

FIRE LINK

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Federal Money on its Way to Missouri Valley Division USAR Teams

by J. Robert "Rob" Brown, Jr., President, Missouri Valley Division, IAFC

The Missouri Valley Division is fortunate that three of the twenty-eight federal Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) Task Forces are located within our Division. These three teams, located in Lincoln, Nebraska; Denver, Colorado; and Boone County, Missouri, are favorably placed within our Division so as to respond anywhere in the Missouri Valley Division States within just a few hours. When deployed, these task forces are capable of performing around-the-clock operations with 62 rescue, search, medical and support personnel bringing approximately \$2 million worth of search, rescue and support equipment and incredible heavy rescue expertise.

Historically, these task forces have not been funded to the levels necessary to meet and maintain the pre-determined federal criteria. Many of the task forces in the 28-team system have yet to complete their basic equipment cache and their transportation capabilities have been limited. These Task Forces, under the Federal Response Plan (FRP), are normally transported via military airlift. However, with the pressure presently being placed on military air assets, ground transportation has become much more critical.

Oftentimes, with the increased attention being given to the Fire Act Grant, Homeland Defense, federal reorganization, etc., enhancements being made to other programs, which are also vital to our mission, are not always widely known. To address the transportation concern and ensure readiness, one of our own Missouri Valley United States Senators, Senator Kit Bond (R-Missouri), has championed the cause of these

Urban Search and Rescue Task Forces and was able to acquire \$60 million of additional funding that will be provided directly to the 28 Task Forces for equipment upgrades, acquisition of reliable ground transportation and additional training and personnel support. Last year, Senator Bond was instrumental in acquiring the funding to start the WMD enhancement project for the Task Forces. With the increased threat of terrorism, these Task Forces are now undergoing an up-grade to make them capable of operating in a Weapons-of-Mass-Destruction (WMD) or a "dirty bomb" environment.

As we all face the increased threat of terrorism in our communities, it is important to understand that these resources exist within our Division, and, of course, nationally as well. Should you suffer an act of terrorism or a "natural catastrophe," you can rest assured these resources are ready and can be immediately mobilized to support and assist you. □

Missouri Valley Board Meeting

The Board of Directors met in Kansas City February 7 and 8 and reviewed the past year's activities and accomplishments. The Board received a report from VP Rocca and host Chief Rich Carrizzo on the upcoming Missouri Valley Division Conference in KC in July 2003 and it should be an exciting conference. Information packets will be mailed out in late March. Officers gave reports on their activities. The Dallas FRI Conference Hotel for



Calendar of Events

- April 5, 2003**
State Chiefs Meeting
Riverton, WY
- April 6-9, 2003**
ICC Spring Education Conference
Overland Park, KS
- May 3-5, 2003**
IAFC EMS Conference
Las Vegas, NV
- June 11-13, 2003**
MVAFC Public Education Conference
Topeka, KS
- July 9-11, 2003**
MVAFC Annual Conference
Kansas City, MO
- August 22-25, 2003**
IAFC – FRI
Dallas, TX
- July 13-15, 2004**
MVAFC Annual Conference
Sioux City, IA

the division will be the Hyatt Regency. The Division's list server is up and running and will be used to disseminate important information in a timely manner to members of our Division. The Division's EMS section has been placed on hold at this time. The Board felt there was duplication with the IAFC EMS Section and our efforts could be better spent on other projects. Stipend usage by States is a top priority.

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International Director's Report

by Steve Westermann

The Board Meeting opened with a short presentation regarding the accomplishments, but more importantly, the level of influencing that the organization is having at the federal level. Consider the following that have occurred in the past year:

- We have four members directly involved in Homeland Security Department
- We have two members of the Medal of Valor Selection Committee
- Chief Dave Paulison has been appointed as the COO of FEMA
- Secretary Ridge has personally committed to keeping the FIRE Act money separate from any other line items
- We have made inroads with White House Liaison Abel Guerrara
- The IAFC is the Lead Collaborator in six implementation tasks of the National Wildfire Plan
- The DHHS has asked for 200 of the Smallpox Decision Guides for mailing to their personnel and have agreed to make an accompanying video
- Zoomerang poll information is being asked for a federal and medial levels.

Chief David Paulison, FEMA COO

Chief Dave Paulison gave an overview of the organizational structure of the new Homeland Security Department (HSD). He stated that even though these moves are taking place, the mission of FEMA and particularly, the USFA is not being compromised. Other projects that Chief Paulison mentioned is a \$75 million line on current USAR Teams for upgrading equipment and interoperability of fire service equipment (not just radios). There is also a goal to get one federal agency that covers EMS. There is a goal to have a single, national incident command system in place by 3/1. The Fire Academy has money in the '03 budget to add 300 new resident rooms and added classrooms with the intent to make more of a university curricula and setting, combining EMI and NFA.

Mike Worthington, Motorola

Mike gave a talk on the history and current status of radio frequency allocation. There is a Decision Guide with IAFC input, on radio interoperability coming out in March or April.

IAFC Government Relations

Alan Caldwell discussed the FIRE Act. The Senate approved funding at a level of \$900 million and the House approved funding at \$450 million. They will be convening a conference committee to reach an agreeable sum and some opinions range in the \$600 area for final approval. This should be occurring some time this week.

The FY04 budget will be introduced in February and it is likely that the FIRE Act will NOT be included. This occurred last year and was only put back in the budget after a large letter campaign by the fire service. Because of the anthrax issues, regular mail is not acceptable for timely letters to Congress or the White House. Faxes are the preferred method followed by e-mails. E-mails will work if you have a specific mail address for the person, not a general mail slot. The FIRE Act legislation also expires in '04 so it will need to be re-authorized in that year.

The new DHS is the biggest reorganization of U.S. government since DOD was organized. DHS Broken into four divisions: Border and Transportation Security (which the removal of hazmat placards will come under), Science and Technology, Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection; and Emergency Preparedness and Response. Fire and EMS will interact with all four divisions.

Smallpox was discussed from the standpoint that there is talk of starting a federal fund for people who have complications. There originally was strong opposition but that is now softening.

Treasurer's Report, Chief Julian Taliaferro

Despite losses in the investments, the IAFC is still in good financial position. We ended the year \$130,000

income over expenses. While that may sound great, if we were to sell our investments today we would realize a capital loss of about the same amount. Much of this is because of outside contracts and cutting back on expenses. Our main revenue stream is from FRI at 64 percent and membership at 25 percent. We continue to look for outside revenue streams and cause related marketing was discussed again. We are at the end of the dues increase schedule. The dues increases helped us by keeping even with inflation.

There was discussion regarding vendors at FRI. Some reports have come back that vendors are somewhat disillusioned by FRI because they are receiving comments from chiefs to the effect that "I don't do the buying." Regardless of whether you buy or delegate, listen, show interest, and take the literature. We NEED the vendors. There was also discussion about vendors going to other conferences that may be preferable over FRI. There is no other conference at this time where the money that vendors spend goes right back into promoting the fire service, particularly on Capitol Hill, where the vendors see returns from FIRE Act, etc. Most other conferences are now for-profit corporations. Another disturbing note is that some state chiefs organizations and divisions were giving their endorsement to some of those for-profit conferences.

Code of Ethics

The Ethics Task Force submitted three parts to a Code of Ethics, comprised of rules, guidelines and enforcement. After lengthy discussion, the Board passed a revised Code of Ethics only. There will be future discussions on the other two parts.

Fire and Life Safety Section

In August at FRI Kansas City, a petition was being passed around for signatures to start a new section. Sufficient signatures were received; bylaws were developed and reviewed by the CBL committee; budget was developed and the creation of the new section was approved by the IAFC Board.

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Zaragoza Endorsed for IAFC 2nd VP

Alberto (Butch) Zaragoza, Chief of Vestavia Hills, Alabama, Fire Department and a candidate for 2nd VP of the IAFC, was endorsed by the MVD Board of Directors at the Feb. 8, 2003, Board meeting. Zaragoza is Past President of the Southeastern Division and has served on numerous IAFC Committees. Chief Zaragoza is active in Alabama Chiefs' activities and leadership positions. Chief Zaragoza said he would work to increase membership, strengthen relationships with State Chiefs and continue to support legislation and funding to benefit the safety and training of fire service members. □

International Association of Fire Chiefs presents Fire Rescue International 2003 – Dallas, Texas August 22-25, 2003

The headquarters hotel for the Missouri Valley Division will be the Hyatt Regency.

Departments will be receiving registration materials in the very near future for FRI 2003 in Dallas. I encourage each of you to make your hotel reservations as soon as you receive this. The Missouri Valley hotel will be the Hyatt. This is the same hotel we have used the past two visits to Dallas. It is a great location. The bus route to the convention is five-minute ride. The light rail station is at the corner of the hotel which offers inexpensive transportation to the West End entertainment district, with its restaurants and shops, and to other areas around the city. Register early and be in the Missouri Valley Division hotel.

The MVD annual lunch meeting will be August 23 at 12 noon. □

Missouri Valley Division Logo



The Board voted to change our Division Logo to directly identify with the IAFC. The new logo will result in a name change to Missouri Valley Division.

Fire and Life Safety Section

In August at FRI Kansas City, a petition was circulated for signatures to start a new section. Over 150 payments of members' dues resulted and the new Section has been approved by the IAFC Board of Directors. Jackie Gibbs of Marietta, GA, will serve as chair. More details on the mission, organization and Officers will be published in *On Scene*.

Mission: The Fire and Life Safety Section of the International Association of Fire Chiefs is to provide leadership and vision for chief fire officers and manages throughout the international community in reducing the risk of injury, loss of life, and property loss in their communities through effective

prevention efforts by being a resource for information, services and training for its members.

The mission will be accomplished through participation in the codes development processes and activities so that our members can obtain and disseminate information to all IAFC members. Section members will be tasked to develop programs and activities for members to learn and enhance their professional development. The Fire and Life Safety Section will serve as a resource for the IAFC Board, assisting them in their development of fire and life safety policies. This will also provide important networking opportunities for section members. □

MVAFC Web Site:
www.mvafc.org

South Dakota Digital Radio System

On October 23, 2002, the State of South Dakota began operation on the new VHF digital trunked radio system that had been under construction for the previous 14 months.

The digital trunked radio system will allow public safety personnel to access the system from any of the 35 current and 42 planned sites statewide, and accommodates both the need for local department traffic and interoperability with other public safety functions.

The State of South Dakota has equipped all State Government radio users with 2,323 digital trunked radios. Locally, the state has provided 2,385

radios to fire departments, 297 radios to ambulance services, 2,424 radios to local law enforcement, 191 to local Emergency Management and is providing 173 radios to hospitals and health care personnel. Federal users scheduled to utilize the system include Western Area Power Administration, FBI, US Marshals, Bureau of Reclamation, Dept. of Interior, BIA, and Federal Forestry units.

The system has provisions for common emergency talkgroups incorporated into every radio, and allows first responders to coordinate resources and information statewide instantly. □

Coos County Charges Two with Negligent Homicide in Deaths of Firefighters

Two men who installed an oven in the warehouse where three Coos Bay firemen died in November were charged Monday with three counts of criminally negligent homicide.

Jonathan E. Inskeep, 58, of Coos Bay and Verlin G. Villines, 61, address unknown, were arraigned Monday for allegedly violating several state laws and codes when they installed and operated a high-temperature oven that vaporizes grease and oil from engine parts, said Coos County District Attorney Paul Burgett.

The two men were indicted by a grand jury Friday. Criminally negligent homicide is punishable by up to five years in prison and/or a fine of up to \$100,000 for each count.

"People need to take these codes seriously because terrible things can happen as they did in this case," Burgett said.

Though Burgett would not say what specifically caused the blaze, fire officials have said a flue connected to the oven caused the fire that killed the three firefighters. Burgett would not specify which laws and codes were violated.

Inskeep owned Automotive Machine Service, a shop in the back of the warehouse. Villines, a contractor, helped Inskeep install the oven, Burgett said. The two men, who could not be reached for comment Monday, were charged and released on their own recognizance. They will enter pleas at a hearing March 3.

The fire resulted in the worst loss of life to firefighters in Oregon's history. Shortly after the blaze, a fire marshal found a wooden collar around the flue made of what appeared to be two-inch by four-inch boards. Though some fire-resistant material protected the wood, the flue could reach temperatures of nearly 1,000 degrees according to the state fire marshal's office.

A section of the roof near the flue fell on the firefighters as they fought the blaze from a mezzanine in the middle of the building. Randy Carpenter was a career firefighter, Chuck Hanners and Jeff Common were volunteers.

The state's investigation of the fire at FarWest Truck & Auto Supply in downtown Coos Bay has not yet been released to the public. □

"Dollars & Sense"

by Bev Browning

Tip #1: Whoever said more is less should have said less is best! What do I mean? When you need a cash contribution of \$5,000 or less, donated equipment, or even supplies, you can write the 2-3 page Corporate Letter Request. It's quick, to the point, and effective. You will usually receive a positive response (check or item) in less than six months. Considering that it takes foundations up to 12 months to review and make a decision on your grant proposal, six months for a letter request is not too bad! Need help? Try this audio tutorial: *Fundraising with the Corporate Letter Request*, recorded by Bev Browning (www.grantsconsulting.com).

Tip #2: What do you do if your FEMA grant application was denied funding? Retool, downsize your budget and look for foundation and corporate funding sources. First, look at The Foundation Center's Web site: www.fdncenter.org for links to foundations and corporations. Look for names that you are familiar with; ones that are in your state. Then look at Hoovers Online at www.hooversonline.com. There you can enter a key word like "fire" and retrieve a list of all companies that manufacture or service fire-related products.

What about Bev? BEV BROWNING & ASSOCIATES was created by Beverly A. Browning in 1986. Bev provides grant-related consulting for organizations around the globe and is the author of "Grant Writing for Dummies." Bev has also been a familiar face at NFPA conferences where she speaks regularly to Champions about finding funding for fire and life safety programs. For more information, visit her Web site, www.grantsconsulting.com. □



Iowa News

by State VP Petersen

The fall conference for the Iowa Association of Professional Fire Chiefs (IAPFC) was well attended. There was considerable discussion on this year's legislative session. For many years Iowa's funding for firefighter training has not kept up with the state's needs. In Iowa, statewide firefighter training is conducted by the Fire Service Training Bureau, a division of the State Fire Marshal's Office. It is the Fire Service Training Bureau's vision to support regional training efforts and expand the use of area Community Colleges. The IAPFC voted to support the Fire Service Training Bureau's long-range facilities and training plan.

Many of the IAPFC members attended last summer's MVFC conference in Castle Rock, Colorado. The size and regional aspect of the MVFC makes it an excellent learning and networking opportunity. All IAPFC members who attended last summer's conference recommended participation in this upcoming conference in Kansas City.

Jim Kenkel was recently promoted to Iowa State Fire Marshal. Jim is a long-term employee who most recently was the Deputy State Fire Marshal and interim Fire Marshal.

The spring IAPFC conference will be held March 11-13 in Ames at the Fire Service Training Bureau. □



North Dakota News

9-11 Remembered in Jamestown

The Jamestown Fire Department held a 9-11 Remembrance Service at the Jamestown Headquarters Fire Station on September 11, 2002, at 0845 hours. The service was attended by the Jamestown Fire Department, the Jamestown Rural Fire Department, members of the National Guard, the Jamestown City Council, grade school classes from Washington School, and about 150 persons.

Jamestown's original fire bell, circa 1884, was tolled the three sets of five bells at the exact times each of the World Trade Centers Towers collapsed. This was the first time the bell had been formally tolled since 1971.

Jamestown's Mayor Charlie Kourajian told those in attendance the history of the three sets of five bells and their significance in the fire service.

Jamestown Fire Chief Bert Gray told an old story involving a long bridge that would set parallel to a wide river until a train was due. A switchman would then swing the bridge to span the river and lock it into place until the train was passed. One day, as a train was coming, the switchman swung the bridge but it would not lock. He knew that there was a manual locking lever on the opposite side of the river that would secure the bridge but it had to be held firmly by the switchman until the train had passed. Hurrying across the bridge, he pulled the lever and held it in place.

When the train was nearing the

bridge, the switchman heard a sound that made his blood chill. "Daddy, where are you," the voice called. It was his four-year-old son walking across the bridge to look for him. Gray said. The man was faced with the choice of his life, release the lever and let hundreds of passengers die, or hold the lever and watch his son die. He held the lever.

The passengers never knew the terrific sacrifice the switchman made for them, Gray said.

Sometimes we go through life like that speeding train and don't think about those who serve – like firefighters, emergency workers and police officers, Gray added.

"If we can begin to understand the feelings that went through that switchman's mind when he held the lever, maybe we can begin to understand the feelings of New Yorkers as they watched the horror unfold around them," Gray said.

From the tolling of the bell to the tears on people's cheeks as they left the fire station that morning, it was an emotional experience for many, especially the couple in attendance from New York City who were performing at the Jamestown College Arts Center. □

Candidates for MVD Offices

The following candidates have filed for elected positions as MVD Officers:

International Director–

Steve Westermann

2nd VP–Mark Young

State Vice Presidents will be elected at the KC Conference by each State for a three-year term. □

Want to host a MVAFC Conference?

Cities usually work with their Chamber of Commerce to host an Annual Conference. The next open year to host a conference is July 2005. If your department and city is interested, go to the web site and look at the RFP to get the requirements for hosting a conference.

Missouri Valley Association of Fire Chiefs

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Lincoln, NE 68501

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The Missouri Valley Association of Fire Chiefs is dedicated to supporting professional development of its members through educational, leadership, and networking opportunities, while serving as a liaison between State Chiefs' organizations and the International Association of Fire Chiefs.

Missouri Valley Board Meeting

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ty for usage and the Board encouraged all States to make use of the program.

Saturday saw a full day of discussion on the update of our Strategic Plan. When finalized in early March, a copy will be mailed out to each member of the Missouri Valley.

The Board also established a Policy book to outline the ongoing day-to-day activities of the Division. This book will also be mailed out to each member. The Board updated the Position Statements of the Division and will post the policies on the Web site in early March. □



International Director's Report...

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TERC Committee

There was lengthy discussion of the status of the TERC Committee. The intent has been for this committee to divest itself of the IAFC and form TERC USA, a separate non-profit corporation. That has not been done but the IAFC Board took steps to speed up the process. Masterguard Systems has endorsed TERC and because of that relationship, the Board passed a motion that the IAFC logo may not be used in conjunction with any project endorsed by Masterguard.

CFAI/CFOD

Sarah Greenfield gave an update on these two projects. There is considerable interest in both of these projects so there has been quite a turnaround from last year at this time. Chief Richard Carrizzo, MVD, has been appointed to the CFOD Board.

Program Planning Committee

There is continuing discussion on

possible changes for FRI. Schedule changes that will NOT occur UNTIL 2004. The goal is to try and limit absences from the office to one week rather than spreading the conferences out over two weeks. It also shortens the exhibits to a two-day show which the vendors prefer, as long as there is no concurrent classes going on at the time. Exhibitors will also have the chance to conduct classes on innovations in technology.

Elections Task Force

Chief Bruegman appointed an Elections Task Force to evaluate the current election rules and make any recommendations of changes that would be in the best interest of the IAFC. The task force submitted nine recommendations. All but two of the recommendations were approved. More information can be found at www.mvafc.org. □