



“Clearwater’s Hottest Department”

Winter 2004

Annual Turner Award For Paramedic Excellence



In 2004, the Clearwater Fire & Rescue Paramedics receiving the Turner Award are **Brad Golomb, Alex Monte** and **Shawn Taber**. The Turner Award for Excellence was established by Mrs. Freda L. Turner and her late husband, Mr. Thomas R. Turner in 1977 to recognize outstanding fire department employees in the following categories: (1) dedication to duties, (2) enthusiasm, (3) skills in life-saving procedures, (4) efficiency, (5)

accuracy in following the Medical Operations Manual, (6) compassion, and (7) understanding of their patients, responsibility, (8) initiative and anticipation of each phase of emergency care, (9) public relations, (10) education in the community and (11) participation in continuing education programs. A committee comprised of the Fire Chief and several other fire department administrative employees makes the selection.

This year, the recipients were honored with a delightful luncheon hosted by Mrs. Turner at the Regency Oaks dining room. Fire Chief Jamie Geer, EMS Chief Jim Fogarty, Vice Mayor/Council Member Frank Hibbard, Lt. Wendy Cason, DC Don March, Pinellas County Medical Director Jeff Bernard and the winners’ wives and fiancé were all in attendance to recognize these CF&R outstanding paramedics.

FIREFIGHTER COMBAT CHALLENGE

The 2004 Combat Challenge Team representing Clearwater Fire & Rescue scored well in the recent annual competition. Shown in the photo, Left to Right: **Steve Avise, Jeff Wallace** (standing); **Brian Swartz, Anthony Gomillion** and **Bill Wargin** (holding the dog).

The Firefighter Challenge first began in 1974 when Fire Chief David Gratz, Director of Fire/Rescue Services in Montgomery County, MD, approached several Sports Medicine physicians at the University of Maryland to assist him in developing a physical ability and agility test to determine whether an applicant for a firefighter position had the requisite capabilities to perform the essential job functions of a firefighter. The actual competition involved being tested in (1) High Rise Pack Carry, (2) Hose Hoist, (3) Forcible Entry, (4) Hose Advance and (5) Victim Rescue. All of these are extremely strenuous events. The team is always seeking sponsorship to help defray travel costs, entry fees and hotel accommodations. If you need further information, contact any of our firefighters. Our guys are once again to be congratulated!



MESSAGE FROM CHIEF GEER



Happy Holidays to everyone!

I want to start my first article in the newsletter addressing the management and office staff. We have accomplished many tasks over the last four months. I realized that there would be much to address within this organization prior to my arrival in August. We still have a way to go, but I can't express my appreciation for such a talented and positive support group.

As you know, I have spent a lot of time visiting the fire stations and getting to know everyone. There is an impressive amount of experience, education, and knowledge in the field. I hear and see passion, dedication, and a drive to make things better in the Department. I can't stress enough the impact that has implementing needed changes.

Congratulations to all who have achieved positions of increased responsibility and contribution. I am most pleased with the talent brought to the table. A special thank you for those that have served in an acting position this year to contribute to our success.

Some upcoming 2005 projects are:

- Strategic planning for Operations Division
- New Support Division Chief, Training Chief, and Health and Safety Chief
- More effective support and logistics
- Design of new training facility (to be located at the current Belcher site)
- Resolution to labor contract
- Increased opportunities within the chain of command
- Revised standard operating procedures especially safety and IC
- Quarterly officers meetings
- Training, training, training

And I'm sure we will find more projects to work on and implement as we go into 2005. I want to thank you all for your tremendous support and enthusiasm. Have a very happy and healthy New Year. Be safe.

HOLIDAY CAMARADERIE

Clearwater Fire & Rescue coordinated the Shelter Care Christmas Program for 160 children this year. **LT Wendy Cason** took the lead and with a lot of “help from her friends” and co-workers, they will make many less fortunate kids very, very happy on Christmas morning. Thank you, Wendy and all those who helped wrap and distribute the gifts.

Doug Swartz and the Fire Explorers coordinated the annual Holiday Food baskets for 79 families. **Virginia Costa** and the administrative staff organized and catered the Employee Recognition Luncheon, which was very much appreciated and well attended. CF& R also donated and delivered over 200 stuffed animals to the Toys for Tots program. Thanks to everyone!



EXPO 2004 – FIRE PREVENTION WEEK KICK-OFF **ANOTHER GREAT SUCCESS!**



EXPO 2004, coordinated by Elaine Lewis, Public Education Specialist from Clearwater Fire & Rescue was held at Westfield Mall, Countryside. The event showcased Clearwater Fire & Rescue along with seven other north Pinellas County fire departments, the Department of Forestry, and the Aircraft Rescue & Fire Fighting Division from St.Pete/Clearwater airport. There were 11 antique fire trucks on display, the CF&R Marine Rescue unit boat and equipment as well as multiple engines and other fire apparatus. Indoors, there were several very popular static displays of fire



and life safety information, fire clowns, County 911, Pinellas County Sheriff's Department and other interactive activities. It was very well attended and everyone is definitely looking forward to 2005.



TRUE SURVIVORS

A First Time Account

By Jeffrey Camden

She was to me the *most* physically changed from burns of all the children. **"She's been coming to Burn Camp for five years" I was told "her name is Melissa". I think she was eleven years old.**

Melissa jumped in the pool right next to us as I caught the next pass. Despite having essentially no hands and such short arms she would grab the football and launch her whole body out of the water to throw it. She looked tired but I was very wrong.

Commence jumping! She and I must have made a hundred jumps into that pool. Holding my hand with the rounded end of her arm where her hand used to be, Cannonballs, and her personal favorite the shove/push method. I asked her if she wanted to jump in on the deep-end side of the rope. **She replied, "I'll try, will you jump with me". I assured her I would and I wouldn't let anything happen to her.** On the way she admitted she was scared but never once hesitated. We jumped and I told her she was brave. She could not have known how much I meant it.

She kept going; challenging herself by swimming from the rope to the wall of the deep end. It was harder for her because she had no hands and moved very little water. I stayed in the pool by her side (when she would let me) and only twice swam for both of us **when her lungs wouldn't carry her any further. I have never been more humbled or amazed by another human than I was by her that day.**

We want to believe that we are a kind, unselfish, compassionate and decent people. The world makes it hard to be that way everyday. But as long as there are days like that one in the pool I tell myself I can try, *try harder*. **Still I wonder, "Who took more away from burn camp, those kids or me"?**



LM Dave Hogan Goes to Washington, DC



The IAFF Burn Foundation is an organization dedicated to burn prevention, education, research and improving the quality of life for burn survivors. Bum camps across the United States and Canada typically nominate one camper and one counselor to attend the IAFF National Children's Burn Camp every year. This year, LM **Dave Hogan** from CF&R was selected as one of the counselors to accompany 41 teenagers to the Nation's Capitol. One of the biggest honors campers experience is to witness the changing of the guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery. While in D.C., Dave and kids were treated with honor and respect, just "like dignitaries". Dave has been actively involved in the bum camp for eight years and characterizes his trip to Washington, DC as an "incredible experience"—one he and the kids will never forget!



Clearwater Fire & Rescue

Years-of- Service 2004

30 Years

NAME	SHIFT	SENIORITY DATE
Pittman, Herman	B	4/14/74

25 Years

NAME	SHIFT	SENIORITY DATE
Costa, Gary	B	04/02/79
Dopirak, David	B	08/06/79
Fogarty, James	Admin.	08/06/79
Nickerson, Lowell	B	08/06/79
Watkins, William	B	08/06/79
Hoven, Paul	Fire Shop	12/31/79

15 Years

NAME	SHIFT	SENIORITY DATE
Hogan, David	C	07/10/89
Streicher, Ronald	C	07/10/89

10 Years

NAME	SHIFT	SENIORITY DATE
Ballouz, Nathan	A	05/16/94
Rowell, Anna	B	05/16/94
Shore, Scott	A	05/16/94
Colbert, Stephen	C	12/12/94
Maser, Darrin	A	12/12/94
Schonborn, Brian	B	12/12/94

5 Years

NAME	SHIFT	SENIORITY DATE
Lewis, Elaine	Prevention	03/01/99
Yawn, David	A	07/19/99
Connors, Joseph	C	07/19/99
Graham, Jevon	C	07/19/99
Hutto, Michael	B	07/19/99
Jones, Michael	B	07/19/99
Keane, Robert	C	07/19/99
Lopez, Jon	C	07/19/99
Whitney, Frank	A	07/19/99
Hawkins, Andrew	C	10/04/99
DeVivo, Gerard	B	10/04/99
Smith, Steven	B	10/04/99
Daerr, Matthew	A	10/04/99
Taber, Shawn	A	10/04/99
Young, Absolom	A	10/04/99

4th ANNUAL "Medic Up" COMPETITION



Lead Medic Sean McKay & Fire Lt. Brent Bronson.

The 4th Annual "Medic-Up" competition, sponsored by the International Tactical EMS Association was held in conjunction with their annual conference in Virginia Beach, VA. The "Medic-Up" competition consists of four components, which are each individually scored. The final standings are determined by adding up all the points for the four components and the team with the highest score wins. Clearwater Fire & Rescue placed second overall. The events included the following scenarios: (1) Officer rescue scenario (rescue and treatment of a downed officer in a tactical environment), (2) Extraordinary deployment scenario (mass casualty scene with triage and treatment of patients), (4) a gauntlet scenario (an active shooter with multiple patients and extractions) and (4) Dynamic entry scenario (patient assessment & treatment in a hostile environment with simulated tear gas.) The winners from our department are:

Clearwater Fire & Rescue Personnel

Moms, Dads & Babies

Congratulations to Peter Georgantas and his wife Shannon on the birth of their son [Ryan Cooper](#) on September 14, 2004.

Paul Capo and his wife Kristie celebrate the birth of their baby boy, [Michael Robert Capo](#) on September 16, 2004.

John Klinefelter and his wife Carrie are the proud parents of baby girl, [Abbee Lynn Klinefelter](#), born October 5, 2004.

Greg Record and his wife gave birth to their first child, [Parker Gregory Record](#), on October 30, 2004.

Best Wishes

Public Education Receives Grant



Windi Keegan

Windi is the daughter of Staff Assistant, Karen Keegan. She is a recent graduate of the Naval Reserve Training Camp in Great Lakes, Michigan. Her rating is Personnel Seaman.

Windi says she is looking forward to challenges offered by her next two-week active duty assignment, which could be in Hawaii. Karen (Mom) is very proud of Windi's desire to serve her country in the Naval Reserve.

Windi, keep up the good work!



Clearwater SAM'S CLUB manager awarded a \$1,000 check to Fire Public Education Specialist **Elaine Lewis**. Elaine applied for the grant earlier this year. This is the second consecutive year that SAM'S CLUB has honored the Clearwater Fire & Rescue Public Education program. The money will be used toward Safety Village.

Herman A. Pittman

30 Years of Service

Herman began his career with Clearwater Fire & Rescue in 1977. Before joining the fire service, he worked for the City of Clearwater in the Marine Department. During his tenure at CF&R, he has been a Safety Diver and is a member of the Dive Team. Herman has over 15 years experience as a Driver Operator. In 1996, he was recognized for his courageous efforts while on duty during the civil disturbances in St. Petersburg. Lt. Pittman is a valued member of our department and he performs his duties with a positive attitude and in an outstanding manner.

Congratulations!

(No photo available)

Paul A. Hoven

25 Years of Service

Paul Hoven began his career with the City of Clearwater on December 30, 1979 as a Mechanic in Central Services. He worked there until he transferred to a mechanic's position with the Clearwater Fire Department on January 14, 1980. Paul worked as a Mechanic II until May 2, 1997, at which time he was promoted to his current assignment as Fleet Mechanic Supervisor. Paul oversees the Fire Shop Mechanics; supervises the repairs, maintenance, and refurbishment of all Department apparatus. He also performs highly skilled mechanical work in the repair and maintenance of fire and fire related equipment.

Paul has received specialty training for apparatus, aerals, and fire pumps, as well as the Jaws of Life. He is ASE certified and a Scott Air-pack Technician. This allows Paul to ensure our units are always in peak condition. Additionally, he ensures that we comply with N.F.P.A. guidelines and that we operate within the most stringent of safety parameters.

Paul is a dedicated employee who always gives his best effort and is willing to assist the department at anytime. Paul provides technical assistance whenever necessary while completing a full schedule of repairs. He works well with the firefighters and is always quick to respond if equipment is compromised.

We are very proud to have Paul as a City of Clearwater/Clearwater Fire & Rescue Fleet Mechanic Supervisor. Congratulations, Paul, on your long and distinguished career with our department!



Jason Jones - Chief of Logistics



Our new Chief of Logistics, Jason Jones, began his career in public service as a firefighter in Williamson County, Tennessee in 1991. He subsequently worked at the 911 Dispatch Center as a Telecommunications Supervisor and has been an Assistant Fire Chief, Fire Captain and EMT with the Nolensville Volunteer Fire Department. Chief Jones was selected as Fire Fighter of the Year in 1994.

In September of 1997, Chief Jones continued his public service career with the Franklin Fire Department as a firefighter and six years later, Chief Jones was promoted to Assistant Fire Marshal/Safety Officer. In 2004, he was commissioned as an Arson Investigator with the Franklin Fire Department. He is also an I.A.A.I Certified Fire and Explosion Investigator, I.C.C., Certified Fire Code Inspector and at one time was the first Fire Code Inspector in Nolensville, TN. He brings a diverse background in fire suppression at all levels, with

particular expertise in HazMat Response, Rope Rescue, Water Rescue, Vehicle Extrication, Pump Operator Levels I, II and III, Fire Officer I, Incident Safety Officer, and Emergency Management Mitigation.

Chief Jones is married and lives with his wife, Angela, son Jackson (age 5) and his 15 month-old daughter, Aubree. He enjoys coaching his son's "Pee-Wee" league baseball team.

We are glad Chief Jones decided to join Clearwater Fire & Rescue in the newly created position of Chief of Logistics and wish him all the best.

Recent Promotions



Robert Dubé – *Deputy Chief*

Joel Gray – *Division Chief of Prevention & Investigations*

Randy Bacher – *Division Chief of Operations*

Jeff Patterson – *Assistant Chief of Special Operations*

Jerry Howell – *Assistant Chief/Health & Safety Bureau*

Lieutenant – Brent Bronson, Steve Coward, Jevon Graham, Glenn Witco, Robert Quinn

Firefighter/Lead Medic – Kevin Boaden, William Muniz, Shawn Taber, Jennifer Wargin

Firefighter/Driver Operator – Mike Faulkner, Scott Shore, Frank Whitney, Absolom Young, Paul Capo, Doug Swartz

Congratulations!



Editor & Layout Design

Elaine Lewis – Fire Information & Public Education Specialist

Contributors

[In alphabetical order]

Denise Balog – Administrative Analyst

Jeff Camden – Fire Information & Public Education Specialist

Virginia Costa – Personnel/Payroll Technician

Jamie Geer – Fire Chief

Anthony Gomillion – Fire Fighter

Dave Hogan – Lead Medic

Karen Keegan – Staff Assistant

Elaine Lewis – Fire Information & Public Education Specialist