



What's Happening

Navy Fire and Emergency Services Newsletter *Protecting Those Who Defend America*

August 2013

OMNI CEDO DOMUS

Vol 11 No 8

Email the Editor:
Ricky.Brockman@navy.mil

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- [Guest Editorial](#)
- [Combs Cartoon](#)
- [Last Alarms](#)
- [TCOOO Update](#)
- [Mike Lee](#)
- [Back in the Day](#)
- [On the Job-Georgia](#)
- [Belated Award](#)
- [Eyes Wide Open](#)
- [HazMat Training](#)
- [NFFF News](#)
- [On the Job-Quantico](#)
- [Cancer Study](#)
- [Extinguisher Class](#)
- [On the Job-Japan](#)
- [Ageist Humor](#)
- [Community Relations](#)
- [Hector Cajigas](#)
- [Accreditation](#)
- [SA Matters!](#)
- [EMS Training](#)
- [Best Blonde Joke](#)
- [Nutrition](#)
- [Leadership Corner](#)
- [ESAMS Update](#)
- [Navy F&ES POCs](#)
- [News Distribution](#)
- [Job Links](#)

Applying the Powell Doctrine to the Fire Service

By Todd LeDuc



I had the opportunity recently to serve as a peer reviewer for a U.S. Department of Defense fire department that was pursuing accredited status. During that experience, one of the senior commanding officers discussed approaches to military campaigns, and it offers a great comparison to the fire service.

The Powell Doctrine — named for U.S. Army Gen. Colin L. Powell during the Persian Gulf War — is a policy that states U.S. forces should be committed to combat only when the political objectives of such use of force are clear, and then in sufficient force to overwhelm the enemy quickly and achieve decisive results. The Powell Doctrine was a reaction to the uncertain objectives and indecisive piecemeal escalation of force by the U.S. in the Vietnam War. Powell learned that sufficient force must be “overwhelming” to deter large losses, long-term conflict and — ultimately — failure.

The fire service can be a hostile environment that is inherently unforgiving of missteps. When firefighters become lost or trapped, precious time stands before their survival, their serious injury or, worse yet, fireground line of duty death.

Much review was undertaken in the aftermath of the March 2001 Southwest Supermarket fire in Phoenix, in which Firefighter Brett Tarver died in the line of duty. To its credit, the Phoenix Fire Department began an extensive review of rapid intervention operations to rescue downed firefighters. Their findings remain well-established years later. It took a mean 2.55 minutes from the call of a mayday from a lost, disorientated or trapped firefighter in trouble until the rapid intervention team made entry and an additional 5.33 minutes to reach the downed firefighter. In all, it took 12 intervention team firefighters a total of 21.8 minutes from the initial report of a mayday or firefighter in trouble to rescue and extricate to the exterior that same down firefighter.

Additionally, 20% of rescuers themselves experienced potential issues during the rescue effort that may make them in need of rescue or assistance. That is two additional interior firefighters incident commanders need to be worried about.

From the Editor (Cont.)

[Back to Table of Contents](#)



So what can be taken away from this and what is the correlation with the Powell Doctrine? NIST's residential fire study on staffing level effects shows that the size of firefighting crews has a substantial effect on the fire service's ability to protect lives and property in residential fires.

This study confirmed that staffing levels were directly correlated with success on the fireground based on critical-tasking analysis for successful mitigation of the fire and life safety. There exists a solid body of knowledge that both safety and success on the fireground directly are related to adequate troop size or firefighters on the fireground.

This is not always easily achievable, particularly in today's constrained revenue environment. Knowing this, a wise incident commander uses adjacent resources when available and, if necessary, alters tactics and strategy knowing that the troop size available does not match the battle at hand.

Todd J. LeDuc, MS, CFO, CEM, MIFire, is chief fire officer of 24 years service at Broward County (Florida) Sheriff Fire Rescue, an internationally accredited career department of nearly 800 firefighters with an international airport and seaport. He is an elected Board member of the International Association of Fire Chiefs Safety, Health & Survival Section and advisor to IAFC On-Scene publication and publishes regularly for Fire Chief Magazine. He is a peer reviewer for both professional credentialing and agency accreditation through the Center for Public Safety Excellence. He teaches graduate fire and public administration courses for Ana Maria College and has conducted agency evaluations, master and strategic plans, consolidation studies and standard of cover evaluations in two dozen states and three countries. He has also completed Department of Defense peer accreditation site visit work. He can be reached at tjlbcems@aol.com

This first appeared in FIRE CHIEF magazine at www.firechief.com.

Combs Cartoon



[Back to Table of Contents](#)

Kinked



Reprinted by permission.

Last Alarms

[Back to Table of Contents](#)



TCOoO Update



[Back to Table of Contents](#)

Last Alarms

The USFA reported 76 deaths to date in 2013. The following line of duty deaths were reported since we published our last issue:

Bruce Sensenig 🚒

Age: 20
Quentin, PA

Rodney Hardee ♥

Age: 66
Loris, SC

David Brier ♥

Age: 50
Middleborough, MA

John Hammack

Age: 58
Bend, OR

Jesse Trader 🚒

Age: 19
Central Point, OR

Kevin Hall ♥

Age: 59
Vale, OR

Matthew McKnight ♥

Age: 51
Los Angeles, CA

Juan Casanova ♥

Age: 53
Brownsville, TX

James Fellows ♥

Age: 45
Rapid City, MI

2013 Totals

♥ 24 (31%) 🚒 10 (13%)

♥ Indicates cardiac related death

🚒 Indicates vehicle accident related

Taking Care of Our Own

Check with your Fire Chief if you wish to make a leave donation.

There are currently 26 DoD firefighters in the Taking Care of Own program.

| Name | Location | Point of Contact |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| Joey Tajalle | NAVBASE Guam | Julie.Quinene@fe.navy.mil |
| Stella Shimabukuro | USAG Presidio of Monterey, CA | Scott.Hudock@us.army.mil |
| Dana Picard | Westover ARB, MA | Diane.Lessard@us.af.mil |
| Edward Rust | DES Richmond, VA | Clyde.Hipshire@dla.mil |
| Billie Edwards | March ARB, CA | Melinda.Miller.2@us.af.mil |
| Wilson Humphries | USAG Camp Parks, CA | Alexis.A.Rivera8.civ@mail.mil |
| Stephen Dock | Altus AFB, OK | Nils.Brobjorg@altus.af.mil |
| Peter Giles | Kirtland AFB, NM | Curtis2.Ray@kirtland.af.mil |
| Christopher Lumpkin | Fort Belvoir, VA | Joyce.R.Peck.civ@mail.mil |
| Chris Burke | Fort Wainwright, AK | David.Halbrooks@us.army.mil |
| Christopher Matthews | Portsmouth NSY, NH | Marc.J.Smith@navy.mil |
| Annie Sands | Altus AFB, OK | Nils.Brobjorg@altus.af.mil |
| Mark Davis | JB Langley-Ft Eustis, VA | Dale.E.Hankins.civ@mail.mil |
| Michael McClure | Niagara Falls, NY | Peter.Stein@us.af.mil |
| Russell Reynolds | Niagara Falls, NY | Peter.Stein@us.af.mil |
| Richard Jefferson | Kirtland AFB, NM | Curtis2.Ray@kirtland.af.mil |
| Thomas Trost | Wright Patterson AFB, OH | David.Warner@wpafb.af.mil |
| Brian O'Neill | JB McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, NJ | Paul.Presley.1@us.af.mil |
| Eric Schafer | Eglin AFB, FL | Kevin.Remedies@eglin.af.mil |
| Jeff Noel | Ft Campbell, KY | Charlotte.M.Epps.civ@mail.mil |
| Stephen Garman | Fort Detrick, MD | Katherine.M.Szamier-Bennett.civ@mail.mil |
| Brandon Fines | Fort A.P. Hill, VA | Daniel.C.Glemnbot@us.army.mil |
| Maria Teno | Virginia Beach, VA | Marc.J.Smith@navy.mil |
| Robert Meola | DES Susquehanna, PA | Henry.Hoffman@dla.mil |
| Keith Lacoy | Virginia Beach, VA | Marc.J.Smith@navy.mil |
| Stephen Giuffrida | NCTMS Cutler, ME | Marc.J.Smith@navy.mil |

Mike Lee

[Back to Table of Contents](#)



[Back to Table of Contents](#)

Camp Pendleton Firefighter Passes Away



Firefighter Mike Lee of Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton Fire and Emergency Services Engine Company 2762 passed away unexpectedly on 22 July 2013 while walking with his son near their home in Hollister, CA. He was 44 years old.

Mike gave almost 25 years of his life in service as a firefighter. He joined the Camp Pendleton Fire Department on 9 January 1994. Prior to joining our ranks, he was a member of the Fort Ord Fire Department for four years and prior to that, he was a firefighter with CALFIRE. Mike was a "Master Craftsman" who coached and mentored a multitude of our department's members. His love for service and devotion to his fellow firefighters was unparalleled. He was a member of the Department's Honor Guard and was the caretaker for the department's vintage Seagrave ladder truck, maintaining it and driving it in parades and other public events. He was also an active participant in the San Diego Firemen's Relief Association Memorial Stair Climb. Mike was one of the kindest and gentlest individuals among us. His sense of humor and service before self-attitude will be sorely missed.

Mike leaves behind his wife, two sons and two daughters.

Funeral services were held 30 July 2013 in Hollister, CA. A memorial fund to benefit Mike's surviving family members is administered by the Los Angeles Firemen's Credit Union. Visit their website at www.lafirecu.org, for details.

The legacy of heroes is the memory of a great name and the inheritance of a great example.

- Benjamin Disraeli

Back in the Day

[Back to Table of Contents](#)



Tom Shand

JOX Model Aerials

By Tom W. Shand photo from the collection of Ted Heinbuch



85 foot and the few 100 foot aerial ladders built were a three section design constructed of either of laminated and reinforced wood or steel with the first all metal hydraulically raised aerial ladder built by Peter Pirsch and Sons for Melrose, Massachusetts in 1935. Virtually all fire trucks of that period were of the engine ahead design with open cabs being most favored due to the visibility afforded for the driver and officer.

In 1938 American LaFrance introduced the JOX model of chassis for use with straight frame aerial ladders. This vehicle was designed by engineer John Grybos who for several years had lobbied that a cab forward vehicle would be safer by placing the engine over the front axle for weight distribution with the driver's seat ahead of the axle. The result was a midship mount ladder truck with an overall length of less than 42 feet with a two rear facing jump seats for the crew. This style of aerial ladder revolutionized the fire apparatus industry and within a few years a four section 100 foot steel aerial was available on the JOX model chassis with a 240.00 inch wheelbase.

The U.S. Navy placed into service two JOX model aerials during 1944 with units delivered to the Treasure Island Naval Station in California and the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard. These vehicles were powered by a Lycoming V-12 engine rated at 190 horsepower and were equipped with two manual screw jacks to act as stabilizers with a third screw jack located under the forward mounted radiator. The standard JOX model was equipped with open ground ladder banks and arched rear fenders. Between 1938 and 1946 110 of these American LaFrance aerials in 65, 75, 85 and 100 foot models were produced. Forty five of these ladders were 100 foot units which began to increase in popularity due to their maneuverability. Seven JOX model aerial ladders were built for the Treasury Department for export to Australia as part of the Lend/Lease program.

During World War II American LaFrance in Elmira, New York produced hundreds of fire apparatus for the various branches of the military on commercial chassis as well as their 500 series engine forward pumpers and quad apparatus. The U.S. Navy would continue to purchase midship mount aerial ladders from Maxim Motors, Peter Pirsch and Seagrave until the early 1960's when several American LaFrance 900 series tractor drawn aerial ladders were acquired for the Great Lakes Naval Training Center, Norfolk Naval Shipyard and Philadelphia Naval Shipyard.

Serial number L-1392 was built with an open ladder bank exposing the wood truss ground ladders and together with twelve foot wooden scaling ladders on each side of the apparatus body. The American LaFrance JOX ladder would eventually be replaced with the 700 series cab ahead American LaFrance model which would dominate the apparatus market for several years.

Aerial ladder apparatus produced for both civilian and military use during the early part of the twentieth century were tractor drawn ladders due largely to the engineering technology for the aerial ladder. Most 85

[Back to Table of Contents](#)

On the Job- Georgia

[Back to Table of Contents](#)



Belated Award



[Back to Table of Contents](#)

Mobile Maritime and Structural Live Fire Trainer

By Assistant Fire Chief Robert Womble, SUBASE Kings Bay



the MLFT to conduct search and rescue and fire suppression.

Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay (GA) recently took delivery of a mobile maritime and structural live fire training device built by Kidde FIRETRAINER® systems. This device will enhance and challenge the Kings Bay Navy firefighters in the unique rigors of shipboard firefighting and emergencies, including complicated submarine fire scenarios, particular to Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay.

Pictured: Captain/Paramedic Steven Land makes entry into

Better Late Than Never

By Ernst Piercy, Regional Fire Chief, Navy Region Southwest



Navy Region Southwest Fire Chief Ernst Piercy and CAPT Michael McKenna, USS RONALD REAGAN Executive Officer, and his ABH shipmates present the 2011 DoD Military Firefighter of the Year award to ABH1 Justin Fauver on the flight deck of the USS REAGAN.

ABH1 Fauver received the 2011 DoD Military Firefighter of the Year award on the flight deck of the USS RONALD REAGAN (CVN76) on 31 July. He earned the award while stationed at NAVSTA Rota, Spain, but transferred with the USS REAGAN to Bremerton, WA before the award was announced (July 2012). The original award trophy was damaged in transit, and a new trophy was constructed and shipped to Bremerton....it arrive right after the USS REAGAN left for San Diego. The folks at Navy Region Northwest shipped the award to us, and we were able to give him the award on the deck of his ship.

Eyes Wide Open

[Back to Table of Contents](#)



[Back to Table of Contents](#)

Smoke Beckons Firefighter on Trip Home

by Ben Posey, www.grizzlydetail.com



We all heard the story and saw the horrific pictures of the massive 2-story home near Eagle Mountain Lake (TX) that was destroyed by fire recently. Firefighters from thirteen different departments including four from the White Settlement Fire Department (WSFD) were called to the scene as the fire grew from a single-alarm to a three-alarm call. WSFD sent

Brush Truck 18 and a Command suburban that included firefighters Melvin Wilson, Trevor Gauge, Casey Giles and Brandon Giles.

As the four firefighters from WSFD jumped into action and started helping other departments douse the flames, they maneuvered to a corner of the structure to battle the fire.

“We were set up just under a tree on the corner of the house when the eve of the house fell to the ground and hit all four of us,” Wilson said in an interview with The Grizzly at the fire station. “All of us tried blocking it with our arms but it knocked us to the ground.”

One of the firefighters injured his arm and Wilson got him loaded up in the command vehicle and transported him to Texas Health Harris Hospital downtown Fort Worth. After waiting at the hospital for the injured firefighter’s family to arrive, Wilson then got back in the Command unit and proceeded back to the station in White Settlement.

“I was just driving home late that afternoon just thinking about the day’s events when I spotted smoke rising just off the freeway near Montgomery Street,” Wilson said. “It was just instinct, I guess; I just exited the freeway and drove towards the smoke.”

Meanwhile, the Fort Worth Fire Department was dispatched to a reported house fire in the 4000 block of Locke where Wilson was now on location.

“When I pulled up, I already had my bunker pants on and I grabbed my jacket and helmet and headed in,” Wilson said. Wilson said a lady was standing next door in the yard screaming and saying that a lady was inside. He then went around to the rear of the house and kicked in the back door and started shouting “fire department, can you hear me?”

“The smoke was thick and dark as I entered the rear of the home and I heard a lady moaning,” Wilson said. “A neighbor helped me pull her from the house and we moved her to the front yard.”

Eyes (Cont.)

[Back to Table of Contents](#)



Fort Worth Firefighters arrived on scene to find the woman in the front yard and her house blazing. During firefighters' efforts to attack the fire, crews found a small, unresponsive cat trapped inside. Fire personnel began immediate medical treatment on the cat and it was soon breathing on its own. The cat and the woman are expected to make a full recovery.

Wilson, again, began his journey home with even more to think about on his day's events. What if he hadn't gone on that call to Eagle Mountain Lake? What if one of the firefighters hadn't been injured and need transportation to the hospital? What if Wilson had just ignored the smoke he saw from the highway on his way back to the station from the hospital?

I would say that Melvin Wilson was in the right place in the right time thanks to greater powers at hand. Wouldn't it be nice if the owners of the home at Eagle Mountain Lake saw the good in the disaster that struck their family home?

Reprinted with permission.

Editors Note: Melvin Wilson is also a full time member of NAS JRB Fort Worth F&ES and has been nominated for a Navy F&ES Lifesaving award for this incident.

HazMat Training



MWTC Bridgeport Multi-Agency Hazmat Exercise

By Keith Preston, Assistant Fire Chief, MWTC Bridgeport

On 19 June 2013, the Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center (MWTC) Fire Department in Bridgeport (CA) conducted a hazardous materials exercise with their mutual aid partners in order to determine the readiness of the installation and the ability of the surrounding jurisdictions to work together during an emergency incident. In addition to the MWTC Fire Department, participating agencies included the Bridgeport Volunteer Fire Department, June Lakes Volunteer Fire Department, and Mammoth Lakes Fire Department. The exercise was an opportunity for the participating agencies to operate on a hazardous material event and demonstrated each agency's capabilities and function during an event.



The scenario involved a truck with a mixed load that was delivering a water purification product to the local water district. During transit, a 55 gallon drum shifted and fell out of the truck onto the driver. Mitigation was accomplished once Mammoth Lakes FD arrived with their hazmat equipment and made entry. Approximately 20 personnel from the various departments participated in the exercise.

The exercise was coordinated between Kevin Sullivan, Fire Chief MWTC, Mike Booher, Fire Chief Bridgeport Fire Department and Thom Heller, Division Chief Mammoth Lakes Fire. Members of all participating agencies embraced the opportunity to train together and prepare to protect their communities through partnership.

[Back to Table of Contents](#)

NFFF News

[Back to Table of Contents](#)



[Back to Table of Contents](#)

Third Annual Bells Across America



The sound of a bell holds special significance for firefighters. Historically, the toll of a bell summoned members to the station, signaled the beginning of a shift, notified departments of a call for help, and indicated a call was completed and the unit had returned to the station.

Departments sounded a series of bells when a firefighter died in the line of duty to alert all members that a comrade had made the ultimate sacrifice. This time-honored tradition continues today during the funerals or memorial services for firefighters.

For the third year, bells will ring from coast to coast as a grateful nation pauses on Sunday, 6 October 2013 to honor those firefighters who died in the line of duty in 2012 and previous years. Fire departments and their places of worship will join the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (NFFF) for the Third Annual Bells Across America for Fallen Firefighters, part of the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend in Emmitsburg, MD.

The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation is asking communities, fire service organizations, and religious organizations to help us honor our fallen firefighters by participating in Bells Across America for Fallen Firefighters. A moment of remembrance can occur at any time during Memorial Weekend, October 5 & 6. Fire department representatives are encouraged to work with their clergy and community leaders to develop an appropriate tribute.

"The ringing of bells has a powerful meaning to firefighters. Not only do bells signal the beginning or end of a call, they also were used to notify department members that one of their own had died while serving the community," explained Chief Ronald Siarnicki, executive director of the NFFF. "At the beginning of the Memorial Service on Sunday, October 6, the bells at the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Chapel in Emmitsburg will ring to honor the memories of those who made the ultimate sacrifice in 2012. We are encouraging firefighters across the country to invite their places of worship and community organizations to join us with their own tribute to all our fallen heroes."

Hundreds of fire departments, places of worship and other groups participated in Bells Across America for Fallen Firefighters over the past two years.

For more information about participating and to download sample invitation letters, press release and response form, please visit www.BellsAcrossAmerica.com.

In our world of big names, our true heroes tend to be anonymous.
- Daniel J. Boorstin

On the Job- Quantico

[Back to Table of Contents](#)



[Back to Table of Contents](#)

Firefighters Field Advanced Equipment

By PFC Samuel Ellis, Marine Corps Quantico

With a “click,” the filing cabinet drawer, stacked with hundreds of reports, was now closed. The filing system that had been used for years had come to the end of its use. For three weeks, Marine Corps Base Quantico firefighters have been adjusting to a replacement called the Toughbook, a touchscreen computer tablet purchased to replace older methods of patient care tracking, such as paper forms, and expedite the effectiveness of the first responders.



“Very few fire departments in the Marine Corps have this capability,” said Ulysses Taormina, Assistant Chief of Emergency Medical Services. “This transition has taken us from handwriting on paper to storing information on a computer.”

According to the Assistant Chief, the tablets have a lot more to offer than just a digital filing cabinet. “Not only does this equipment give us tablet-style patient care tracking, but it also is used by our inspection branch and in our building assessments,” said Taormina. “This upgrade is making us more streamlined as a department.”

The equipment is also designed to give the firemen other added features, like maps and directions, weather forecasts, and Bluetooth capability that allows it to link with other important systems, like cardiac equipment. The Bluetooth capability provides an easy transition for information between various pieces of equipment. The department even hopes to link the system with its emergency dispatch system in the future.

“The equipment is standardizing our patient information collection,” said Brian Weston, Quantico Firefighter/Paramedic. “If a fire truck arrives to an emergency first, the Emergency Medical Technician can input patient information and treatment into the Toughbook, so when the Paramedic arrives, he already has information to work from.”

The department credits the base communications/electronics division for offering to pay the \$54,000 it cost to provide 10 of these computers.

“The Fire Department told us how it would help them if they had a portable computer,” said Richard Logsdon, Director of the Marine Corps Base Quantico Communications/Electronics Division. “The purchase was a no-brainer for us when we saw the benefit of the equipment.”

After receiving the equipment, it took approximately three months of work for Taormina and Weston to prepare the tablets for use. Add two months of training for the firemen to be proficient and comfortable, and the department is now functioning with more efficient, streamlined equipment.

“The initial goal was patient care reporting and getting them on all the vehicles,” said Taormina. “We’ve done that. They are now in-service and running.”

Cancer Study

[Back to Table of Contents](#)



[Back to Table of Contents](#)

Taking Action Against Cancer in the Fire Service

The Workshop

In late April 2013, the Firefighter Cancer Support Network (FCSN) invited a small group of experts to Indianapolis to develop a white paper on cancer in the fire service. The participants came from the legal, medical- and social-research communities, and the fire service — including volunteer, combination and career departments and chief officers, firefighters, company officers, union leaders, and local and state fire training directors. Two firefighters who are cancer survivors participated, and every workshop participant knew firefighters who currently have cancer or who died as a result of cancer.

They willingly shared their knowledge, experience, commitment, and questions to better understand and describe the complexity of firefighter cancer awareness. The discussions addressed prevention, diagnosis, treatment and the long-term implications for the firefighter, the firefighter's family, their coworkers, the fire department and community policy. Importantly, they also identified a series of actions that firefighters can take to reduce their exposure to chemicals that can cause or facilitate cancer.

In two-and-a-half days, the working group outlined and wrote the initial draft of a white paper describing the status of cancer in the fire service and developed answers to very challenging questions. This report is the result of that working group which was enhanced by the additional review of multiple career and volunteer operational fire companies, additional clinical researchers and medical physicians, other stakeholders and the leadership of the FCSN.

What is the Firefighter Cancer Problem?

Firefighter cancer is a looming personal catastrophe for each and every firefighter.

Cancer is the most dangerous and unrecognized threat to the health and safety of our nation's firefighters.

Multiple studies, including the soon-to-be-released NIOSH cancer study, have repeatedly demonstrated credible evidence and biologic creditability for statistically higher rates of multiple types of cancers in firefighters compared to the general American population.

We are just beginning to understand the horrific magnitude of the problem, the depth of our naiveté, the challenges involved and the changes required in education, training, operations, medical screenings and personal accountability to effectively address cancer in the fire service.

The signs of firefighters' exposure to carcinogens are everywhere:

- Photos appear every day of firefighters working in active and overhaul fire environments with SCBA on their backs but not masks on their faces.
- Firefighters still proudly wear dirty and contaminated turnout gear and helmets.
- Some fire instructors wear their carcinogen-loaded helmets and bunker gear as symbols of their firefighting experience.

Cancer (Cont.)

[Back to Table of Contents](#)



[Back to Table of Contents](#)

“Pinpointing the cause of cancer is extremely difficult because firefighters are not exposed to just one agent. They are exposed to multiple cancer-causing agents. Because of the multiple exposures and the multiple routes of exposure — they inhale carcinogens and carcinogens are absorbed through the skin — it is also highly unlikely for firefighters to get only one type of cancer,” said Grace LeMasters, Ph.D., a professor of epidemiology at the University of Cincinnati and the lead author of a 2006 meta-analysis of 32 published studies of cancer in firefighters.

Unfortunately, there is no immediate visible impact of carcinogenic exposure, since the time between exposure to carcinogens and the appearance of malignancies can be 20 years or longer, known as the latency period.

“We are not making this up,” IAFF General President Harold Schaitberger said. “The connection between firefighting and cancer is real, and there is scientific data to support our position. But we cannot stop there — we must continue to learn more so we can prevent our members from contracting this horrible disease and help them if they do.”

IAFC VCOS Chairman, Chief Tim Wall agreed. “Cancer does not discriminate between firefighters,” he said. “Volunteers routinely transport bunker gear in their vehicles, wear clothing contaminated after a fire into their homes and expose their families to these carcinogens. This is a terrible problem that requires our full attention and immediate action.”

What is the Role of the Fire Chief?

Like the company officer, the fire chief must lead by example and set clear expectations about cancer awareness and prevention. The significant difference is that, “the buck stops on the fire chief’s desk” to set clear expectations, develop and enforce procedures, policies, and operational changes.

The chief must take the initiative to personally understand the facts about cancer in firefighters. Initiate the discussion among the leadership team and then with the firefighters about the prevalence of cancer in the fire service and the preventive measures that can be implemented.

Identify what the department will do. Identify operational enhancements and changes, set clear expectations and then enforce the policies — every time. The goal is to have firefighters understand the risk and the rationale for the changes.

As with any other SOP/SOG, enforcement needs to be consistent with company officers and chief officers setting the example.

Integrate cancer awareness and prevention into related training. Review the SOPs about mandatory use of SCBAs from the initiation of active fire operations to the completion of the overhaul process, field decontamination procedures including the use of industrial strength wet wipes and mandatory showers.

Make cancer awareness and prevention a priority, including the implementation of an appropriate exposure tracking system.

Cancer (Cont.)

[Back to Table of Contents](#)



Fire chiefs should work with their governing organizations, supervisors, government leaders and unions to seek and provide adequate funding for cancer awareness and prevention, necessary equipment and annual physical examinations, including appropriate cancer screening. An early cancer diagnosis will increase survival and decrease the overall costs of treatment.

What Immediate Actions Can I Take to Protect Myself?

1. Use SCBA from initial attack to finish of overhaul. (Not wearing SCBA in both active and post-fire environments is the most dangerous voluntary activity in the fire service today.)
2. Do gross field decon of PPE to remove as much soot and particulates as possible.
3. Use Wet-Nap or baby wipes to remove as much soot as possible from head, neck, jaw, throat, underarms and hands immediately and while still on the scene.
4. Change your clothes and wash them immediately after a fire.
5. Shower thoroughly after a fire.
6. Clean your PPE, gloves, hood and helmet immediately after a fire.
7. Do not take contaminated clothes or PPE home or store it in your vehicle.
8. Decon fire apparatus interior after fires.
9. Keep bunker gear out of living and sleeping quarters.
10. Stop using tobacco products.
11. Use sunscreen or sun block.

The importance of annual medical examinations cannot be overstated — early detection and early treatment are essential to increasing survival.

Download the complete White Paper at;

<http://www.firefightercancersupport.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/08/Taking-Action-against-Cancer-in-the-Fire-Service.pdf>

Extinguisher Class



[Back to Table of Contents](#)

NAS Corpus Christi Extinguisher Training



NAS Corpus Christi Fire & Emergency Services, Fire Inspector Maurice Phillips recently provided DLA customer request Fire Extinguisher Training.

On the Job- Japan

[Back to Table of Contents](#)



[Back to Table of Contents](#)

Ageist Humor



Forging Firefighter Friendships

By CNRJ F&ES Regional Staff



Commander Navy Region Japan F&ES (NAF Atsugi fire station) recently hosted the Second Annual Friendship Firefighter Softball Tournament. Eight teams representing the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force, Ayase City FD, Ebina FD, Yamato City FD, Zama City FD, Yokohama City (Seya Ward) FD, and CNRJ F&ES competed for the traveling trophy while family members enjoyed watching the games, a variety of kids' activities, and a BBQ lunch.

NAF Atsugi's Commanding Officer, Captain Steven Wieman, threw out the ceremonial first pitch to begin the two-game, one-pitch tournament. Regional Fire Chief, Russell Tarver, summed up the day stating that "this event is a great opportunity to bring a vast number of our MOU partners together into a competitive, but even more importantly, a friendly environment to further strengthen the relationships between the U.S. Navy and our host nation counterparts."

Friendship isn't about whom you have known the longest... it's about who came, and never left your side. As we all know, relationships are extremely important in our business, and events like these underpin the resiliency of our personal and professional relationships.

When the dust settled, Zama City FD won the right to display the trophy in their fire house until next year, but everyone had a fun day and we cemented friendships that will serve us well into the future.



Lost Cell Phone

My wife called me from her appointment. I could tell she was getting frustrated. Finally she said, "I know I had my cell phone with me. And now I can't find it!"

I replied, "Aren't you talking on it?"

There was a solid period of stunned silence as the reality of the situation sank in, followed by, "You are NOT going to tell anybody about this!"

Community Relations

[Back to Table of Contents](#)



[Back to Table of Contents](#)

Taking Care of Others and Our Own

By John Morris, Fire Chief NAS Corpus Christi



The week of 21-27 July was a typical week at Naval Air Station (NAS) Corpus Christi F&ES; with the range of medical, mutual aid, airfield emergencies, and alarm activations taking up a part of each day, coupled with station duties and training, and don't forget eight of us taking our required

furlough day all conspiring for a quick-to-pass week for the department.

Our normally busy schedule did not stop us from taking care of our own, and taking care of our community. We hosted our fifth "Guns n' Hoses Blood Drive", a local event that pits local law enforcement and fire departments against each other to host a blood drive, with participants pledging their support to either the Guns, or the Hoses. This year our goal for the three hour drive at NAS Corpus Christi was 22 donors, though we shattered that goal with 31 donors eagerly giving the gift of life. Realistically I don't think we could have gotten any more donors, as the blood mobile was pretty much packed from the time it opened at 0900 until the last person finished around 1200. Despite the furlough and people on leave, we managed to get seven donors from the NASCC F&ES.

The second part revolved around our people, and their individual preparation for retirement, whether they were near retirement, or relatively new to the federal system. As part of rewriting our strategic plan, some interesting numbers came out; twenty personnel, or 29% of the authorized GS-0081 workforce will reach the mandatory retirement age of fifty-seven between 2015 and 2023; taking with them over 500 years of collective fire service experience, leadership, and institutional knowledge. These twenty do not include another large group that will become, or are currently eligible at age 50, which nearly doubles the above numbers. These combined numbers represent a huge impact on the department, and we are working diligently to develop a succession plan and additional career development opportunities, but that is internal. Our focus was to begin regular retirement planning, and to this goal, we succeeded as we brought in Steve Morrow, working under contract with "1st Command". The training was coordinated through the HRO Community, and went off without a hitch; resulting in twenty of our personnel, along with a few spouses receiving some really good information, which in some cases may change people's retirement planning efforts to better prepare them for retirement. We have also used Mark Brown, of the "High 3 Team", and will have him back again in the future, as we all felt that the combination of the detailed analysis provided by Mark, coupled with the "in the weeds" look that Steve presented will all combine to better prepare an employee regardless of where they are in their career.

Hector Cajigas

[Back to Table of Contents](#)



[Back to Table of Contents](#)

Accreditation



MCAS Beaufort Fire Chief Retires

By Brynne Burrough, Assistant Chief



Hector Cajigas, Fire Chief of MCAS Beaufort since November of 2010, retired July 31 after 28 years of service. Born in Vega Baja, Puerto Rico, Chief Cajigas and his family moved to the United States at an early age. He joined the Marine Corps after graduating from high school in Lawrence, MA in 1975. His four-year tour with the Marines had him stationed at Parris Island, Okinawa, and Beaufort. After fulfilling his enlistment, Hector joined the Port Royal Police Department in 1979 and worked with that organization for the next five years. In 1985, he accepted a position with Parris Island Fire & Rescue and a year later he transferred to the Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort.

In his 28 years at MCAS Beaufort, Chief Cajigas served the Marine Corps Air Station community as an integral member of the Fire and Emergency Service Division. Progressing through the ranks from Firefighter Trainee to Chief of the Department, Chief Cajigas has consistently shown dedication to duty, professionalism, and a strong desire to remain proficient in all facets involved in the ever-growing mission of the Fire and Emergency Services Division.

Chief Cajigas plans on spending a little free time with his wife, son, daughter and two grandchildren before starting the next chapter in his life. He recently accepted a position with the Beaufort County Sheriff's Department.

When giving his farewell address at his retirement ceremony, Chief Cajigas spoke about his tenure in the Fire Service. He wanted to stress to every emergency service provider that "dreams can come true with hard work and clearly defined goals. Motivation is vital and, although it can be hard at times, maintaining that motivation is critical if you are to be successful in your career."

Newly Accredited

The Commission on Fire Service Accreditation International (CFAI) convened in Chicago, IL on 14 and 15 August 2013 during the Fire Rescue International Conference. Thirty fire departments were represented by their Fire Chief, Accreditation Manager, Elected/Appointed Officials, and their CFAI Peer Team Leader. Fourteen fire departments received their Accredited Agency Status of which six were Department of Defense Agencies;

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| Buckley AFB, CO | Cheyenne Mountain AFS, CO |
| Fort Bragg, NC | Joint Base Langley Eustis, Ft. Eustis, VA |
| MacDill AFB, FL | MCIPAC Okinawa, Japan, |

[Back to Table of Contents](#)



[Back to Table of Contents](#)

Nine Dangerous Mindsets Part 5: The Stubborn

Welcome to the fifth of the nine-part series on dangerous mindsets that can impact first responder situational awareness and, subsequently, their safety. In this article I am going to address the stubborn team member. This individual can be described as one set in their ways, closed minded and perhaps even defiant. Their narrowed view can impact relationships and, more importantly, their situational awareness. Ironically, we use a mule as a visual depiction of stubborn and terms like “Stubborn Ass.” The fact is, the Stubborn supervisor may be acting like a mule.

**I'm not stubborn...
My way is just better.**

Defining stubborn

I think most of us know what a stubborn person acts like but as I gave this article thought, I was challenged to come up with a good definition. So, as I often do for some inspiration, I turned to Google. The definition offered there fit my needs for this discussion perfectly:

Stubborn (adjective):

Having or showing dogged determination not to change one's attitude or position on something, esp. in spite of good arguments or reasons...

Difficult to move, remove, or cure.

There's not doubt a stubborn person can be challenging to work with. I'm sure my co-workers would, on occasion, have labeled me as a stubborn person. I think the more training and life experience we gain, and the more we may perceive ourselves as having expert knowledge on a subject matter, the more we may be susceptible to appearing to be stubborn in the defense of our beliefs of what is right or wrong. Stubborn is not always a bad quality. For example, a training officer who is stubborn about not taking shortcuts in how recruits are trained, despite what may appear to be good arguments for doing so, is an organizational asset, not a liability.

The downside of stubborn

It can be challenging to open the mind of someone who is stubborn. Why does a person act stubborn? Perhaps they are so used to seeing their point of view as correct that they cannot imagine any other person's perspective as being right. I once had a first responder describe the challenges with his stubborn supervisor this way: When I went to work for this officer, I knew his last name was 'Wright.' I just didn't realize his first name was 'Always.' When the stubborn supervisor instills this type of feelings among subordinates the underlings are not going to be very willing to tell the stubborn supervisor when they are making a mistake, even if the mistake may result in a grave consequence.

If, by chance, the subordinate would tell the stubborn supervisor of the error, the supervisor, because of their stubborn nature, won't welcome the feedback and won't admit there may be an alternate point of view.

SA Matters (Cont.)

[Back to Table of Contents](#)



Rich Gasaway, PhD.

[Back to Table of Contents](#)

Habits

Another cause of stubborn behavior comes from being set in your ways. We are creatures of habit and we can gain comfort in doing things a certain way. Any recommendation to do things outside the zone of comfort may be met with resistance or refusal. For the stubborn, the mantra may be: Why change? What I'm doing is working well for me.

Comfort

The stubborn nature of a supervisor may come with feeling comfortable with doing things a certain way. Suggesting a change can cause a degree of discomfort. Fear of change and fear of consequences from failure are powerful motivators toward resisting new ideas.

Chief Gasaway's Advice

One of the best ways to reach a stubborn supervisor is to employ a principle I learned from Stephen Covey in his book *Seven Habits of Highly Effective People*: Seek first to understand, then to be understood. This principle has worked very well for me in understanding human behavior. Prior to using this principle, I was quick to judge and quick to do my best to make sure the other person understood my perspective. I wasn't very interested in understanding WHY they were stubborn. I just wanted the behavior to end. The truth is, until we understand why a person behaves the way they do we can do little to influence a change in the undesired behavior.

Oh, so it's as simple as approaching the person and saying: "Why are you so stubborn?" Well, not exactly. I mean you can take that approach but it's very likely to put the stubborn person on the defensive and your hopes of making any headway is going to die right there. You cannot have productive communications with a person who is defensive. I would recommend avoiding such a direct approach.

Alternatively, ask general open ended questions that allow you to understand the stubborn person's point of view and why they feel the way they do. If they are hesitant to open up, don't pry them open. That will only lead to frustration and distrust. If they're not ready to talk, give it a little time and try approaching it a different way.

As you seek to understand, versus to be understood, you may learn a great deal about what drives the stubborn person to be so resistive to other ideas. If they open up, you may find that sometime in their past they have suffered some consequence (i.e., a bad outcome or an embarrassing outcome) from being open-minded and open to change. If that were revealed, you'd begin to understand the core of the issue is they are wounded and hurting. That hurt can last for years, even decades. It can be from something that happened on the job or it could be something from their childhood. You never know what you'll find out when you seek to understand.

Dr. Gasaway is a fire service professional with 33 years experience, including 22 years as a chief officer and incident commander. He is considered to be one of the nation's leading authorities on public safety decision making and situational awareness in high-stress, high consequence environments. His programs are noted for providing strong content that are immediately usable by first responders. If there is anything I can do to help improve your situational awareness or decision making under stress, please contact me at: Rich@RichGasaway.com

EMS Training

[Back to Table of Contents](#)



[Back to Table of Contents](#)

Clinic, F&ES Start Training Partnership

By Mike DiCicco, Marine Corps Base Quantico



“This hurts! I’m all tingly!”

Firefighter/Paramedic Joshua Waddell protested as three corpsmen from Naval Health Clinic Quantico checked his vital signs and assessed his injuries in one of the clinic’s classrooms. After strapping a neck brace on him, the corpsmen attempted to move him onto a stretcher.

“Ow! Woman!” he howled as LTjg Stephanie Beatty tried to manipulate his limp, crooked leg. “What the hell are you guys doing to me?”

Waddell, of Quantico Fire & Emergency Services Department, was pulling from his own experiences to play the part of an injured patient during the last day of a joint international trauma life support course that seven corpsmen and seven Firefighter/Paramedics took between July 15 and 18 at the clinic. It was the first time the clinic and base firefighter had done the training together.

“We’re trying to come together as a team to make sure the transfer from clinic to the units really goes well,” said Ulysses Taormina, Assistant Chief of Emergency Medical Services. Often, in the case of Marines injured in training, the clinic corpsmen are the first on the scene, and they turn the patient over to emergency medical personnel.

Taormina said the two agencies want to familiarize themselves with each other’s training and staff to better cooperate on patient treatment. With half of the Fire Department Paramedics being new and with recent heavy turnover at the clinic, he said, getting to know each other is especially important. Getting some extra training doesn’t hurt either.

The 16-hour ITLS course, which was given over the course of four days to allow for flexibility, teaches emergency procedures for especially traumatic events like gunshot wounds, bomb blasts, and vehicle accidents. Subjects include helmet removal, spinal immobilization, intravenous therapy, intraosseous infusion, use of a needle for chest decompression, surgical cricothyrotomy – similar to a tracheostomy – and others.

The F&ES Department gives the course every two years, and it’s the sort of training the corpsmen would likely receive before being deployed to combat zones. Most of the corpsmen who attended last week’s training work the satellite clinics at Officer Candidates School and the Basic School, where injuries are more common than around the rest of the base.

LCDR Christopher Niles, head of the Medical Home Port Department at the clinic, took the course to update his skills before leaving for a trauma training team in Africa in September. “It’s the kind of gold standard for Paramedics and EMTs,” he said, adding that even after 16 years of nursing, the course improved his injury assessment skills and updated him on changes in equipment.

EMS (Cont.)

[Back to Table of Contents](#)



Also, he said, "As a nurse, I always get the packaged patient. This showed me how to package them up first and stabilize them."

Because F&ES funded the training, the clinic is now helping the base firefighters with Basic Life Support and Advanced Cardiovascular Life Support training, Niles said.

Firefighter/Paramedic Brian Weston, who headed the training session, said the two organizations also plan to hold joint training for neonatal resuscitation in the near future. "The more training we have together and the more interaction, the more we'll be able to work seamlessly together," Weston said.

Photo: Naval Health Clinic Quantico corpsmen LTjg. Stephanie, Beatty, Petty Officer 3rd Class Jonathan Fowler, and Petty Officer 3rd Class Abraham Milan assess Firefighter Paramedic Joshua Waddell's injuries in a training scenario July 18 during the International Trauma Life Support training the clinic and base firefighters held together last week. (Photo by Mike DiCicco)

Best Blonde Joke



Blonde Is As Blonde Does

A blonde speeding down the road was pulled over by a police officer, who was also blonde. The blonde cop asked to see the blonde driver's license.

The blonde driver was getting progressively agitated searching for the license.

"What does it look like?" The driver finally asked.

The police officer answered, "It's square and it has your picture on it."

The driver rummaged through the car a little more and finally pulled out a small square mirror. The driver looked into the mirror and handed it to the police officer. "Here it is!" exclaimed the driver.

The blonde police officer looked at the mirror, then handed it back saying, "Okay, you can go. You should have said you were a cop when I stopped you..."

Nutrition



[Back to Table of Contents](#)

Easy Baked Meat Balls

- 1 lb. lean ground beef
- 1 egg
- 2 Tbsp. water
- 1/2 cup bread crumbs
- 1/4 cup minced onion
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1/8 tsp. pepper

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. In large bowl combine egg, water, bread crumbs, onion, salt and pepper and combine. Add ground beef, broken into chunks, and mush with your hands to combine. Form into meatballs about 1" in diameter and place on a broiler pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 25-30 minutes until meatballs are no longer pink in center. Cool and freeze.

Leadership Corner

[Back to Table of Contents](#)



Sal Scarpa

[Back to Table of Contents](#)

Where Have All the Good Officers Gone?

By Sal Scarpa

Growing up in the fire service, you probably had an image in your mind of the firefighter you wanted to become. Perhaps it was a brawny smoke eater who kicked in doors and fought the red dragon head on, as in the movies. Or maybe it was a drill instructor who had your face down pushing cement because 100 push-ups was just the way he started his day. Perhaps the memory that helped you get through the academy was that of the firefighters who showed up in a big fire truck at your school and demonstrated all the incredible tools they carried to save people's lives.

After passing the academy and getting on the job for a few years, your role model probably shifted to a company officer you hoped to be like someday. Ask any firefighter who aspires to that position what traits make a good officer, and you'll hear words like "confidence," "honor," "experience," and "integrity." We all know officers who emulate those qualities. They're instructors on the shift revealing their knowledge and experience on the drill field or at the burn tower. They're go-getters involved in department projects and constantly going to school. They're the officers who come to work excited about their job and never complain about their duties, their department, or the front office. They are the leaders on our shift. They are the captains we aspire to be.

In some departments in some areas of the country, however, something has happened in the fire service to change some of that. What's changing the fabric of our organizations that causes there to be fewer heroes to look up to? Why is it that the company officer struggles to keep students' attention on the drill field? Why has going to class become more of a firefighter chore than an opportunity to glean new knowledge? Where is the emboldened spirit of our officer corps? Where are the zeal and enthusiasm for the job that inspired passion for a calling that is the fire service? Where have all the good officers gone?

Role of the Company Officer

Perhaps one of the most important transitions in a firefighter's career is being promoted to company officer. We've all heard the clichés about going from friend to boss, from coworker to supervisor, and from follower to leader. They are all true, but there's more to it than that. Becoming a company officer means you've taken on a whole new level of responsibilities. You're responsible for reports to write on every call, for equipment that is supposed to be there at the beginning of every shift so you can do your job, and ultimately for the rig that gets you to where your unique skill set is required. But that's the easy part!

The company officer is also responsible for the lives of the crew he leads. This is true every time you get on the apparatus to go somewhere and look back to make sure every member is seat belted. This is true every time you take your crew through a door down a smoke-filled hallway to find a fire or a victim in an unfamiliar building. It is also true when you sit down with your shift and train on communicable diseases you may encounter while running an emergency medical service (EMS) call; when you go over policies, procedures, and standard operating guidelines for respiratory protection during overhaul; and even when you conduct a postincident analysis of a call or review a near-miss case that occurred in another jurisdiction.

Leadership (Cont.)

[Back to Table of Contents](#)



[Back to Table of Contents](#)

The company officer functions in the capacity of a mentor and a coach for other firefighters. As a mentor, the company officer provides guidance and offers opportunities for development. By being an active listener, the officer can identify the strengths and weaknesses of the firefighters he supervises. This critical insight provides a blueprint of sorts for developing opportunities for learning that will aid the firefighters along their career paths. As an officer, you have a responsibility to help develop those you supervise. Weaknesses in application of skills are opportunities for training. Deficiencies in personal behavior or habits are opportunities for coaching. Providing alternatives and allowing individuals to determine the best course of action is a classic coaching technique that helps members develop to their full potential. After all, isn't that what we want for our members?

The company officer has the responsibility to be a role model. As a role model, all facets of your life are up for observation-and scrutiny. People in general have role models throughout their lives, in and outside the fire service. I remember as a young person the people I looked up to and considered my role models; they were always on display. If they were teachers or fire officers or even family members, I never thought of them simply in the capacity of their roles. I admired them as a whole person. For example, one of my teachers growing up was also a family friend, so I frequently had the opportunity to see how he interacted with me and others in a variety of circumstances in the classroom, in church, and in our home. When I observed fire officers, I viewed them both on and off the job to see how they lived their lives, how they interacted with their family and their community, and how they led the crew at the station.

When you're someone's role model, you can't just turn it off. The idea that you are on display as a role model 24/7 (beyond the role in which you typically see yourself) should have as profound an impact on you as it does on those who look up to you. It's not good enough to be proficient in your role as a fire officer. You need to be a good officer, a good family member, and a good community member.

The image of a role model can be shattered quite easily. How would you react if you found out that someone you looked up to and respected was a heavy drinker who routinely staggered out of bars flashing his officer badge to avoid any legal troubles arising from public intoxication or drunk driving? My guess is your entire image of that person would change dramatically. You may even lose respect for him as an officer and as a person. Thus, it's important to remember that your obligations as company officer don't end at shift change!

The Right Stuff

It's likely that few company officers today took on the challenge of becoming a lieutenant or a captain with the intention of being bad officers. No one works hard for the promotion just to ride out the position for the rest of their career (generally speaking). I remember that when I tested for promotion to captain, one of the evaluators asked me, "Why do you want to promote to the position of company officer?" I had my answer already prepared. I responded without hesitation: "I want to be a company officer because I want to be in a better position to effect change. This position affords me that opportunity."

Leadership (Cont.)

[Back to Table of Contents](#)



[Back to Table of Contents](#)

As a company officer, you have a tremendous opportunity to influence change, to effect a positive outcome, and to make a difference in people's lives. What have you done with your position?

The position of a company officer is one of leadership. You have an opportunity to lead. Consider what you are leading your crew and those around you to do. Are you inspiring them to achieve something greater than themselves? Are you challenging them to be a part of something that impacts their community? Are you directing them to enable their career to have an influence in the fire service? To quote Harold S. Geneen, past president and CEO for ITT Corporation: "The essence of leadership is the ability to inspire others to work together as a team-to stretch for a common objective." As a leader in your department, you have the responsibility to draw on the strengths of your team to achieve something. This is not true just on the fireground but in general as well. What can your crew do for the shift, the department, the fire service, and the community?

In the Kansas City (MO) Fire Department (KCFD), a group of talented and dedicated individuals turned a tragedy in their department into something incredibly positive. In December 1999, KCFD Battalion Chief John Tvedten was operating at a four-alarm fire in a large warehouse when he became disoriented after being separated from other firefighters. Running low on air, he issued a Mayday call. Although rapid intervention crews were able to locate him, they were unsuccessful in reviving him after he had succumbed to the smoke and toxic gases of the fire. Several KCFD firefighters honored his memory and 26 years of public service by developing a Large Area Search Team (LAST) program that they have presented to fire departments across the country. They banded together to develop a program designed to teach firefighters how to search for missing or trapped firefighters in large structures. Their program has impacted a great many organizations. Their team effort, inspiration, and leadership transcended them and their organization and made an impact on the fire service at large. How honorable is that? (Remember the words used to describe those you admire? Was honor one of them?)

Some might argue that the essence of being a good officer is being expertly skilled in fire attack, extrication, rescue, and all those technical competencies. Although this is important, being a good officer is a lot more than knowing your way around the fireground. It means also being a good listener, a good mentor, and a good coach. It's seeing the good in your firefighters and challenging them to be better. Make no mistake. A competent, trained, and confident fire officer should be a fire scene tactician. He should be able to "slay the dragon" and save the victim. But he should also be able to develop subordinates so that they can become successful officers.

The Model Officer

What was it that inspired you to become an officer? What characteristics do you expect your fellow officers to exhibit? What do others who are looking to become officers need to bring to the table? An incessant desire to improve yourself and those around you is a good start. The model fire officer is constantly seeking new knowledge and looking to pass that knowledge along to others. Being a lifelong learner is critical to not becoming stagnant in your career. The modern fire service can be adequately characterized as dynamic and changing.

Leadership (Cont.)

[Back to Table of Contents](#)



[Back to Table of Contents](#)

As such, it is critical to stay abreast of the latest in trends, technology, and techniques to be most effective in your job.

A passion for learning and a passion for teaching often go hand-in-hand. A good fire officer must also seek to pass along the knowledge he has gained to others in the crew, the shift, the department, and the service in general. Consider that every officer must constantly be engaged in an effort to train his replacement (also known as succession planning). Chances are that you don't want your replacement to be like you; you want your replacement to be better than you. Put your people in positions where they can succeed, and they will. Give them opportunities to be challenged and to grow, and they will surprise you. As leadership coach James Rowan says, "All great leaders train leaders while they are leading."

Finally, good officers should be engaged and enthusiastic. Engaged officers are building networks and involved in the fire service beyond their organization. They recognize that there is more to the fire service than just what their organization has to offer. They recognize the value in engaging with colleagues from other organizations (even outside the fire service) to expand their paradigm and keep them sharp. Engaged officers are enthusiastic. They're enthusiastic about their job, their organization, and the service in general. They see value beyond what their career brings for them, and they're passionate about sharing it with the community they serve. This is the kind of role model officers should aspire to be.

There is no doubt that the fire service today is full of talented firefighters and experienced officers. The firefighters are looking at those in positions of authority and observing their behavior both on and off the job. They're looking to see whom they should model their careers after so that they may be successful officers in the future. Today's fire officers must realize that part of their charge as supervisors is to develop their subordinates. They should model good behaviors and help firefighters become part of something larger than their organizations. They should provide leadership, mentoring, and coaching as they work to train a superior replacement. They should strive to instill the importance of education and engagement so that their careers are both rewarding and fulfilling. If we fail in this endeavor, if we're not good stewards of our positions, we'll someday be wondering where all the good officers have gone.

SAL SCARPA is a battalion chief for the North Kansas City (MO) Fire Department. He has served more than 21 years in the fire service in career and volunteer fire departments. He is a national presenter on emerging issues in fire service leadership. He has an associate degree in fire science and a bachelor's degree in public administration and is pursuing a master's degree in leadership studies. He is a graduate of the Executive Fire Officer program at the National Fire Academy, is recognized as a Chief Fire Officer by the Center for Public Safety Excellence, and is a member of the Institution of Fire Engineers.

Throw away those books and cassettes on inspirational leadership. Send those consultants packing. Know your job, set a good example for the people under you and put results over politics. That's all the charisma you'll really need to succeed.

-Dyan Machan

ESAMS Summary

[Back to Table of Contents](#)

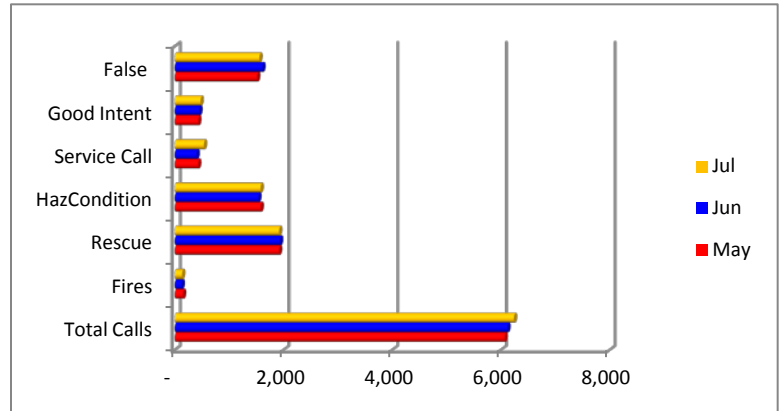


ESAMS Corner

By Clarence Settle, ESAMS Fire Technical Support

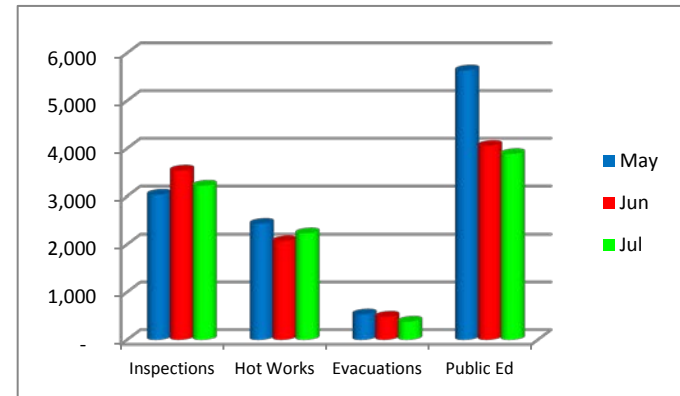
July 2013 Statistics

Operations



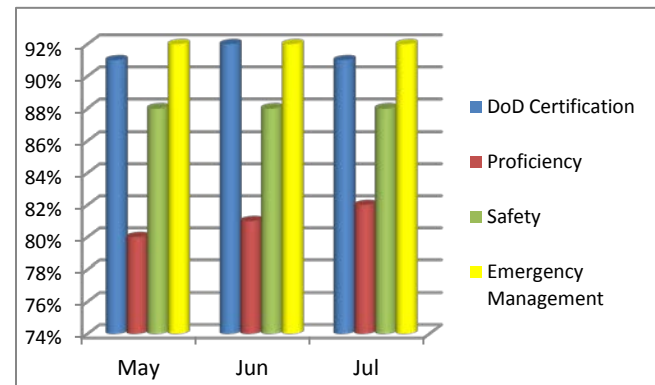
Total Incidents – 6,074
Fires – 130
Rescue & EMS – 1,833
Hazardous – 1,533
Service Call – 429
Good Intent – 409
False Alarm – 1,708

Prevention



Fire Inspections Completed – 2,635
Hot Work Permits Issued – 2,412
Building Evacuation Drills – 424
Public Education Contacts – 5,571

Training



Emergency Management - 90%
Safety Training – 91%
Proficiency, Skills, & Practice – 82%
DoD Certification – 92%

F&ES On Duty Mishaps Report

Mishaps Reported – 20
Total Lost Work Days – 57

[Back to Table of Contents](#)

F&ES POCs

[Back to Table of Contents](#)



Navy Fire & Emergency Services (N30)

Commander, Navy Installations Command

716 Sicard Street, SE, Suite 305

Washington Navy Yard, DC 20374-5140

<https://cnicgateway.cnmc.navy.mil/HQ/N3/N30/default.aspx>

DSN 288

Carl Glover, 202-433-4775, carl.glover@navy.mil

Ricky Brockman, 202-433-4781, ricky.brockman@navy.mil

Gene Rausch, 202-433-4753, gene.rausch@navy.mil

ABHC Leonard Starr, 202-685-0651, leonard.starr@navy.mil

Lewis Moore, 202-433-7743, lewis.moore@navy.mil

Chris Handley, 202-433-7744, christopher.handley@navy.mil

Adam Farb, 202-685-0712, adam.farb@navy.mil

News Distribution

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? Visit <https://www.usajobs.gov/>

[Back to Table of Contents](#)

