



DES Newsletter - December 2011

Greetings Everyone,

Serving the people in the community is just what we do here at DES and excellence in service is what we strive for. Our police officers, firefighters, and security guards are doing just that here at Picatinny Arsenal and I'd like to take a moment to highlight some of our recent accomplishments.



It took a total team effort from Police, Fire, and EMS to respond to a recent multi-vehicle traffic accident that occurred right outside our Truck Gate (it included a flatbed wrecker which turned over and left one victim trapped inside). Thanks to our quick response and the professional actions of our personnel, we were able to extricate victims from three of the vehicles, transport three patients by ambulance to hospitals, and medevac the driver of the wrecker. It took a lot of great effort to coordinate all of these actions while keeping traffic moving, but we made it happen. Allow me the opportunity to congratulate and thank the personnel who responded...pictured from left to right are Sgt Mark Mazur, Sgt Kevin Washington, Ofc James Francois, Ofc Heidi Howes, Capt Paul Wind, Capt Dave Parker, FF Jeff Baird, FI Anthony Roberts, Sgt Mike Turner III, FF John Grivalsky, and LT John Berrie. Not pictured are FF Charles Baumgardner, FF Terrance Kennedy, and FF Jason Brown, Ofc Osvaldo Ortiz, and DS Chris Johnson.



In another major incident, we responded with other local agencies to a mutual aid call for a structure fire in Rockaway Borough. This fire started in one building and quickly spread to another (there's a good reason why we preach holiday fire safety to the public). This was the first real test for our new tower ladder, but it did what it was designed to do and extinguished the fire.



It's hard to believe that after 27 years of service here at Picatinny Arsenal, that Assistant Fire Chief Bryan Wich is going to retire from the Fire Service. Bryan worked his way up through the ranks of the Fire Department and has been here through the good times and the tough ones too. As many of our firefighters do, he also spent many a year serving as a volunteer firefighter. I asked him what his fondest memory was about being a firefighter and he said, "Coming to this new fire station... I remember spending the first night here and thinking that I was finally in a real fire station." Bryan now has the opportunity to enjoy weekends and holidays with his family while playing golf and heading out on his boat. On behalf of everyone here, we want to thank him and his family for all their years of service and wish them all the very best in their future endeavors.

In case you haven't heard, LTG Mike Ferriter took over as the Commanding General (CG) of IMCOM on 17 November 2011. I know that Captain Frutchey is happy because the new CG spent many a year with the U.S. Army Rangers. It always a challenge when a new commander comes in because you have to learn their style and how they want to do business (it's never "same old...same old"). So that you have an idea of where he's coming from, here are the bullets from the CG's Command Philosophy: Build teams; do what's right – always; empower subordinates; take care of people; build trust; enforce standards; say thank you – often; and never quit. There's a lot to take in here, but now we have a starting point....



Let's talk about Officer Safety for a moment...two recent officer involved shootings highlight the danger that exists when officers (it could be police, security or even fire) sit inside their marked emergency vehicles. They say that lightning doesn't strike twice in the same place, but we know in our line of work that it often does. Most of us remember back to 2007 when a lone gunman killed 32 people and then himself at Virginia Tech. This time, a gunman killed a police officer as he was writing a citation inside his patrol car and later killed himself. In Denver, Colorado, another person attacked an officer as he was sitting in his vehicle. We must be mindful of people who approach our vehicles. They may want to say hello to you or they may want something else, so you must evaluate

each case individually and respond appropriately. You also have to remember that you do not have the same freedom of movement, access to your weapons, or ability to find cover (which is not to be confused with concealment) as you do when you're standing outside your vehicle, so think tactical.

Although many employees are able to take time off during the holidays, we know that our police officers, firefighters, and security guards will be here to keep the people living and working at Picatinny Arsenal safe and secure. I want to thank all of you for everything you do to protect us here—your service does make a difference. From my family to yours, we wish you a joyous and safe holiday season.

Richard J. Karlsson
Director of Emergency Services