



Lines & Leads

THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY FIRE/EMS DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER

WE ARE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

A FAREWELL TO DANNY BENEDETTI



Fleet Manager, Daniel F. Benedetti, recently retired after 31 years of dedicated service to the County's citizens and residents of Prince George's County. A luncheon commemorating his retirement and service to the County was held at the H.J. Crisman Apparatus Maintenance Facility in Forestville, where many former and current members of the Department were on hand to celebrate with him.

Benedetti has been responsible for managing the fleet of fire, EMS, specialty apparatus and associated tools and equipment for the last twelve years. The maintenance facility is also responsible for fit testing and repair of self-contained breathing apparatus and breathing air bottles. He is credited with the development of specifications for the purchase of new apparatus, along with ensuring strict safety guidelines for all County and volunteer-owned apparatus.

Benedetti has been the driving force behind any new design and purchase of new County apparatus, including engines, squads, ladder trucks/towers, specialty units and the total upgrade to the Department's fleet of ambulances with the purchase of 70 new units in 2007.

Danny Benedetti began his fire service career as a volunteer member of the Bowie Volunteer Fire Department in March of 1975. He was hired by the County six years later. Danny and wife, Teresa, and their two daughters, Alyssa and Sophia, will be relocating to San Antonio, Texas. We wish him the best of luck in his new home and new career.

WOOD PUBLISHED IN EMS WORLD



Congratulations to Fire/Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Department Major Dennis C. Wood and Raphael M. Barishansky, MPH, Chief of Public Health Emergency Preparedness for Prince George's County Health Department for co-authoring an excellent article published in the July 2011 Edition of EMS World.

Dennis C. Wood, MS, NREMT-P, has over 20 years of fire and EMS experience and is currently the Major of Emergency Medical Services for the Prince George's County Fire/EMS Department.

The article, "BODY COUNT - Defining EMS' response to mass-fatal-ity events"

<http://www.emsworld.com/publication/article.jsp?publ=1&id=17394>

EXPERIENCED RECRUITS HIT THE STREETS



Firefighter I/II, Hazardous Materials, and Emergency Medical Technician are a few of the courses that must be completed by academy recruits. However, prior to entering the academy, some recruits have already met the necessary course requirements. Those who have met the prerequisites only need refresh-
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PRODUCED UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

RUSHERN L. BAKER, III
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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ACTING CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

BARRY L. STANTON
DCAO FOR PUBLIC SAFETY

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FIRE CHIEF

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A MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE CHIEF

On May 12, 2011, County Executive Rushern Baker submitted my name to the County Council requesting permanent appointment as the eleventh Fire Chief of Prince George's County. On July 12, 2011, the Prince George's County Council affirmed my appointment to serve you and the residents of Prince George's County. I thank our County Executive and Council, as I am both honored and humbled to have been selected for this assignment.

The stewardship of our Department, which is one of the largest combination career/volunteer departments in the United States, is sure to continue to be an exigent task for all members of our Management Team, whether they are volunteer, career or civilian. The cooperative and collaborative support of all within our combination ranks of our Department is paramount to the continuation of our success.

No agency head could ever successfully fulfill our mission objectives without the continual support, collaboration and dedication of the multitude of talented people who serve at all levels of this organization. Please accept my thanks, appreciation, and admiration for the hard work and sacrifice that each of you has shown to date and continue to display every day.

Just as we witness on every emergency scene, there can and will be many opinions as to what constitutes the right path to success when we consider any plan of action. Just as we witness on the emergency scene, there will often be moments of disagreement and dissension in our discussion. I firmly believe the fundamental resilience of this organization, both on the emergency scene and off, has always been exhibited in the innate nature of our personnel to realize that once a decision has been reached; those differences must be set aside as we proceed as one team for the greater good of all.

We stand now at one of those decision points. Collectively, we must agree that the continuity of the mission for our Department

and our oath to the citizens we serve should always remain paramount over any one individual or collective within our Department.

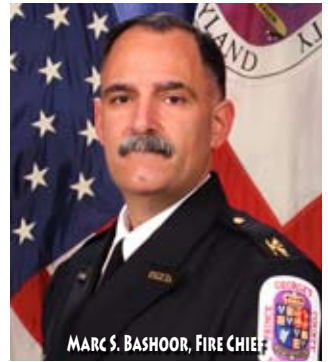
Understanding that not all issues have a common ground and all sides of any given issue may not reach agreement, I do believe that there is much within our global objectives that we all can collectively agree on. These are the elements that can best form a basis for the mutual understanding that will lead to real and lasting collaboration.

We will only be successful if we are able to work as one to achieve a common objective with a clear and ever present focus on safety, service and excellence. To strengthen our successes, we must commit to continual evolution and evaluation as we endeavor to represent and protect one of the largest and most diverse metropolitan regions in our Nation.

The time is now for us to work as one and build the coalitions that will be necessary to propel our Fire/EMS Department into a renewed commitment to excellence. We must collectively endeavor to grow and accept new challenges. In the August edition, I will articulate the short term fiscal year goals and mission objectives that I have laid out to the Deputy Chief Administrative Officer for Public Safety. Additionally we will discuss the ongoing needs for professional development.

I ask all of you - career, volunteer, and civilian - to support the goals and objectives set forth by County Executive Baker as we collectively work to achieve the long-term continuity this Department desires and deserves. I commit that it is my core intent to guide our Department in an inclusive and professional manner, and hope to continue to earn your confidence, respect, and support.

Stay safe everyone,



Marc S. Bashoor, Fire Chief

PETE MELLITS ELECTED FIRST VICE PRESIDENT OF IAFC – EASTERN REGION

At the 2011 Annual Conference of the Eastern Division of the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC), Bowie Volunteer Fire Department's Deputy Chief Pete Mellits was elected to the 1st Vice President of the Division, which was held in Wilmington, Delaware at the end of May. He previously held the 2nd Vice President position. Pete currently serves as Deputy Chief - Station Chief of the Northview Station (PGFD Company 816), as part of his other assigned emergency operational/administrative duties within the Bowie Volunteer Fire Department. In addition, Pete serves as the Secretary for the Maryland Fire Chiefs Association.

The Eastern Division of the International Association of Fire Chiefs represents Fire and Emergency Service Leaders from the states of Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania and the District of Columbia. Prince George's County Fire Chief



Marc S. Bashoor and Lt. Colonel Jerry L. LaMoria attended the Annual Conference and presented a class on a Safety and Investigative Report that involved a firefighter sustaining serious injuries fighting a house fire in Kettering.

A COMMAND PERSPECTIVE: Lieutenant Colonel Benjamin Barksdale



Lieutenant Colonel Benjamin Barksdale began his three-decade association with the fire service as a volunteer in Spelter, West Virginia (near Clarksburg) at the age of 16. In 1987, Barksdale applied to a number of departments throughout the Washington Metropolitan Region, including the District of Columbia, Prince George's and Arlington County. "I wanted to be firefighter in the Washington Metropolitan area," stated Barksdale, "I was looking for a Department that was a good mix and would provide a good amount of action and opportunity, without being 'New York' busy to the point that could potentially lead to early career burnout. Arlington was the first to call. I jumped on the offer."

Barksdale spent the first five years of his career at Crystal City, Station 5. "I decided I wanted to pursue becoming an instructor so I applied and was posted to the Fire Training Academy." Barksdale stated, "I spent two years there and was then promoted from the academy to Lieutenant, and was then assigned to HazMat at Company 9." Two years after posting to Station 9, Barksdale was promoted to Captain and was appointed Battalion Chief three years later. As Battalion Chief, he served in both administrative and operational capacities, including Safety Officer and stints with Special Operations and Technical Rescue teams. He also served as Team Manager for Arlington's National Medical Response Team. In 2006, Barksdale was appointed Assistant Chief, where he headed Emergency Operations, followed by Fire Prevention, and Administrative Services.

Barksdale is a 2008 Graduate of the Executive Fire Officer program and holds a Bachelors Degree in Business Administration from Bowie State and a Masters Degree in Management from Johns Hopkins University. He also holds Chief Fire Officer Certification, and has achieved Certified Public Manager status through George Washington University. He is currently working on a Graduate Degree in Fire Administration and Emergency Management through Oklahoma State University.

Barksdale states, "I have been a resident of Prince George's County for over 21 years. This is an excellent period of time to live here. I think the County has done a great job supporting the services for the new development, and Prince George's is finally getting the destination retail shopping, entertainment and restaurant venues that the County has long deserved. Be it The Boulevard at Capitol Centre, Bowie New Town Center, National Harbor or Wegman's, we have come a long way."

Barksdale's short term objectives for his new position include working to maintain current funding levels, operating within budgetary constraints, creating accountability and resource guidance, controlling costs wherever possible and remaining ever-vigilant on the importance of personnel safety.

For the long term, Barksdale plans to explore improvements to all functional areas within his command. With regard to Information Technologies, records management and incident reporting,

Barksdale states, "We need to explore better solutions to capture and track the work we are doing. Paperwork may be a hassle, but in the end, it justifies getting what we need at the budget table. If we can't back up our funding requests with the appropriate hard data, it is extremely difficult for us to demonstrate and achieve our needs."

With regard to our facilities and stations, there is a long list of ongoing Capital Improvement projects, with several exciting enhancements in the works for the future including the discussion of a new dedicated CPAT facility and land acquisition for future station facilities.

On Apparatus, the Department is working to achieve a structured replacement objective of six engines, one ladder and one squad per year. A total of thirteen ALS/BLS units are scheduled to be delivered in October and the Department is exploring the option of re-chassis in lieu of unit replacement for the remainder of the fleet in order to make the most of budget limitations.

Barksdale articulates a philosophical adherence to a strict set of golden rules, "Know your job, come to work and be productive. Treat the people you work with as you want to be treated. While you don't always have to be fond of everyone, you do have to be professional and display courtesy and respect." He continues, "On the emergency scene, the question is always 'can we be successful based on training, skill and ability?' Administratively, success means getting the personnel on-the-line to achieve the goals set by the administration in order to meet the needs of the community we serve." He often quotes Professor Ludwig on "The Four 'U's of Management", "There are four reasons a person fails to reach any objective." Barksdale states, "They are; Unaware, Unable, Unknown or Unwilling. 'Unaware' means they didn't know they were supposed to do it. You resolve this by making them aware of their responsibility in order to avoid repeating the same mistake. 'Unable' means they need training. You resolve this by training them. 'Unknown' means they have a fear that is keeping them from completing the task. You resolve this by teaching them to manage their fear in order to move forward. Of the four, being 'Unwilling' is unacceptable. Simply saying 'I don't want to do it' is just plain wrong. Everyone must recognize that as long as the task you are being assigned to complete is legal and ethical, you must complete it. Failure to complete the task is not an option."

With respect to his new appointment as Commander of Administrative Services, Barksdale states, "I am truly excited to be here and I wish to thank both County Executive Baker and Fire Chief Bashoor for providing me this chance to serve the citizens of Prince George's County. This is a great opportunity and everyone I have met so far has been extremely welcoming. I see my primary mission as one to guarantee the troops have what they need to do their job. Just like with the military, administrative services are the unsung heroes. Without their logistical support for the mission of those with actual boots on the street, the mission will fail. Everyone is accountable to make sure we are doing things the way they should be done. As a Department, we need to endeavor to create an environment where employees want to come to work, and foster an environment where physical fitness to do the job, safety and injury prevention, are primary concerns to keep our employees fit and capable for duty."

OUR PEOPLE: Above and Beyond the Call of Duty



CRS #43 RUNS FOR FALLEN FIREFIGHTER

By: Ashley D. Mansfield

Career Recruit School #43 organized the run to honor fallen Volunteer Fire Fighter Mark Falkenhan, who had been a career member of the Baltimore County Fire Department from 1990 to 2006. On the evening of Wednesday, January 19, 2011, Falkenhan was a member of the crew that responded to an apartment fire. The fire was knocked, and crews moved to the second and third floors to search for possible victims. In an article by WBAL-TV.com, Baltimore County Fire Chief John J. Hohman stated, "A flashover occurred. One firefighter escaped successfully, while Falkenhan was injured. He was transported to the hospital, where, tragically, he succumbed to his injuries." The 43 year-old father of two was most recently employed with the U.S. Secret Service, where he helped train agents in search and rescue techniques.

Fire/EMS Department Training Academy instructors initially became aware of the philanthropic spirit of their recruits when they donated blood for an injured firefighter. The recruits also researched and wrote a paper on cancer among firefighters, which was picked up by an established firefighter's cancer research center. Academy instructors, learning of the recruits plan to

run across the Woodrow Wilson Bridge, challenged them to turn their effort into a fundraiser. Each student raised at least \$20 and participated in a food drive that generated over \$500, totaling their earnings to \$2,000.

In a ceremony that was held at the Fire/EMS Training Academy on Monday, June 13th, the recruits presented the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (NFFF) with a monetary donation, which

was accepted by Volunteer Fire Fighter Falkenhan's wife, Gladys. During the ceremony, the recruits revealed that they had purchased a brick at the National Firefighters Memorial Walk of Honor, which was inscribed "In memory of Mark Falkenhan, P.G.F.D. C.R.S. #43." In addition, they read Mrs. Falkenhan and Cathy Hedrick, a representative from the NFFF, a letter they had written detailing what they had learned from their experience. "Through recruit school we are taught so many things not to do, but while learning about the man your husband was, we have learned what to do," Recruit Basset read.

Career Recruit School #43's philanthropy, hard work, and commitment to the NFFF touched everyone attending the ceremony. Their efforts prompted Gladys Falkenhan to say, "As hard as it was, he died doing what he trained for all of those years." Speaker Cathy Hedrick addressed the recruits, stating, "No other fire department has made the commitment or has been as dedicated to the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation and safety as you have." The heartfelt presentation revealed the frightening possibilities of a career as a firefighter. It also taught the recruits how to be safe and to always remember Prince George's County Fire/EMS Department's motto "Safety First! Everyone Goes Home."

TERESA CRISMAN INSTALLED AS PRESIDENT, MSFA-LA SURPRISED BY VISIT FROM COUNTY EXECUTIVE BAKER



Teresa Ann Crisman, recently took the oath of office for President of the Ladies Auxiliary to the Maryland State Firemen's Association (LAMSFA). The installation ceremony was held on June 21st during the Annual Convention held in Ocean City, Maryland. Taking the reins from fellow Prince Georgian Sandi Lutz, a member of the Glenn Dale Fire Association, Teresa will serve the one-year term.

Following her Oath of Office, Teresa was surprised with a visit from Prince

George's County Executive Rushern Baker. Addressing the audience, Baker congratulated immediate past president Sandi Lutz on serving a successful year and bestowed his best wishes and support for Teresa Crisman for the year ahead. Lutz and Crisman each received a certificate from the County Executive and Fire Chief Marc S. Bashoor for their milestone achievements.

Also in attendance was former Prince George's County Fire Chief Ronald D. Blackwell, who promised Teresa that if she was ever elected to President of the LA-MSFA he would attend the ceremony. Chief Blackwell traveled from Wichita, Kansas to Ocean City, MD, fulfilling his promise to join Teresa in her celebration.

"RECRUITS," CONTIUED FROM PAGE 1

er courses in some subjects. This is the case with a portion of the 33 students in Career Recruit School (CRS) #43.

On Wednesday, June 22, 2011, upon completing 13 weeks of training, 22 recruits were sworn in for duty. The remaining 11 recruits will join their fellow classmates in the field in 9 weeks, upon completing the full EMT-Basic course.

The recruits from CRS #43 have been philanthropically-oriented during their time at the Fire/EMS Training Academy. They donated blood for injured firefighters; researched and wrote papers on cancer among firefighters; and coordinated and participated in a run across the Woodrow Wilson Bridge. The recruits used the 4.39 mile run from Maryland to Virginia and back as a means of raising funds, which they donated to the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation.

The efforts of the recruits from CRS #43 certainly have been extraordinary and may even distinguish many of them as future leaders in the Fire/EMS Department.