



## DES Newsletter – June 2011

Greetings Everyone,

First off, I want to congratulate Fire Inspector Bob Tunis and Firefighter Bob Thompson on their retirement this month from the Fire Service. Both of them dedicated many years towards preserving life and protecting property here at Picatinny Arsenal. Some of you may not know this, but Inspector Tunis was a driving force in the building of our new Fire Station. On behalf of everyone here at DES, I want to thank both of them for their service and wish them all the very best in their retirement.

There have been many rumors going around about possible budget and personnel cuts within the U.S. Government and the Department of Defense. The problem with rumors is that they are oftentimes inaccurate (if not outright wrong). There are many reasons for having this Newsletter, but one of the main reasons is to help control the spread of rumors by providing accurate information to everyone in the workforce. To help ease some of the uncertainty going around, our Garrison Commander, LTC Herb Koehler, published guidance for all of us. Here is what he had to say:

*Operating under a fundamentally new fiscal reality has been challenging. USAG Picatinny Arsenal is dealing with both a \$7 million BASEOPS shortfall and more reductions in our manpower authorizations to be implemented in FY13. I understand that this can cause some uncertainty and I wanted to calm some of the alarm that may go along with it.*

*First, we continue to mitigate our funding shortfall by seeking and implementing cost-cutting measures wherever we can. I'd ask that you continue to be conservative in all matters dealing with money. Conserve the resources we do have and strongly reconsider any anticipated need for more. If you have a money-saving idea, please bring it to management's attention and we'll take a hard look at its viability. Our payroll is our first funding priority and you will continue to be paid. We also don't anticipate any form of temporary lay-offs due to this funding shortfall.*

*Second, we'll achieve our manpower end state through attrition. IMCOM is working up a "toolkit" that will define processes to cross-level personnel if necessary, but that is still down the road. If this initiative materializes, we'll provide clear information on its impacts to you. IMCOM is not dictating any form of Reduction-in-Force (RIF) at this time, nor are we requesting RIF authority. If this changes, we'll notify the workforce.*

*Finally, I'd ask that you remain focused on the fine work you do every day. The Command Team will remain transparent in all we do, and my Open Door Policy is always available should you have a particular concern. The coming months will test us all, but I'm positive that we'll transform into an even more effective organization that brings the best value to the Picatinny Arsenal community.*

For our history buffs out there, you might find it interesting to note that during the Cold War, Crisis Control Centers were created as a means to control the spread of rumors between countries and prevent global annihilation. The superpowers realized that it wasn't too farfetched to think that a nuclear war could start because somebody started a rumor or gave false information to leaders. This topic is important and we will continue the discussion.



I want to thank Captain Bob Frutchey, Sergeant Mary Lou Atkins, Sergeant Paulo Aquiles, and Officer Joe Budinger for taking the time to represent the Picatinny Arsenal Police Department during the Police Expo at the Rockaway Townsquare Mall. All-too-often, people only get to meet the Police in what they probably see as negative ways (e.g. traffic stops). It's important for people in the community to also have the opportunity to interact with the Police in a positive manner so they can gain an understanding of who we are and how we're here protect and to serve them.

That's exactly what these officers did and I congratulate them on a job well done.

On 6 January 2005, I responded with my firefighters at Fort Gordon to a train disaster in Graniteville, South Carolina, which caused the release of over 60 tons of chlorine gas. This resulted in the total loss of the town's fire station, the sudden deaths of 8 people, the



need to treat about 250 patients for chlorine exposure, and the evacuation of over 5,000 people from the area. Our firefighters were the only ones who had a mobile decontamination trailer (MDT) at the scene and it saved lives. We have that exact same type of MDT here at Picatinny Arsenal and it was a good feeling for me when I recently saw our firefighters performing maintenance on it and conducting training. You never know when you're going to receive that call to respond to a disaster and that's why it's critical for us to ensure we're properly trained and our equipment is ready to go.



and their new pickup. It's just a small part of what we call **progress**. We're going to continue pushing things in the right direction for everyone in police, fire, security, and our community; so...Hang in there.

It may be getting hot and humid out there but our Police have some new things that are pretty cool. Just take a look at their new vehicle markings

Richard J. Karlsson  
Director of Emergency Services