



DES Newsletter - November 2011

Greetings Everyone,

In honor of Military Family Appreciation Month, I'd like to start off by highlighting the efforts of our Police Department in the area of Community Oriented Policing. To be successful, police must be able to show that they are an actual and intricate part of a community and not just a bunch of individuals going around and handing out tickets. Sergeant Mary Lou Atkins has been in the forefront of these efforts and I want to thank her for her all that she has done for our service members and family members here at Picatinny Arsenal.



One of the things that makes Emergency Services a challenge is the fact that oftentimes you never know when you're going to be called upon to demonstrate your skills. Case in point, the radio is relatively quiet when all of a sudden Sergeant Paulo Aquiles tones you out to respond to the scene of an accident where an employee was severely burned while testing flares. In seconds, police, fire, EMS, and CIU are responding and coordinating their actions over the radio. Before you know it, the victim is treated, packaged, and safely flown out to a burn center. My hat is off to all of the men and women who answered the call to rescue a fellow employee here at Picatinny Arsenal. Your service **does** make a difference.



On a recent trip, my wife and I stopped at a rest stop to get a bite to eat. We purchased our food, sat down and noticed that a young man was going through a job interview. Good for him I thought, but then I looked over and saw that he had a ball cap that was turned around and had the running hatchet man symbol on it. Recognizing that this is a sign of possible gang activity and not just someone who likes hip-hop music, I spoke to a state trooper who was also grabbing some lunch. I asked him if he knew that he possibly had Juggalos in his jurisdiction, but he had no clue what I was talking about. Unfortunately, I didn't have time to explain to the trooper that gang members have a variety of ways to identify themselves including signs, symbols, clothing, graffiti, codes, tattoos, and whatever else they can think of. One little symbol by itself does not provide enough evidence of anything. But, by putting the pieces of a

puzzle together, you develop probable cause so that you can take appropriate action to safeguard yourself and the public. I'm not advocating profiling of any kind or violating anyone's civil rights. The point that I'm trying to make is that if you're in the law enforcement or security profession, it is your job to be streetwise, be aware of your surroundings, and be able to recognize signs of suspicious or criminal activity. It's just what we do.

In the field of Emergency Services, we're always looking for ways to enhance our professional development so that we may better serve the people in our community. Through the Air Force, DOD employees are eligible to take online courses to advance their career. For example, I just completed the Hazardous Materials Awareness



Course online by through their website at <http://www.au.af.mil/au/afiadl>. Afterwards, I received a diploma and DOD certification. There are other courses there, so I invite you to check it out. We're also looking at an opportunity to conduct firefighter certification training through online means and at the Fire Station. If you're interested, send an e-mail to Captain Christopher Barrella (he's on the global). We'll look at what we've got and if there's enough interest, we'll take it from there. As always, I will do my part to keep you informed.



You've heard me speak many times before about the importance of Officer Safety, but this next story hits very close to home as it involves a law enforcement officer and a Soldier where I formerly served. Deputy James Paugh was a traffic officer with the Richmond County Sheriff's Office in Augusta, Georgia. As he was coming off duty late one evening, he spotted a vehicle that pulled off the highway not far from the Main Gate of Fort Gordon. This seemed suspicious and when he stopped to investigate, a gunfight erupted between him and Army National Guardsman armed with an M-4 assault rifle. What the deputy didn't know was that the Soldier was intoxicated, had been involved in a dispute with his girlfriend (who later said that her boyfriend became extremely violent whenever he got drunk), and was also firing into traffic. In this battle, the suspect fired 42 rounds total while the deputy fired 3 rounds from his pistol. In the end, the deputy died as a result of being shot 9 times and the Soldier sustained a gunshot to his left forearm and died from a self-inflicted gunshot wound to the head. From an Officer Safety perspective, it should be noted that one of the bullets fired by the suspect disabled the deputy's pistol. Do you know what you would do if you were in a similar circumstance? Our condolences go out to both the civilian and military communities on this tragic and senseless loss.

The holidays are upon us and while many of us will be working again on these days, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you for the service that all of you in Police, Fire, and Security provide to our community. And from our family to yours, may you all have a safe and enjoyable Veterans Day and Thanksgiving.

Richard J. Karlsson
Director of Emergency Services