



DES Newsletter – July 2011

Greetings Everyone,

One of the things I always enjoyed about the Army was having the opportunity to serve with some great leaders. One of them, General John Shalikashvili, passed away this month. General Shali (as we called him) came to the U.S. from Poland and was the first immigrant and the first draftee to become Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. I had the honor of serving as his Military Police Company Commander at the U.S. European Command Headquarters, in Stuttgart-Vaihingen, Germany. For me, he was a down-to-earth Soldier's General who cared about the people who were protecting him. Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta remembered him as a, "Stalwart advocate for the brave men and women who don the uniform and stand guard over this nation." That is something that I will remember while serving with the police officers, firefighters, and security guards here at Picatinny Arsenal.



It is always a pleasure when we're able to recognize our personnel for their outstanding service. Our Garrison Commander, LTC Herb Koehler, recently came over to present Commander's Coins to Fire Captain Dave Parker, Firefighter (FF) Jeff Baird, FF Terrance Kennedy, and Police Sergeant Robert Taylor for their quick and effective response to a medical emergency call (not pictured is FF Charles Baumgardner and Sharon from EMS)). We also want to take this opportunity to recognize the following personnel who will be receiving length of service awards for all of their years of dedicated service to the United States Government: Chief Bruce Gough - 30 years; LT John Benyo - 20 years; Officer Matthew Springsteel - 20 years; LT John Berrie - 15 years; LT Cesar Bastos - 10 years; Officer Ryan McLaughlin - 10 years; SGT Robert Taylor - 10 years; Officer Joseph Budinger - 5 years; Officer James Francois - 5 years; LT Dennis Simon Jr. - 5 years. Congratulations to all.

If you take a look at the Newsletter's banner, you'll see that our Fire Department's new ladder truck has arrived. Our firefighters will be going through formal training with the newly designated Ladder 17, but for now here are some photographs of them putting the apparatus into action (they call it "Flying"):



This next story is a tragedy which hits close to home since the victim was a sheriff's deputy, volunteer firefighter, and former military police officer. K-9 Deputy Kyle Pagerly, of the Berks County Sheriff's Department in Reading, PA, was a member of a fugitive task force assigned to arrest a man on a variety of charges. The suspect stated before that he was looking to provoke the police into shooting him (indicative of Suicide by Cop) and that he wasn't going down quietly. When the task force arrived, the suspect ran out of the back armed with an AK-47 assault rifle and exchanged gunfire with them. The suspect and the deputy were both mortally wounded. As we mourn the loss of Deputy Pagerly and pay respect to his family, we also remember the importance of officer safety in every situation we encounter.

It is a known fact that mutual aid is just a way of life for those of us serving in the Emergency Services (ES) Profession. Given the challenges of providing mutual aid, you always want to take the opportunity to train with other professionals that you may respond with so you know who they are (you actually recognize them when you see them) and how they conduct business. By having the chance to work with other ES personnel (whether it be Federal, state or local) before the big emergency, you also gain a better understanding of their capabilities and limitations so you can respond appropriately. Our firefighters did just that when they participated in the annual Emergency Preparedness Exercise at West Point. Army News recognized our firefighters and you can see the article on Operation Dragon-Slayer 2011 by going to this link at: [http://www.army.mil/article/62420/West Point readiness tested in mock incident/](http://www.army.mil/article/62420/West_Point_readiness_tested_in_mock_incident/)



For those wondering what it's like to experience the blast from a Vehicle Bourne Improvised Explosive Device (VBIED), here's a photo taken in Thailand. Police established a perimeter around the vehicle (maybe a little too close), but they're out of view as the VBIED explodes while the officer is conducting an inspection. The EOD Tech (who was wearing PPE) survived, but two others were killed and thirteen were wounded in similar bombings. Just something to think about and remember as you go about your duties of protecting people here at Picatinny Arsenal.

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