



What's Happening

Navy Fire & Emergency Services Newsletter

Protecting Those Who Defend America



December 2024 - January 2025

Omnis Cedo Domus

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

NAF El Centro New Fire Station	pages 1, 6
Director's Note	pages 1, 2
Taking Care of Our Own	page 4
CNIC F&ES Welcomes New Military Firefighter Program Mgr	page 8
Navy Reserve F&ES	pages 10-11
Seal Beach Strengthen Community	pages 12-13
Around the Firehouse	pages 14-18
NWS Seal Beach First Responders Receive Life Saving Awards	page 19
Fire Resistive Construction	page 20
Food Trailer Fire	pages 21-22
DoD Fallen Firefighter Memorial Service Announcement	page 23
Back in the Day	pages 24-25
Assessment Calendar	page 26
ESAMS Update	page 27
Points of Contact/F&ES Legacy	page 28
F&ES Editor in Chief: SCPO Anthony Pena anthony.f.pena.mil@us.navy.mil	

NAF El Centro Opens State-of-the-Art Fire Station

Story and Photos by: Fire Chief David Newcomb, NAF El Centro F&ES

Naval Air Facility El Centro opened the doors to a state-of-the-art fire station on December 11, 2024, following a ribbon-cutting ceremony. Military and civilian leadership, local fire departments, and other key stakeholders were all in attendance to mark this historic occasion.

On September 30, 2021, the U.S. Senate passed a Continuing Resolution that included a provision funding for the new facility, and on September 1, 2022, the construction contract to execute the replacement project was awarded.

The fire station spans over 20,000 square feet and includes 18 dorm rooms, 8 bathrooms, a fitness room, state-of-the-art equipment, modern living quarters, and enhanced training and maintenance equipment. These significant upgrades supersede the previous aircraft hangar, which was built in the 1940s and utilized by the base fire department since 1978.

Con't. on page 6

From the Director

We are back ! After missing some delays, we are pleased to publish the combined Dec - Jan edition of our Newsletter ! As you will notice we have some pictures and articles from December and some new items; the good news is we are already working on the February Newsletter and will try to catch up on some articles and pictures to share.

Special Thanks to ABHCS Anthony Pena for keeping track and working on our Newsletter as our editor.

Con't. on page 2



Supporting the Fleet, Fighter, and Family



From the Director

Looking back at the close of CY24, we are very happy to report we received 82 nominations for our annual F&ES awards, from 10 Regions. Regions previously evaluated all the Installation award nominations and selected the Region winners. The CNIC awards panel took time to review each nomination in great detail and had the difficult task of selecting the Navy Winners in each category. This was an extremely difficult task, as all of the nominations were already winners. The results are pending announcement, and the Navy F&ES winners will go forward to compete for the DoD awards competition, in the respective categories. Additionally, the review for our legacy Awards (Hall of Fame and Lifetime Achievement) is still under evaluation and we expect the results to be released with the annual F&ES awards. BZ to all of the personnel and Departments that were nominated, all are truly deserving of the recognition.



Notes:

- DoD Military Firefighter Heritage Foundation Memorial (28 March) and the Firefighter Heritage Awards Ceremony (29 March) at Goodfellow, AFB TX
- Navy F&ES Annual Awards Presentation Ceremony, 23 April at US Naval Academy, MD

We are pleased to ***Welcome Aboard*** our newest CNIC staff members, ABHCS Magdalena (Maggie) Serrano who is now on-board as our Military Firefighter Program Manager. Senior Chief Serrano has an impressive background and prior assignments with the Navy, see page 8. She will be replacing ABHCS Pena who is approved for retirement in May.

Another new ***Welcome Aboard*** for the CNIC HQ Team goes out to Jeremy Rhode. Jeremy comes to CNIC from Navy Region Hawaii where he served as District Fire Chief for District 2. Jeremy will be tasked with various projects to include the Fire Apparatus Program Management, see page 9.

We are pleased to report that many Installation departments and staff continue to perform well on the FEP and NATOPS oversight / validations. While we do uncover some deficiencies, the vast majority of the oversight events continue to validate our firefighters and chiefs are performing above the standard, to stay in compliance and ensure our firefighters are safe while performing the mission. BZ !

The cycle: Assessment  Evaluation  Validation

Last Alarms: As we start the New Year, we do have some sad news to report:

NSA Panama City Firefighter Jesse Irwin passed away on 5 Feb 2025, while off-duty in his residence. Firefighter Irwin was only 42 years of age.

Retired Navy Fire Marshall Ernie Groft passed away recently on 2 Feb 2025. Chief Groft was the Fire Chief at Bethesda Naval Hospital prior to his selection as Fire Marshal. He retired in 1998. Chief Groft was 81.

Also, for our Air Force Veterans and Shipmates, CMSgt Benjamin “Ben” Robert Partin passed away on 9 Feb 2025 in Hampton, VA. Chief Partin was 91 years of age. Ben was a great friend and mentor to many Fire Chiefs and Firefighters. He was an avid supporter of the entire DoD fire service.

Our sincere condolences to the families and our extended F&ES family; ***Rest in Peace, We Have the Watch.***

Stay Safe, and Keep Communications Open with all our Shipmates (On and Off Duty). Thanks to all our Navy F&ES Teams and members who serve, ***Protecting Those Who Defend America.***

Carl

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:

NAS JRB Fort Worth F&ES Fire Apparatus Inspection Short Video

<https://www.facebook.com/61559275311562/videos/823121926596046/?rclid=Bm34Anq0qlUZ4KTI>

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>

Federal Fire Department San Diego Reflects on 2024 and Welcome New Year

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1U2DKtQ5U8/>

Federal Fire Department San Diego Behind the Flames Post

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/uQSi38eie7JBMisi/?mibextid=xfxF2i>



Region Fire Chief Working Group at NAS JRB Fort Worth



Director Navy Fire & Emergency Services, Carl Glover and Navy Region Fire Chiefs pose for a group photo during the Fall 2024 Region Fire Chief Meeting at NAS JRB Fort Worth, TX. (Courtesy Photo).



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

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 th Air Refueling Wing, NH	patrice.h.foggarty.mil@army.mil
Mary Harris	Naval District Washington, DC	christopher.a.scully2.civ@us.navy.mil
Bradley Jones	Dobbins ARB, GA	breeann.gresham.1@us.af.mil
Daniel Boersig	Fort Walker, VA	armando.eversley2.civ@army.mil
Casey Arrayan	Navy Region Southwest, CA	shaun.e.turner2.civ@us.navy.mil
Mary Harris	Naval District Washington, DC	christopher.a.scully2.civ@us.navy.mil
Brian Fillman	JEB Little Creek-Ft Story, VA	sara.j.campbell17.civ@us.navy.mil
Guy Bond	10 CES , USAF Academy CO	patricia.blackburn.1@us.af.mil
Tyler Frederick	USAG Fort McCoy, WI	brady.j.breuer.civ@army.mil

988 Suicide & Crisis LIFELINE

Dial 988 for 24/7 emotional support anywhere in the U.S.

 **Call 988**
 **Text 988**
 **Visit 988lifeline.org/chat**

→ to reach a caring counselor.

WARNING SIGNS OF SUICIDE:

The behaviors listed below may be some of the signs that someone is thinking about suicide.

TALKING ABOUT:

- Wanting to die
- Great guilt or shame
- Being a burden to others

FEELING:

- Empty, hopeless, trapped, or having no reason to live
- Extremely sad, more anxious, agitated, or full of rage
- Unbearable emotional or physical pain

CHANGING BEHAVIOR, SUCH AS:

- Making a plan or researching ways to die
- Withdrawing from friends, saying goodbye, giving away important items, or making a will
- Taking dangerous risks such as driving extremely fast
- Displaying extreme mood swings
- Eating or sleeping more or less
- Using drugs or alcohol more often

If these warning signs apply to you or someone you know, get help as soon as possible, particularly if the behavior is new or has increased recently.

988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline
Call or text 988
Chat at 988lifeline.org

Crisis Text Line
Text "HELLO" to 741741

 **NIH** National Institute of Mental Health
nimh.nih.gov/suicideprevention

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. Visit: <https://www.cpse.org/cpse-learning-opportunities>

CPSE is looking for agencies to host the Quality Improvement for the Fire & Emergency Services workshop in 2025. If you are interested in hosting a 2025 workshop, download the [hosting agreement](#) for more information.

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

Apr 22-24 - Naval Support Activity Souda Bay Fire & Emergency Services, Crete Greece

Click [here](#) for more information and to register for DoD workshops.

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

Mar 10-12 - Bernalillo County Fire, Albuquerque, NM

Apr 15-17 - Rincon Valley Fire District, Vail, AZ

Apr 23-25 - West Fargo Fire Dept., West Fargo, ND

Apr 30-May 2 - Clayton Fire Dept., Clayton, NC

May 7-9 - Montgomery County Fire, Gaithersburg, MD

May 13-15 - Fayetteville Fire Dept., Fayetteville, AR

May 13-15 - Palm Beach Gardens Fire Rescue, Palm Beach Gardens, FL

Sep 16-18 - Shawnee Fire Dept., Shawnee, KS

Click [here](#) for civilian workshops.

On-Demand Training

Category 2: Understanding the Essential Elements of the CRA/SOC

Mentoring in the Fire & Emergency Services

Data and Technology in the Fire & Emergency Services

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging: Active Inclusion for the Fire & Emergency Services

Annual Program Appraisals: Capturing our Past and Guidance our Future

Click [here](#) for on-demand training

On-Demand Webinars and Resource Documents

We encourage you to take the time to access these [free resources](#) in the CPSE University:

[On-Demand Accreditation Videos](#) -

Writing the Four-Part Answer - A webinar explaining development of the four-part answer for the self-assessment manual.

Performance Statements - A webinar explaining development of performance statements.

Creating a Strategic Plan - A webinar explaining the creation of a community-driven strategic plan.

Developing Strategic Plan Goals and Objectives - A webinar explaining how to develop effective goals and objectives for a strategic plan.

tives for a strategic plan.

For questions or assistance contact info@cpse.org or 703-691-4620.

Resource Documents

[Annual Appraisals](#) - A handout to assist with developing annual appraisals.

[Critical Tasking](#) - A handout to aid in conducting critical tasking for all emergency response types.

[Engaging Stakeholders](#) - A handout explaining how to engage stakeholders in the CRA/SOC process.

[Fire Department Strategic Plans and Community Master Plans: Are They The Same?](#) - A handout comparing and contrasting fire department strategic plans and community master plans.

[Performance Statements](#) - A handout outlining how to develop performance statements.

[Writing the Four-Part Answer](#) - A handout explaining development of the four-part answer for the self-assessment manual.

[Completing the Designation Application](#) - Learn tips on completing the designation application for CFO, CTO, CEMSO, FM, or FO

[21st Century Fire & Emergency Services White Paper](#) Handouts and videos on the critical issue areas.

NAF El Centro New Fire Station (*con't. from page 1*)

This station is strategically positioned and designed to enhance emergency response capabilities and strengthen the connection to the community. This sanctuary for the agency's members will ensure they remain healthy mentally and physically, preparing them to be ready when called to action for years to come.



(Left) from left to right: Captain Michael D. Lee, NAF El Centro Commanding Officer; Fire Chief David Newcomb; and Commander Leif E. Walroth, NAF El Centro Executive Officer (Courtesy Photos)



Firefighter Cancer Awareness Month Materials

Each January, we honor Firefighter Cancer Awareness Month. It's a time to recognize the impact of occupational cancer in the fire service, including supporting firefighters diagnosed with cancer and advancing efforts to prevent firefighter cancer.

During this month, we ask you to share the NFR as one thing firefighters can do to help understand and prevent cancer in the fire service. It only takes 5 minutes to get started.

Our [digital toolkit for Firefighter](#) Cancer Awareness Month provides materials to help you share the NFR, including:

- Social media posts and images
- Web banners
- Email or newsletter template
- QR code



We've also created videos you can download to share on social media, emphasizing how quickly firefighters can get started with their NFR registration. These videos are attached in a zip file.

We can also send you professionally [printed materials](#) (e.g., posters, fact sheets, palm cards) if you are interested. Just let us know how many and where to send them.

Thousands of firefighters from all 50 U.S. states have joined the NFR – and we still need more to join to reach our goal of 200,000+ U.S. firefighters enrolled.

We appreciate your continued support and the work you've done to help firefighters join. By sharing the NFR with your communities, you can make a lasting impact on the fire service.

Thanks so much,

CDR Kevin L Dunn MS, CIH
Team Lead, Fire Fighter Health Program
National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health
513-841 4571



Enroll at <https://NFR.cdc.gov>
Learn more at www.cdc.gov/NFR



GI Bill Changes

On April 16, 2024 the Supreme Court of the United States decided that if you served at least two periods of service - one that qualifies for the Montgomery GI Bill (MGIB) and another that qualifies for the Post-9/11 GI Bill (PGIB) - you may be able to receive additional GI Bill benefits.

If you have previously applied to use VA Education benefits, you may be eligible for additional benefits, if:

You completed more than one eligible period of service, and You waived all or part of your MGIB benefits so you could use PGIB benefits. For more information contact VA Education at 1-888-442-4551.



Navy Fire & Emergency Services Welcomes New Military Firefighter Program Manager



Senior Chief Magdalena Serrano, a native from Richgrove, CA, comes from a family of migrant workers and her military career began in 2003 when she enlisted in the U.S. Navy. Upon successful completion of basic training at Recruit Training Command in Great Lakes, IL she reported to Naval Air Technical Training Center located at Naval Air Station in Pensacola, FL for Airman Apprenticeship Training Program (ATD) for basic theory in aviation fundamental skills and was rated an Undesignated Airman.



Her sea tours include the USS DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER (CVN 69) where she became an Aviation Boatswains Mate. She subsequently served onboard, USS CARL VINSON (CVN-70), USS DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER (CVN 69) for a second tour, USS GEORGE WASHINGTON (CVN 73) in support of a deployment and a three aircraft carrier hull swap/homeport change, and a deployment aboard USS NIMITZ (CVN 68). Additionally, she volunteered for an Individual Augmentee assignment aboard the USS PONCE (AFSB(I)-15), and a 2020 COVID deployment aboard the USS DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER (CVN 69) setting a record-breaking of 208 continuous days at sea for a U.S. Naval Ship.

Her shore assignment includes Goodfellow Air Force Base where she earned certification as a DoD Firefighter with a subsequent assignment to Naval Air Station Whiting Field, FL. Her prior shore assignment was at Naval District Washington Headquarters, Washington, DC as the Transient Personnel Detachment Chief Petty Officer in Charge.

Senior Chief Serrano was selected as the Navy Fire & Emergency Services Military Firefighter Program Manager at Commander, Navy Installations Command (CNIC) Headquarters in Washington D.C. responsible for advising the Navy Fire & Emergency Services Director on utilization, development, and readiness of 439 total force military firefighters. Additionally, Senior Chief Serrano is responsible for establishing career field requirements, monitor health and manning of the fire program, and providing inputs to personnel policies and programs.

Senior Serrano is the sixth senior enlisted leader since the establishment of the Military Firefighter Program Manager billet and the first female assigned in this role.



New CNIC Team Member - Jeremy Rhode



N30 welcomes their newest Staff Member, Jeremy Rhode. Jeremy comes to CNIC N30 from Ewa Beach, Hawaii where he served as the CNR Hawaii District Fire Chief of District 2 (North) since 2020.

In his new role at CNIC, he will be working as a Senior Fire Protection Specialist and our lead for the Navy fire apparatus program and conducting assessments for departments across the enterprise.

His wife of 18 years, Cassy, and their three children (Stormy, Stiles, and Stone) are excited for their new adventure. Despite being continuously let down since he was a child, Jeremy is a diehard Chicago Bears fan. He enjoys supporting his kids' athletic activities (football, swimming, etc.) and sports videography.



NAS JRB New Orleans Recap Message

To the extraordinary team of NAS JRB New Orleans Fire & Emergency Services,

As I reflect on this past year, I am overwhelmed with pride and gratitude. It's nearly impossible to put into words the emotions I feel when I think about what this team has accomplished. You've not only set the standard for excellence—you've redefined it.

This year wasn't just about responding to calls or meeting expectations. It was about answering the call to be men and women of action. From the very beginning, we spoke about leading with ownership, accountability, and courage. We made a commitment to one another: we would never let anyone fail. And you delivered on that promise every single day.

You didn't just face challenges; you conquered them—together. When one of us faltered, the rest of the team stepped in, proving that true leadership isn't about titles, but about action. You refused to let anyone fall behind, and because of that, we didn't just survive this year—we thrived this year.

You demonstrated that this department isn't just a workplace—it's a family. A family that stands united, faces every challenge head-on, and refuses to settle for anything less than the best. Your unwavering loyalty to each other, your dedication to the mission, and your relentless pursuit of

excellence have inspired not only me but everyone who has had the privilege to witness your work.

In my eyes, there is no greater department in the entire DoD. None. And that's because of YOU—your courage, your heart, and your refusal to let anyone fail. You've set a legacy of pride, professionalism, and action that others can only dream of achieving.

Watching the video recap of our year was a powerful reminder of everything we've built together. Every moment captured wasn't just a highlight—it was proof of the family we've become and the legacy we are leaving behind. Here is the video link: <https://www.facebook.com/share/v/iMk1Gs8mKJMnWUYW/>

Leading this team has been one of the greatest honors of my life. To stand alongside men and women of such strength, integrity, and heart is a privilege I do not take lightly. Thank you for trusting me to lead, for inspiring me every day, and for showing the world what it truly means to be men and women of action who never, ever let each other fail.

With deepest respect and gratitude,

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



Reservists Supporting the Fleet: Crucial Assistance to NSA Naples Fire & Emergency Services



Story by: ABHC Ryan Eck and ABHC Akiel Mayers

Naples, Italy—A team of 20 Navy Reservists from five different detachments significantly impacted Fire & Emergency Services operations in Naples, Italy, during the fourth quarter of Fiscal Year 2024. From July 14 to September 27, these dedicated service members provided critical support, contributing 3,696 man-hours and responding to 154 emergency calls.

The reservists demonstrated their versatility and skill by responding to a wide range of emergencies. Among the 154 incidents were medical emergencies, fire alarm activations, dumpster fires, brush fires, two hazardous material fuel spills, a ruptured underground water pipe, and numerous elevator rescues. Their quick response and proficiency in handling such diverse situations ensured that every emergency was managed efficiently, minimizing damage and ensuring public safety.

Aside from their emergency responses, the reservists invested significant time in extensive training in key areas essential to fire and emergency operations. They completed training in automatic sprinkler operations, MRI response familiarization, confined space rescue, overhaul procedures, thermal imaging, rapid intervention, forcible entry, ladder operations, First Aid, and mass casualty response. Their commitment to preparedness was further demonstrated through drills focused on SCBA (Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus) skills, hand-line opera-

tions, master stream operations, and property conservation, ensuring they were well-prepared for any situation.

The reservists also completed (45) 1410 proficiency drills, which tested and honed their abilities in various fire response scenarios, such as the rapid deployment of supply lines, forward and reverse lay techniques, and connections to portable master stream appliances. These exercises ensured they were prepared for the most complex emergencies.



ABH3 Tristan Blanchet receives Aerial training. (Left Photo) ABH3 JustinRay Santos uses forcible entry tool to breach a door. (Courtesy Photos)

Alongside emergency response and drills, the team conducted 10 fire drill building inspections, which are essential for maintaining safety standards. Additionally, two reservists achieved CPR recertification, and 64 dedicated hours were spent completing the CDC Hazmat Technician certification, further enhancing the team's readiness.

The 20 reservists in this mission came from five detachments: Det. Alpha 83409, Det. Bravo 87034, Det. Charlie 87842, Det. Delta 4044S, and Det. Echo 86657. Each reservist brought unique skills and experience, playing a pivotal role in the success of this operation.

Con't. on next page

Reservist Supporting the Fleet (Con't)

The team included: ABF1 Rebeca Cordova, ABF1 Rosa Garcia Reyes, ABF1 Jacob Chaco, ABH1 Mike Cerrato, ABH1 Kara Flick, ABH1 Jeffrey Atkins, ABH1 Basay Jensen, ABH1 Francisco Barahona, HM1 Kenneth Howard, ABH2 Adolfo Sandoval, ABH2 Eric Tejada, ABH2 Kimberly Prado, ABH2 JustinRay Santos, ABH2 Juan Lozanomata, ABH2 Kaylah Wiley, ABH2 Cuauhtemoc Gandara, YN2 SimoneEvanson, ABH3 Tristan Blanchet, ABH3 Rene Gomez Jr., and ABH3 Tyler Richardson.

Their hard work and dedication were instrumental in ensuring the continued safety of Naples and its surrounding areas.

The contributions of these 20 reservists demonstrate the vital role that Reservist personnel play in supporting the Navy and emergency services. Their efforts during the fourth quarter of Fiscal Year 2024 provided invaluable assistance to Naples, highlighting their professionalism, training, and commitment to safeguarding the community.



(Above) ABH2 Eric Tejada carries a ladder during ladder training. Blanchet receives Aerial training. (Below Photo) ABH3 Adolfo Sandoval observes Vent-Enter-Search training. (Courtesy Photos)



ABH2 Kimberly Prado practices 1410 drills hose lays.



Editor's Note: During the November issue page 27 included the list of Previous Area Fire Marshals and Directors page and some names were not reflecting or listed incorrect status. Requesting assistance on status of members listed as Previous Area Fire Marshals and Directors on page 28 of this issue. We received info on some on the list who have passed away and others not on our list.

Please contact our Director Carl Glover via email with updates. carl.b.glover.civ@us.navy.mil

Naval Weapons Seal Beach Fire Department: Strengthening Community Ties Through Engaged Participation

Story and Photos by: Fire Chief Matt Rios



Last October, at the heart of every thriving community lies active participation, mutual support, and a strong sense of togetherness. The Naval Weapons Seal Beach Federal Fire Department exemplifies these values with their continuous and enthusiastic involvement in various community events throughout the year. Their dedication goes far beyond the call of duty, highlighting their commitment to not just safety and protection, but also to fostering strong, supportive relationships within the base and the broader community.

One notable event is the annual base beach clean-up, where members of the fire department join hands with residents and other community members to ensure that the local beaches and areas around the installation remain pristine and enjoyable for everyone. This initiative not only helps in keeping the environment clean but also allows the fire department to engage with the community in a positive and proactive manner.

Health and wellness are prioritized through the base community fall expo, an event where the fire department plays a crucial role. By providing essential



health and safety information, conducting demonstrations. Their presence at these fairs is a testament to their commitment to the overall well-being of the community.

The annual walk to school is another cherished event, where firefighters walk along-



side children, ensuring their safety and encouraging a healthy, active lifestyle. This event is a wonderful opportunity for the fire department to build trust with young residents and their families, reinforcing the department's role as a friendly and dependable community ally.

CPR training sessions are a significant part of the fire department's engagement efforts. By conducting multiple CPR training sessions throughout the base for

tenants and families, they empower the community with life-saving skills that could make a crucial



Con't. on next page

Naval Weapons Seal Beach Fire Department (*con't.*)

difference in emergencies. These sessions are invaluable in creating a community that is not only aware but also prepared.



Celebrations like the base trunk or treat and Fire Prevention Week open house are eagerly anticipated events where the fire department's participation is instrumental. Partnering with mutual aid partners, they create an environment of fun and learning, educating the community on fire safety while also ensuring an enjoyable experience for all. These events highlight the department's dedication to safety education, awareness, and community bonding.

Moreover, the Naval Weapons Seal Beach Fire Department works closely with the

Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR) office, supporting their events with fire department appearances. These appearances enhance the morale of community members and reinforce the fire department's commitment to being an integral part of the community's social fabric.

The continuous involvement of the Naval Weapons Seal Beach Fire Department in community events underscores the importance of such activities in building partnerships and trust. These events strengthen the bonds between the fire department and the community, showcasing their commitment to not just serve but also to be active, caring members of the community. By participating in these events, they not only support and protect but also enrich the lives of those they serve, making the community a safer, happier place to live.



Around the Firehouse

NAS Oceana F&ES Gets a Visit From Elf



From trying on the gear to checking out the engines, Air Ops Elf got a crash course in firefighting and emergency response from our incredible NAS Oceana Fire & Emergency Services team!

These hard-working members of Team Oceana are always ready to protect and serve our installation community—keeping our mission and our people safe.

Navy Region Mid-Atlantic Fire & Emergency Services



NALF Fentress Ready for the Holidays



The Team at NALF Fentress Station 29 (NAS Oceana) wishes you a happy holidays. (Courtesy Photo)

Around the Firehouse (*con't.*)

Norfolk Naval Shipyard F&ES Conducts FEP

The installation received a validation visit from CNIC HQ on 9-13 December. Here are some pictures of their NFPA 1410 drills conducted during their FEP validation.



Around the Firehouse (*con't.*)

Navy Fire Hosted Fall Navy Fire Officer Training Course

Navy Fire & Emergency Services held its second Navy Fire Officer Training Course on 2-6 December, 2024 at CNIC in Washington DC. The course also allowed the opportunity of subject matter expert presentations from various CNIC N-codes (such as support agreements and facilities) and mentorship sessions. Next course will be held early June, 2025.

For questions and to sign up for the course please contact Chris Handley, Deputy Director Navy Fire & Emergency Services via email at christopher.d.handley5.civ@us.navy.mil.



Merry Christmas From NSA Annapolis

Members of the Naval District Washington Fire & Emergency Services at NSA Annapolis stations 46 & 47 prepare to enjoy Christmas together. (Courtesy Photo)



Around the Firehouse (*con't.*)

Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake F&ES Conducts FEP

The installation received a validation visit from CNIC HQ on 2-6 December. Here are some pictures of their NFPA 1410



Around the Firehouse (*con't.*)

Brandon Lamay Retirement at Navy Region Mid Atlantic F&ES



Congratulations Brandon Lamay 2024 Retirement. (*Courtesy Photos*).

NAS Oceana Civilian of the Year



Captain Brett Smith was recognized as NAS Oceana Civilian of the Year, with the award presented by Commanding Officer Captain Joshua Appezato at Fire Station 7. Joined by his parents, wife, children, and coworkers, Captain Smith was honored for his impactful contributions, including his leadership as Logistics Section Chief during the Air Show, drafting critical SOPs, coordinating key equipment upgrades, and advancing training and compliance initiatives. Congratulations to Captain Smith on this well-earned recognition!

(*Courtesy Photo*).



NWS Seal Beach Life Saving Award Presentation

Story by: Matt Rios, Naval Weapons Station Seal Beach Fire Chief

We are proud to announce the remarkable achievements of our dedicated members at the Navy Weapons Station Seal Beach Federal Fire Department, who have been honored with the prestigious Life Saving Awards. This ceremony underscores the incredible commitment, skill, and professionalism of our team—a true embodiment of bravery in service to others.

In 2024, our talented crew displayed exceptional proficiency in life-saving measures, successfully performing CPR in critical situations. Through their expertise, five out of six individuals regained pulses and started to breathe on their own, either prior to or upon reaching the hospital. These heroic efforts exemplify the profound impact of our rigorous training programs and the unwavering dedication of our members to preserve human life.

On 31 October, Installation Commander Jessica O'Brien and Installation Executive Officer Colleen French had the honor of presenting these well-deserved awards to the extraordinary crew of Engine 31. Their actions not only reflect their individual brilliance but also strengthen our collective commitment to the safety and well-being of our community.

Each award is a testament to our department's exceptional standards and the lives saved are a powerful reminder of the profound difference we make every day.

Congratulations once again to our award recipients. Your courage and professionalism inspire us all.



(From left) Engineer Brian Henriquez, Engineer Jose Velasco, Firefighter Sarah Will, CAPT Jessica O'Brien (Commanding Officer), Firefighter Andre Ramsey, Captain Ralph Nadler, and Captain Javier Murguia. (Courtesy Photo)



(From left to right photos) Captain Jessica O'Brien (Commanding Officer) presented awards to Probationary Firefighter Joshua Banta, Firefighter Huy Ly, Engineer Luis Mata, Firefighter Chad Mohr. (Courtesy Photos)

Fire Resistive Construction and Its Important Aspect to Building Construction

Story by: Mark Weil (Retired Assistant Chief of Fire Prevention, U.S. Navy Fire & Emergency Services), Navy Hall of Fame #51

Building construction involves many complex elements. In this newsletter our discussion will be about fire resistive construction. When these elements involve the fire inspector this can include inspecting facilities for discrepancies to ensure compliance with the building and fire codes. And when it involves the fire plans examiner this can include analyzing building construction through architectural drawings and or plans to ensure compliance. The NFPA Fire Code 1 with Navy Amendments as indicated in Chapter 1 Administration and International Building Code (IBC) provide further guidance to the inspector and plans examiner in reference to fire resistive construction.

The fire resistive construction involves fire partitions, fire barriers and fire walls. The following is directly from the IBC to provide specific guidance to these elements:

- **Fire Partition:** The building code defines a fire partition as construction that is in accordance with Section 708 of the IBC, and these are wall assemblies that enclose exit access corridors; separate tenant spaces in covered malls, dwelling units and sleeping units; and separate elevator lobbies from the balance of a floor. Openings in fire partitions must be properly protected, but the total area of openings in a fire partition is not limited. Unlike the continuity requirements for fire walls and fire barriers, fire partition continuity must only be continuous from floor slab to the floor slab or roof deck above or to the ceiling of a fire-resistance-rated floor/ceiling or roof/ceiling assembly. Although fire partitions must normally be supported by construction having a comparable fire-resistance rating in buildings of Type IIB, IIIB and VB construction, as defined in the IBC, Section 708.4 of that code does not require such supportive construction for sleeping units and tenant separations and exit access corridor walls.

- **Fire Barrier:** The Fire barriers are constructed in accordance with Section 707 of the IBC and provide a higher degree of protection than fire partitions, but lack the inherent structural integrity of fire walls and, unlike fire partitions, there are no circumstances under which a fire barrier wall is permitted to terminate at a ceiling. Fire barriers are used for a variety of purposes, including but not limited to, separating exits and certain areas of refuge, mixed occupancies and incidental use areas, shafts, floor opening enclosures, hazardous materials control areas and fire areas. It is important to note that, since fire barriers are intended to provide a reliable subdivision of areas, the construction that structurally supports the assembly is

required to provide and maintain at least the same hourly fire-resistance rating as the fire barrier being supported.

- **Fire Wall:** Fire walls are constructed in accordance with Section 706 of the IBC and serve to create separate buildings (see the commentary to the definition of “Area, building” in Chapter 2 of the code); therefore, all applicable provisions of the code are applied individually to the building on each side of the fire wall. As such, the fire wall must also provide the same protection afforded by exterior walls, namely: structural integrity, structural independence and adequate fire resistance for exposure protection.

- The IBC also includes requirements for fire-resistance rating, continuity and opening and penetration protection in these types of assemblies. Because these assemblies and their opening protectives are critical life safety components of a building, they must be maintained throughout the life of the building. Opening protective maintenance provisions for these types of assemblies are contained in NFPA 80. For further information on firewalls, fire barriers and fire partitions, see the commentaries to Sections 706, 707 and 708 of the IBC, respectively.

Building design must meet the requirements noted based on the construction criteria presented. When it comes to rated assemblies, the details are everything. These assemblies are composed of elements that are properly tested and listed accordingly. Identifying each effectively is vital for fire safety both from the fire plans examiner and the fire inspector point of view. In summary, fire resistive construction is just one aspect of fire resistive elements and should be a factor in the enforcement entities perspectives. Below are some informative links of fire resistive information to utilize as a fire inspector and or fire plans examiner.

- Gypsum Association: <https://gypsum.org>
- Underwriters Laboratory: <https://www.ul.com>
- National Gypsum Company: <https://www.nationalgypsum.com>
- United States Gypsum: <https://www.usg.com>



Marine Corps Recruit Depot Food Trailer Fire

Story and Photos by: Commander, Navy Region Southwest Fire & Emergency Services



MCRD Food Trailer fire with one smoke inhalation injury. Initial report of smoke coming from a food truck trailer located outside of Building 590.

Battalion 12 arrived on scene and Engine 19 passed command to Battalion 12.

During the operation, one individu-

Confirmed CDO was notified by Security. One smoke inhalation injury transported to Sharp Memorial.

Incident Summary:

On December 3, 2024, at 1112 hrs, MCRD Engine 19 was dispatched to a report of smoke coming from a food truck trailer located outside of Building 590. Upon arrival, Engine 19 observed white smoke emanating from the vent system and inner walls of the trailer. Dispatch was immediately notified of the situation. Engine 19 established "Trailer Command," secured a water source, and deployed two handlines: one to the Alpha side and another to the Bravo side entrance of the trailer.

Engine 19 began fire attack in a transitional mode. The Incident Commander (IC) conducted a 360-degree assessment of the trailer and determined that there were no immediate threats or rescue operations necessary. Exposures on the Charlie side of the trailer were identified but did not pose a significant concern. All propane tanks were shut off, and electrical cords and generators were disconnected from the trailer to mitigate any further risks.

Although no visible fire was observed on the exterior or interior of the trailer, charring was noted on the outer walls on the Alpha side. Fire attack transitioned the operation to "Fast Attack," focusing on cooling and extinguishing the smoke from the exterior of the trailer.

Engine 110 arrived on scene to assist with further suppression efforts. Using a K12 saw, Engine 110 gained access to the outer walls of the trailer, allowing crews to locate the point of origin and apply additional water to the interior walls, ensuring the complete extinguishment of smoke and any remaining hot spots.

al was treated for a smoke inhalation injury and was transported to Sharp Memorial Hospital for further evaluation and care. Once all smoke had been cleared and the trailer was confirmed to be smoke-free, dispatch was notified, and all emergency vehicles were cleared from the scene.



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MCRD Food Trailer Fire (*Con't*)

Points of Interest:

Engine 19 established "Trailer Command" upon arrival and initiated fire attack operations.

The white smoke emanating from the trailer's vent system and inner walls was contained without visible fire.

Charring on the Alpha side outer walls was identified, but no fire was observed within the trailer.

Engine 110 assisted with fire suppression, using a K12 saw to gain access to the trailer's outer walls to locate the point of origin.

The propane tanks and electrical systems were safely shut down to prevent further hazards.

One patient with a smoke inhalation injury was

transported to Sharp Memorial for medical treatment.

The trailer was confirmed to be smoke-free once the operation concluded, and emergency crews were cleared from the scene.

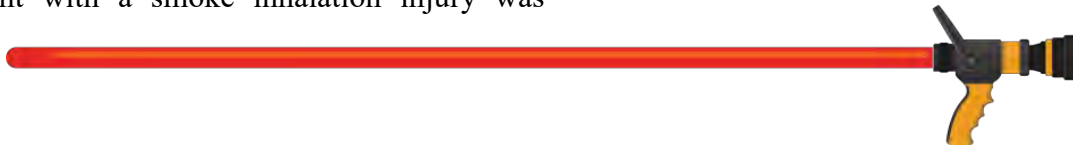
Noteworthy:

Effective coordination and communication between Engine 19 and Engine 110 allowed for a rapid and thorough suppression of the smoke.

No immediate threats to rescue personnel or exposures were encountered during the operation.

Safety measures, including shutting off propane tanks and disconnecting electrical systems, were taken to mitigate further risk to personnel and surrounding structures.

The safety of personnel on scene remained a high priority throughout the operation.



Still Serving: NS Rota



An old picture of a 2012 E-One 1500 GWT, US Navy Fire Dept. NS Rota, Spain (*Courtesy Photo*)



This year's Memorial Service will be held on 28 Mar at 3PM at the DOD Fallen Firefighter Memorial.

The MFHF Awards Banquet and Ball will be Held on 29 Mar 25 at the San Angelo McNease Convention Center. Tickets on sale on the foundation web site: [2025 MFHF Awards Banquet and Ball at McNease Convention Center - StubWire.com](https://www.stubwire.com/2025-MFHF-Awards-Banquet-and-Ball-at-McNease-Conven-tion-Center)



We also encourage you to visit the official Military Firefighter Heritage Foundation website www.mffhf.com for information.

Mike Robertson, President/Executive Director
 Military Firefighter Heritage Foundation
 PO Box 60241
 San Angelo, TX 76906
www.mffhf.com
info@mffhf.com



Back in the Day: U.S. Navy Grove Aerial Ladder

Story by Tom Shand

During the decade of the 1960's the U.S. Navy aerial ladder fleet consisted of several vintage American Lafrance 700 series midship devices along with four recently acquired American Lafrance 900 85 foot tractor drawn aerials that were assigned to the Philadelphia NSY, Norfolk Naval Base, Great Lakes Naval Base and Hawaii at Pearl Harbor. Beyond those manufactures that built their own aerial devices the Grove Manufacturing Company in Shady Grove, Pennsylvania began offering their crane style constructed aerials in 1959.

Grove Manufacturing began fabricating farm wagons during 1947 and its founder John L. Grove developed a crane that was utilized to move heavy materials and machinery for various industries. The Grove aerial ladder was initially offered in lengths from 65 to 100 feet for midship mounting on commercial or custom chassis. Due to the influence of the crane design this device was considerably heavier and much more rigid and stable when compared to the light duty aerial ladders currently being produced.

Grove supplied their devices to several apparatus builders including Barton American, Hahn Motors, Howe, John Bean, Oren and Ward Lafrance. This increased competition in the market place for aerial devices as the Grove aerial ladders began to be designed for use with midship, rear mount and tractor drawn aerials.

Ward Lafrance Corporation of Elmira Heights, New York had previously utilized Maxim aerial ladders for their builds and recognizing the unique design and capabilities of the Grove aerials began to offer these devices on their custom chassis as well as several built with the Ford C model commercial chassis for budget minded departments.

During 1967 the U.S. Navy took delivery of a Ward Lafrance model A80 aerial device equipped with a Grove three section 65 foot ladder, this unit assigned to the North Island Station in San Diego. Ladder 42 carried USN property number 74-00041 and Ward serial number 80-191. This rig was built on a 200 inch wheelbase and powered by a Waukesha F817G gas engine rated at 325 horsepower with a five speed manual transmission.



San Diego North Island NAS Truck 2 1967 WLF Grove 65 foot #74-00041 #80-191 (Photo by Garry Kadzielawski)



Along with the normal truck company equipment the vehicle carried 228 feet of ground ladders and portable ladder pipe.

For unknown reasons, this rig would be the only Grove aerial device in the U.S. Navy fleet with no other aerial ladders acquired until 1974 when three American Lafrance 1000 series 85 foot midship aerial ladders were acquired for Charleston, Norfolk and Portsmouth, Maine.

The Grove aerial design was ahead of its time and during 1970 a rear mounted 85 foot platform was introduced which was revolutionary at that time.

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Back in the Day (con't.):

In 1973, Grove Manufacturing sold its aerial ladder division to concentrate on their mobile crane business with a new company formed called Ladder Towers Incorporated in Leola, Pennsylvania. This company continued to engineer and build aerial and tower devices and offered them to any other apparatus manufacturers. This enabled apparatus manufacturers of all sizes from smaller companies like Bruco in Altoona and Hahn in Hamburg, Pennsylvania along with Sanford Fire Apparatus in East Syracuse, New York to provide this heavy duty style of aerial device for departments in their market area. Prior to designing their own aerial devices Pierce Manufacturing utilized the Ladder Towers units for several years with other builders using a variety of chassis including Duplex, Kenworth and Seagrave with some unique body designs during this period.

The U.S. Navy aerial fleet operated with one other LTI aerial device a 100 foot tractor drawn ladder for Atsugi, Japan a 1979 Pemfab chassis with bodywork by Fire Trucks Incorporated, this rig assigned USN property number 73-00046. After this acquisition the Navy returned to acquiring rear mount aerial ladders built by Ward Lafrance and Seagrave. Back in the day aerial device offerings were much different than what is currently available.



CFAY Atsugi Ladder 4 1979 Pemfab 93 FTI LTI 100 foot #7300046 (Photo from the Dennis Maag Collection)



Mid Atlantic F&ES Personnel Recognized

Captain Josh Appezzato, Commanding Officer, NAS Oceana visited Fire Station 7 to present Flag Letters of Commendation signed by Rear Admiral Lahti to Firefighter/Paramedic Lester Schneider and Firefighter/EMT John Kim, assigned to Dam Neck Annex.

In partnership with Security Forces, they intervened during a suicide attempt in progress, providing life-saving care through de-escalation, stabilization, and rapid transport to an appropriate treatment facility. Job well done.

If you or someone you know is in crisis, call or text the Suicide & Crisis Lifeline at 988.

(Courtesy Photo)



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	TRF - Kings Bay	Full Scale Exercise	17-21 February, 2025
CNRMA	MARMC	Full Scale Exercise	23-28 February, 2025
CNRSE	NAS Key West	FEP	23-28 February, 2025
CNRE	NSA Souda Bay	FEP	2-8 March, 2025
CNRMA	Naval Station Rota	FEP	9-15 March, 2025
CNRMA	Portsmouth Naval Shipyard	Full Scale Exercise	23-29 March, 2025
CNRSW	SWRMC - San Diego	Full Scale Exercise	23-29 March, 2025
CNRMA	NSA Hampton Roads	FEP	23-29 March, 2025
CNRSW	NAS Lemoore	FEP	6-12 April, 2025
CNRE	FDRMC Detachment Bahrain	Full Scale Exercise	14-18 April, 2025
CNRSE	NAS Kingsville	FEP	14-18 April, 2025
CNRMA	JEB Little Creek	FEP	14-18 April, 2025
CNRSE	NAS Whiting Field	FEP	20-26 April, 2025
CNRMA	Naval Station Great Lakes	FEP	21-24 April, 2025
CNRE	NSA Souda Bay	NATOPS	22-24 April, 2025

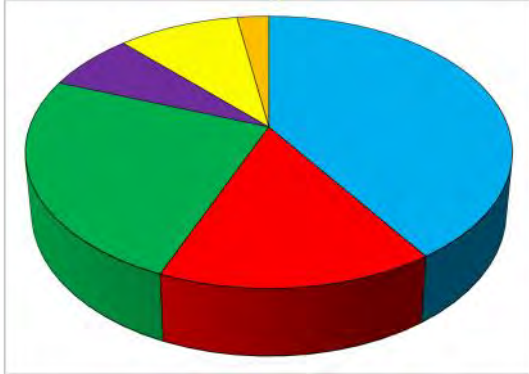
Note: Please stay in touch with Eric Rhode, as dates are subject to change.

ESAMS Corner Update

By: Angela Jordain, ESAMS Fire Technical Support

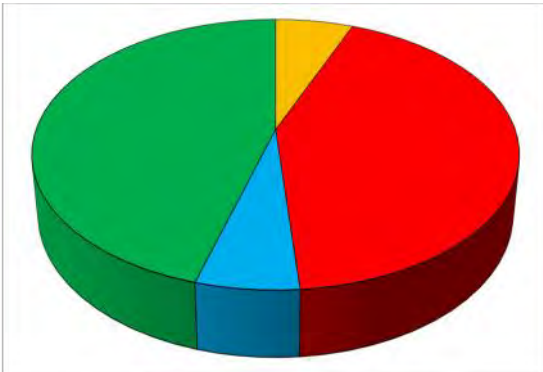
CY 2024 Statistics (1 January – 31 December)

Operations



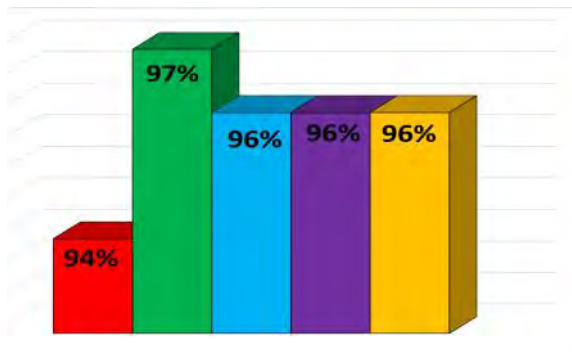
Rescue & EMS	24,037
Hazardous	8,462
False Alarm	13,691
Service Calls	4,006
Good Intent	5,787
Fires	1,465
Total	57,448

Prevention



Fire Public Ed Classes	3,866
Hot Work Permits	26,810
Inspections	26,903
Building Evacuation Drills	4,150
Total	61,729

Training



EMS	96%
Proficiency	94%
Emergency Management	97%
Safety	96%
DoD Certification	96%

F&ES on Duty Mishaps Report CY 24

Mishaps Reported: 36
Total Lost Work Days: 131

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.cnmc.navy.mil/FES-Newsletter>

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Vacant X 2

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ABHCS Maggie Serrano
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Mary Anderson
858-945-9963

Matt McQuaig
202-433-9872

Robert Sepulveda
619-504-4923

Jeremy Rhode
202-550-7076

Previous Navy Fire & Emergency Services Directors and Area Fire Marshals

AREA FIRE MARSHALS

Harry Anderson	John Hannan	Clarence Rout*
William Baldwin	L.G. Hart	Ira Simmons*
A.H. Benson	Bill Hennessy*	John Simpson
Francis Brannigan*	J. Ramon Hoshall	Virgil Slater
Dave Butler*	Don Huber	Douglas Thomas*
John Connolly	Jack Killsgaard	Bob Tofson*
John Crowell	Dudley King*	Robert Valentine
Jerry Dallas	Bill Knight	Andrew Weiss
Ray Dratt	Gerald Makowski*	Don Weitkamp
Hugh Dykins	James Manser*	Bud Williams*
Charles Gindele*	Lewis Meyer*	Dave Wise
Bruce Goodwin	Ralph Murphy	Don Young
Ernie Groft	Russell Noyes	Lee Green
John Wentzel*	Richard Rightmer	

F&ES DIRECTORS

Larry Duhrkoop
Robert Darwin*
Richard Rightmer
Orville Emory*
Bill Killen*

DEPUTY DIRECTORS

Robert Williams*
Eugene Carmody*
Ronald Guilliams
Kevin King
James Karcher
Ricky Brockman*
Gene Rausch

* Denotes Hall of Fame Inductee

Navy F&ES

Legacy

To submit to
What's Happening
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Carl B. Glover Jr. at:
carl.b.glover.civ@us.navy.mil
or
SCPO Anthony F. Pena at:
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