

20TH ANNUAL EXECUTIVE FIRE OFFICER PROGRAM Graduate Symposium Agenda

MARCH 28-30, 2008

Tentative Agenda and Presenters

(The following presentations and programs are subject to final procurement actions.)

The Executive Fire Officer Program (EFOP) Graduate Symposium is the official alumni weekend for the EFOP, an opportunity for alumni to return home to the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg Maryland.

Since 1985, the EFOP has challenged its executive fire officers to lead. Our 2500+ alumni have responded, and continue to exercise leadership within their communities.

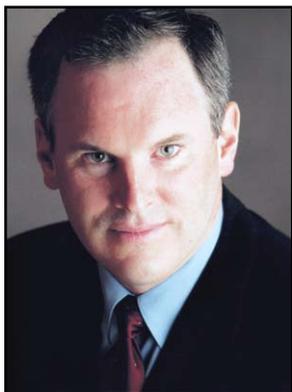
This year, we celebrate a milestone—the 20th Symposium. Our agenda and presenters will acknowledge a very important anniversary. Our program focus will continue to examine existing EFOP curricula themes and discover new information within the areas of exercising leadership, firefighter safety and health, public policy, political perspectives, and applied research.

In the history of the 19 symposia, there has never been a single participant who stated they would not attend a future symposium based on the quality and content of the programs.

We invite all EFOP alumni to be a part of this 20th Symposium!

KEYNOTE PRESENTATION: “The State of Homeland Security: Roles of Fire Executives”

Presenter: Dr. Stephen E. Flynn



Stephen Flynn is the Jeane J. Kirkpatrick senior fellow for National Security Studies at the Council on Foreign Relations. He is the author of the critically acclaimed *The Edge of Disaster: Rebuilding a Resilient Nation* (Random House, 2007), and the national bestseller, *America the Vulnerable* (HarperCollins 2004). At the Council, Dr. Flynn directs an ongoing private sector working group on homeland security. He was the Director and principal author for the task force report *America: Still Unprepared—Still in Danger*, (2002) cochaired by former Senators Gary Hart and Warren Rudman.

Dr. Flynn is a Consulting Professor at the Center of International Security and Cooperation at Stanford University and a Senior Fellow at the Wharton School's Risk Management and Decision Processes Center at the University of Pennsylvania. Since 9/11 he has provided testimony on nineteen occasions on Capitol Hill. He has served as the principal advisor to the bipartisan Congressional Port Security Caucus and is a member of the Marine Board of the National Research Council.

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He is a frequent media commentator and has appeared on *Meet the Press*, *60 Minutes*, *The News Hour with Jim Lehrer*, *The Today Show*, *Nightline*, the *Charlie Rose Show*, *CNN* and on National Public Radio. Three of his articles have been featured in the prestigious journal, *Foreign Affairs*. Excerpts of his books have been featured in *Time*, as the cover story for *U.S. News & World Report*, and as the subject of two *CNN* documentaries.

From August 2000 to February 2001, Dr. Flynn served as the lead consultant on the homeland security issue to the U.S. Commission on National Security (Hart-Rudman Commission). He has served in the White House Military Office during the George H. W. Bush administration and as a director for Global Issues on the National Security Council staff during the Clinton administration.

A 1982 graduate of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, Dr. Flynn served in the Coast Guard on active duty for 20 years, including two tours as commanding officer at sea, received several professional awards including the Legion of Merit, and retired at the rank of Commander. He received the M.A.L.D. and Ph.D. degrees in International Politics from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University, in 1990 and 1991. He was a Guest Scholar in the Foreign Policy Studies Program at the Brookings Institution from 1991-92, and in 1993-94 he was an Annenberg Scholar-in-Residence at the University of Pennsylvania.

Dr. Flynn is the principal for Stephen E. Flynn Associates LLC, where he provides independent advisory services on improving enterprise resiliency and transportation and logistics security. He also serves on the advisory board for the San Diego-based Crossflo Systems. Born in Salem, Massachusetts, Dr. Flynn lives in Connecticut with his wife JoAnn and their daughter Christina.

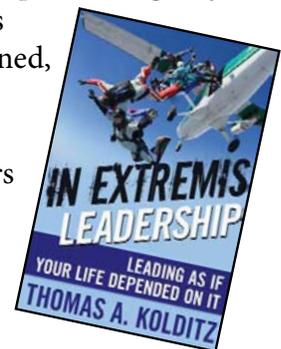
PRESENTATION: “In-Extremis Leadership—Leading In Times of Crisis”

Presenter: Colonel Thomas Kolditz



Colonel Tom Kolditz is Professor and Head of the Department of Behavioral Sciences and Leadership at the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York. Kolditz has served in an array of military tactical command and technical staff assignments worldwide, and as a leadership and human resources policy analyst in the Pentagon. His department is responsible for teaching, research, and outreach activities in Leadership, Psychology, Sociology, and Management at West Point.

Colonel Kolditz will discuss his most recent work, a book titled *In Extremis Leadership—Leading as if Your Life Depended on It*, published in 2007 by Jossey-Bass. Kolditz explains that his research on *in extremis* leadership, where followers perceive their lives to be threatened, reveals that the leadership lessons and principles in evidence in dangerous settings also apply to leading in business and everyday life. The book shows how leadership literally defines the promise of hope or future life, and that extremely capable leaders are needed in all walks of life. The book describes a variety of high-risk situations that are ideal settings to seek and find great leaders, assess how they might be different, and to glean valuable insights for extraordinary leadership in our everyday lives.



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Colonel Kolditz is a Fellow in the American Psychological Association and in the Inter-University Seminar on Armed Forces and Society, and is a member of the Academy of Management and the Society of Psychologists in Management.

Since 2001, Colonel Kolditz has served as a coach and mentor to the US Military Academy Sport Parachute Team. An accomplished parachute instructor with more than 1000 jumps, he weaves his personal experiences and abilities as a soldier, skydiver, and scholar into the first-hand study, analysis, and practice of leadership in dangerous circumstances—in extremis leadership—and how such leadership can inform the practice of leading in more ordinary settings, across the private, public, and social sectors. His teaching and research efforts center on applied social psychology and leadership. In 2003, Colonel Kolditz and a small team of researchers traveled throughout Iraq to study cohesion for the Army's chief of personnel. His most recent work, a book titled *In Extremis Leadership: Leading as if Your Life Depended on It*, was published in 2007 by Jossey-Bass.

A frequently requested speaker, his audiences have included the World Business Forum and executive audiences from Goldman Sachs, Anheuser Busch, Citigroup, and EDS. As a professor, he has led academic seminars or given lectures to students from Babson, Wellesley, and Olin Colleges, Columbia University, Duke University, Yale University, Peking University, the Beijing International MBA program, the US Army War College, and the US Military Academy.

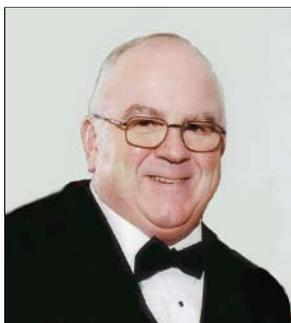
He holds numerous degrees, including a Bachelor's degree in Psychology and Sociology from Vanderbilt University, as well as Masters and Ph.D. degrees in Social Psychology from the University of Missouri, a Master of Military Arts and Science, and a Masters in Strategic Studies.

PRESENTATION: “Developing, Maintaining, and Enhancing a Culture of Safety at Delta Airlines”. Presenters: Jack Rutledge, Captain Bill Sawtelle

Delta Airlines is truly one of world's largest, international airlines. Delta flies to 311 destinations in 52 countries using 440 aircraft staffed and supported by over 55,000 employees. How does a corporation operating globally institute, maintain, and even enhance a culture of safety within an environment filled with technical, operational, weather, and human challenges which are confronted on a daily basis?



USFA is excited to welcome to the Symposium a cadre of Delta senior officials who will discuss the Delta safety culture. The intent of this presentation is to create a forum and exchange of best practices. Changing the culture is one of the identified 16 behaviors of the “Everyone Goes Home” set of initiatives.



Jack Rutledge

After serving as a Navy Corpsman during the Vietnam War, Mr. Rutledge joined the fire service and was soon teaching full time at the Illinois Fire Service Institute. He developed and co-developed a variety of fire service programs throughout the 70's and 80's including the Smoke Divers and FAST schools. During that time Jack also worked part-time as a commercial pilot and flight instructor. In 1990 he went to work in a non-flying capacity at Delta Air Lines in flight operations where he developed Computer Based Training programs

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for pilots, instructed Crew Resource Management, and developed a Case File Management program for tracking Delta – FAA related incidents. Jack is semi-retired, but still actively instructs and consults within the aviation and fire/emergency services fields.



Captain Bill Sawtelle

After graduating from Norwich University in 1983, Captain Sawtelle entered the United States Air Force and attended undergraduate pilot training at Williams Air Force Base in Arizona. He then became a primary flight/jet instructor in the T-37 aircraft, teaching new students. He then went on to Randolph Air Force Base (Texas) as an instructor trainer of pilots. In 1990, Captain Sawtelle was hired by Delta Air Lines. He currently serves as Captain on the Boeing 767ER (Extended Range), primarily flying in the international arena. Captain Sawtelle is very active in the Air Line Pilot's Association as a committee head. He was a member of the Peachtree City Fire Department for eleven years and had attained the rank of Sergeant.



FRIDAY EVENING PRESENTATION: “Leadership by CHOICE” Presenter: Lou Heckler

Over the years, Symposium attendees have anticipated and looked forward to this program component, the “Friday Evening Presentation”. For this 20th anniversary, we are delighted to continue this tradition and add a touch of nostalgia as Lou Heckler, the keynote presenter for both the 1991 and 1995 symposia returns to Emmitsburg in a slightly different program role.

Lou was raised in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, which is really Midwestern US, not the East. (Ask him what “read up” – pronounced ‘red up’ -- your room means!) He received his Bachelor’s degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and loves Southern people, Southern foods, Southern storytelling.

His military days were spent primarily at Fort Harrison, Indiana, and because he taught at what’s called a joint service school, he met people from all the US military services and those from dozens of countries around the world.

The University of Michigan chose him three times to conduct management programs in Hong Kong, where his classrooms were filled with people from more than a half dozen nations in the Pacific Rim.

He has lived in Florida since 1979 and has stood at “the end of the world” at far southern Key West...has tubed down beautiful rivers in North Florida...and has ducked inside faster than you can imagine when old DC-3 aircraft spraying mosquito repellent swooped over the Southwest Florida wetlands and beaches.

Lou has spent countless days in Manhattan, has traversed the entire states of North and South Dakota and Nebraska doing area meetings for their state bank associations. He has spoken in most of the provinces in Canada, in England, in Bermuda, in Mexico, in Nassau and three times in Australia.

Lou has received both the National Speakers Association designation of Certified Speaking Professionals (CSP) and the Council of Peers Award for Excellence (CPAE) which inducted him to their Speakers Hall of Fame.

Lou's inspiring message concerning leadership while you smile will be a 20th Symposium memoir.

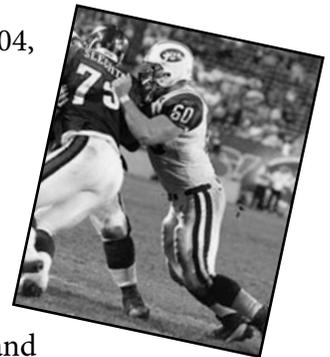
PRESENTATION: "Pure Performance—Drugs and Alcohol"

Presenter: Dennis O'Sullivan, American Athletic Institute



We all have a fairly good idea what the negative effects of illicit drugs and alcohol have on the human body, but what about the casual if not frequent use of these same substances and their impact on human performance? How does this issue relate to and affect our personnel within fire and emergency services? And importantly, what is the relationship of this to firefighter injury, line of duty death, illness, and mortality? This presentation will provide research and insights in an attempt to answer these questions.

Dennis O'Sullivan played in the National Football League (NFL) from 1999 to 2004, spending the majority of his time with the New York Jets and Houston Texans. Before going to the NFL, Dennis graduated from Tulane University, where he captained the 1998 team to an undefeated season and a final national ranking of No. 7. Along with being Tulane's Defensive Most Valuable Player (MVP) in 1998, Dennis was also the 1998 Liberty Bowl Scholar Athlete, the 1998 Nokia Sugar Bowl Quarterback Club Outstanding Student Athlete, and the 1998-99 Tulane University Male Student Athlete of the Year. Dennis is the former Director of New York City Government Affairs for the New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services and is currently the Director of College and Professional Development at the American Athletic Institute. Dennis is also President and Founder of Two Town's Charity, Inc., an organization dedicated to helping underprivileged children.



Dennis is currently the Vice President of the American Athletic Institute. In his time with the American Athletic Institute Dennis has worked with a great number of organizations and institutions that include the United Nations, National Basketball Association, National Football League, Major League Baseball, American Hockey Coaches Association, Washington Wizards, Milwaukee Bucks, Ohio State University, University of Michigan, Georgia Tech, Michigan State, University of Wisconsin, Cornell University, and Dartmouth University.

2007 OUTSTANDING APPLIED RESEARCH AWARD PRESENTATIONS:

The four 2007 EFOP Outstanding Applied Research Award winners will be invited to present and defend their research. The Symposium is the certainly the highlight of the EFOP year and the individuals selected each year to present their research and receive recognition represent the "best of the best". The DHS/USFA/NFA Outstanding Applied Research Awards will be presented at the Symposium Banquet to be held on Saturday April 14. At this time the *National Society of Executive Fire Officers (NSEFO)* will also present the "A. Don Manno Outstanding Applied Research Award" to each of the four recipients.

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The four 2007 Outstanding Applied Research Award winners are:

Executive Development Course: Carl Blanksvard, Fire Inspector. Rock Springs (Wyoming) Fire Department. *"Identifying Requirements for Reporting Hazardous Materials Storage to Local Fire Departments"*.

Leading Community Risk Reduction Course: Steven Knight, Fire Lieutenant. St. Petersburg (Florida) Fire Rescue. *"Sink or Swim: Is St. Petersburg Fire & Rescue Doing All They Can to Prevent Drowning?"*

Executive Analysis of Fire Service Operations in Emergency Management Course: David Kilbury, Battalion Commander, Cape Coral (Florida) Fire & Rescue & EMS. *"The Damage Assessment Process in Cape Coral, Florida following Hurricane Charley"*.

Executive Leadership Course: Steven A. Zwirn, Battalion Chief.

Park City (Utah) Fire Service District. *"Examining the 72 Consecutive Hour Work Limit"*.

2007 EXECUTIVE FIRE OFFICER PROGRAM GRADUATE RECOGNITION CEREMONY:

Each year the U.S. Fire Administration's National Fire Academy has the opportunity to formally recognize those senior fire executives who distinguished themselves by completing the EFOP during the prior calendar year. During the Symposium banquet on the evening of Saturday March 29, these individuals will be recognized and congratulated by U.S. Fire Administrator, Gregory B. Cade.

ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR GREGORY B. CADE



Gregory B. Cade is the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Assistant Administrator (Fire Administrator) for the United States Fire Administration (USFA). Appointed in May 2007, Assistant Administrator Cade is responsible for supporting state and local fire service programs as well as implementing FEMA Administrator R. David Paulison's preparedness initiatives for emergency readiness, firefighter training, and equipment.

Before accepting this post, Assistant Administrator Cade was the Fire Chief/Emergency Services Coordinator for the City of Virginia Beach (VA) Fire Department. From 1998-2007, he managed 900 personnel with a \$38 million operating budget. He also oversaw the Virginia Task Force 2 Urban Search and Rescue Team and operated 19 fire/rescue stations covering 311 square miles of land and 35 miles of Atlantic and Chesapeake coastline out to the international line.

He began his career in Prince George's County Maryland as an entry-level firefighter. He performed in the areas of risk management, budget analyst, training instructor, and rose through the ranks to his last assignment as the Bureau Chief, Division of Fire/Rescue before leaving and becoming Fire Chief of the City of Hampton (VA) in 1992. His emergency management experience includes activities related to

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preparing for, responding to, and recovering from several Presidentially-declared man-made and natural disasters.

Assistant Administrator Cade earned a Bachelor of Science from the University of Maryland and completed the Program for Senior Executives in State and Local Government at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government. He received the Victoria J. Adams Award for Excellence in Equal Employment Opportunity/Affirmative Action from the Virginia Department of Fire Programs in 1997 and holds positions in several professional associations. Assistant Administrator is also past vice president of the National Society of Executive Fire Officers.

Assistant Administrator Cade has 39 years of fire and rescue services experience and is committed to ensuring that "every firefighter has the resources needed to be safe and effective while providing fire services for the community."

SUPERINTENDENT'S PRESENTATION: Dr. Denis Onieal, National Fire Academy Superintendent



The Superintendent of the National Fire Academy, Dr. Denis Onieal, will once again present to Symposium participants an engaging and informative program.

PRESENTATION: "Are We There Yet?"

Presenter: Azarang (Ozzie) Mirkhah, P.E., CBO, EFO



Azarang (Ozzie) Mirkhah is the Fire Protection Engineer (FPE) for the City of Las Vegas Department of Fire & Rescue. His responsibilities include reviewing all building fire and life safety system designs and submittals to ensure compliance with federal, state, and local fire/life safety codes and standards. Mr. Mirkhah is also involved in the development of fire/life safety codes and standards for the city.

Mr. Mirkhah is a registered professional engineer with more than 25 years of work experience in the field of fire protection engineering. Mr. Mirkhah joined the Las Vegas Fire & Rescue (LVF&R) more than 12 years ago. Prior to that Mr. Mirkhah worked as a consultant designing fire protection systems for some of the most internationally recognized fire protection consulting firms.

Mr. Mirkhah holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering (BSME), and a Masters degree in Public Administration (MPA). Mr. Mirkhah is a 1999 graduate of the National Fire Academy's Executive Fire Officer Program. Mr. Mirkhah is a Certified Building Official, Certified Fire Inspector, Certified Mechanical Inspector, and Certified Plans Examiner through the International Code Council (ICC). He is also a Firehouse.com Contributing Editor.

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Mr. Mirkhah is a member of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and serves on the national NFPA 13 Technical Committee for Sprinkler System Discharge Design Criteria. Mr. Mirkhah is also a member of the Society of Fire Protection Engineers (SFPE), Institution of Fire Engineers (IFE) - USA Branch, and of the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC).

Perhaps one of Mr. Mirkhah's most admirable traits is his zeal, enthusiasm and passion for life safety from fire in this country if not the world. "Are We There Yet?" promises to renew your commitment to establish fire safe communities.

PRESENTATION: "Politics, Policy & Practice – What the Fire Service Needs to Know and Do"
DHS/USFA Faculty Presentation: Dr. Burton Clark EFO, CFO

This presentation is intended to be broadcast (live) via the Internet Worldwide.

"The politicians on Election Day wanted the firemen's vote and many promises were made then by them. Hold them to their promises by all means if the necessity require, and remember they are the servants of the taxpayers and voters and not to party leaders alone." (*The Firemen's Herald*, January 4, 1900, vol. 39, no. 1, pg. 1.)

This panel presentation will examine the political process as it relates and applies to fire and emergency services. It will be moderated by Dr. Clark and feature eminently qualified panel members featuring a variety of experiences and perspectives.

Panelists:



Hal Bruno, *Political Director—ABC News (Ret.)*

Hal Bruno is Chairman of the Board of Directors of the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation. A professional journalist for over 50 years, he retired in 1999 as Political Director of ABC News. Before joining ABC, he worked for Newsweek magazine for 18 years in several top editorial positions. He moderated the vice presidential debate during the 1992 campaign and frequently has appeared on national network political discussion panels.

Throughout his distinguished career as a political analyst and journalist, Hal Bruno has remained active in the fire service community. He served as an active volunteer firefighter over a period of 40 years. He currently serves as a director of the Chevy Chase, Maryland Fire Department, and a member of the Friendship Fire Association of the District of Columbia Fire & Rescue Service. He has written the monthly "Fire Politics" column for Firehouse magazine since the magazine was founded in 1976.

He served as an Army intelligence officer during the Korean War and returned to journalism as a news reporter in Chicago. He won a Fulbright Scholarship to India where he also filed stories for International News Service.

Mr. Bruno has won numerous awards for his work in journalism and the fire-rescue service. In 1995, the Congressional Fire Services Institute selected him as its "Fire Service Person of the

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Year,” and in 1999 he received the President’s Award from the International Association of Fire Chiefs. He has been honored with the “Illini Achievement Award” by the University of Illinois and, in 1999, was named “Press Veteran of the Year” by the Chicago Press Veterans Association.



Ed Rollins, *Political Consultant and Strategist*

Ed Rollins has long been known as one of America’s premiere political strategists and communications experts. He directed the most successful Presidential campaign in the history of the United States, serving as Ronald Reagan’s 1984 National Campaign Director. He led the first successful bid to unseat the Speaker of the House when he orchestrated George Nethercutt’s (R-WA) victory over Tom Foley.

Mr. Rollins served in the administrations of Presidents Nixon, Ford, and Reagan, joining the Reagan administration as one of the President’s top advisors in the role of Assistant to the President for Political and Governmental Affairs. In 1989, he became the first and only non-Member of Congress to head the National Republican Congressional Committee.

Today, he is an advisor on campaign and communications strategies for companies, national governments, and candidates for public office around the globe. He is also a frequent television commentator, appearing regularly on such shows as NBC’s *Meet the Press*, ABC’s *This Week*, and *Nightline*, and CNN’s *Larry King Live* and *Crossfire*.

He was named the national campaign chairman for the Mike Huckabee campaign in December 2007.

He also served as dean of the faculty and Deputy Superintendent at the National Fire Academy in Washington 1977-78.



Dennis Rubin, *Fire Chief, District of Columbia, Washington, D.C.*

Dennis L. Rubin is the Chief of the Fire and Emergency Medical Services Department for the District of Columbia. He was named as Mayor Adrian Fenty’s top choice to head the agency in March 2007. Chief Rubin is now responsible for the management and supervision of more than 2000 employees and an annual operating budget in excess of \$170 million. The resident population of Washington D.C is approximately 600,000, but the influx of federal workers and tourists can expand the daily population to 1.5 million. The agency is the nation’s first responder, responsible for safeguarding the US Capitol, the White House, and other precious landmarks, schools, businesses and homes.

Prior to his nomination, Mr. Rubin was Chief of the Atlanta Fire Rescue Department, which has 1150 employees and a yearly operational budget exceeding \$88 million. The City of Atlanta is the “Heart of the South” and is an international center for trade, commerce as well as tourism.

Chief Rubin’s experience in fire and rescue service spans more than 35 years. He has been a line firefighter, company grade officer and command level officer in several major fire departments

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including Washington, DC and Norfolk, Virginia. In 1994, he served as the President of the State Fire Chiefs Association of Virginia. Mr. Rubin was the host Fire Chief for the 1999 Southeastern Fire Chiefs Association conference held in Dothan, Alabama. He serves on several committees with the International Association of Fire Chiefs, including a two-year term as the Health and Safety Committee Chair. Chief Rubin was the host Fire Chief for the “Wingspread IV and V” conferences held in 1996 and 2006. He is an Executive Fire Officer Program Graduate and Chief Fire Officer Designee.



Dave Statter

Dave Statter joined WUSA Channel 9 as a general assignment reporter in August 1985. He came from WTOP Radio, where he was a traffic reporter, and then a news reporter. In 1997, he was the first in the mainstream press to discover and report on the problems with “Omega” fire sprinklers, a very popular system used around the world. “Omega” sprinklers were eventually recalled by the CPSC. Dave won a local Emmy Award in 1995 for Spot News coverage on the report “Car Chase Fire.” The same story, on which he was both producer and reporter, earned him a “Best of Gannett” award.

The series of stories he is most proud of came under the banner “Get Out Alive.” From 1995 to 2001, WUSA Channel 9 did a series of reports and a half-hour special teaching people what to do in case of a fire in a single family home, a high rise building, and a garden style apartment. Those reports and the special have been shown to the public at fire prevention seminars around the country. Thousands of brochures have been handed out by firefighters throughout our region. WUSA 9 still gets requests for the brochures and tapes.

In 1993, Dave was named “Best Crime Reporter” by Washingtonian Magazine. His still pictures of the arrest of James Edward Swann, the 1993 “Mount Pleasant Stalker,” were used by WUSA 9 and on the front pages of The Washington Post, The Washington Times and in papers around the country.

Dave’s 1991 profile of Keter Betts, Ella Fitzgerald’s bass player, earned him an Emmy for Feature Reporting. Also that year, Dave won an Emmy for Spot News Coverage of the Mount Pleasant Riot. Dave also received a Gold medal in the International Film and TV Festival of New York for his coverage of the dramatic rescue of a family from its burning Northeast Washington home in 1989. In 1988, he and his WUSA 9 crew taped a DC emergency medical service vehicle searching for a location for 30 minutes. This coverage led The Washington Post to write an editorial on the subject, along with a greater examination of the local ambulance system.

In 1986, along with former WUSA 9 Reporters Mike Buchanan and James Brown, Dave broke the Len Bias story, receiving a 1987 United Press International Broadcast Journalism Award and a Chesapeake Associated Press Broadcasters’ Association Award. Dave’s coverage of the 1987 Amtrak derailment, which prompted drug testing of all future Amtrak employees, won a Washington Emmy and a 1988 Chesapeake AP Broadcasters’ Association Award. In 1989, Statter covered two nights of rioting in Virginia Beach, Virginia. He also reported from Charleston, SC as hurricane Hugo made its direct hit on the city.

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His first live reporting assignment for WTOP Radio was covering the 1982 Air Florida disaster. Prior to WTOP Radio, he held various positions with WXTR Radio and WMJS Radio in Maryland, and KIX-106 Radio in Virginia. A Baltimore native, Statter was a Prince George's County volunteer firefighter for six years, and he was a traffic issues columnist for the American Automobile Association of America.

PRESENTATION: "Fire Ground Survival"

Presenters: Captain Derek Alkonis, Los Angeles County Fire Department and Tim Merinar, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH).

This presentation is intended to be broadcast (live) via the Internet Worldwide.

Since December 2007, the International Association of Fire Fighters, the International Association of Fire Chiefs, the National Institute for Occupational Standards – Safety & Health (NIOSH) and several fire departments from the United States and Canada have met to establish a national Fire Ground Survival Program. The program will include best practices of firefighter survival techniques and command structure oversight as identified through the study of near misses and NIOSH firefighter fatality reports. The program will ultimately create a fire ground survival curriculum for all fire departments in North America.

20TH ANNIVERSARY POSTER AND 20TH EFOP GRADUATE SYMPOSIUM PORTRAIT



Paul Combs, Firehouse.Com

During the 19th Symposium last April, Paul Combs, Editorial Cartoonist for Firehouse Magazine and Firehouse.com discussed how his work as a cartoonist has great potential in communicating thoughts, ideas and values. "I strive to bring an instructor mentality to my work. Not only do I want my cartoons to make an important point, I want them to help educate, change the way we think and make a difference - if only to point out the obvious in a humorous way."

USFA has invited Paul to return this year for a special, commemorative task. Paul will produce a 20th Anniversary Symposium Poster that will be provided to each attendee. He will also capture the events of the 20th Symposium in a second piece of artwork which will be provided later to all attendees. In addition to his Firehouse affiliation, he is a nationally syndicated editorial and political cartoonist for Tribune Media Services in Chicago Illinois. Paul has been a member of the City of Bryan Ohio Fire Department and has a degree in Fine Art from Defiance College, Defiance Ohio.

PRESENTATION: “How Long Does It Take to Get Water on the Fire?”

Presenter: Dr. Robert Till, John Jay College

The research that Dr. Till will present describes how a method called “discrete event simulation” can be used to determine the time to achieve first water after fire department resources have arrived at an incident. Plans to improve the research method to allow new and existing structures to be evaluated for their ability to accommodate fire department intervention and to gain a better sense of the fire size when first water is achieved will also be discussed.

Dr. Robert Till is an Associate Professor at John Jay College involved in teaching and research in fire science. He received his Ph.D. in Fire Protection Engineering from Wooster Polytechnic Institute in 2001. His Ph.D. dissertation addressed the evaluation of buildings for fire department intervention. Dr. Till is currently a member of the Society of Fire Protection Engineers Fire Department Operations Task Group.

Dr. Till’s other research interests include the protection of transport infrastructure projects including road/rail tunnels, bridges, and airports. He is a special expert member of the NFPA committee responsible for life safety in subways and other passenger rail systems, the NFPA 130 technical committee.

Dr. Till is also a licensed professional engineer in the state of Connecticut.

PRESENTATION: To Be Announced

DHS/USFA Faculty Presenter: Chuck Burkell

CLOSING PRESENTATION: To Be Announced