



## DES Newsletter – January 2010

Greetings Everyone,

First off, Happy New Year to everyone and welcome to the next decade in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. I hope that everyone had the chance to truly enjoy the holidays with their family and friends. We're going to face many challenges this next year, but I have faith that we'll pull through. I cannot think of a better way to start off the New Year than by having our firefighters move into their new home. It took many years to make this all happen, and it will take a few fixes here and there, but our new Fire Station will serve us



for many years to come. I personally want to thank Congressman Rodney Frelinghuysen, Chief Ron Guidetti, Assistant Chief Bryan Wich, Inspector Bob Tunis, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Directorate of Public Works, and the Picatinny Arsenal firefighters (past and present) who all worked to make this dream become a reality for our community.

Right before New Year's, Anne and I returned from our trip to Europe to see family and take in some of the sights. We were fortunate enough to be able to travel to Germany, Italy, and France and be able to walk down cobblestone streets and drink Glühwein in Christmas Markets. We also had a chance to visit the Coliseum, the Vatican (which is the most incredible place I have ever seen), the Cathedral in Reims, and the place where they make Dom Perignon and Moët et Chandon Champagne. Little did we know that our trip would be a test for what we've learned in relation to Antiterrorism and Force Protection (AT/FP). Allow me to share some AAR comments to highlight some AT/FP lessons learned.



Clockwise from top – Nürnbreg, Rome, Endingen, and Reims

People have a tendency to groan when they have to take the AT Level 1 Training, but you soon find out that much of what they teach you really does come in handy. The AT/FP lessons started when we had gifts stolen out of our luggage. TSA doesn't allow you to lock your bags, but maybe investing in one of those TSA locks might have deterred a thief. Do you see the guy in the picture above wearing the bright blue jacket in Rome? He might as well have been wearing a sign on his back stating, "I'm an American – Kick Me." What they teach you about blending into your surroundings is all true.

Continuing on...so there we were walking down a street in Rome when a car pulls up with two people inside and the driver mutters something at us (if he was lost, he was asking the wrong people for directions). The driver pulls out a badge and ID card with the words (in English) "Special Police" on it (in Italy the Police are called "Polizia" or "Carabinieri"). We're trained in tactics at the Police Academy, but they never trained us on this one. We realized these were fake cops trying to rob us, but I'm not armed

and I'm not going to take a bullet in the back, so I chose the tactic of getting up close and personal with the subjects. I was ready to engage in close quarter combat, but in our profession, you have to be able to think quickly on your feet and take appropriate action. In the end, I was able to persuade them that we weren't the right tourists to try and rob and so they made their getaway. Then there was the pick pocket who tried to sneak his hand inside Anne's jacket, but got caught (the old "Excusi" or Excuse Me Trick). And finally, as we're coming back from the Vatican on a subway packed like sardines, I was pick pocketed by a lady carrying a baby (she spoke English and I saw the look in her eyes and knew that something was up, but it wasn't until after we got off and the subway took off that I realized she got me). So, the final score was...Karlssons -2...European Thieves-2. It goes to show that in AT/FP and life in general, you can never let your guard down.

While in Europe, we also experienced the after effects from the terrorist who tried to detonate an explosive device on an aircraft bound from Amsterdam to Detroit. This incident goes to show you the lengths that our adversaries are willing to go in order to defeat our security efforts and us (you have to be extremely dedicated to your cause when you're willing to put explosives in your underwear). In response to this incident, President Obama stated, "We are all responsible for the safety and security of the American people and must redouble our efforts to be effective in carrying out this solemn responsibility." Those words ring true for us here too at Picatinny Arsenal as we carry out our mission.

On Sunday, 3 January 2010, our firefighters and police responded to a structure fire on post. The kitchen was fully engulfed with flames and the residence was filled with black smoke, but thanks to a coordinated effort it was quickly extinguished. The residents were not at home at the time of the fire, but the likely cause of the fire is an electrical problem. Looking at the first picture, you can see the severe damage caused by an electrical fire. However, if you look at the second picture, you'll notice that the structure is still standing with only slight damage (there was also no damage to adjacent quarters). I credit this fact to the actions of: our Fire Inspectors in ensuring strict fire code enforcement during the construction of these buildings; the next-door neighbors calling 911; our 911 officers in using the new fire alerting system to tone out the Fire Department; and the rapid response of our police, firefighters and mutual aid to secure the scene and conduct search & rescue, ventilation, and fire suppression operations. Many of you also followed-up afterwards and made contributions to help out the Marine Corps family who almost lost everything. I'd like to offer my personal congratulations for a job well done and sincere thanks to all of you who made a difference for our community.



Congratulations also go out to Sergeant Chris Johnson on his certification as a Professional Certified Investigator (PCI®) with the American Society for Industrial Security (ASIS). To achieve certification, he had to demonstrate exceptional skill in case management, evidence collection, and case presentation. ASIS is a highly respected organization and the fact that Sergeant Johnson achieved this certification is a tremendous accomplishment.

Before I sign off, I want to welcome our new Administrative Assistant. Her name is Kristen Burns and she literally moved upstairs from Chenega Security. She is also an MP (that's Military Police and/or Multi-Purpose) with the New Jersey National Guard and has proven to be highly capable. Hang in there.

Richard J. Karlsson  
Director of Emergency Services