



## DES Newsletter – April 2011

Greetings Everyone,

Normally, I like to start off talking about all of the good things going on for us here at Picatinny Arsenal. But, after a rough start this month with different things going on and questions about the budget etc, I want to try and put things in perspective for you. The Army is all about change and if you blink too long, you're bound to miss something. Speaking of changes, General Martin E. Dempsey just took over as the 37<sup>th</sup> Chief of Staff of the Army (CSA). So what does this mean to you as a civilian?

This is the General who will be leading the Department of the Army through transition as we adapt to meet the challenges of the future. When he served as the Commanding General of the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command, his job was to be the, "Army's Architect for the Future." As the CSA now, he understands that in order to take on these challenges, we have to strengthen the, "Bond of Trust," amongst the people we work with and the people we serve. At DES, we need to be the architect's of our own future so that we can meet the needs of our community. It ain't going to be easy, but it starts with communication and that's the intent of this Newsletter...to keep you informed about the things which affect you, your family, and your community. Stay tuned...



I told our Garrison Commander (GC), LTC Herb Koehler, the other day that I wish he had been here four years ago, so that he could see how far we've come as an organization. We've come so far that we're actually contenders for awards within the Department of Defense. In fact, CPT Christopher Barrella was selected as the Northeast Region's Fire Instructor of the Year. In true testament of, "Being at the right place at the right time," he put together a great radiological detection training program. In the aftermath of the nuclear power plant disaster in Japan, this type of training is proving to be critical. To see the article written about this in the Picatinny Voice, go to:

<https://www.pica.army.mil/eVoice/article.aspx?ArticleID=1826>

Police Officers are also making great things happen in our community. The GC and CSM Scott Koroll came over to recognize Officer Daniel Solomita, Officer Thomas King and SGT Paulo Aquiles for their outstanding performance of duty in the arrest of seven illegal aliens suspected of engaging in human trafficking. LT Kevin Washington and Officer Douglas Wright will also be receiving Commander's Coins for their efforts. A "shout out" also goes out to LT Cesar Bastos for making things happen.





In the world of illegal drugs, somebody is always trying to come up with something new. This requires those in law enforcement to keep informed and to be adaptive in their countermeasures used to protect the community. Case in point, with the growing popularity of so called “fake pot” or “fake marijuana,” the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) took action to temporarily place five synthetic cannabinoids under Schedule I of the Controlled Substances Act. Thus, the use, possession or distribution of these substances is now illegal pending further review

by the DEA. The U.S. Army’s Judge Advocate General followed up by issuing guidance that this action makes the use, possession, or distribution of these substances by service members punishable under the Uniform Code of Military Justice. So, if you’re on duty at one of our Access Control Points or on police patrol and you come in contact with someone possessing an item with a brand name such as “K2,” “Spice,” “Blaze,” “Red X Dawn” or labeled as, “Herbal Incense,” you’ll need to take appropriate action. If there are any doubts about what you’re seeing or what to do, contact our Criminal Investigations Unit or our Prosecutor.

From the Friendly Reminder Department... personally, I’ve lost count of the number of times that I responded to “suspicious item” or “suspicious package” calls. Most of the time, they turn out to be false or the action of a person with certain problems (just ask me about the time we found the big metallic cooking pot which contained alarm clocks, books, ceramic birds, and a love note in front of the 4-star’s headquarters). However, as another case in point, a terrorist recently left an item unattended at a bus stop in Israel which ultimately exploded. That’s why you can never let your guard down on these types of calls and why you have to handle them appropriately just as you have been trained to do so.



Before I go, I want to thank everyone in Police, Fire, and Security once again for all of your efforts in keeping Picatinny Arsenal safe and secure. The work that you do to protect the public does not go unnoticed and it is truly appreciated.

One more thing before I go, the budget issues have caused a delay in our efforts to build a new police station. However, we’re working with the GC and Directorate of Public Works to find other options. I’ll talk more about that next month. In the meantime...hang in there.

Richard J. Karlsson  
Director of Emergency Services