

## Prioritizing Preparedness at FDNY

At the beginning of World War II, Winston Churchill said, "if we are together nothing is impossible; if we are divided all will fail." Today we unfortunately find ourselves engaged in another war—one which has brought nearly 100 of our own from New York to the Persian Gulf—and the past 18 months have certainly challenged our Department with a similar level of intensity. But in that same time we have remained together, and we have achieved great gains.

This issue of *Viewpoint* serves two purposes. It underscores some of our achievements of the past year—such as faster EMS response times to life-threatening emergencies and historic reductions of fire-related civilian fatalities—and it hones in upon a topic prominent in headlines, around the firehouse kitchen table, and throughout the Department: preparedness.

In the past 18 months, we have focused on preparedness a great deal—by way of the McKinsey Report, at meetings with the Terrorism Preparedness Taskforce, through our Bureau of Health Services' Smallpox Vaccination Program, creating and training Incident Management Teams, and in initiatives that have equipped members of the Department with life-saving tools such as RadAlert radiation detectors, escape masks, and chemical protective clothing.

Given the importance of this topic, Chief Cruthers has devoted his Q&A in this issue of *Viewpoint* to many of the questions asked by firefighters, EMS personnel and civilian staff regarding our Department's preparedness. I urge you to read that article (p. 3) for it will give you a better sense of the many steps the Fire Department has taken to ensure that its personnel are as equipped and as prepared as possible to contend with the hazards of this post-9/11 wartime world.

We recognize that the first step in preparedness is ensuring that firefighters, EMTs and paramedics are provided with the best equipment available, so you can do your jobs safely and effectively. Every firefighter has a positive-pressure SCBA, which allows you to operate in a contaminated environment. Your SCBA is widely regarded as the *single best* piece of protection at any first responder's disposal in the event of an airborne chemical incident. It is also with an eye to safety that we have given escape

masks to all EMS personnel operating in the field, and have stockpiled caches of equipment and medicines in secure locations throughout the City for both fire and EMS personnel.

We also recognize the importance of training, because it's equally critical to *know* about the tools at your disposal and the protocols to follow at complex incidents. In that vein, we teamed up with the U.S. Forest Service to train teams of officers in the principles of large-scale incident management, and with Columbia University to give our staff Chiefs the skills they need to manage the Department. We have also given every member of the Department basic Haz-Mat awareness training, which is often supplemented by other training programs. For instance, we are moving forward with our program to train 20 ladder companies in Haz-Mat incident mitigation and rescue support. Beginning in April, over 600 members from 20 ladder companies will receive 40 hours of Technician-level Haz-Mat training, along with 40 hours of specialized rescue training. This training is absolutely critical if we are to confront the complexities of our post-9/11 world with calm and confidence.

This issue of *Viewpoint* also highlights the important work of many different parts of the Department, including the Bureau of Fire Prevention's recently increased inspection effort; preparedness initiatives spearheaded by our Planning Unit and augmented by the Terrorism Preparedness Taskforce, which connects the Department with world-class terrorism experts; and support services provided by both the Family Assistance Unit and the Counseling Service Unit. Each of these programs and initiatives have helped our Department address the unprecedented challenges of the past 18 months as we protect the lives and property of all New Yorkers.

We undoubtedly still have our fair share of challenges to face in the future. But because of your hard work and dedication to one another and to this Fire Department, we can face those challenges with confidence. You are the key to the preparedness equation. And you are the reason why this is—and will always be—the greatest Fire Department in the world.

Thank you for serving the citizens and visitors of New York City with unparalleled commitment and dedication. May your thoughts and prayers, like mine, be with those members of our Department who are now serving our country overseas. Regardless of how many thousands of miles they might have traveled, those bravest of New York's Bravest & EMS personnel will never be far from the hearts of those at home.



### Commissioner's Message

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## Increased Investigations and Education Underscore FDNY's Commitment to Public Safety

By Ronald R. Spadafora,  
Deputy Assistant Chief

The FDNY has once again bolstered its inspection and enforcement efforts to enhance the safety of all New Yorkers in places of public assembly. The recent tragic events that occurred in Chicago and Rhode Island demonstrate all too well the need for constant vigilance by all members of the Fire Department. In the weeks following those tragedies, the Department has taken numerous steps to increase inspections and enhance overall awareness of fire safety requirements.

On Friday, February 21, field units were ordered to perform surveillance on active social club vacancies throughout the city to insure compliance. Subsequently, on Thursday, February 27, the FDNY established two additional Licensed

Places of Public Assembly (LPPA) Night Team units, comprised of Captains and Lieutenants.

The following Friday, February 28, field units were once again sent out to perform surveillance on all active social club vacancies and active cabaret vacancies. The enhanced surveillance activity during these two weekends alone produced nearly 400 inspections and the issuance of 6 vacate orders, 29 summonses, 41 violation orders and 9 NOV's.

That same weekend administrative companies performed educational inspection visits at every designated cabaret and social club in the Bureau of Fire Prevention's cabaret and social club accounts database list—which accounts for more than 350 occupancies. The Department's objective was to deliver a six-page document to the owner, man-

ager, or responsible person-in-charge at every location indicated on the list.

The document, signed by the Fire Commissioner and the Chief of the Department, re-emphasized the fire safety requirements for social clubs and cabarets as mandated by the FDNY and the New York City Administrative Code. The requirements for businesses operating as cabarets or social clubs include: fire guards; exits and emergency lighting; fire alarms; sprinkler systems; portable fire extinguishers; special effects and pyrotechnics; and paperwork.

It is imperative that every member of the Department becomes familiar with the contents of this document for their own edification and conveyance to the public. You can find a copy of the document on FDNY's Intranet site by going to [www.fdnny.org](http://www.fdnny.org).

## Phase One of FDNY's New Communications System Successfully Deployed to the Field

By Peter Hayden,  
Assistant Chief of Operations

As McKinsey and Company worked with the Fire Department to analyze our response to the World Trade Center on 9/11, it quickly became clear that fireground communications is extremely important. A main portion of the McKinsey study, therefore, focused on establishing a new communications system that would adequately address the needs of our first responders.

Following these recommendations, the Fire Department set out to improve its communications system by switching from our old VHF Saber and MX330 handie talkies to the new UHF Motorola XTS3500R—a more powerful handie talkie that features an Emergency Alert Button.

The Department further enhanced this new system by deploying 45 watt Post radios capable of establishing a Command Channel in many difficult communications environments. Captain Mike Stein

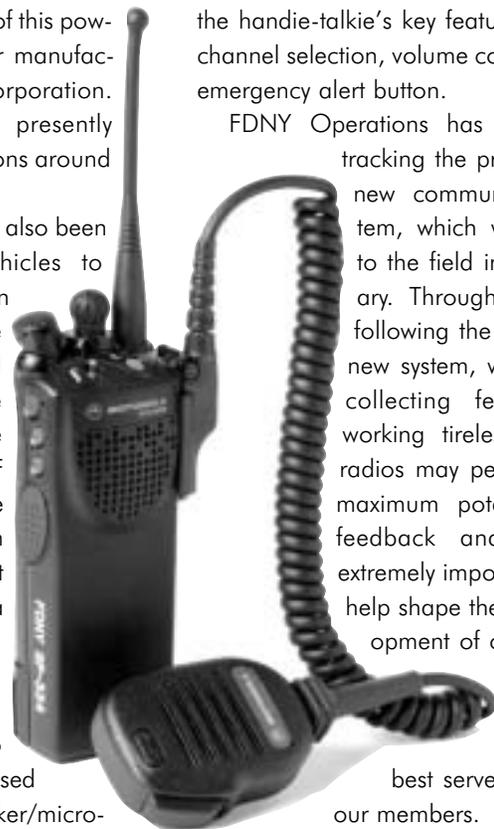
(Ret.) created the prototype of this powerful radio, which was later manufactured by Altec Radio Corporation. These Post radios are presently deployed in selected Battalions around the City.

Vehicular Repeaters have also been installed in Battalion vehicles to amplify signals sent out in high rise fire situations. The vehicular cross-band repeater links two separate radios—a high-wattage UHF and lower-wattage VHF radio—and helps facilitate communications between the lobby command post and the upper floors of a high rise building.

Radio designers at Motorola, together with FDNY members, are also currently testing the proposed "SmartMic," a remote speaker/microphone which offers easy access to many of

the handie-talkie's key features, including channel selection, volume control, and the emergency alert button.

FDNY Operations has been closely tracking the progress of our new communications system, which was deployed to the field in early February. Throughout the weeks following the rollout of the new system, we have been collecting feedback and working tirelessly so these radios may perform to their maximum potential. Your feedback and input are extremely important, as it will help shape the future development of our communications system and its ability to best serve the needs of our members.



THE FIRE DEPARTMENT'S  
**TERRORISM PREPAREDNESS**  
*A Special Supplement to Viewpoint*

## Q&A with the Chief

### Topic: **Preparedness**

**What new equipment has been secured that will help keep members safe while responding to terrorist threats?**

We have made it a priority to provide our firefighters and EMS personnel with access to critical life-saving equipment and medications. Remember, your SCBA is considered to be the single best piece of protection available to any first responder in the event of an airborne chemical incident. To help ensure the personal safety of EMS members operating in the field, we have procured the MSA Millennium model Air Purified Respirator. The respirator, intended to be used as an escape mask in the event of an airborne chemical incident, has been fit-tested and distributed to nearly all EMS field personnel (see related article on p. 6).

To address specific incidents involving nerve agents (such as VX or sarin gas) or other toxins (such as cyanide), our Office of Medical Affairs has stockpiled antidotes in secured depots in each of the five boroughs—enough to adequately treat all of our members and thousands of civilians. The Fire Department's Bureau of Health Services has also secured stockpiles of medications such as Ciprofloxin and Potassium Iodide, which can help safeguard the health of our members in the event of radiological or biological (anthrax) incidents.

Our Fleet Services Unit has established depots of critical firefighting equipment (including Hurst tools and thermal imaging cameras) throughout the city in the event of a recall and/or citywide emergency. In addition, we have procured equipment such as RadAlert detectors, Level A Chemical Protective Clothing, a fully-outfitted spare rescue rig, a new collapse rig, and other specialized detection

and mitigation tools which will further protect our members in the event of one of these incidents.

**There has been a lot of emphasis on smallpox this spring. Isn't smallpox just one of many biological threats?**

Smallpox is a serious, contagious and potentially deadly disease. It is estimated that approximately one-third of smallpox cases are fatal. The deliberate release of smallpox by a terrorist group is regarded by the federal government as a real possibility, which is why they initiated the federal vaccination program for a small group of people who will comprise initial response teams. It is important to note that smallpox is one of the few infectious diseases that can be protected against through vaccination.

For these reasons we have begun to offer vaccinations on a voluntary basis to EMS, Special Operations Command and BHS—the people most likely to be involved in transport, mitigation or vaccination efforts. Members who volunteer to take the vaccine will not only protect themselves, but will enable the City to provide emergency services in the event of a smallpox outbreak. The vaccination program is now officially supported by the EMS and Fire unions.

Every FDNY member who elects to receive a smallpox vaccination must first attend a mandatory information session which provides background on the virus, the vaccination, and important aftercare precautions. We have increased the number of these mandatory information sessions offered in April.

The Department's smallpox leadership group continues to work in partnership with the City's Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control to ensure that our medical staff is up to date on all the latest information regarding the vaccine. Through the FDNY's Terrorism Pre-

paredness Taskforce, we are being advised by Colonel John D. Grabenstein—the architect of the U.S. Military's smallpox vaccination program—and Dr. Joshua Shemer, the former Director General of the Ministry of Health in Israel. These experts have overseen the successful vaccination of over 300,000 members of the U.S. military and first responders in Israel.

**Are there any new training initiatives underway?**

As you know, Haz-Mat training is the bedrock of the Department's terrorism-related training initiatives. All of our firefighters, EMTs and paramedics have been trained to the level of Haz-Mat Awareness. Currently, many members of our Haz-Mat unit have been trained to the level of Haz-Mat Specialist. Members assigned to our seven Squads, five Rescue Companies and ten EMS Haz-Tac units are all trained to the level of Haz-Mat Technician. Eight ladder companies have also been given specialized training in the use of Chemical Protective Clothing. We are now going to expand on this with our upcoming initiative to train 600 members from 20 ladder companies to establish special operations support ladder companies (see p. 4).

In addition, 70 Chief and company officers recently completed our Incident Management Training program. This training is critical because it will enhance our ability to respond to complex and large-scale incidents.

**Is the Fire Department testing its ability to work with other agencies at large incidents?**

In the past six months, we have conducted five full-scale drills with the Police Department, including terrorism preparedness scenarios and hazardous materials incidents. The most recent drill was on April 3rd at Yankee Stadium. At some of these drills we tested the use of interoperable communications in our operations,

*(continued on p. 4)*

## TERRORISM PREPAREDNESS

*A Special Supplement to Viewpoint***Q&A with the Chief***(continued from p. 3)*

and we will continue to do so in the future. We have also participated in numerous city-wide tabletop exercises coordinated by the Office of Emergency Management, including a two-day multi-agency training exercise at the Con Ed. Learning Center.

**Has the Department developed new or modified protocols tailored specifically to these new types of threats?**

We have developed a newly revised recall procedure, which allows us to perform a partial recall using specific, predetermined packages. This new procedure will ensure that only the necessary number of personnel respond to a given incident. We have also strengthened our capability to implement the particular recall packages by providing improved logistical support to the recalled members.

Fire and EMS Operations have been working with the Office of Medical Affairs to develop a comprehensive Weapons of Mass Destruction Policy and Procedures Manual. A major component of the manual—incident-specific medical management protocols for the most anticipated WMD events—has already been developed and is being distributed to all EMTs and Paramedics in the field. The Department has also developed a new call type for our CAD system that will identify the symptoms of smallpox so we will respond appropriately.

To address the increased potential for “white powder” calls and other such incidents, we have re-activated the inter-agency Hammer Teams, which consist of Police Officers and Firefighters who patrol high-risk locations, equipped with RadAlert detectors so they can also help monitor for radiological incidents.

Through the help of the Terrorism Pre-

paredness Taskforce, our Special Operations Chiefs are working with experts at the National Laboratories of the Department of Energy to discuss strategies and develop protocols for mitigating releases of chemical and biological agents in subways.

**What additional steps have been taken to enhance the Fire Department's preparedness?**

Our Office of Medical Affairs monitors health advisories released by the City, State and the Centers for Disease control, and distributes these alerts to EMS field providers and other key commanders in the Department when deemed relevant. Most recently, the Office of Medical Affairs has been closely tracking the newly discovered sudden acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) virus to ensure that we are kept up-to-date on recommended response procedures.

**IMT Training Helps Officers, Chiefs Confront the Complexities of Large Incidents**

By Joseph Pfeifer,  
Deputy Assistant Chief of Operations

**A**n FDNY Incident Management Team consisting of 35 officers completed a two-week training course on March 7, and a second team began training on March 24. The purpose of these training sessions was to familiarize the Fire Department's upper management with the procedures for managing major and complex terrorist incidents over prolonged periods of time.

As part of this training, officers were instructed how to utilize the Incident Command System to meet the particular needs

of the City and safeguard its inhabitants in the event of a terrorist attack. Both groups of IMT trainees have participated in a number of different terrorist attack scenarios, each of which last from 4 to 6 hours and take place in different locations across the city. The training has included an airplane crash with a hazardous materials component, a complex elevated subway derailment over a residential area, and a bombing with a secondary explosion at a major Manhattan tourist site.

Numerous Chiefs and officers worked for weeks to prepare for these exercises by developing the scenarios, creating aerial

maps, resource charts and discussing training topics with the instructors from the US Forest Service. The Commissioner took an active role in the training by attending the initial session and observing one of the scenarios, and Mayor Bloomberg recently attended one of the training sessions.

In-house IMTs will dramatically enhance the Department's ability to rapidly mobilize and sustain the management of a large-scale event over a prolonged period of time.

“This is one of the most exciting initiatives taking place at the Fire Department right now,” said Commissioner Scoppetta.

**20 Ladder Companies to Receive Specialized Haz-Mat and Rescue Training**

By Michael Weinlein, Assistant Chief,  
Special Operations Command

**B**eginning in April, more than 600 firefighters and officers in 20 ladder companies will receive 80 hours of combined training in Haz-Mat and rescue operations. The training, made possible through a federal grant and administered in part by the IAFF, will help enhance the Department's preparedness for chemical and biological incidents, as well as other

specialized rescue operations.

Forty hours of training will be devoted to Haz-Mat tools such as meters, detectors and chemical protective clothing, as well as skills such as incident identification and protocol. The Haz-Mat portion of the training will culminate in a hands-on scenario. An additional forty hours of training will be devoted to rescue operations including confined space, collapse, and trench collapse operations.

It will take the Department approximately 6 months to train all 600 eligible firefighters and officers, who will be taught in groups of 25. Once trained, these 20 ladder companies will add to the Department's cache of incident management resources, as they will help support the 7 Squads and 5 Rescue companies extensively trained in Haz-Mat and rescue operations, as well as the 8 ladder companies recently trained to use Chemical Protective Clothing.

## FDNY and Terrorism Preparedness Taskforce Meet to Discuss Critical Preparedness Issues

By Kate Frucher,

Special Assistant to the Fire Commissioner

The FDNY Terrorism Preparedness Taskforce met with Commissioner Scoppetta, Chief of Department Frank Cruthers, Chief of Operations Salvatore Cassano, and other senior FDNY personnel in early February to discuss three significant initiatives on which the Department is working: enhanced radio communications, incident command and control, and smallpox.

After being briefed on the Department's recent progress in these three critical areas, Taskforce members proposed a number of strategies. They recommended outside experts to help further enhance the communications network. They discussed new and innovative ways to approach the problems of interagency command and control at the scene of major incidents and suggested specific technology that would help the Department manage critical personnel information both at the scene and at headquarters. Lastly, they recommended smallpox vaccination experts, from the American and Israeli military, whose experience will provide a valuable perspective on an issue of vital importance to the Department and City.

The Taskforce is designed to ensure



Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg meets with members of the FDNY Terrorism Preparedness Taskforce to discuss ways to enhance the Department's preparedness.

that the Fire Department and the City can build upon the best expertise in the nation and the world as they move forward with preparedness initiatives. Its membership includes James Woolsey, former Director of the CIA; Chief Daniel Nigro, former Chief of the Department; Dr. Joshua Lederberg, Nobel laureate in Physiology; Dr. Margaret Hamburg, former New York City Commissioner of Health; Greg Canavan, nuclear physicist and advisor to the Defense Department;

Shabtai Shavit, former head of Israel's Mossad; and Dr. Martin Blazer, head of the Department of Medicine at NYU Hospital.

In the future, members of the Taskforce will continue to provide this critical national and global perspective, so that the Department may access those people and resources that can help us best prepare for challenges we never dreamed we would have to confront.

## FDNY-Led Interagency Smallpox Summit Helps City Agencies Learn From the Experts

The Fire Department led an interagency seminar on New York City's smallpox vaccination program on March 12, 2003. The seminar featured two experts recommended by the Department's Terrorism Preparedness Taskforce and was run in conjunction with the Greater New York Hospital Association, the Police Department, the Office of Emergency Management, and the Department of Health. Though in the past City agencies have not always attempted to solve problems in the most cooperative fashion, this meeting served as a precedent for working together on this and other critical initiatives.

Colonel John Grabenstein is Deputy Director for Military Vaccines and the principal designer of the Department of



Commissioner Scoppetta kicks off a meeting in which experts advised Chiefs from both Fire and EMS on FDNY's smallpox vaccination program.

Defense's Smallpox Response Plan and Smallpox Vaccination Program. Dr. Joshua Shemer served as Surgeon General

of the Israeli Defense Forces, is currently director of one of the largest HMO's in Israel, and has advised the Israeli parliament to vaccinate thousands of soldiers and first responders.

The experiences and insights of Colonel Grabenstein and Dr. Shemer, both of whom have first-hand experience with the two largest smallpox vaccination initiatives in recent history, provided

valuable national and global perspectives on an issue New York City has only recently begun to face.

## 97% of EMS Workforce Fit-Tested for Escape Masks

By Charles Wells,  
Deputy Chief EMS Operations

The Fire Department in February of this year procured the MSA (Mine Safety Appliance) Millennium model air purified respirator (APR) for use as an escape mask by EMS members who provide patient care in the pre-hospital setting. As of this date approximately 97% of the EMS workforce has been fit tested and have been issued an appropriate sized escape mask. The mask is stored in a pouch that is attached to the member's uniform at the thigh and belt allowing for immediate donning of the mask.

The MSA Millennium APR is a lightweight full face-piece negative pressure air purified respirator. The design of the mask allows for full peripheral vision aiding the wearer in various aspects of escaping a potentially hazardous environment.

The filter canister provided has been test-

ed by NIOSH, Edgewood Arsenal and TNO Netherlands and will protect the wearer against several tear agents, biological agents, blood agents (CK) and chemical warfare agents (GA, GB, GD, VX, Mustard and Lewisite). In addition to these tests, the MSA Millennium earned high marks at the Soldier and Biological Chemical Command at the Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland.

The Initial fit testing of the mask is being provided by an outside vendor. Fit testing of all EMS members is expected to be com-



An EMT adjusts her MSA escape mask as part of the fit testing procedure.

plete by the middle of April. In the coming weeks BHS will be adapting some of their equipment for use in fit testing EMS members for the MSA mask.

## 24 Chiefs Graduate from Fire Officers' Management Training Institute

By Salvatore Cassano, Chief of Operations

A group of 24 Staff Chiefs and EMS Borough Commanders graduated from the FDNY Fire Officers' Management Training Institute (FOMI) on Wednesday, March 19, 2003. It was the first such class to graduate from the Institute, a program made possible through the help of General Electric and the FDNY Fire Safety Education Fund.

Since Commissioner Scoppetta decided to expand the number of uniformed Staff Chiefs and implement a borough command system last summer, Staff Chiefs have been given many more managerial responsibilities-including extensive work with personnel and the budget. The training provided by FOMI has been designed specifically for Fire Department officers, and it has given them critical skills and techniques for

upper-level managerial tasks.

The program was custom designed by Columbia University's School of Management, and teaches basic approaches to the management of public safety systems and personnel. Some of the courses offered at the Institute include "Establishing Priorities and Planning," "Financial Statements and Basic Principles of Accounting," "Leading and Managing Change" and "Increasing Your Personal Leadership Effectiveness."

Starting last November, Chiefs began taking classes at the Institute, located at General Electric's John Welch Management Training Center in Crotonville, New York. The Chiefs devoted four consecutive days per month to their studies at the Institute, and in that time they were hosted by General Electric.

The 24 recent graduates of the Institute are likely just the first of many Chiefs to enjoy FOMI courses. In the coming months and years, the Fire Department hopes to be able to offer FOMI's curriculum to all those Chiefs who could benefit from this valuable management training.



Commissioner Scoppetta, flanked by the graduates from the Fire Officer's Management Institute.

## FDNY Announces New Assistant Commissioner for Family Assistance

Serena Joyce just joined the Fire Department as the Assistant Commissioner for Family Assistance.

My background in human services began seventeen years ago as a Peace Corps volunteer in West Africa. As a Peace Corps volunteer I learned perhaps the most important lesson in management: that any mission's greatest asset is its people. Eight years later I moved into executive administration, where my duties ranged from crisis management and operations oversight to fundraising and training programs. Although the transition brought me from environments that lacked running water and electricity to places consumed by computers and wireless technology, the lesson I learned in Peace Corps still held true; people were still the mission's greatest asset.

For the past twelve months I have worked at the Office of Emergency Management (OEM). One of my first tasks was to work on an After Action report for the Disaster Assistance Service Centers. I also served as an executive board member of Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters (VOAD) and on the team that is responsible for



Serena Joyce

developing a human services response blueprint in the event of future disasters.

At OEM I had the great fortune to work with firefighters on emergency preparedness, response and recovery initiatives. During this time, I came to notice a number of impressive traits common to FDNY members, perhaps the most remarkable being the manner in which they identify challenges and then work together to solve them.

In my brief time with the Family Assistance Unit, I have seen this same resolve in the families, uniformed and civilian members of the FDNY. As we move further away from 9/11, the needs of our families are changing, and the FAU must change with them. I look forward to leading this unit to face the

challenges of the future.

In closing, it is an honor to serve the families of the FDNY as Assistant Commissioner for Family Assistance. I hope in the days and weeks ahead I will have the opportunity to meet with not only family members, but the many firefighters and liaisons who are serving these families. My phone is: (718) 999-2030. My e-mail is: joyces@fdny.nyc.gov. I look forward to hearing from you.

## Counseling Services Unit Thanks Sponsors and Supporters at its First-Annual Dinner

By Angela Coyle,  
FDNY Counseling Services Unit

The Fire Museum hosted the Counseling Service Unit's first-annual dinner on March 6 to thank those that have supported the unit over the past 18 months. Generous donors represented included Project Liberty, the IAFF, the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (NFFF), the New York Times, Morgan Stanley, and other corporate funders of the CSU's programs.

In order for each attendee to understand how their contributions have been put to good use, they were given a copy of the CSU's annual report, which covers in depth the myriad challenges faced by FDNY personnel and their families in the wake of 9/11, as well as the programs the Counseling Service Unit has instituted to address those challenges. Attendees were also treated to free tours of the museum before being formally thanked by the Department for all they have contributed to the promotion of health and wellness within the FDNY.



Malachy Corrigan addresses those attending the CSU annual dinner.

Over a dinner blessed by Monsignor John Delendick, attendees listened to speakers including Chief of Operations Sal Cassano, Chief Medical Officer Dr. Kerry Kelly, and NFFF Director Ron Siarnicki. The promotional version of the CSU video, "When the Alarm Sounds," was subsequently shown, followed by a speech from CSU director Malachy Corrigan.

Malachy thanked all those who so willingly have contributed their individual skills to the greater task of healing.

"You are the clinician, healing with your skills," he said. "You are a peer, healing by listening... You are a writer, film maker, publisher, healing by communication. You are a doctor or nurse healing by... compassionate use of your skills."

Citing more than 42,000 FDNY members and families that have participated in CSU programs, as well as more than 4,200 members that have participated in counseling, he professed a vision of healing "physically, spiritually, and emotionally that is difficult to measure, but necessary to achieve."

**F.D.N.Y. Salutes Active Fire & EMS Members Called Up for Military Duty for Operation Iraqi Freedom**

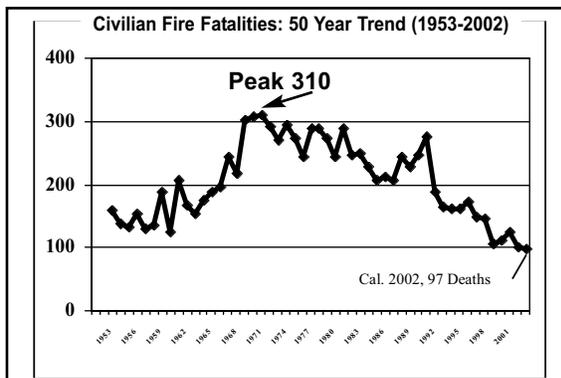
FF. David R. Abreu-Eng.Co.84 -U.S. Army (Res.)  
 FF. Richard Batista-Eng.Co.76 -U.S. Marine Corps (Res.)  
 FF. Brendan J. Ryan-Eng.Co.328 -U.S. Marine Corps (Res.)  
 FF. Daniel Bright-Lad.Co.46 -U.S. Air Nat'l Guard (Res.)  
 Lt. John Byrne-Eng.Co.293-U.S.Coast Guard (Res.)  
 FF. Edward F. Cassidy-Eng.Co.219-U.S. Air Force (Res.)  
 FF. Michael Corrigan-Lad.Co.26-U.S. Army Nat'l (Res.)  
 FF. John Criscuolo-Eng.Co.230-U.S. Marine Corps (Res.)  
 Capt. John R. Crowe-Eng.Co.28-U.S. Coast Guard (Res.)  
 Lt. John P. Cullan-Eng.Co.235-U.S. Coast Guard (Res.)  
 FF. George Diaz-Lad.Co.47 -U.S. Air Nat'l Guard (Res.)  
 FM. Leonard E. Draves-Qns.Bs.-U.S. Air Nat'l Guard (Res.)  
 Lt. Joseph Duggan-Batt.6-U.S. Army (Res.)  
 FF. Christopher Dunic-Eng.Co.219-U.S.Army Nat'l (Res.)  
 FF. Joseph Farrel-Lad.Co.160-U.S.Army (Res.)  
 FF. Paul E. Franco-Eng.Co.76-U.S.Naval (Res.)  
 FF. Brian F. Flager-Eng.Co.298-U.S.Air Force (Res.)  
 FF. Timothy K. Ginley-Eng.Co.94-U.S.Air Nat'l Guard (Res.)  
 FF. David Gold-Eng.Co.46-U.S.Coast Guard (Res.)  
 Lt. John P. Gormley-Lad.Co.34-U.S.Naval (Res.)  
 Lt. Albert Gotay-Batt.41-U.S.Naval (Res.)  
 FF. Robert Grell-Eng.Co.153-U.S.Naval (Res.)  
 FF. Daniel B. Grogel-Lad.Co.26-U.S.Air Nat'l Guard (Res.)  
 FF. Hugh Jimenez-Lad.Co.129-U.S.Army (Res.)  
 FF. Joseph M. Jerovic-Eng.Co.271-U.S.Army (Res.)  
 FF. James Kangaris-Lad.Co.14-U.S. Army (Res.)  
 FF. Pearse Kearnes-Eng.Co.42-U.S.Marine Corps (Res.)  
 FF. Mark Kurtz-Lad.Co.23-U.S.Naval (Res.)  
 FF. Anthony M. Lombardo-U.S. Marine Corps (Res.)  
 FF. Armondo Lopez Jr.-Eng.Co.71-U.S.Army (Res.)  
 FF. Glenn M. Malik-Lad.Co.134-U.S.Coast Guard (Res.)  
 FF. Marques A. Martins-Lad.Co.39-U.S.Army Nat'l (Res.)  
 Lt. Joseph McMahon-Batt.54-U.S.Coast Guard (Res.)  
 FF. Brian McCarrick-Lad.Co.176-U.S.Coast Guard (Res.)

FF. Robert A. Murray-Lad.Co.6-U.S.Marine Corps (Res.)  
 FF. Patrick Neville-Resc.1-U.S.Naval (Res.)  
 FF. Joseph Navarra-Eng.Co.55-U.S.Army (Res.)  
 FF. Michael Nigro-Eng.Co.255-U.S.Naval (Res.)  
 Cme. Gulmar J. Parga-Mar.Co.9-U.S.Coast Guard (Res.)  
 FF. Jorge L. Pacheco Jr.-Eng.Co.224-U.S. Air Force (Res.)  
 FF. Ronald Pinaud-Lad.Co.54-U.S.Army (Res.)  
 FF. Jorge Pena-Fire Academy-U.S.Marine Corps (Res.)  
 FF. Steven Perras-Eng.Co.23-U.S.Air Force (Res.)  
 FF. Walters Pours-Eng.Co.45-U.S.Marine Corps (Res.)  
 FF. Jose Prieto-Lad.Co.144-U.S.-U.S.Naval (Res.)  
 FF. Josef M. Pruden-Eng.Co.303-U.S.Army Nat'l Guard (Res.)  
 Lt. Henry G. Quevedo-Eng.Co.7-U.S.Coast Guard (Res.)  
 FF. Steven Ramos-Lad.Co.152-U.S.Marines (Res.)  
 Supv. FM. Eric Rehbiem-Bfi.-U.S.Coast Guard (Res.)  
 FF. Michael Rehberg-Lad.Co.172-U.S.Coast Guard (Res.)  
 Capt. Fred J. Reich-Lad.Co.6-U.S.Coast Guard (Res.)  
 FM. Salvatore Rignola-Cwsiu-U.S. Marine Corps (Res.)  
 FF. David Rodriguez-Eng.Co.6-U.S.Army Nat'l (Res.)  
 FF. Stewart Rueter-Lad.Co.15-U.S.Army (Res.)  
 Lt. Peter Salatino-Lad.Co.78-U.S.Coast Guard (Res.)  
 FF. Michael Scarlard-Lad.Co.59-U.S.Army Nat'l Guard (Res.)  
 FF. Edward Schiff-Eng.Co.240-U.S.Coast Guard (Res.)  
 Lt. Michael Schmidt-Fltps.-U.S.Coast Guard (Res.)  
 FF. Brian Shea-Lad.Co.9-U.S.Marine Corps (Res.)  
 FF. Francesca A. Smith-Lad.Co.18-U.S.Coast Guard (Res.)  
 FF. Fred Surber-Eng.Co.331-U.S.Coast Guard (Res.)  
 Lt. William Simpson-Eng.Co.152-U.S.Coast Guard (Res.)  
 FF. Thomas E. Smith-Eng.Co.222-U.S.Navy (Res.)  
 FF. Kevin P. Steward-Lad.Co.51-U.S.Coast Guard (Res.)  
 FF. Eric C.Szillus- Eng.Co.227-U.S.Air Force (Res.)  
 FF. Patrick Touhy-Eng.Co.230-U.S.Coast Guard (Res.)  
 FF. Alfred Trentalange-Lad.Co.78-U.S.Army Nat'l Gd.(Res.)  
 FF. John Vincenti-Lad.Co.169-U.S.Air Force (Res.)

FF. Ralph Vitello-Lad.Co.26-U.S.Marine Corps (Res.)  
 FF. Christopher Walsh-Lad.Co.17-U.S.Marine Corps (Res.)  
 Cme. Ronnie West-Marine Co.9-U.S.Air Nat'l Guard (Res.)  
 FF. Joseph Wills-Lad.Co.55-U.S.Army (Res.)  
 EMT Kenneth Bean Batt. 55  
 EMT Jason Charles Batt. 13  
 Shereice T. Grady CA BHS  
 EMT Matthew Moritz Batt. 26  
 Paramedic Catherine L. Abramske BATT. 57  
 EMT Eugene Abramshe BATT. 35  
 Joe K. Adams CE COMM  
 EMT Domingo Ayala BATT. 20  
 EMT Anthony C. Delgado BATT. 20  
 LT. Charles Fiske BATT. 16  
 Ian B. Greenwald Physician OMA  
 Paramedic Edward Keenan BATT. 49  
 EMT Jacob J. Lappin BATT. 35  
 EMT Nicole A. Lawrence RCC  
 Paramedic Christos Lefkaditis BATT. 49  
 EMT Anthony Mazzariello BATT. 15  
 EMT Gianni L. Mirra BATT. 55  
 EMT Carlos Mullin BATT. 20  
 Julian Nierva Attorney BITS  
 Kevin G. Reilly Plumber Fleet  
 EMT Jason Saffon BATT. 4  
 EMT Michael J. Schiottis BATT. 58  
 EMT Danny R. Suarez BATT. 26  
 EMT Juan Angel Vega Batt. 20  
 LT. Nelson J. Velazquez BATT. 14  
 Paramedic Wayne S. Yungams BATT. 57  
 Michael Nin Am Fleet  
 EMT Richard Padron Batt. 17  
 Angel Rondon PAA Personnel  
 Paramedic Jonathan Negron

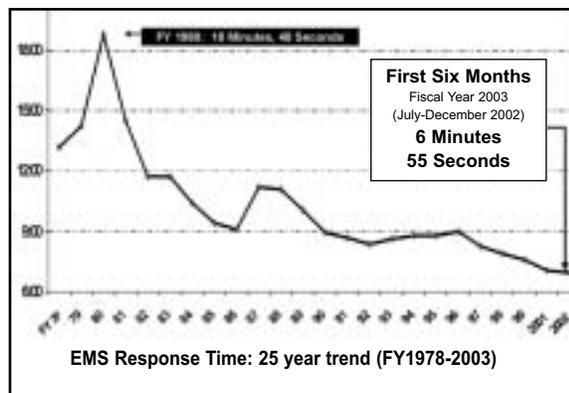
**Fire Fatalities, Response Times Fall to Historic Lows  
 Civilian Fire Fatalities in New York City Lowest in 75 Years**

Last year, civilian fire-related deaths fell to 97, the lowest number since 1927. These remarkably positive numbers are more than likely a result of the recent enactment of aggressive home fire safety legislation (Local Law 10 of 1999, which mandates the distribution of fire safety information literature in all multiple residences throughout New York), as well as FDNY's own fire safety education initiatives. In the past year, especially, FDNY has been extensively involved in several public safety campaigns which alert the public to the dangers of fire as well as educate about the importance of prevention. These public information efforts place particular emphasis on the need for family members—children, adults, seniors—to develop good fire safety practices in the home, the workplace, and at school.



**EMS Response Time to Critical Emergencies Falls to 25-Year Low**

Average EMS unit response time to Segment 1-3 critical emergencies remains impressively low, and is now at its lowest level in 25 years. This year's response time of 6 minutes, 55 seconds is nearly one third of what it was in 1980, when response times averaged almost 19 minutes. And thanks to these record-low numbers, EMTs and Paramedics have a better chance of helping those in need and saving more lives.



NEWSLETTER OF THE NYC FIRE COMMISSIONER

**FIRE DEPARTMENT  
 CITY OF NEW YORK**  
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 BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11201

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 A 137 YEAR HISTORY  
 OF COMMITMENT,  
 COURAGE & COMPASSION**