one; these guys won a reality show competition under another name. Good luck!

By the way, all music referred to here is currently on my iPod so I can't be accused of searching for obscure stuff. I'm eclectic!

Firefighter Athletes

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Firefighters Compete in Military Challenge 5K



CNRMA F&ES, NALF Fentress personnel competed in the Military Challenge 5K run at the Virginia Beach Sportsplex. The course required competitors to navigate through various obstacles, such as water filled ditches, high hurdles, climbing walls, a mud pit, and cargo net climb, along with a 60ft slip-n-slide. Team Fentress posted an average time of 31 minutes, and was awarded First Place in the Public Safety Division by Virginia Beach Mayor Will Sessoms.

Congratulations to ABH2 Alvarez, ABH2 Shields, ABE2 Valldares, Fire Lieutenant Grimstead, and Rachel Grimstead on an awesome effort.

Length of Service Awards



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NWS Earle Firefighters Presented LOSA Pins



Captain David Harrison, Commanding Officer of Naval Weapons Station Earle presented five NWS Earle firefighters with their Length of Service Award (LOSA) at Station 21. The individuals received the following LOSA. From left to right:

Firefighter Michael Farber, 20 years; Firefighter Louie Villanueva, 25 years; Captain Harrison, ICO NWS Earle; Firefighter Daniel Campanella, 15 years; Firefighter Victor Huhn, 10 years.

Red Hill Tunnel

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FISC Pearl Harbor Prepared for Emergencies

By Jim Murray, FISC Pearl Harbor, Corporate Communications



Fuel personnel at FISC Pearl Harbor are better prepared today to respond to a crisis situation inside their massive Red Hill underground fuel storage facility.

An exercise held on August 25 was jam packed with so much action it could have been mistaken for the latest Stallone movie.

The simulation included everything from a train wreck to a fire inside an underground fuel facility. Other than fuel personnel, few people are allowed inside the Red Hill facility, but those lucky few might have noticed the small train that ferries supplies and personnel between worksites.

The scenario began when the train “wrecked” inside the tunnel, injuring the conductor. To make matters worse, the accident set off a fire inside the facility. The exercise not only tested the skill and response time of emergency personnel, it also tested the Fuel Department’s new radio communications. In addition, it provided superb familiarization training for Federal Fire Department personnel from Hickam Air Force Base.

In October of this year, Hickam and Pearl Harbor will merge into a joint base, so the Hickam fire personnel were invited to participate in the exercise, giving them the opportunity to have a close and instructive look at the huge underground fuel facility.

FRI Events



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Regional F&ES Southwest Fit to Fight - Again



Navy Region Southwest Chiefs Danny Parks, Ron Sparling, John Adkins, Dave Nichols, Jaimie Wood, Bill Tyler, Jan Olson, Gary Alvidrez, and Fletcher Dahman prepare to run the Fit to Fight 5K in Chicago; the fourth consecutive year they had 100% participation.

Culture of Fitness

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My Chief Sets The Pace

Mike Carver, Operations Chief, NSB Kings Bay Fire Department

Everyone knows that any organization espousing to succeed at anything starts out with a leader who is willing to step into the fray and take on his nemesis. Those at the bottom perform better knowing that they have support from the top. As long as this fighting philosophy pervades through each member, success will surely follow.

For some, the nemesis is legitimately real – our soldiers on the front line in the middle east and in other theatres of war experience it in real time. For those of us in support of these soldiers – some true heroes – the nemesis may be something else as simple, and yet complicated, as physical fitness.

In a recent article of the Navy Fire and Emergency Services Newsletter, Deputy Director Rick Brockman, laments about not being in shape to be a Fire Chief. He outlined steps currently being taken to create wellness and fitness programs in the military support services. Why is this necessary? Do firefighters in administrative positions need to be in “22-year old truckie condition”? The answer is probably no. However, according to statistics, firefighters in all positions are besought with illnesses ranging from obesity (yes, this is an illness) to cancer. It is a foregone conclusion that firefighters engage in dangerous situations every day, and could suffer while responding to a call. However, daily habits that lead to illnesses such as obesity and cancer can be prevented by a little bit of physical activity.

I know a fire administrator that, although not very close to his 22-year old truckie condition, is probably in the best shape of his life. Not only is he taking fitness seriously for himself, he has become an ambassador to the fire industry and advocate of Everyone Goes Home. The plain tenets of the Program are 16 life-safety initiatives to allow each firefighter to return home at the end of a shift. One of those tenets promotes personal health.



Freddy Howell, Fire Chief at Navy Sub Base Kings Bay in St. Mary’s, Georgia has taken this to the next level. He has literally taken it personally to be in the best shape of his career and life. Despite having married a runner ten years ago who had logged several thousand miles, including about 5 half-marathons, Chief Howell had never run a race. Since the beginning of his career in 1987, Chief Howell had run to stay in shape, but never to compete. All that changed when he decided to enter the 2009 Gate River Run in Jacksonville “just for fun.” That was it – he was hooked. He wanted to better his time for 2010, and began to prepare and train early by running in training runs early on in the year. In the 2010 Gate, he bested last year’s time. What an accomplishment! Evidently, that race was not enough so Chief Howell entered a 5k race just about every other weekend during the summer. He has bettered his 5k time, and has even won several awards in his age group.

Fitness (Cont.)

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Chief Howell has become an example for our organization from the bottom up. In addition to doing his own training, Chief Howell has also sanctioned a “Biggest Loser” event for his department. The efforts some of the guys made was amazing, transforming some of them to the point that they were virtually unrecognizable.

If you ask him whether he really does it for his well-being or for competition, he’ll probably tell you it’s for his health. However, Chief Howell will also recount statistics about 40+ year old firefighters who are dying every day in the line of duty from heart attacks; he’ll tell you about young firefighters who are battling devastating cancer for not wearing SCBA’s during clean up; he’ll tell you that he is grateful that he hasn’t yet suffered like this, but also, that he does not want to be one of those statistics. Finally, Chief Howell can’t realistically reconcile his role as an Advocate for the Everyone Goes Home program if he doesn’t put those principles in action.

There was a time when Chief Howell would throw down the gauntlet and personally challenge his employees to duel on the firefighter training field. Although those days are in the past, he continues to push on with his personal fitness program – hopefully to continue his campaign of making sure his firefighters are safe and go home to their families every day.

Look Ma, I’m On TV!



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NDW Firefighters Featured on TV’s NCIS



Navy F&ES and Security forces film an episode of the CBS series NCIS recently near the display ship USS Barry at the Washington Navy Yard in Washington, DC

D Block Update

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Multiagency Use of 700 MHz is Gathering Steam

By Donny Jackson, Senior Writer

While FCC and public-safety representatives may disagree on spectrum issues surrounding the best utilization of the 700 MHz D Block, both groups agree on the fundamental goal: establish a nationwide, interoperable wireless broadband communications network that meets the needs of the first-response community.

Exactly how that goal should be achieved has been a matter of considerable debate. FCC officials have contended that the primary barrier to making the broadband network a reality is funding, and that auctioning the D Block is the best way to resolve the financial dilemma at a time when state and local government entities are facing tight budgets in a down economy.

Not only would the D Block generate a few billion dollars that Congress could direct toward helping fund the proposed nationwide network, but building the public-safety network in concert with a D Block partner also could reduce significantly the cost of building the network. Furthermore, having a commercial partner share Band 14 with public safety would mean better economies of scale for equipment, resulting in cheaper prices for first-responder gear.

If the D Block were reallocated to public safety, FCC officials question whether the financial case for the public-safety broadband network would work, with many in the agency noting that the FCC has spent much more time and effort developing a business model than public safety has.

Meanwhile, public-safety representatives have claimed that if Congress reallocates the D Block to first responders, government entities could leverage the spectrum to help fund the nationwide network.

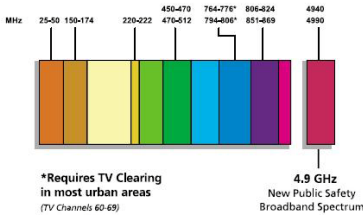
Many have interpreted this position to mean that public safety would be willing to lease spectrum to commercial carriers. While such an arrangement could make sense in some circumstances, industry analysts question whether commercial leases would generate enough revenue to be worthwhile, given the realities of supply and demand.

Indeed, leasing valuable spectrum in major metropolitan areas could provide some attractive revenue streams, but such urban areas are the environments where public safety would be least inclined to lease frequencies, because first responders likely would need all of the spectrum, and a commercial operator may not want to operate on a secondary basis. Meanwhile, in rural areas, most industry sources believe public-safety could have enough spectrum to lease to commercial operators in most instances, but airwaves in sparsely populated locations would not be expected to attract significant bids from carriers.

But another method of leveraging the spectrum appears to be gathering momentum. Instead of deploying networks solely for traditional first-response users such as police, fire and EMS, many governmental entities would like to let other municipal departments — such as public works and public transportation — access the network for a fee.

D Block (Cont.)

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This model would mean more users on the network, which should improve economies of scale compared to the limited public-safety market. In addition, these other department can bring their own revenues sources — annual budgets and access to non-public-safety grant programs.

Such an approach also embraces the notion of converged networking that has become increasingly prevalent, said Roger Quayle, CTO of IPWireless, which developed the technology used to deploy a broadband wireless system on 2.5 GHz spectrum in New York City.

“These multiagency networks are run out of the CIO’s organization,” Quayle said. “They aren’t run out of the traditional public-safety radio shop.”

One problem with the multiagency model is that current rules only allow first responders to utilize the 700 MHz broadband spectrum. However, most industry sources believe policy-makers conceptually would support the notion of broadening the definition of a first responder to include critical-infrastructure enterprises such as hospitals, utilities and transportation departments, each of which can play vital roles in emergency scenarios.

But even if the rules were changed, many question whether the non-public-safety entities would be willing to pour resources into gaining access to a 10 MHz network of which public safety typically would be the top-priority user, which may not leave much bandwidth to secondary users during an incident. However, adding the 10 MHz D Block to the equation would make public-safety officials more willing to share the airwaves and secondary users more likely to want to participate.

“My gut feeling is that 20 MHz is going to be the minimum necessary to actually operate all of these first and second responders in a city like Seattle,” said Bill Schrier, CTO for the city of Seattle.

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Think You’ve Seen It All?



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“Hold My Beer...”



ESAMS Corner

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ESAMS Corner

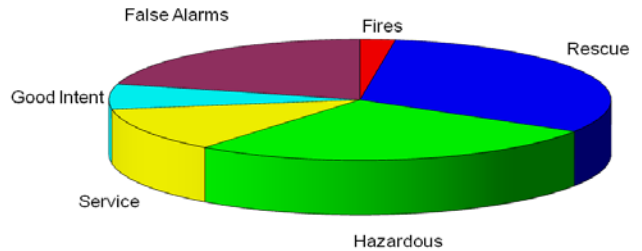
By Clarence Settle, ESAMS Fire Technical Support

July-August 2010 Statistics

Operations

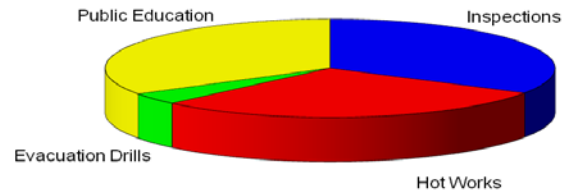
Total Incidents – 6,402

- ❖ Fires - 144
- ❖ Rescue & EMS – 2,006
- ❖ Hazardous – 1,706
- ❖ Service Call - 758
- ❖ Good Intent – 425
- ❖ False Alarm – 1,328



Prevention

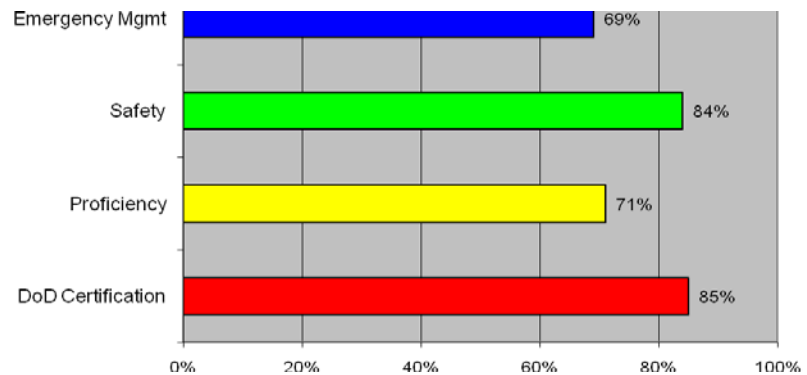
- Fire Inspection Completed – 3,816
- Hot Works Permits Issues – 3,304
- Building Evacuation Drills – 440
- Public Education – 3,859



Training

Fire Training Report Card:

Category	Percent Compliance
DoD Certification	85 %
Proficiency, Skills, and Practice	71%
Safety Training	84 %
Emergency Management	69 %



F&ES On Duty Mishaps Report

Mishaps Reported - 26
Total Lost Work Days – 120

Navy F&ES POCs

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News Distribution

Job Links

Navy Fire & Emergency Services (N30)

Commander, Navy Installations Command
716 Sicard Street, SE, Suite 1000
Washington Navy Yard, DC 20374-5140
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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;

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