



# What's Happening

## Navy Fire and Emergency Services Newsletter

### Protecting Those Who Defend America



November 2023

Omni Cedo Domus

Vol. 21 No. 10

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F&ES Editor in Chief:  
MC1 Charlotte C. Oliver

## Blazing Through Language Barriers for a Common Goal

Story and Photos by:

Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Maria Olvera Tristan, Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti

Members of Camp Lemonnier Fire and Emergency Services Department, trained with Djiboutian and French Fire Departments in a trilateral aviation firefighting exercise on the flight line at the Djibouti-Ambouli International Airport, Djibouti, Oct. 5.

*Con't. on page 5*

### From the Director



world at our Navy installations who are spending time with their extended work family. Please enjoy the season, friends, family and the turkey dinner.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Thanksgiving is a time to remember and embrace those who enrich our life. Among all the wonderful things and people, our Navy firefighters and teams are at the front of my thoughts. While some of us will be home with family and friends, we should not forget our firefighters on watch around the

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## From the Director

*Con't. from page 1*

Last month CNIC celebrated our organization's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. We were pleased to have retired Deputy Director Ricky Brockman join us the event. We share some talks about how CNIC has and continues to evolve ... while we enjoyed a BBQ cookout. Retirement looks good on you Ricky!

It is with a heavy heart as we pass along information regarding the passing of CNR Hawaii Firefighter Engineer Daniel "Kawika" Bennett, taken from us way to soon. Unfortunately, we also learned of the passing of Retired Fire Captain Brian Kirk (NAS Fallon). Capt. Kirk served for over 30 years and retired just two years ago. Capt. Kirk and Firefighter Bennett, Rest in Peace, we have the watch.

**Navy F&ES is Hiring!** Thanks to all our Navy F&ES Teams and members who serve, Protecting Those Who Defend America. Please stay safe and enjoy the holiday season.

*Carl*

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## One-Navy Marine Corps Team

We are a maritime Nation, and American naval primacy is essential to meeting the security, economic, and geopolitical challenges we face today. The Department of the Navy (DON) actively brings to bear the vision of a world that is, per the National Security Strategy, "free, open, secure, and prosperous." The United States Navy and United States Marine Corps are in contact with our adversaries every day on the sea, undersea, land, air, and in space. To build our competitive advantage we are moving with urgency to make the necessary investments for the fleet and force our country needs today and into the future. We stand ready in times of peace, and when called upon, in conflict. America's naval forces are unique as America's most timely, flexible, and forward-deployed force across the full spectrum of challenges - from naval diplomacy to strategic deterrence, crisis, and conflict.

The enduring Secretary of the Navy priorities laid out just over 2 years ago remain the principal guidance for the DON. To protect maritime supremacy, we will continue to advance our three enduring priorities, which are purpose-built to serve as an interconnected framework for ongoing evolution. Guided by our mission and vision, and remaining committed to our priorities, we will continue to field the world's most dominant maritime force. Our Navy and Marine Corps team is a timely, relevant, and highly reliable force.

Unquestionably, we face a time of profound change. Yet, we have the benefit of hundreds of years of legacy of professionalism, resilience, and innovation in our corner. We will overcome uncertainty with vision, and competition with perseverance.

The Chief of Naval Operations' Navigation Plan and the Commandant's Force Design 2030 are critical enablers and well nested within this strategy. Refer to them often and ensure every member of our team understands how their work fits in to the broader mission of our fleet and our force. We will move out together, decisively and rapidly to respond to the challenges ahead of us. Our team is simply the best there is, and I remain humbled to be a part of it. One-Navy Marine Corps Team - Advancing DON Priorities can be found here:

[https://media.defense.gov/2023/Oct/26/2003328880/-1/-1/1/ADVANCINGDONPRIORITIES\\_FINAL.PDF/ADVANCINGDONPRIORITIES\\_FINAL.PDF](https://media.defense.gov/2023/Oct/26/2003328880/-1/-1/1/ADVANCINGDONPRIORITIES_FINAL.PDF/ADVANCINGDONPRIORITIES_FINAL.PDF)

Released by the Honorable Carlos Del Toro, Secretary of the Navy

## In Memoriam

### Firefighter Engineer Daniel "Kawika" Bennett



Chiefs, it with great sadness we pass along the info regarding the untimely passing of Firefighter Engineer Daniel "Kawika" Bennett last week, Commander Navy Region Hawaii F&ES.

Firefighter Bennett was helping his son train for a National Judo Tournament when he passed. Firefighter Bennett's passions were his family, martial arts, and the fire department. He had just celebrated his 49th birthday. He is survived by his wife, Irish and his son, Thor. Firefighter Bennett had 19 years on the job. Services are still being planned, once they are final, we will provide information.

Our deepest condolences to the Bennett Family and the Navy Region Hawaii F&ES family.

### Capt. (ret.) Brian Kirk

In honor of Capt. Brian Kirk's remarkable 30-year commitment to the fire service, we express our deepest gratitude for his unwavering dedication and sacrifices. Beginning his journey in 1990, Captain Kirk rose through the ranks, embodying the essence of a true firefighter—from his early days as a firefighter to his role as ARFF Driver/Operator, Captain, and ultimately Crash Chief.

Though the title may have changed with restructuring, Kirk remained our eternal Crash Chief, leaving an indelible mark on all who had the privilege of knowing him. His leadership wasn't commanded; it was earned through his character and the profound impact he had on every individual he encountered. Captain Kirk was the epitome of a "Firefighter's firefighter," inspiring unwavering respect and loyalty from his colleagues.



Even in retirement, Captain Kirk's legacy lives on through the laughter shared over tales of his firehouse antics. From playful aircraft gear pin challenges to requests for his famous pretzel snack, he infused camaraderie and warmth into the firehouse atmosphere.

Over his 30 year tenure at NAS Fallon, Captain Kirk not only served with distinction but also volunteered his time with the Fernley Fire Department, exemplifying a selfless commitment to community beyond duty. As we bid farewell to a true leader and friend, the NAS Fallon airfield bears witness to the void left by Captain Brian Kirk. You will be dearly missed, brother.

*Rest in Peace brothers, we have the watch.*

# 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 and 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
Dana Woods	NAS Oceana, VA	marc.j.smith.civ@us.navy.mil
Edward Smith	Fort Leavenworth, KS	kelly.m.smith172.civ@army.mil
Samuel Adam Martinez	MCAS Miramar, CA	sarah.faas@usmc.mil
Guy Peters	NAS Pensacola, FL	guy.a.mcfarland.civ@us.navy.mil
Curt Pechloff	Fort Benning, GA	stuart.a.namie.civ@army.mil
Zachary Rayfield	NSA Souda Bay, Greece	antigoni.vasiliad.gr@eu.navy.mil
Kenneth Little	Robins AFB, GA	forest.johnson@us.af.mil
Jon Stenstad	Eglin AFB, FL	michael.clayton@us.af.mil
Derek Murdock	157 <sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing, NH	patrice.h.foggarty.mil@army.mil
Christopher Bishop	NAS JRB New Orleans, LA	adam.k.crowe.civ@us.navy.mil

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## Language Barriers (*con't. from page 1*)



(above) Members of Camp Lemonnier's Fire & Emergency Services Department trained with Djiboutian and French Fire Departments during a trilateral aviation firefighting exercise on the flight line at the Djibouti-Ambouli International Airport, Djibouti, Oct. 5. (U.S. Navy Photo by: MCI Maria Olvera Tristan)

Command Chiefs passed down instructions to the fire chiefs, who disseminated the information to their teams using radio, voice, visual, and hand signals. Communication and coordination were at the core of this exercise.

"Although there is a language barrier, we had the capacity to communicate with examples, with simple language, and gestures," said Pfeiffer. "It is possible to do something, to communicate with signs."

Each crew took turns putting out the fire, extricating the survivor, and moving them to safety.

"We were able to watch our crews communicate with each other on the first evolution," said CLDJ's Chief Firefighter Stephen Skola. "The French were able to go to my crew chief, they were able to communicate what they want it done, and accomplish the mission."

The trilateral training gave all participants the opportunity to showcase their strengths and work across language barriers to enhance their collective capabilities.

"We connected and worked together," said Major Franck Pfeiffer, French fire chief. "We were all able to intervene, and coordinate without speaking the same language; even though we don't speak the same language, we proved that we can work together."

The crews also got to learn more about each other's capabilities, said Skola.

The exercise prepared the firefighters for effective joint response by assessing Camp Lemonnier's instructions, coordination, and response to aircraft mishaps alongside other nations.

"It is important that we coordinate together," said Abdouraham Farah Ibrahi, Djiboutian Fire Chief. "To use the power of water, and see what it can really do."

The exercise simulated an aviation mishap where firefighters had to stabilize the fire, and then rescue and transport a patient for further care.

Three teams gathered at the French fire station and each team included a command chief with their crew, along with a fire truck. After a brief meeting, teams took turns going to the simulated helicopter crash site.



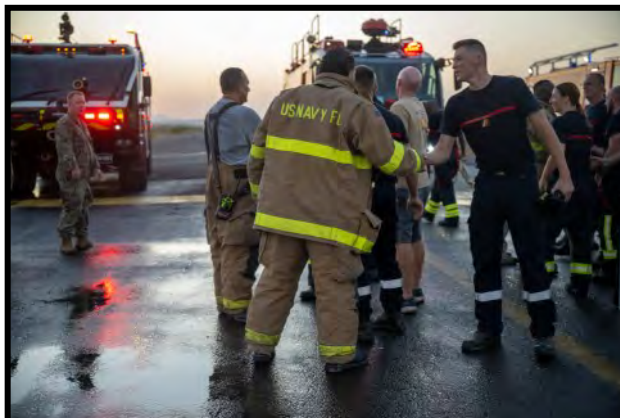
(above) Members of Camp Lemonnier's Fire & Emergency Services Department trained with Djiboutian and French Fire Departments during a trilateral aviation firefighting exercise on the flight line at the Djibouti-Ambouli International Airport, Djibouti, Oct. 5. (U.S. Navy Photo by: MCI Maria Olvera Tristan)

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## Language Barriers (*con't.*)

"It has been a while since we had interaction with the Djiboutian fire department," he said. "For some of my guys, it was the first time they saw the style of equipment the French have, the type of nozzle is different, they had never seen that. It's always a good thing just to learn so we can work together more effectively."

Teams are scheduled to have regular meetings in the following weeks to translate what they've learned into three languages to prepare for the next exercise.



(above) Members of Camp Lemonnier's Fire & Emergency Services Department trained with Djiboutian and French Fire Departments during a trilateral aviation firefighting exercise on the flight line at the Djibouti-Ambouli International Airport, Djibouti, Oct. 5. (U.S. Navy Photo by: MCI Maria Olvera Tristan)



(above) Members of Camp Lemonnier's Fire & Emergency Services Department trained with Djiboutian and French Fire Departments during a trilateral aviation firefighting exercise on the flight line at the Djibouti-Ambouli International Airport, Djibouti, Oct. 5. (U.S. Navy Photo by: MCI Maria Olvera Tristan)

"This was the first exercise of many," said Emergency Management Officer U.S. Navy Lt. Cmdr. Benjamin Price. "We look forward to more interaction."

Camp Lemonnier serves as an expeditionary base for U.S. military forces providing support to ships, aircraft, and personnel that ensure security throughout Europe, Africa, and Southwest Asia. The base enables maritime and combat operations in the Horn of Africa while fostering positive U.S.-Africa relations.



# Around the Firehouse

## Naval Support Activity Annapolis Receive Life Saving Awards

Personnel from NSA Annapolis received CNIC Life Saving Awards for three separate incidents, Oct. 2, 2023. The care provided by NDW F&ES personnel resulted in a life saving outcome for the patients. Two of these incidents were located on the installation and the third was a mutual aid call in the City of Annapolis. NSA Annapolis commanding officer, Capt. Christopher Schwarz, and Region Fire Chief Kevin Grinder presented the Awards.



- June 3 Incident: BC Charles Benson, Captain Robert Hill, Captain Mike Bruner, FF/PM Joshua Gorr, FF/PM David Diehl, FF/PM Glenn Depp, FF/EMT Sam Campbell, FF/EMT Mike Collins, FF/EMT Patrick Riley, FF/EMT Dennis Weins, FF/EMT Ethan Walz.

- July 1 Incident: DC Joh Lyon, BC Kathryn Lucas, Captain Robert Hill, FF/PM Joshua Gorr, FF/PM Kenny Massengale, FF/PM James Bower, FF/PM David Diehl, FF/EMT

Bryan Sohn, FF/EMT Mike Collins, FF/EMT Sam Campbell, FF/EMT Ethan Walz, FF/EMT Patrick Riley.

- July 23 Incident: Captain Robert Hill, Training Officer Kirk Prinsen, FF/PM Joshua Gorr, FF/EMT Patrick Riley, FF/EMT Dennis Weins.

Bravo Zulu Team! (Photo courtesy of NSA Annapolis F&ES)



## Naval Support Activity South Potomac Receive Life Saving Awards

Personnel from Naval Support Activity South Potomac received CNIC Life Saving & Significant Achievement Awards for two separate incidents in which the care provided by NDW F&ES personnel resulted in a life saving outcome for the patient, Oct. 3, 2023. NSA South Potomac commanding officer,



Capt. David Wilson, and Region Fire Chief Kevin Grinder presented the Awards.

- June 5 Incident – District Chief Michael Jackson, Assistant Chief Matthew Gilroy

- August 7 Incident – FF/EMT James Rice, FF/EMT Abby Mentzer, FF/PM Roger Kennedy, Captain Trevor Gaefcke, FF/EMT Mike Baker, FF/EMT Michelle Beall



Bravo Zulu Team! (Photos courtesy of NSA South Potomac F&ES)



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# Around the Firehouse (*con't.*)

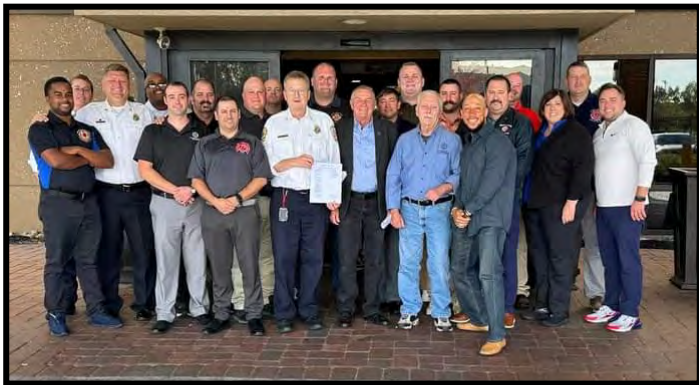
## Annual Awards Banquet

The Annual Awards Banquet honoring the Department of Defense Fire Academy Instructor of the Year, 2024 MFHF DOD Hall of Fame Inductees and the 2024 Lifetime Achievement Recipient. The Awards Banquet will be held on March 23, 2024 Ticket sales started Nov. 15, 2023. (*Courtesy Photos*)



## NRMA F&ES Master Labor Agreement

History in the Making! Today, we're thrilled to announce a historic moment as management and eight bargaining units of Navy Region Mid-Atlantic Fire & Emergency Services have signed the largest Master Labor Agreement in the Department of Defense's history!



After the successful conclusion of the third week-long negotiation session in Philadelphia, we're excited about an agreement that will positively impact over 600 members of our Fire & Emergency Services team. It's been a marathon week of spirited debate, passionate discussions, compromise, and advocacy, and we're proud to move forward together.

(*Photos courtesy of NRMA F&ES*)



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# Around the Firehouse (*con't.*)

## NAS Sigonella F&ES Sailor Receives Award

Naval Air Station Sigonella F&ES would like to congratulate Aviation Boatswain's Mate (Handling) 2nd Class Lorenzo Resendiz Jr. for receiving a well-deserved Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal today. Petty Officer Resendiz is the epitome of selfless service and professionalism. His positive can-do attitude is contagious and we are all extremely proud to be associated with him. BZ Fratello!

*(Photo courtesy of NAS Sigonella F&ES)*



## Navy Region Northwest Firefighter Recognized



Congratulations to Firefighter Thornell. He has met his full performance requirements by completing his National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT).

The National EMS Certification assures the public, licensing officials, and employers that the EMS professional is competent. The National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians® (National Registry) provides National EMS Certification for the United States. This is a standard that every American citizen deserves—at their moment of greatest need. National EMS Certification is part of the national EMS Education Agenda for the Future: A Systems Approach.

To learn more visit: <https://www.nremt.org/>

Keep charging!

*(Photo courtesy of NRNW F&ES)*

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# Around the Firehouse (con't.)

## Adm. McCall Visits Portsmouth Naval Shipyard F&ES

Rear Adm. Wesley McCall, Commander, Navy Region Mid-Atlantic, visited Portsmouth Naval Shipyard during a scheduled visit to the shipyard, Sept. 19, 2023.

During his visit, McCall took the time to speak with each firefighter that was on duty and spoke with District Fire Chief Shannon Pawlowski to learn about the role PNS F&ES plays at the shipyard and any challenges they may face, from manning to equipment and the different calls the department responds to. (U.S. Navy photos by: MCI Charlotte C. Oliver)



## CNIC Showcases Regions as They Celebrate 20 Years of Excellence



Recently, Commander Navy Installations Command celebrated their 20th Anniversary. Watch the video below as CNIC marks an important milestone in their journey of two decades of excellence, sustaining the fleet, enabling the fighter, and supporting the family. CNIC Kicked off their celebration showcasing the unique missions of Naval District Washington, one of the eleven naval regions responsible for the operations and management of Naval shore installations in the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Area.

<https://youtu.be/C0ldIqVXatA>



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# Around the Firehouse (*con't.*)

## Commander, Fleet Activities Sasebo F&ES Participates in Shipboard Firefighting Drill

Commander, Fleet Activities Sasebo Fire & Emergency Services participated in an integrated industrial firefighting drill, Oct. 11.

Sasebo F&ES responded with personnel, equipment and various vehicles to help combat a simulated fire onboard the forward-deployed amphibious assault carrier USS America (LHA 6). The drill, required by the Industrial Ship Safety Manual for Fire Prevention (8010), was created to train integrated teams of Sailors and base firefighters to respond to casualties in industrial environments.



Great work team!

(U.S. Navy photos by: MC2 Thomas B. Contant)



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# Around the Firehouse (*con't.*)

## NAS Jacksonville F&ES Captain Earns Junior Civilian of the Year

Naval Air Station Jacksonville (NAS Jax) Commanding Officer Capt. Marc Cantu recently recognized Firefighter Captain/Paramedic Devan Brown as the Junior Civilian of the Year. He was previously selected as Junior Civilian of the First Quarter.

Brown a native of Jacksonville, Florida, is a six-year Navy veteran and has worked at First Coast Navy Fire and Emergency Services for the past 14 years. "Aside from emergency response, I'm overall responsible for the direction of the organization's Emergency Medical Services (EMS) program," he said. "I also manage the department's Medical Surveillance program ensuring all of our firefighters have an up-to-date physical."

He was selected as Junior Civilian of the Year for leading his team of six firefighters during several life-saving medical emergencies, a structural fire, managing EMS biomedical equipment preventive maintenance by enlisting Naval Hospital Jacksonville's Bio-Medical Department to assist with calibrations, coordinating physicals for 60+ firefighters keeping a 100 percent completion rate, and overseeing the Automated External Defibrillator program.

Brown also took over the newly-issued Stop-the-Bleed Kit program by installing these kits in crucial locations. He has also volunteered to assist NS Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, NS Mayport and NAS Whiting Field with program reviews and inspections.

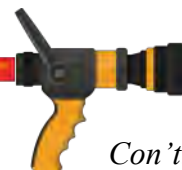
Brown says he loves what he does for a



living. "Without being cliché, I simply love being a firefighter. And, I think it's a great honor to be recognized for this award. To have all your diligence magnified and recognized, centers your focus while maintaining your motivation at a level high enough that it continues to support your potential for continued success."

And, he is extremely grateful for the recognition. "I would like to thank God first, my family second - for their tireless support, and all the firefighters who work alongside me to assist with my strenuous workload. Without them, the position I hold within the organization would be more arduous than what it is."

In the future his goal is to continue to move forward in his career through promotions. When he's not at the NAS Jacksonville Fire Station, he enjoys spending time with his family and coaching his younger children in their youth sports.



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# Around the Firehouse (*con't.*)

## NAS Fort Worth Fire Chief Takes the Helm

From: CNRSE, Deputy Fire Chief Jason Krause  
 To: N30, Commander Navy Installation Command  
 Subj: Good News Story – NAS Fort Worth JRB, Texas

Commander, Navy Region Southeast is proud to announce Samson “Mufasa” De Sessa as the newest Fire Chief for NAS Fort Worth Joint Reserve Base Fire and Emergency Services (F&ES). Chief De Sessa takes the helm from former Fire Chief Matthew McQuaig who joined the CNIC team. Chief De Sessa hails from Kingsville, Texas. He served 10 years as an active duty USAF Firefighter (1991-2001) and 22 years in the federal civil service (2001 to current). He has served in nearly every capacity within the NAS Fort Worth F&ES department as he journeyed from Firefighter to Fire Chief. Chief De Sessa credits his success to serving on, and building amazing teams rooted in trust, and a strong belief in helping others. He coined the phrase, “Brotherhood is a Verb.” He is a Grit-building, Strengths-mining, Ownership-modeling leader, striving daily to be approachable, be available, and be relatable for his team.



*(Photo courtesy of NAS Fort Worth F&ES)*



## Naval Station Mayport Welcomes New Fire Chief



From: CNRSE, Deputy Fire Chief Jason Krause  
 To: N30, Commander Navy Installation Command  
 Subj: Good News Story – NAS Mayport Fire Chief

Commander, Navy Region Southeast is thrilled to announce Jose Cardenas as the newest Fire Chief for Naval Station Mayport Fire and Emergency Services (F&ES). Chief Cardenas joined CNRSE on 1 June 2021 as the Training Chief and brings with him over 20 years of active duty Army and Air Force experience where he held every position within the Fire Department. Chief Cardenas hails from Roswell, New Mexico and married to Tracie and have three children. Chief Cardenas replaces Chief Richard G. Henderson; as he and his wife Dorsey joins EURAFCENT, Rota Team. “Safety First, taking care of firefighters and families; Always” is a motto Chief Cardenas embraces.

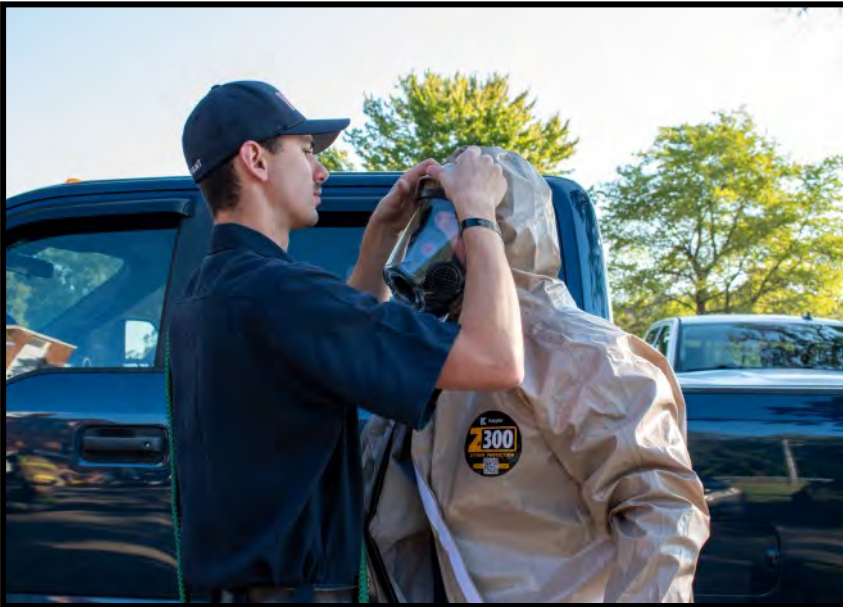
*(Photo courtesy of Naval Station Mayport F&ES)*



# Naval District Washington F&ES Wraps Up MFRI Hazmat Technician Class

Story and Photos by:

Fire Inspector Michael D. Fuhrman, Naval District Washington Fire & Emergency Services



Naval District Washington Fire Department (NDWFD) firefighters recently wrapped up a Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute (MFRI) Hazmat Tech Class hosted by NDWFD Patuxent River Battalion.

Twenty-three NDW firefighters and paramedics participated in a University of Maryland, Maryland Fire Rescue Institute Hazardous Materials Technician course, Sept. 6, 2023. The HAZMAT Technician two-week course provided the members of Naval District Fire and Emergency Services with the knowledge, skills, and abilities to mitigate hazardous materials leaks and incidents.

The firefighters and paramedics received training in analyzing hazardous materials incidents, planning a response to a hazardous materials incident, implementing the response to the incident, how to evaluate the progress of the planned response, and terminating the Hazardous materials incident.

The major topics that had been covered in the course by the instructor are chemical and physical properties, recognition and identification of hazardous materials, laws, regulations, standards, and information resources. Additionally, the course covers personal protective equipment, detection devices, hazard and risk assessment, and decontamination. Moreover, the



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## NDW Hazmat Class (*con't.*)

firefighters and paramedics learned how to handle drums, how to assess damage, tactical considerations, and leak control. Finally, the participants learned how to handle cylinder emergencies, drum sampling, terminating the incident, and how to prepare the required documentation for reporting the incident.



# Collaboration in the Flames: Drones and Cross-Agency Teamwork

Story and Photos by: Assistant Fire Chief Shaun Rogers

Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake Fire & Emergency Services – Training Division

Unrelenting dry heat, accompanied by strong winds and an evening of lightning strikes, triggered the first urgent phone call: "Smoke reported on the range!" As the third call came in from miles away, it became evident that something significant was brewing.

Federal Fire China Lake is no stranger to the challenges of wildland firefighting in the harsh desert climate, where rapidly spreading, intense fires can severely impact the mission. The response strategy has been honed through many experiences: formulate a plan, and assemble resources, all with the shared objective of gaining visual confirmation of the fire's extent.



Typically, quick aerial assessments are employed to expedite the sizing-up process. However, on this occasion, these resources were unavailable due to mission priorities. A swift change of plan was devised, sending an initial hand crew to assess the fire. The vast ranges at China Lake exhibit diverse geography, elevation, and climates, shaping the approach to each wildland incident on the installation.

Seasoned firefighters, drawing upon years of experience, embarked on an hour-long journey in brush trucks to reach the reported area. Comments like, "That's quite a distance out," and "I'm not sure if we can reach it from here," echoed among the crew. As they ventured further, radio updates described their progress along unimproved roads, through narrow mountain passes, and around peaks reaching over six thousand feet in elevation. Once the roads vanished, equipment was collected, and they continued on foot for another mile or so. Although the smoke remained visible, reaching it on foot without aerial support seemed impossible.



Meanwhile, the command staff at the Emergency Operations Center reached out to Edwards Air Force Base Fire and Emergency Services, aware of their robust UAV (Unmanned Aerial Vehicle) program. They requested assistance in assessing the incident. In a matter of hours, Division Chief Ron Watson and Captain Alan Leckie from Edwards Fire Department answered the call. This marked the first instance of interagency cooperation between Navy and Air Force firefighters of these two agencies. Their efforts quickly revealed that the fire's progress was slow, with a limited fuel supply. Furthermore, the approaching rain from Tropical Storm Hilary was forecasted to alleviate the situation with anticipated rainfall.

Upon their return from the incident, Chief Watson and Captain Leckie shared comprehensive insights into their drone program and its remarkable capabilities with the China Lake fire crews. Notable functions included wildland fire mapping, thermal imaging (FLIR), and visual monitoring of Hazmat incidents, search and rescue operations, and even deployment during active shooter drills for area clearance. With a skilled pilot, the potential applications of UAVs seemed boundless. It became evident that drones are a valuable asset, firmly entrenched in the world of Emergency Services.



# El Centro Accepts New Aerial Truck

Story and Photos by: Capt. Jordan Marasso

Commander, Navy Region Southwest Federal Fire El Centro Fire & Emergency Services

Commander, Navy Region Southwest Naval Air Facility El Centro is pleased to announce the addition of a 2023 Pierce 107-foot ascendant tandem axle aerial fire apparatus to our fleet. This state-of-the-art vehicle will have significant impacts on our service delivery and community safety. From October 23rd to the 26th, El Centro conducted advanced training by a Pierce manufacture representative on the technical uses and delivery methods.



“The training was of upmost importance to the service capabilities we will be providing to the installation, to our military customers, their families and the surrounding communities,” said Capt. Jordan Marasso, a lead firefighter for Federal Fire Dept. El Centro. “Being able to provide a dynamic rescue and elevated water stream is crucial to our mission execution. We will continue to train ourselves on the expanded capabilities of our newest aerial and are eager to keep learning new methods to maximize customer service excellence.”

## Apparatus Specifications:

- 2023 Pierce 107’ Ascendant Tandem Axle Aerial Fire Apparatus weighs 76,800 lbs. height of 11-feet, 11-inches and total vehicle length of 41 feet long. The fire pump has a 2,000 gallon per minute rating holding 500 gallons of water. The 107-foot ladder is featuring a rescue tip that is capable of holding 750 LBS and delivering water from an elevated master stream.
- El Centro’s customer service will now expand with the capabilities of this aerial. Below are some highlighted benefits that come with our newest addition.
- Greater Reach: With a 107-foot aerial reach, the apparatus can access taller structures more effectively.
- Tandem Axle Design: The dual-axle provides enhanced stability during operations, ensuring safer working conditions for our firefighters.

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## El Centro New Aerial (*con't.*)

- **Advanced Mobility:** The new apparatus boasts a design facilitating easier navigation through urban settings, thus reducing response times to emergencies.
- **Multi-functional Design:** The new unit is known for its versatile features. This allows our department to handle various types of emergencies with one vehicle, from aerial rescues, aircraft rescues, and structural firefighting.
- **Cost Efficiency:** Modern fire apparatus are designed for longevity and robust performance. This addition represents a long-term investment, saving taxpayer dollars over time.
- **Navy's Commitment:** Investing in new equipment demonstrates agency commitment to the installation community's safety and welfare.
- **Community Engagement:** The introduction of this new apparatus provides an opportunity for community outreach and education, strengthening our bond with the residents we serve.

This aerial purchase is a significant step forward in our mission to provide the best service to our installation and community. We remain dedicated to our department's values, continuous quality improvement, modernization, and, most importantly life safety to all who live, work or travel to Naval Air Facility El Centro.



# Back in the Day: U.S. Navy Seagrave Pumpers

Story and Photos by: Tom Shand

During the decade of the 1960s the majority of U.S. Navy Fire Departments were operating pumpers built with two-door, conventional, engine ahead or tilt cab commercial chassis rigs. Engine apparatus were typically outfitted with a 750 gpm pump along with a 300-gallon water tank. While these pumpers were very maneuverable, being built on GMC or International chassis, the crews were relegated to riding on the rear tailboard with little or no protection against the elements. Rigs that were initially delivered with hard suction hose carried on the left side of the body were modified locally to accommodate SCBA mounts and standpipe racks.

Some of the first custom pumpers were acquired during 1975 using Duplex Model D-260 canopy cab chassis. Depending upon where your department was located, the seats located on either side of the engine enclosure were referred to as the jump seats or buckets and were a welcome addition to the Navy apparatus fleet. Seagrave Fire Apparatus which was now affiliated with the FWD Corporation had not provided fire apparatus for the military in any large quantity since World War II and found that their current chassis models were not price competitive the other manufacturers. The result was the introduction of the Seagrave MB series of cab forward apparatus which provided seating for four personnel using a boxy sheet metal design for the cab.

Between 1977 and 1979 Seagrave provided 46 model MB-23098 pumpers to the U.S. Navy and 21 identical units to the Marine Corps. These pumpers were built on a 178-inch wheelbase and due to the front steering gear arrangement were known for taking a lot of real estate to turn them around in tight locations. By today's standards these units were modestly powered by a Cummins model VT-225 diesel engine rated at 225 horsepower with an Allison MT-643 four speed automatic transmission.

The rigs were outfitted with a Waterous fire pump rated at 1,000 gpm together with a 500-gallon water tank



(above) Naval District Washington Bolling Engine 11 1978 Seagrave MB-23098 #73-02534 #H-95228 (photo from the collection of Tom Shand)

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

and a Feecon around the pump foam system with a 60-gallon foam tank. While the engines were not equipped from the factory with master stream appliances, many departments outfitted the units with a portable deck gun mounted over the fire pump. The walkway between the rear of the engine and pump house provided a convenient place to mount hand tools and safe access to reload the crosslay hose beds.

As a result of the sales of the MB model pumpers to the military, Seagrave introduced the Invader series of custom pumpers in 1983. Approximately 37 of these units were built for municipal departments including three for Bayonne, New Jersey along with fifteen pumpers for the City of Philadelphia.

Back in the day the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard Engine 3 was assigned one of the Seagrave pumpers that was outfitted with both a Stang gun and portable deck gun and assigned property number 73-02528. Engine Company 11 at the Naval District of Washington operated a 1978 Seagrave MB-23098 model pumper that was modified with enhanced warning lights, cab mounted Mars light along with a mechanical siren that was non-standard for the balance of the U.S. Navy pumper order. Navy property number 73-02534 carried Seagrave serial number H-95228 with this order of pumpers being among the last that would be painted in the chrome yellow color with each installation providing their own graphics to identify the apparatus.



(above) Philadelphia Naval Shipyard Engine 3 1978 Seagrave MB-23098 #73-02528 #H-95232 (photo from the collection of Tom Shand)

# CNRSW F&ES Participates in Emergency Medical Services Authority Exercise

Story by: Assistant Fire Chief Mark Wampler, Naval Base Ventura County Point Mugu, California

Navy installations from Commander, Navy Region Southwest recently participated in a multi-day Emergency Medical Services Authority (EMSA) exercise that included multiple civilian and government agencies.

Installations included Naval Base Ventura County, Federal Fire Ventura, Fire Department and NBVC Point Mugu facilitated the EMSA Fall 2023 California Medical Assist Team (CAL-MAT) Southern California Firefighting Exercise (FFX). The two-day, fully functional exercise was developed in alignment with Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP) and focused on multi-agency interoperability response that tested local response plans, mass casualty procedures and integration of Region 5 EMSA.

Key stakeholders included NBVC Emergency Management, CAL EMS, Ventura County EMS, L.A. County EMS, Santa Barbara EMS, Kern County EMS, CAL-MAT, Ventura Medical Reserve Corps (MRC), California Regional Disaster Medical Health Specialists (RDMHS) and local area first responders all came together for a Large-Scale Mass Casualty Response.



The scenario involved a shipboard fire on a cruise ship off the coast of Ventura Ca. which required medical evacuation of numerous casualties to NBVC Point Mugu. A total of 13 ambulance units participated in exercise from all over Southern California. EMS strike teams were made up from American Medical Response (AMR), Gold Coast Ambulance (GCA), Premier, Royalty, Lifeline and Antelope ambulance companies. Local Fire Department involvement included Fed Fire Ventura – Point Mugu, Oxnard FD, and Ventura City FD.

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## EMSA Exercise (con't.)



Day 1 started with Medical Health Operations Area Coordinator (MHOAC) and RDMHS Overview in base theater, then a full day of break-out sessions on Clinical Skills for CE's that focused on airway management, AED/ECG Monitors and PHTLS skills. Additionally, hands-on familiarization was conducted on Incident Cache/Logistics, Multiple Patient Vehicle (MPV) and Triage/Emergency Services Unit (ESU).

Day 2 consisted of a full-scale FFX involving Fed Fire filling critical roles of Incident Commander by Assistant Chief Fred

Martinez, Medical Group Supervisor by Captain/Paramedic Russell Shoumake, Triage Officer by Captain/EMT David Magdaleno, and Treatment Officer by Captain/EMT Rudy Marin. EMS Strike Teams were assembled and effectively managed Tactical Triage, Treatment and Transport for 61 patients with traumatic injuries. Cal-OES Communications aided with radio support and programming. NBVC Emergency Management (EM) Officer Brian Edsinger stood up the Emergency Operation Center (EOC) and provided incident support and coordination with Los Angeles County and Kern County EM Managers. Three Radio Channels were designated to manage incident; Command 14, TAC15 Med Group, and TAC16 Transport.



drills in Southern California.

An After Action Review was conducted that focused on the analysis of core capabilities; performance, strengths and areas for improvement to optimize operational success and efficiencies. The FFX reinforced the unique demands, requirements and challenges necessary to support state, county, and federal agency support during a large scale emergency scenario, natural disaster or high-visibility event. Bravo Zulu to all organizations and the 150+ participants who came together on NBVC Point Mugu to make this an outstanding training event and one of the largest EMS

# DoD Safe Helpline: How it Works

All Safe Helpline services are: anonymous, confidential, and tailored to support members of the DoD community and their loved ones affected by sexual assault.



You will always be connected to a live, specially trained professional.

“ One of the most profound gifts we can give survivors who come to Safe Helpline is simply listening to them. No one should have to go through healing from a sexual assault alone. ”

—Sami, Safe Helpline staff member for over three years

“ Compassion and support are at the heart of DoD Safe Helpline staff. It is what they provide to each visitor, and why we enjoy being a part of Safe Helpline. ”

—Sydney, Safe Helpline staff member for over ten years

“ When a survivor is connected with one of our staffers, they should know that this is a safe place, free from judgment or shame. We can help survivors find the support they need and deserve. ”

—Jason, Safe Helpline staff member for over three years

## DID YOU KNOW?

A psychological health condition or seeking professional help will not automatically disqualify you for a security clearance.

### 1 SMALL ACT CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

Reach out to your nearest medical provider or the Military Crisis Line at 1-800-273-TALK



### Project 1 Small ACT

# 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:



REGION	INSTALLATION	ASSESSMENT TYPE	SCHEDULED DATES
CNRSE	NAS Jacksonville	NATOPS	November 28 - 30
CNRSW	NAF El Centro	FEP	November 27 - Dec 1
CNRH	JB Pearl Harbor Hickam - HRMC	MAJOR FIRE DRILL	(Tentative) December 3 - 8
CNRSE	NAS Kingsville	FEP	December 3 - 9
CNRSE	NAS Corpus Christi	FEP	December 10 - 16



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





# Life Saving Awards



In calendar year 2022, 145 CNIC Fire and Emergency Services responders were awarded individual Life Saving Award certificates. A team effort that saved the lives of 31 individuals.

So far in CY 2023, 157 individual Life Saving Award certificates have been awarded and 32 lives have been saved.

Keep charging!

Region	Certificates	Lives
CNRH	45	6
CNRSE	3	1
CNRMA	37	8
CNRSW	5	2
CNRRW	5	1
NDW	58	10
CJRM	4	2
EURAFCENT	0	0
CNRJ	0	0
Korea	0	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>32</b>

### *From the Desk of Gary Easley:*

**Attention** The 2023 Navy Fire & Emergency Services Annual Awards nomination deadline will be here before you know it, please continue to work on the award packages for your firefighters, EMTs, paramedics, chiefs, and fire stations. Also, please take the time to consider your nominations for the next class of Hall of Fame inductees and Lifetime Achievement Award candidates. Award packages are due *no later than* Feb. 1, 2024.

Please contact Gary Easley if you have any questions.

You may contact Gary by email: [gary.m.easley.civ@us.navy.mil](mailto:gary.m.easley.civ@us.navy.mil) or by phone: (202) 433-6527.



# Life Saving Awards

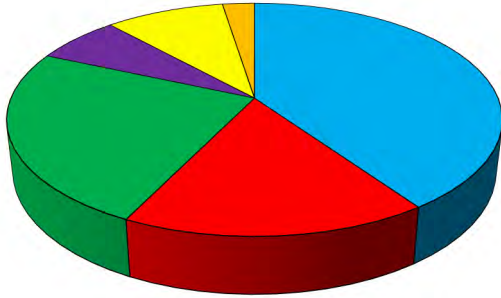


# ESAMS Corner Update

By: Angela Jordain, ESAMS Fire Technical Support

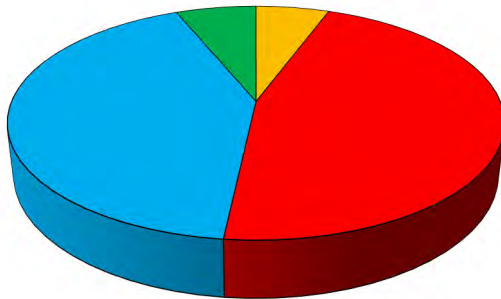
## CY 2023 Statistics (01 Jan – 30 October)

### Operations



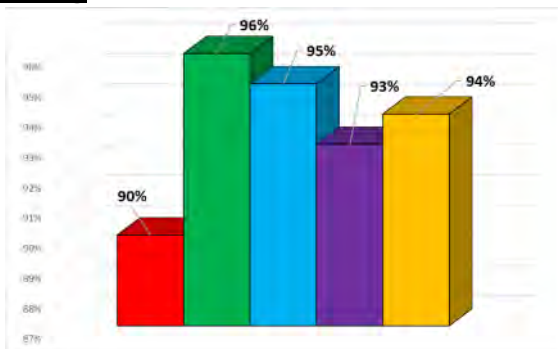
Rescue & EMS	19,027
Hazardous	7,968
False Alarm	11,491
Service Calls	3,130
Good Intent	4,371
Fires	1,177
<b>Total</b>	<b>47,164</b>

### Prevention



Fire Public Ed Classes	3,017
Hot Work Permits	24,473
Inspections	22,334
Building Evacuation Drills	3,311
<b>Total</b>	<b>53,135</b>

### Training



EMS	19,027
Proficiency	7,968
Emergency Management	11,491
Safety	1,177
DoD Certification	47,164

### F&ES on Duty Mishaps Report CY 23

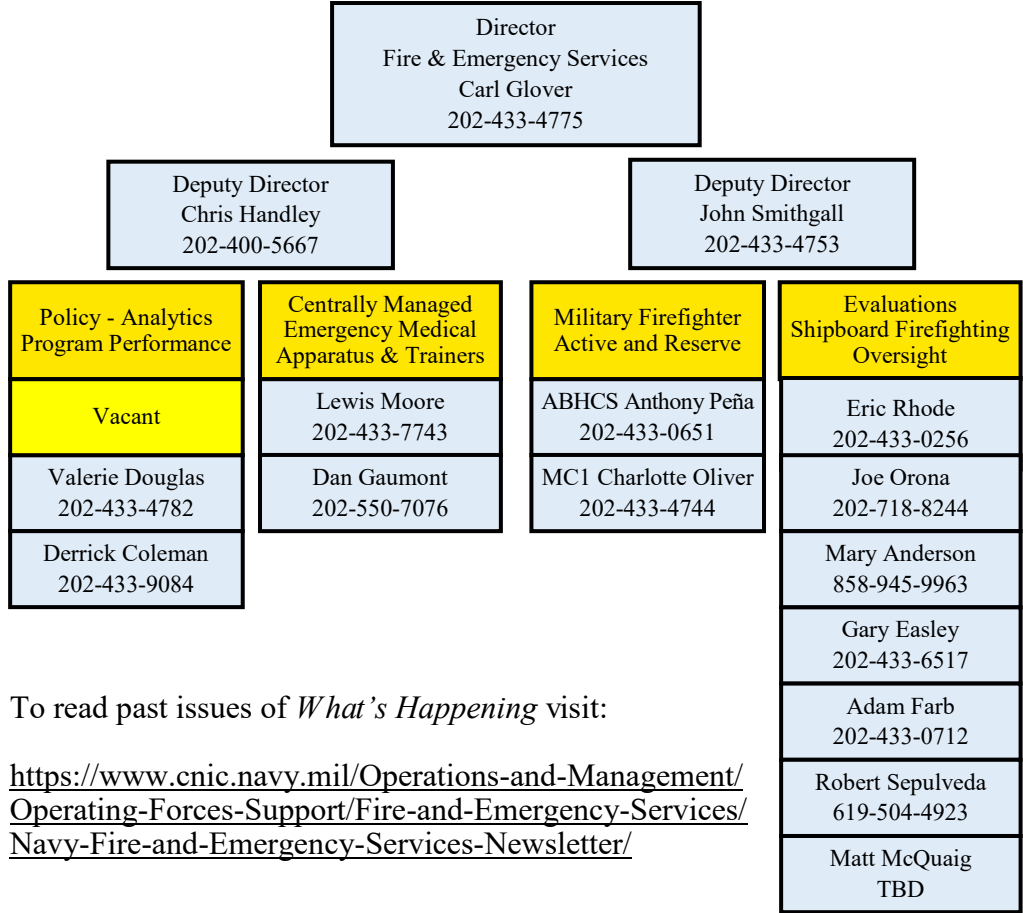
Mishaps Reported: 28  
Total Lost Work Days: 7



# Navy Fire & Emergency Services (N30)

## Navy F&ES Points of Contact

Commander,  
Navy Installations Command  
716 Sicard Street, SE.  
Suite 305  
Washington, D.C.  
20374-5140



To read past issues of *What's Happening* visit:

<https://www.cnic.navy.mil/Operations-and-Management/Operating-Forces-Support/Fire-and-Emergency-Services/Navy-Fire-and-Emergency-Services-Newsletter/>

## Navy F&ES

### Hall Of Fame

To submit to  
*What's Happening*  
send an e-mail to: Fire Chief  
Carl B. Glover Jr. at:  
carl.b.glover.civ@us.navy.mil

