

What's Happening

Navy Fire & Emergency Services Newsletter Protecting Those Who Defend America

#### August 2024

**Omnis Cedo Domus** 

Vol. 22 No. 8

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# Injecting Fresh Talent Into DoD Fire & Emergency Services Recruitment

Story by: Fire Chief Richard Puente, NAS JRB New Orleans F&ES

O ne of the most significant challenges facing Commander Navy Region Southeast (CNRSE) Fire & Emergency Services (F&ES) and other DoD fire departments is our current approach to recruitment. All too often, we simply post job listings and wait for applicants to come to us. While this approach might seem straightforward, it has led to a problematic cycle: instead of attracting new talent, we frequently end up poaching firefighters from other DoD departments. This creates a kind of "firefighter shell game," where personnel move from one department to another, without truly addressing the underlying issue of a shrinking candidate pool.

Con't. on page 8



Con't. on page 2

Naval Station Norfolk Aerial Fire Truck-11.

Supporting the Fleet, Fighter, and Family



### **From the Director**

Con't. from page 1

Unfortunately, the lead time for typical fire trucks is currently over two years. Dan working with our

team and the Contracting Officials, developed a process to procure two "demo" aerials; a generic Navy Spec was drafted that contained our most critical requirements and this allowed the vendors to bid and offer demo trucks. This process was very effective as we awarded a contract for two aerials, and both aerials were to be delivered within 6 months. NB Coronado received their new aerial earlier this year and NS Norfolk is scheduled to receive their new aerial before Oct 2024. As part of the process, we accepted some apparatus that was immediately available, and as such NS Norfolk will receive the aerial that is painted a bit different from the standard Navy colors. We will explore future opportunities for quick delivery in future procurements.

*Navy F&ES is Hiring !* Thanks to all our Navy F&ES Teams and members who serve, Protecting Those Who Defend America.



Carl

### **Yvorra Leadership Development Foundation**

The Yvorra Leadership Development Foundation (1 LD) is currently accepting arrange and available of \$20,000 to Scholarship Program. The foundation will be awarding five \$4,000 scholarships for a total of \$20,000 to a scholarship are announced in late December. The Yvorra Leadership Development Foundation (YLD) is currently accepting applications for its 2024 U.S. citizens. The deadline for applications is October 30, 2024 and awards are announced in late December.

Applicants must answer brief essay questions concerning leadership development in the fire & emergency services and provide three letters of recommendation.

The awards are in memory of Deputy Fire Chief James G. Yvorra, Emergency Medical Technician Donald E. Sellers, and Chief John M. Eversole. Any active career or volunteer Fire, Rescue, EMS, or Emergency Management member or active duty or reserve U.S. military member who serves in an emergency response position is eligible.



Download an application here. https://yld.org/awards-and-scholarships/scholarship-application/



SCAN QR CODE FOR LISTING OF ALL CURRENT JOB OPPORTUNITIES UNDER NAVY FIRE PROTECTION AND PREVENTION (0081 SERIES).

https://www.usajobs.gov/Search/Results?j=0081&a=NV52&k=&p=1

What's Happening

Navy Fire & Emergency Services

### **Additional Fire Related Hyperlinks and Sites**

To Navy Fire & Emergency Services Fire Chiefs and First Responders across the Regions and to the many, many readers of *What's Happening*, please take the opportunity to visit the links below to see additional articles and videos:

#### Naval Base Point Loma FEP Video

https://www.facebook.com/share/5cDfehAWvj57zeGR/?mibextid=oFDknk

NAS Corpus Christi Confined Space Drill Video

https://www.facebook.com/share/r/7cw44ToM7jsXgxWb/?mibextid=6GsUZ4

#### Communication Materials—National Firefighter Registry— NIOSH—CDC

https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/firefighters/registry/nfrcomm.html

*Firefighter Resources*—*NIOSH*—*CDC* https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/firefighters/default.html

#### Navy Fire Officer Training Course (Fall 2024)

<u>Class Dates:</u> 2-Dec – 6-Dec 2024 with anticipated travel 1-Dec and 7-Dec.

Location: CNIC Headquarters Building, Washington Navy Yard, DC.

<u>Topics:</u> F&ES Policies & Standards, Agreements, Mission Profile Validation - Fire (MPV-F), Manpower, F&ES Major Assets, Technology program, Data systems/reporting, Assessments & Drills program.

<u>Note:</u> Attendees are intended to be (in priority order) Region Fire Chiefs, Deputy Region Fire Chiefs, other Region Chiefs/staff. Other F&ES personnel (e.g., Installation Fire Chiefs) may be accommodated as space permits.

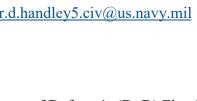
For questions and to sign up for course contact: christopher.d.handley5.civ@us.navy.mil

## **Congratulations AFCEC!**



As administer of the Department of Defense's (DoD) Fire & Emergency Services Certification Program, the Air Force Civil Engineer Center (AFCEC) was recently reaccredited to 94 certificate levels by the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC).

This reaccreditation process certifies the competency of and allows entities to issue certificates to individual who pass examinations based on the National Fire Protection Association's fire service professional qualifications. Accreditation of an entity leads to increased professionalism and thus better service to the communities that we serve. This 5-year reaccreditation affirms AFCEC's commitment as being the largest agency issuing professional firefighter and emergency responder certifications annually.



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#### 4

### **Taking Care of Our Own**

From: CNIC HQ Fire & Emergency Services

The Taking Care of Our Own Program was launched in October 2005 to provide a support network for federal civilian members of the DoD Fire & Emergency Services family. The Program provides a simple, systematic, DoD-wide means to help family members in crisis who have exhausted their leave. The program entails alerting all members of the family that a fellow member is suffering from a personal or family (medical) crisis and has been approved for Volunteer Leave Transfer Program. Each family member is asked to donate at least one hour of annual leave to the member in crisis so they can focus on recovering rather than worrying about loss of the pay check (the result of running out of leave). Participation in the program is completely voluntary and no member may be pressured to donate. The single requirement is that the leave recipient must be approved for the Volunteer Leave Transfer Program.

NAME	LOCATION	POINT OF CONTACT	
Zachary Rayfield	NSA Souda Bay, Greece	antigoni.vasiliad.gr@eu.navy.mil	
Derek Murdock	157 <sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing, NH	Wing, NH patrice.h.foggarty.mil@army.mil	
David Rupert	NS Norfolk, VA	marc.j.smith.civ@us.navy.mil	
Bradley Jones	Dobbins ARB, GA	breeann.gresham.1@us.af.mil	
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Mary Harris	Naval District Washington	christopher.a.scully2.civ@us.navy.mil	

### **September is Suicide Prevention Month**



**"Joining Your Fight: Connect to Protect"** is the theme for the 2024 Department of Defense suicide prevention campaign. In sync with the campaign goals, below is some information to emphasize help-seeking, reduce stigma, encourage lethal means safety, and increase awareness and utilization of available resources.

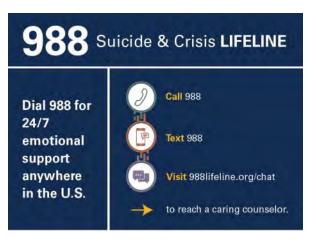
There is no single cause for suicide. While suicide can't be predicted, it can be prevented. Making hope actionable is a critical way to demonstrate to anyone experiencing suicidal thoughts that they are cared about and supported.

Here a few examples of what you can do:

- Be there for one another by being a proactive listener and getting them the help they need.
- Show empathy when others are facing challenges.
- Have open conversations about suicide and mental health.
- Create a safe environment where Sailors and civilian teammates can trust one another.
- Know the warning signs of suicide, such as social with-

drawal, expressions of hopelessness or despair, and changes in behavior.

What are other ways to make hope actionable? Please take time to discuss with one another.



## **Learning Opportunities**



### Center for Public Safety Excellence

At the Center for Public Safety Excellence® (CPSE®) we are excited to bring you the latest learning opportunities to advance your department and career.

CPSE is looking for agencies to host the Quality Improvement for the Fire & Emergency Services workshop in 2024. If you are interested in hosting a 2024 workshop, download the <u>hosting agreement</u> for more information.

#### Quality Improvement for the Fire & Emergency Services Workshop - 3 Days, In-Person

Sep 10-12 - Renton Regional Fire Auth, Renton, WA Sep 18-20 - Geneva Fire Dept Geneva, IL Sep 24-26 - Idaho National Lab Fire Dept Idaho Falls, ID Sep 25-27 - Augusta Fire Dept Augusta, GA Sep 30-Oct 2 - Wash Township Fire Dept, Dayton, OH Oct 7-9 - Henrico County Div of Fire, Henrico, VA	Oct 15-17 - Charleston Fire Dept, Charleston, SC Oct 21-23 - Poudre Fire Authority, Fort Collins, CO Nov 5-7 - Bryan Fire Dept Bryan, TX Nov 19-21 - Louisville Fire Dept, Louisville, KY Click <u>here</u> for civilian workshops.
On-Demand Training	Resource Documents
Category 2: Understanding the Essential Elements of the CRA/SOC	<u>Annual Appraisals</u> - A handout to assist with developing annual appraisals.
Mentoring in the Fire & Emergency Services	Critical Tasking - A handout to aid in conducting critical
Click here for on-demand training	tasking for all emergency response types.
<b>On-Demand Webinars and Resource Documents</b>	<u>Engaging Stakeholders</u> - A handout explaining how to en- gage stakeholders in the CRA/SOC process.
We encourage you to take the time to access these free resources in the CPSE University:	Fire Department Strategic Plans and Community Master Plans: Are They The Same? - A handout comparing and
On-Demand Accreditation Videos -	contrasting fire department strategic plans and community
Writing the Four-Part Answer - A webinar explaining de- velopment of the four-part answer for the self-assessment manual.	master plans. <u>Performance Statements</u> - A handout outlining how to de- velop performance statements.
Performance Statements - A webinar explaining develop- ment of performance statements.	<u>Writing the Four-Part Answer</u> - A handout explaining de- velopment of the four-part answer for the self-assessment
Creating a Strategic Plan - A webinar explaining the creation of a community-driven strategic plan.	manual. Completing the Designation Application - Learn tips on
Developing Strategic Plan Goals and Objectives - A webi- nar explaining how to develop effective goals and objec- tives for a strategic plan.	completing the designation application for CFO, CTO, CEMSO, FM, or FO 21st Century Fire & Emergency Services White Paper
For questions or assistance contact <u>info@cpse.org</u> or 703-691-4620.	Handouts and videos on the critical issue areas.

## **Becoming Federal Fire Hawaii's First Female Regional Training Chief**

Story by: Anna Marie G. Gonzales, Commander Navy Region Hawaii



In celebration of Women's Equality Day on Aug. 26, we interviewed Allison Nihei, regional fire chief of training for Commander, Navy Region Hawaii's (CNRH) Federal Fire Department.

When Allison Nihei joined CNRH's Federal Fire Department 23 years ago, she was a young firefighter recruit. She went on to hold every single position in the department, becoming the first female firefighter to achieve the rank of regional fire chief of training.



Allison Nihei is recognized as Navy Region Hawaii's Federal Fire Department's first female regional training chief. In celebration of Women's Equality Day on Aug. 26, we recognize the milestones and monumental shifts in gender equality and the historic achievements of women in the Department of Defense. (U.S. Navy photo by Anna Marie G. Gonzales)

Being a female in a male-dominant career field, Nihei faced multiple challenges throughout her career and was told that women did not belong in the fire department. She set out to prove the naysayers wrong, working hard and advancing through the firefighter ranks.. Nihei held positions as a firefighter, advanced level emergency medical technician, fire lieutenant, fire captain, and fire battalion chief of operations, which led to the promotion of her current job as regional fire chief.

Nihei talked about the meaning of Women's Equality Day, the empowerment of women's rights, and the inspiration to succeed in society today.

*What does Women's Equality mean to you?* It means that we can do pretty much things that men can do.

Through innovation, women have taken a different role in

society. Take Kamala Harris for example as the vice president of the United States... being female and a minority, she represents women in society who have broken those barriers and attained positions where normally men sit and hold. It shows the world that we can be equal.

Name one female figure who inspires you and why? My mom. She was born and raised in Louisville, Kentucky in the 1940s. Her father was pure Hawaiian and her mom was Swiss/American Indian from the Midwest. I think a part of my success was knowing the things that my mom went through as a mixed race minority and the things that her and her siblings had to go through while growing up just kept me going. And I think I got a part of her in me.

What ways have you seen equality change for the better? Well, we can use my office as an example. I was the first female and am the first female in the federal fire department in Hawaii to attain the ranks that I have. But there's also a handful of women there, and I

also know there's also a female who held the rank of battalion chief in the Honolulu Fire Department. It's through respect earned through my career, in doing the hard work, showing my male peers that I can do things that they can do. But



## First Female Regional Training Chief (con't.)

when I became a leader and started stepping into a leadership role, I think it was more of my compassionate style of leadership -- that I care and it really means a lot to even men in a male-dominated field.

How do you hope to inspire and empower other women? The first thing that comes to my mind is by continuing to do what I do. During recruitments here at Fed Fire, we have female recruits that attend the course. With

this being my third go around of recruitments, female recruits always gravitate towards me and I get questions like "how did you become a firefighter?" and "What is it like being a female in a fire fighting career?" I just tell them just being out there and doing things like this can show we can do things. There's a lot of opportunities out there. You can pretty much attain whatever you want to do -- you just got to put in the hard work.

Women's Equality Day is celebrated on Aug. 26 to commemorate the 19th amendment, which was ratified on Aug. 26, 1920, and gave women the right to vote. It also honors the women's suffrage movement that led to the amendment's passage and the continued efforts of women to achieve full equality.



## **Chief Daniel J. Gaumont Completes International Professional Designation**



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C hief Daniel J. Gaumont has successfully completed the process that awards the professional designation of "Chief Fire Officer" (CFO) for the ninth time. The Commission on Professional Credentialing® (CPC®) met on August 1, 2024, to confer the designation. Chief Daniel J. Gaumont becomes one of only 2001 CFOs worldwide. Chief Gaumont was one of the original "Chief Fire Officer Designees" in the year 2000.

The Designation program is a voluntary program designed to recognize individuals who demonstrate their excellence in seven measured components including experience,

education, professional development, professional contributions, association membership, community involvement, and technical competence. In addition, all applicants are required to identify a future professional development plan.

The CFO designation program uses a comprehensive peer review model to evaluate candidates seeking the credential. The Commission on Professional Credentialing awards the designation only after an individual successfully meets all the organization's stringent criteria.

Achieving this designation signifies Chief Gaumont's career commitment to the fire & emergency services and the U.S. Navy's Fire & Emergency Services.

This professional designation is valid for three years. Maintaining the designation requires recipients to show continued growth in the areas of professional development, professional contributions, active association membership, and community.

## Injecting Fresh Talent (con't. from page 1)

This cycle is unsustainable and does little to solve the long-term challenges of maintaining a robust, wellstaffed department. Instead, it merely shifts the problem around within the DoD fire service community, creating gaps and challenges across multiple departments. To break this cycle, we must take proactive steps to inject fresh blood into our ranks—an essential move to ensure the future strength and capability of our F&ES teams. And by "fresh blood," we mean reaching out to our local communities, attracting civilians who may not even know our departments exist, much less how to apply for a position through USAJOBS.

## 1. Make Our Presence Known Beyond the Installation Gates

One of the biggest obstacles we face is that many civilians simply aren't aware of the opportunities within DoD fire departments. They may not know that we exist, let alone how to navigate the complexities of applying through USAJOBS—a process that can be daunting, particularly when HR sends the Security Clearance questionnaire. To address this, we need to actively engage with our local communities and make our presence known outside our installation gates.

#### 2. Embrace Technology for Recruitment

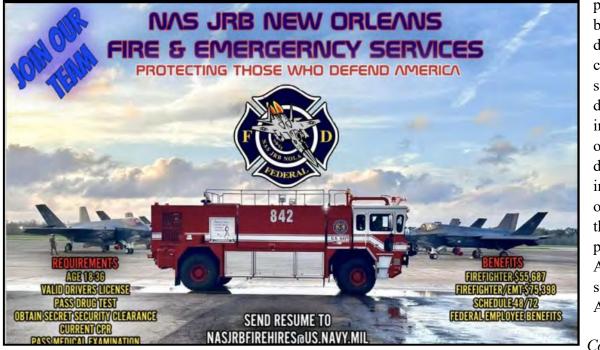
We can no longer afford to rely solely on traditional methods of recruitment. By harnessing the power of technology, we can reach a broader audience and attract a new generation of firefighters. Social media



platforms like Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, and Twitter are invaluable tools for spreading the word about career opportunities within CNRSE F&ES. By regularly posting engaging content—such as videos of our teams in action, stories about the daily life of a firefighter, and information about the benefits of working in our department—we can capture the interest of young men and women in our communities who may not have considered a career in fire service before.

#### 3. Utilize QR Codes and Digital Tools

Incorporating QR codes into our recruitment materials can make it easier for potential candidates to learn more about our department and apply for open positions. These codes can be placed on flyers,



posters, and business cards distributed in local community centers, schools, and events, directing individuals to an online portal with detailed information about our department and the application process. Additionally, software tools like Adobe Express and

Con't. on next page

## Injecting Fresh Talent (con't.)

Publuu allow us to create visually appealing and interactive recruitment materials that can be shared widely, both online and in print.

# 4. Host Open Houses and Recruitment Events

To truly connect with potential candidates, we need to open our doors and invite them in. Hosting open houses and recruitment events at our facilities provides an excellent opportunity for young men and women in our local communities to see firsthand what it's like to be a part of our team. These events not only allow us to showcase our equipment and facilities but also enable us to meet prospective candidates face-toface, gauge their interest and fit for the

role, and answer any questions they may have. This approach helps demystify the application process and provides personal guidance to those who may be intimidated by the thought of applying through USAJOBS.

#### 5. Simplify the Application Process

We must also consider ways to make the application process more accessible. Providing clear, step-by-step guides on how to apply through USAJOBS, and offering assistance with the Security Clearance questionnaire, can go a long way in making potential candidates feel more comfortable with the process. Holding workshops or information sessions about how to navigate the application and clearance processes could also be incredibly beneficial.

#### 6. Build a Proactive Recruitment Pipeline

Rather than waiting for positions to become vacant, we should be building a pipeline of qualified and interested candidates from our local communities. By maintaining a list of potential hires who have expressed interest in joining our team, we can move quickly to fill vacancies when they arise. This approach ensures that we are not caught off guard by sudden staffing needs and that we have a pool of eager and capable candidates ready to step into the role.



Since implementing these strategies at NAS JRB New Orleans Fire & Emergency Services at the beginning of 2024, we have seen a strong interest from young men and women eager to join our department. This success demonstrates that while the work of proactive recruitment is challenging, it is undoubtedly worth the effort. By focusing on bringing new talent into the system, we are helping to build the next generation of firefighters who will serve our communities and protect our nation.

In conclusion, the key to solving the recruitment challenges facing CNRSE F&ES and other DoD fire departments lies in our ability to innovate and adapt. By moving beyond the outdated approach of simply posting job listings and hoping for the best, we can actively shape the future of our departments. Through technology, community engagement, and proactive recruitment, we can ensure that we are not just filling positions but building a strong and capable team ready to meet the challenges of tomorrow.

NAS NOLA Recruitment video links in Social Media:

www.facebook.com/NASJRBNewOrleansFES/ videos/720299430288611

www.facebook.com/NASJRBNewOrleansFES/ videos/322340614271237

## Naval Weapons Station Seal Beach F&ES Conducts FEP

The installation receives a visit from CNIC HQ on 23-29 June. Here are some pictures of their NFPA 1410 drills conducted during their FEP validation.



What's Happening

Navy Fire & Emergency Services



## **NAVBASE Coronado Conducts Final Evaluation Problem (FEP)**

NAVBASE Coronado receives a visit from CNIC HQ on 15-19 July. Here are some pictures of their Active Shooter exercise and NFPA 1410 drills conducted during their FEP validation.



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## **Navy Selected FY-25 Navy Chief Petty Officers**

S is enlisted members across our Navy CNIC F&ES enterprise were selected to the rank of Chief Petty Officer for FY-25 which included three Active Duty and three Navy Reserve personnel.

The rank of Navy Chief Petty Officer (CPO) represents a pivotal milestone in the career of an enlisted Sailor, embodying the transition from junior to senior leadership within the U.S. Navy. Chiefs are the backbone of the Navy, entrusted with the vital responsibilities of mentoring, training, and leading sailors while ensuring mission success through their technical expertise. Achieving the rank of CPO is not only a testament to a sailor's professional competence but also their commitment to upholding the Navy's highest standards. The rigorous process of becoming a Chief, culminating in the revered "pinning" ceremony, underscores the deep respect and honor associated with this rank. Chiefs are the keepers of Navy traditions, shaping the future of the force by instilling values and maintaining the proud heritage of the service.

Upon their selection they commenced a training process which typically takes approximately six known as "Initiation". Typically, the CPO season takes place in the months of August thru September and concludes with the CPO pinning ceremony held mid-September.

Please congratulate our most recently selected Navy Chief Petty Officers: ABHC (Select) Jeffrey Porter (NAS Whiting Field); ABHC (Select) Aaron Stevens (NATTC LS Goodfellow AFB); ABHC (Select) Christopher S. Williams (NATTC LS Goodfellow AFB); ABHC (Select) Mark Soika (Navy Reserve F&ES Det B San Diego, CA); HMC (Select) Lyle Yeager (Navy Reserve F&ES Det D Norfolk, VA); YNC (Select) Erhan Turkoglu (Navy Reserve F&ES Det A Earl, NJ).



### NAS Lemoore F&ES Earned Safety Professionals of the Quarter Award

On Tuesday June 25<sup>th</sup>, NAS Lemoore Installation Safety Director Don Davis recognized the NAS Lemoore Fire Department as Safety Professionals of the Quarter. The team was recognized during a Quarterly Safety Council Meeting for the department's efforts in dramatically increasing medical surveillance and safety training for 3rd Quarter FY-24.



"We were at 13%, but we've since increased our numbers drastically to 91% despite the challenges posed by personnel turnover." added the Installation Fire Chief George Gonzalez who arrived to the department six months ago "the large influx and departure of team members added complexity, but we have successfully navigated these challenges and continue to move in a positive direction."

#### Could you share your keys to success?

Overall, This is a strong department, but like many others, there were areas that needed attention. It took us about six months to turn things around. I believe the surveillance shortfalls were significant enough that they might have prevented staff from addressing them at the necessary pace. To address this, I conducted a statistical analysis of all programs and prioritized them based on their importance. Safety has always been by top priority, so it was an easy decision to tackle this issue head-on. The first step was to gain the teams support for my ideas, including incorporating their input on how to address the challenges. Once we had the team and department aligned with this approach, we were able to move forward effectively. I strongly believe that achieving goals requires the buy- in and trust of your team members. Overcoming a negative culture is challenging, but with a positive mindset, anything is possible. I believe in leading by example and maintaining a pace that even the slower team members can follow. This ensures that everyone feels included and that their ideas are valued.

## Naval Air Station Oceana Conducted Simulated Aircraft Mishap Exercise

N aval Air Station Oceana partnered with the City of Virginia Beach and local first responders on July 23rd to conduct a simulated aircraft mishap drill in preparation for the 2024 NAS Oceana Air Show scheduled for 21-22 September.

The mass casualty exercise tested the installation's ability to react to such an event in a rapid, coordinated, and effective manner. First responders established a Unified Command Post, streamlining coordination efforts to respond to the simulated aircraft mishap, and triage, treat, transport, and track patients.



This collaboration was key to ensuring that all participating units could work seamlessly together in the event of a real emergency. "This exercise offered a valuable opportunity to validate our contingency response plans,



and refine minor details through lessons learned, so that we can ensure a safe environment for our Air Show performers and over 300,000 anticipated spectators," said District Chief Cedric Patterson.

"Collaboration with our municipal partners and the regional healthcare system enables our ability to support this event."

The successful execution of this exercise highlights the strong partnership between



NAS Oceana and the City of Virginia Beach, ensuring the highest level of safety and preparedness for the upcoming air show.

Exercise brought together over 100 participants from across the installation and the City of Virginia Beach.





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# **2024 National Fire Speakers Program Singerly Fire Company Elkton, MD** 20, 21, 22 September 6pm-9pm

Fire Service Instructors

including, Chief, Dennis

Navy), and Chief, Larry Schultz (Anne Arundel

Rubin (Kansas City), Chief, Bill Killen (Department of the

County, MD) are part of the

cadre for this spectacular

decision making process.

Other speakers include former

through the command

program that will lead you



#### **CHOOSING TO COMMAND**

Thether you are selected, groomed, or voted in, at the end of the day, you "Choose to



Congressman Curt Weldon and Chief Don Hiett, OPS Chief for the Olympics. Decisions start from the day you decide to position yourself to pro -mote to those days that you are making life or death decisions. This dynamic three day program starts on Friday



Evening with a meet and greet with six of our



Nation's Best Fire Service Authors and goes through Sunday where you will get to participate in a panel discussion on today's most challenging subjects for Fire Service Leaders.

#### www.singerly.com/2024-national-fire C. re-speakersprogram/

#### NATIONAL FIRE MUSEUM

Congressman Curt Weldon will be presenting, for the first time in Command". Nationally known public, the plans for the National Fire Museum planned for Washington, DC.

#### **ASTRONAUT RESCUE TEAM**

Chief Bill Killen, one of the first members of NASA's Astronaut

Rescue Team, will not only bring an exciting presentation about the Teams, but will also have on display a treasure trove of Team Equipment that will be heading to the U.S. Navy Museum in Pensacola, FL. This will be the last time to see this equipment outside of the Museum.





#### PREVENTING THE MAYDAY

- RED FLAGS FOR FIREFIGHTER SAFETY
- OLYMPIC RESPONSE CHALLENGES

#### • SIX NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED FIRE **AUTHORS**

• RUBIN. KILLEN. SCHULTZ. AND MUCH MORE...

#### **THREE DAYS OF TRAINING FOR ONLY \$95**

Meet six of the Nation's Leading Fire Authors (Friday, September 22nd at 6pm-9pm) Refreshments, Autographs, Talk to the Experts.

What's Happening

# **Around the Firehouse**

### Mr. Tom Shand "The Truck Guy" Visited Navy Region Hawaii

Navy Region Hawaii fire crews had the honor to welcome special guest Tom Shand to Federal Fire Department Headquarters to take a few photos of fire apparatuses during his visit here on Oahu.



Regional Fire Chief Greg Moriguchi, Mr. Tom Shand, and Regional Deputy Fire Chief Neil Fujioka pose for a group photo (Courtesy Photo)

### **Fire Inspectors From Navy Region Hawaii Recognized**



USAG-HI Desmond T. Doss Health Clinic, Commander Colonel Cory J. Plowden presented CNRH Fire Inspectors Michael Brodsky and Clinton Kitabayashi with a commendation coin to recognize their public

education efforts on fire and life safety to approximately 240 staff members. The training enhanced workplace safety and ensured the well-being of patients and visitors at the Desmond Doss Health Clinic.



### Navy Region Southeast Fire Chief Rodolfo Gonzalez Tours the Region and Recognizes Team Members

NAS Corpus Christi Firefighter Amanda Sanchez was recognized for her outstanding dedication and performance!

Sanchez was honored by Regional Fire Chief Gonzales with his Navy Region Southeast Fire & Emergency Services Excellence Coin.

From the moment she joined us, her incredible attitude, relentless hustle, and exceptional work ethic have set her apart. Always willing to go above and beyond, she has demonstrated what it truly means to be a firefighter. Her achievements have been widely recognized since

she has been with us.





Chief Gonzales presented Firefighter Rayborn from NAS JRB New Orleans Fire & Emergency Services with a coin in recognition of his outstanding hard work on the Active Shooter Program. This is a testament to Firefighter Rayborn's dedication and the commitment of

our entire team to keeping our community safe. Welldeserved!



NAS JRB Fort Worth Firefighter Jeff Owens. The tradition of 'coining' is reserved for someone who has gone above and beyond In this case, Owens has taken on the role of NAS JRB Fort Worth Fire Department Public Information Officer (PIO). He leads the team that runs our social media sites.



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### **Congratulations, Captain Ian Wirth!**

We are thrilled to announce the well-deserved promotion of Ian Wirth to the rank of Captain at NAS JRB New Orleans Fire & Emergency Services. Captain Wirth has consistently demonstrated exceptional leadership, dedication, and commitment to our department and community.

We look forward to his continued leadership and the positive impact he will have in his new role.







### Naval Base Ventura County

Photo Courtesy of Firefighter Derrick Harper, Naval Base Ventura County F&ES.





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### Naval Base Point Loma Participated in Pacific's STEM Family Day

Fire Prevention Staff and Engine 110 had the pleasure of participating in Naval Base Point Loma NIWC (Naval Information Warfare Center) Pacific's S.T.E.M. themed Family Day!

FFDSD correlated the mechanical information related to Engine 110's apparatus, and Fire Prevention informed the patrons about fire protection engineering!

There were so many interesting booths and the crowd participation with Engine 110's fire captain and crew was amazing! A lot of kids left with tons of fire goodie bags and fire related education!

We can't wait to represent again next year!







What's Happening

Navy Fire & Emergency Services

August 2024

**Pre-Acceptance Inspections Completed for Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickman and NAS Pensacola MAFTD** 



What's Happening

Navy Fire & Emergency Services

August 2024

### Naval Air Station Pensacola Gets a Visit from CNIC F&ES for NATOPS Validation

NAS Pensacola Fire Department scored a 97% overall grade during their F&ES NATOPS Validation on 8 August, 2024, the highest score earned by an installation since the F&ES NATOPS Validation Oversight Program was launched in January 2024. These validations are applicable to installations with a minimum response requirement airfield category as per NAVAIR 00-80R-14, conducted every 36-months, and are designed to conduct in-depth periodic validation visits along with CNIC Air Operations (N32) evaluation team at Navy installations with Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting mission while validating support and integration.





Navy Fire & Emergency Services



## **CNRJ F&ES, White Beach Conducts Bilateral Vehicle Extrication Training with Uruma City F&ES**

Story by: Koby Bottjen, Installation Fire Chief, CNRJ F&ES, White Beach, Japan

Commander, Navy Region Japan, Naval Base White Beach Fire & Emergency Services (F&ES) recently hosted a bilateral vehicle extrication training exercise with the Uruma City F&ES to strengthen their collaborative relationship with local emergen-



cy responders. Command leadership and representatives from the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) and Commander Fleet Activities Oki-



nawa (CFAO) attended to observe their respective agencies in action.

Training Chief Kenny Amuro re-

marked, "This collaboration not only enhances the technical skills of the firefighters but also fosters camaraderie and mutual understanding of each agency's capabilities and tactics." Effective interagency collaboration during training exercises is paramount, and the joint efforts between Uruma City F&ES and White Beach F&ES exemplify this principle.

White Beach F&ES continues to actively participate in Okinawa-wide bilateral mishap exercises and various strategic meetings with neighboring departments to develop coordinated strategies and learning opportunities among emergency services across the island. By engaging in joint responses and sharing insights, these departments significantly enhance their operational readiness and technical proficiency. This bilateral vehicle extrication training sets a new standard for future collaborative efforts, underscoring the importance of international relationships and mutual aid partnerships that bolster emergency preparedness and response capabilities.



August 2024

What's Happening

Navy Fire & Emergency Services

### **First Bahraini Civilian Firefighter Graduates from DOD Fire Academy**

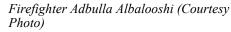
Story by: Petty Officer 1st Class Shayla Hamilton, Naval Support Activity Bahrain

or the first time, a Bahraini civilian employee at Naval Support Activity (NSA) Bahrain has completed the D (NSA) Bahrain has completed the Department of Defense's (DoD) Fire Academy in San Angelo, Texas. Abdulla Albalooshi, a firefighter with NSA Bahrain's Fire & Emergency Services Department, graduated from the Louis F. Garland Fire Academy.

The DoD Fire Academy provides comprehensive training to both military and civilian personnel across all branches of the U.S. Armed Forces, including the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, and other organizations.

Reflecting on his experience at the academy, Albalooshi detailed the extensive hands-on training he received, which included five blocks of learning covering fundamentals like donning gear, tying knots, ladder operations, and using knots to hoist equipment, and more advanced training such as vehicle extrications, fighting above and below grade fires, car fires, and more.

One aspect of the academy that stood out to Albalooshi was the quality of the trainers and the equipment provided. "What I liked most about the academy were the trainers and the equipment that was made available to us," said Albalooshi. "Nothing had to be simulated. If they wanted to teach us about how to enter a C-130 to rescue someone, we went inside a



C-130. We learned the entire sequence from chocking the wheels, turning the plane off, getting the victims out, and activating the fire suppression system. It was a great experience learning everything without it feeling simulated; it was real-life, hands-on experience."



Albalooshi, who joined NSA Bahrain's Fire Department in June 2023, expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to train alongside U.S. military personnel. "Becoming a part of NSA Bahrain's Fire Department is a dream come true," said Albalooshi. "This is something I've always wanted to do and having the opportunity to be flown out to the DoD's only firefighter academy and receiving the same quality of training as all of the other military firefighters in the different branches was an incredible experience. I was able to represent myself as a Bahraini national, and as a member of NSA Bahrain's fire department. My classmates and I worked well together as partners; as a team, and had that level of camaraderie, academically."

Albalooshi also said that firefighting and emergency services runs in his family, with his grandfather serving as a career firefighter in Bahrain, and his sisters working in the emergency medical field. Albalooshi's dedication paid off as he graduated top of his class with a 95% average.

The Louis F. Garland Department of Defense Fire Academy graduates approximately 2,400 joint service and international students each year for the DoD.



## **Knights of Columbus Public Safety Night Firefighter of the Year**



Story by: Gerald C. Clark Jr. Fire Chief, Federal Fire Ventura County

Tire Engineer Cesar Torres was selected as the Knights of Columbus Public Safety Night's – Firefighter of the Year. The ceremony was held in Oxnard California on 17 June 23 and was attended by members of the community as well as local firefighters, law enforcement, judges, and important community leaders. The ceremony was also attended by the Commander of Naval Bases Ventura County, Captain Daniel Brown, who was there to support Cesar's recognition. Cesar Torres was recognized for his hard work and dedication to the fire department and the community and was specifically recognized for prepares himself for college as well. He's such a great his work on the fire department's very important hazardous materials response program. The ceremony included speeches, a delicious dinner, and an awards ceremony. Cesar Torres is a very strong member of the Cesar possesses.

Navy Region Southwest Fire & **Emergency Services Program** and represents our team with pride and honor.



#### **Award Write Up Below:**

Cesar Torres, was born and raised in the San Fernando Valley, joined the Air Force in 2004 as a firefighter. His first duty station was Travis AFB, CA where he served 6 years active duty. He deployed to Iraq in 2008 where he trained with the US Army to perform Rapid Air Mobility Squad as a second duty to firefighting. He separated from the AF in 2010 and joined the federal fire service at Edwards AFB that same year. While at Edwards AFB, he was part of their Hazmat Team. There, Cesar would begin to grow in his craft learning multiple aspects of what it meant to work around unknown chemicals and hazards. He left Edwards AFB in 2015 to join Fed Fire Ventura as a Firefighter. From the get-go he was already getting involved with the Hazmat team and soon after completed CSTI hazmat tech and right after that he completed Specialist. In 2018, he promoted to Engineer and right away became involved in the EMS program along with the hazmat program. Cesar is now the Hazmat program manager and assigned to Engine 72 where he also bumps up to Captain when the position is needed. He's revamping our hazmat program and making recommendations that will push our departments hazmat program to greater levels to better serve our communities. Even now he

continues to think of ways that can improve the mission of base and department.

Cesar met his wife, Melissa, in 2004 right after finishing the fire academy at Louis F. Garland AFB fire academy in their home-town at a Sunday church service in the San Fernando Valley. They married the following year and have shared 19 wonderful years together having 2 sons, Elijah & Ben. Elijah just graduated high school and will be attending Cal Poly Pomona to study Bio-Engineering. Ben is right behind him entering his senior year of high school as he artist and looks to continue that by studying and building on his craft in college as well. Together, they build such a great team and it shows in the work ethic



From left: Commanding Officer Naval Base Ventura County Captain Daniel Brown, Fire Engineer Cesar Torres, and Naval Base Ventura County Fire Chief Gerald Clark. (Courtesy Photo)

# Back in the Day: Naval Air Facility Adak Alaska

Story by: Tom Shand

Photos from the Adak Fire Department History page on Facebook

A fter the Japanese attack on the Naval Operating Base at Dutch Harbor on June 3-4, 1942, it became apparent that there was a need for an advanced base to protect the Aleutian chain of islands, as the closest installations were located in Unalaska some 700 miles to the east. Adak Island is 1200 miles southwest of Anchorage with construction for an Army Air Corps base starting in September 1942. As the most westerly naval operations base from the fall of 1942 to the end of the World War II, Adak's strategic location provided support to the ships and submarines of the North Pacific Force.

During this period over 90,000 troops were mobilized to protect the Aleutian Island chain and in July, 950 the Air Force transferred the Davis AFB to the U.S. Navy which established an anti-submarine base along with maritime patrol aircraft. The postcold war era lessened the need for this forward base and in March 1997 the installation was closed.



Fire protection on Adak Island included both structural and airfield vehicles, at one point operating from three fire stations. Adak Island was known for having severe weather conditions including high winds with



1967 International R-185 FTI 165 International 1700 Progress #1 (Courtesy Photo)

over 54 inches of rain each year. It is most interesting that several of the structural engines assigned to the installation during this period were open cab design.

Over the years the department operated a number of vehicles including two 1953 FWD model F75-T open cab pumpers equipped with a 750 gpm pump and 300 gallon tank. The four wheel drive capabilities of these rigs were put to good use with these rigs replaced with two 1965 International 4x4 pumpers built by Progress Industries. These units were complimented by two 1967 International model R-185 rigs built by Fire Trucks Incorporated and equipped with a Waterous pump rated at 750 gpm with a 300 gallon water tank, along with a top mounted booster reel and four body compartments.

Con't. on next page

# Back in the Day (con't.):



(above) Adak Navy ARFF Fire Station. (below) Naval Air Station Adak, Alaska ballcap, patch, and firefighter batch. (Courtesy Photos)

larger order of 31 units that were built in Watertown, New York. The SMI-Firemaster CRV-1000 was a 4x4 air transportable vehicle with an aluminum body with seating for four personnel. Crash 1 was assigned Navy

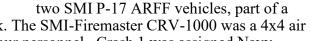
property number 71-02545 and Crash 2 carried 71-02544, these rigs equipped with a 1000 gpm pump, 1000 gallon water and 130 gallon foam tanks. A Feecon 200 pound dry chemical system supplied a 100 foot hand line with a 250 gpm bumper and 500 gpm manually operated roof turret.

Beginning in 1986 the U.S. Navy embarked on an extensive apparatus replacement program with the delivery of 78 Pierce Dash pumpers, two of these units were sent to Naval Air Facility Adak and assigned as Engine 7 and Engine 9. These engines were assigned property numbers 73-02798 and 73-02818 and were utilized along with a 1988 Pierce Arrow engine. These units were equipped with a 1000 gpm pump, 750 gallon water and 100 gallon foam tanks with front intakes, triple crosslay hose beds and prepiped deck guns.

Back in the day these rigs were utilized by the department up until the base closure in 1997. The 1988 Pierce Arrow engine was reassigned to Federal Fire San Diego and assigned as Engine 3 at the Naval Amphibious Base.

The ARFF station was provided with four apparatus bays and at one point operated with one of the International FTI engines along with one Oshkosh MB-5 and two Oshkosh MB-1 crash trucks. The MB-5 vehicle was one of 210 built for the U.S. Navy beginning in 1969 and equipped with a 400 gpm pump, 400 gallon water and 35 gallon foam tanks along with a 150 pound dry chemical system. Beginning in 1971 Oshkosh produced 73 MB-1 model crash trucks for the Navy that were outfitted with a 1000 gallon water tank, 130 gallon foam tank, roof turret rated at 500 gpm. The ARFF vehicles were painted in a chrome yellow color with the structural engines painted red.

During 1981 the department received







SCAN OR CODE FOR LISTING OF ALL CURRENT JOB OPPORTUNITIES UNDER NAVY FIRE PROTECTION AND PREVENTION (0081 SERIES).

https://www.usajobs.gov/Search/Results?j=0081&a=NV52&k=&p=1

### NAS JRB New Orleans Firefighter Joshua Marx: A Solo Force at the Southeast Regional Firefighter Challenge

Story by: Fire Chief Richard Puente, NAS JRB New Orleans Fire & Emergency Services

In the adrenaline-charged world of firefighting, where every heartbeat counts, it takes a special breed of individual to rise above the rest. Joshua Marx of NAS JRB New Orleans Fire & Emergency Services is one such individual. Competing solo against a formidable lineup at the Southeast Regional Firefighter Challenge Classic in Lexington, Kentucky, held from August 22-24, 2024, Marx proved that determination and grit can propel one to greatness.



Clocking an impressive individual time of 2:09:58, Marx wasn't just racing against the clock—he was racing against some of the toughest firefighters in the region. His performance was a testament to his relentless training, unwavering discipline, and the unyielding spirit that he brings to his duties every single day.

But Marx's journey in Lexington wasn't just about individual glory. He joined forces with other elite firefighters from different departments, banding together to form a powerhouse team. Despite being the only member from NAS JRB New





From Left: Joey Palugi, Nic Scaccia, Joshua Marx, Cody Edwards, and Mike Coleman

Orleans, Marx and his teammates—Joey Palugi, Nic Scaccia, Cody Edwards, and Mike

Coleman—demonstrated the true meaning of teamwork. Their combined efforts resulted in a team time of 1:19:01, earning them a third-place finish in the region. This remarkable achievement highlighted the strength and unity forged even across different departments.

The Firefighter Challenge is renowned for pushing participants to their limits, both physically and mentally. With events designed to simulate real-world firefighting scenarios, competitors must navigate grueling tasks such as dragging hoses, hoisting equipment, and rescuing victims—all while donning full firefighting gear. The competition is a relentless test of endurance, speed, and skill, and Joshua Marx faced it

head-on.

As the only representative from NAS JRB New Orleans, Marx carried the pride of his department on his shoulders. His success is not just a

personal triumph but also a source of pride for the entire NAS JRB New Orleans Fire & Emergency Services. Marx's performance has set a high standard, inspiring his fellow firefighters and setting the stage for future successes.

Looking ahead, Joshua Marx is now preparing for the U.S. National Championship in Hoover, Alabama, scheduled for September 25-28, 2024. With his eyes firmly set on the national stage, Marx is ready to compete against the best from across the country. His journey is far from over, and as he continues to push his limits, there's no doubt that Joshua Marx is a name to watch in the firefighting world.



### **2024 ABMA Professional Working Group**

Story by: Senior Chief Anthony F. Pena, Navy F&ES Military Firefighter Program Manager

adrenaline rush of

flight deck, our

being at sea and on the

contributions here are

no less essential. The

Navy is a team effort.

Every role, whether at sea or on shore, plays a

part in our collective

In addition to these

discussions, the Fire

program provided a brief with Navy

instructors from the

**DoD** Fire Academy

and Sailors assigned to

the Presidential Retreat

and Emergency Services (F&ES)

success."

The 2024 Aviation Boatswain's Mate Association (ABMA) Professional Working Group (PWG) held in San Diego, CA, was a landmark event that brought together some of the Navy's most experienced professionals in our community. Over the course of three days, Aviation Boatswain's Mates from across the fleet collaborated on key issues, shared best practices, and addressed the evolving needs of naval aviation operations. The event featured not only technical discussions but also the recognition of the 2023 DoD Military Firefighter of the Year ABH1 Anna Perez (NSA Naples) highlighting the critical role that fire safety plays in supporting naval missions.

The PWG focused on integrating new technologies and techniques to enhance the efficiency and safety of flight deck operations. As naval aviation becomes increasingly complex with the introduction of advanced aircraft and equipment, the group worked to identify areas for improvement in training and standard operating procedures at sea and ashore. "Shore duty Sailors are incredibly valuable and critical to the overall mission of the Navy" said ABH1 Anna Perez, "While it might not have the immediate



ABMA President CDR Wayne Sirjoo recognizes ABH1 Anna Perez with during award banquet. (Courtesy Photos)



Camp David underscoring the importance of our Sailors supporting the mission ashore. Fire Inspector Leilani Thompkins



from San Diego Federal Fire delivered an informative session on hiring opportunities within the Navy F&ES, emphasizing the critical need for skilled professionals to support the Navy's shipboard firefighting efforts. ABH1 Perez provided a brief on the Navy Military Firefighter Program and below is her experience attending the event.

#### What did you like most about this year's PWG?

I liked how we integrated F&ES into the ABMA curriculum. I had not heard of or seen in previous PWGs. We provided valuable information to our AB community on what is required for our F&ES program, available certifications, what our day to day job entails, and how it could be beneficial during and post Naval Service.

#### Why is it important for AB's to attend this event?

Attending the annual ABMA PWG is crucial for Aviation Boatswain's Mates working in the fire service for several reasons:

Professional Development: The PWG provides ABs with access to the latest fleet knowledge, best practices, and lessons learned.

Networking Opportunities: The event brings together ABHs from various



DoD Fire Academy Instructor ABHI Anjelica Salas provides brief to the ABH Workshop. (Courtesy Photos)

commands and regions, allowing them to share experiences, challenges, and solutions. Building a network of peers in the fire service community, and the fleet ABHs fosters collaboration and support, is invaluable in both routine operations and emergency situations.

Policy and Procedure Updates: The PWG is a platform where new policies, procedures, and guidelines are discussed. Attending ensures that ABHs are up-to-date with any changes that affect their duties, ensuring compliance and enhancing operational readiness.

Feedback and Advocacy: Military Firefighters can voice their concerns, provide feedback, and advocate for Navy F&ES program. We were able tell fleet Sailors what we do, and what we bring to the team.

Career Growth and Recognition: Participation allows Navy F&ES Sailors to be recognized for outstanding achievements in the fire service.

What's Happening

# **UPCOMING ASSESSMENTS**

Region area installations should be aware of the Fire & Emergency Services assessment schedules for their locations so they can be prepared. To prepare, installations should conduct self assessments; regions should conduct CART or other region evaluations; all before the CNIC validation team arrives. For more information, contact Eric Rhode: eric.k.rhode.civ@us.navy.mil

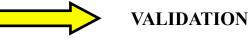


#### **OVERSIGHT PROCESS:**

ASSESSMENT



**EVALUATION** 



REGION	INSTALLATION	ASSESSMENT TYPE	SCHEDULED DATES
CNRMA	NS Great Lakes	FEP	8-13 September, 2024
CNRMA	SUBASE New London	Full Scale Exercise	8-14 September, 2024
CNRMA	NS Norfolk	NATOPS	10-12 September, 2024
CNRE	NSA Naples	FEP	16-20 September, 2024
CNRE	NAS Sigonella	FEP	23-27 September, 2024
CNRSE	NAS Pensacola	FEP	5-12 October, 2024
CNRMA	NAS Oceana	NATOPS	7-10 October, 2024
CNRSE	NSA Panama City	FEP	13-19 October, 2024
CNRMA	WPNSTA Earle	FEP	20-26 October, 2024
CNRSW	NAVBASE Point Loma	Full Scale Exercise	27 Oct-1 November, 2024
CNRJ	CFA Yokosuka	FEP	3-9 November, 2024
CNRSW	NAWS China Lake	NATOPS	5-7 November, 2024
CNRE	NSA Bahrain	FEP	15-22 November, 2024
CNRH	Pearl Harbor NSY	Full Scale Exercise	17-23 November, 2024
CNRSE	NSB Kings Bay	Full Scale Exercise	17-23 November, 2024

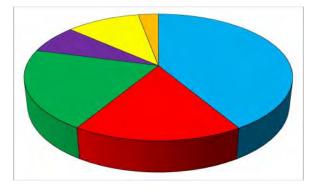
Note: Please stay in touch with Eric Rhode, as dates are subject to change.

# **ESAMS Corner Update**

By: Angela Jordain, ESAMS Fire Technical Support

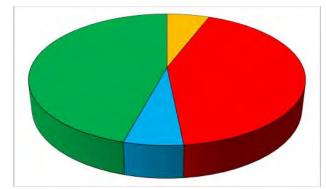
### CY 2024 Statistics (1 January – 31 July)

#### **Operations**



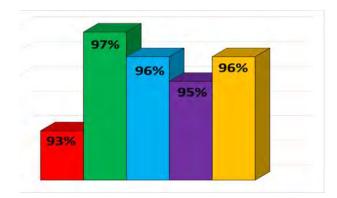
Rescue & EMS	13,470
Hazardous	5,197
False Alarm	8,268
Service Calls	2,373
Good Intent	3,202
Fires	881
Total	33,391

#### **Prevention**



Fire Public Ed Classes	2,109
Hot Work Permits	15,505
Inspections	16,721
<b>Building Evacuation Drills</b>	2,218
Total	36,553

#### **Training**



#### F&ES on Duty Mishaps Report CY 24

Mishaps Reported: 14 Total Lost Work Days: 29

EMS	96%
Proficiency	93%
<b>Emergency Management</b>	97%
Safety	95%
<b>DoD</b> Certification	96%



What's Happening

August 2024

### Navy Fire & Emergency Services (N30)



What's Happening

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FIRE

Navy Fire & Emergency Services

August 2024

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