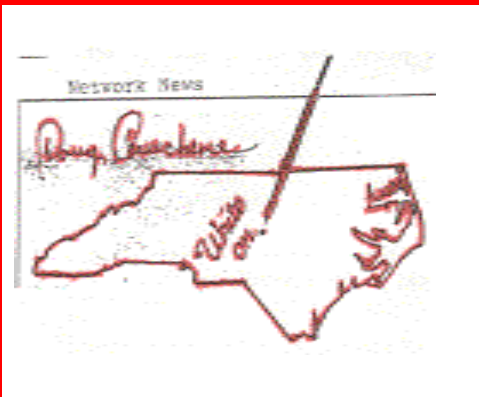




**RETIRED
AIR FORCE
FIRE CHIEFS'**
*QUARTERLY NETWORK
NEWSLETTER*
October-December 2003
"LEGENDARY PIONEERS WHO
REMINISCE ABOUT THE PAST,
BUT
FOCUS ON THE FUTURE"



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<http://www.dodfire.com/index.htm>



2003 Gathering of AF Pioneers and Retired Fire Chiefs A Huge Success

The Gathering occurred at the Adam's Mark Hotel in Dallas, Texas, August 22- 23, 2003, for 70 participants. This year's event was even better than the 2000 Gathering due to your QNN and HQs Air Force Fire Protection Staff's planning and execution.



I did not believe that to be possible until after attending both events. The tone was set with an introduction of attendees and a fabulous Continental Breakfast, courtesy of Mr. Ray Porter of the Safeware Fire Services Corporation. The breakfast was followed by The Peterson AFB Fire Department's Color Guard posting of the colors and performing a Fallen Fire Fighter Ceremony. Then, Chief Doug Courchene eulogized 17 of our lost comrades that have answered their Final Alarm, since our last Gathering in August 2000.

Our Keynote Speaker, Lt Col R. Wayne Adelsperger, USAF Retired, BCE, SAC/IG and

ACRFAET Team Leader recounted his association and perspective with the Fire Service during the 60s, 70s and 80s. Col "A" helped to upgrade and institute many of the changes that made Air Force Fire Protection the best in DoD. He was most proud of the Fire Departments he served with and of the training programs started at the Air Force Institute of Technology (AFIT) for Senior Fire managers, BCEs, and other members of the Base Disaster Response Force while he was the Associate Dean of the Civil Engineering School at the AFIT.

Mr. Scott Herbert, Board of Directors of the Military Firefighters Heritage Foundation and Fire School Staff at Goodfellow AFB, gave an update of the Foundation's programs and fund-raising efforts. A fire sale is in progress (until December 31, 2003) for their memorial bricks. They are currently available at a 50% discount or \$50 a brick, in the Fire fighters Memorial Park. Our "stamp fund" donations has purchased a brick inscribed "RETIRED AIR FORCE FIRE CHIEFS" to be placed into one of the Memorial pavers to honor Past-Present-Future Chiefs. What a wonderful way to honor your love ones!

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Theme Speaker “A time to Lead”, Mr. James F. O’Regan, President of Feecon Corporation, pointed out the time to lead from a Pioneer’s perspective has been in the present tense, regardless of time. Throughout the history of the Aircraft Crash Fire Rescue (CFR), Military Fire Protection leaders were at the forefront of research development and implementation of Fire Codes and Standards for Airfields and Aircraft.

Pioneers With Intent, by Douglas E. Courchane, CMSgt, USAF (Retired), offers an account of early CFR Pioneers, confirmed Jim O’Regan’s speech. Doug autographed a copy of his new book, hot off the presses, for each Retired AF Fire Chief in attendance. He sent copies to those Pioneers in his book that could not be at the Gathering or to their widows. Doug wished to acknowledge that the publication of the book would not have been possible this soon without the work of HQ AFCESA Fire and Historian Offices. A special thanks to Mrs. Helen Puckett for making the final edits of the manuscript. Thus far, Doug has not made a dime on his book. It has cost him a few coins. Doug’s belief is: that friendship is better than money. It’s one of the most important things in life. Doug did this book for his friends. “To have a good friend is one of the highest delights of life; to be a good friend is one of the noblest and most difficult undertakings.”



A **superb lunch** was catered to the attendees, courtesy of Mr. Tom Smith of the Fisher Scientific Fire & Emergency Service and Mr. Ben Parton of the Lion Valley Industries. We really appreciate the contributions Ben, Ray and Tom made to help make this gathering a memorable event. Visit the DoDFire.com Web Site for more Pioneer Day photographs.

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ATTENDEES AT THE DALLAS 2003 GATHERING: Honorary members and feature speakers: James O’Regan and Wayne

Adelsperger, with his wife Ann. **Retired members** and their guests: Doug & Evelyn Courchane, Bob & Frank Barrow, Milt & Helen Puckett, Ken Spicknall, Larry Gregory, Ralph & Kitty Shelton, Don & Gwyneth Smith, Bill Ryan & friend Brigitta, Ben & Bernice Parton, Tom Smith, Ray Porter, Vic Robinson, Lennie Blau, Gene Courtermanche, Joe Jarrell, Donato Jaso Jr., Jimmie McKay, Sandy Sanchez, Jim Deal, Bobby Flanagan, Jerry & Toni Garrett, Ed & Alice Lee, Tom Hinson, Fred Owens, Dan Long, Jim Goodbread, Ted Taipalus, Fred Elkins and

Freddie Harper. **Once Retired, still Active Members** and their guests: Hoyd & Evelyn Sanders, Richard & Paula Turner, John Cook, Bob Vires, Leopold Dumond, John Anderson, Gullie Robin, Larry Taylor, Roger Miller, Charlie Bowen, John Carroll, Carl Glover, Phil Boyer, George Hall, Donald Warner and Charles Peters. **Active Members:** Col Joe Worrell, CMSgt Jim Podolske and MSgt Craig Hall. The Peterson AFB CO fire department Color Guard and Deputy Chief Cindy Litterall, TSgt Ronald Meyers, TSgt Chancy Cruger, SSgt Jason Linta, SSgt Brent Collins, A1C Daniel Money, Fire fighter Cary Ulman, and Fire fighter Kristi Cruz-Winegardner. **Members of Military Firefighter Heritage Foundation:** Scott Herbert, Mike Robinson, Becky Griffin, TSgt Roderick Vega.

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The QNN is privately funded by members' contributions. They are most appreciated. Email addresses are used whenever possible to promote networking. Make checks payable to "Bob Barrow", 126 Clements St NE, Ft Walton Bch, FL 32548.



TAPS

None reported this quarter. Thank you Lord....

The Joe Jarrell Story, Part Two, "Troubleshooter"

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Remember Joe, after his WW II Combat Infantryman's trip across the Pacific Ocean to the Occupation of Japan, via the 41st Division's "Fighting Jungleers" retaking of the Philippines, 1944 –1946. Back stateside, at Bergstrom Field near Austin, TX, he reenlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corp as a Fire fighter. This was Joe's start of a reputation as "troubleshooter extraordinaire". An overseas tour at Burtonwood AB and then Sculthrope AB, UK with SAC in 1948-49 quickly saw him promoted from Station Chief to Fire Chief with a charter to equip and train his Fire fighters for an important SAC mission at reactivated Sculthrope AB. His Squadron Commander, Major Chester D. Moorhead, handpicked Joe for this job in March 1949. This led to Joe's first contact with CWO Val Allen, Fire Chief at Frustensfeldbruck AB, who assisted in the equipping of his department. Upon returning stateside in 1949, he was assigned NCOIC, Lackland AFB Fire Department, until 1950. Joe's next assignment was again in SAC, this time at Bergstrom AFB TX. There he found CWO Val Allen again in 1951, as Deputy Fire Marshal. He needed Joe ASAP at Malagoria Bombing & Gunner Range as Fire Chief. An 8th AF/IG inspection had found the fire department there far below AF standards. Joe quickly set about improving the overall efficiency and morale of at the Malagoria Fire Department. "Mister" Allen then ordered Joe to return to Bergstrom and assume duties of Assistant Fire

Chief, 1951-1953. In 1953 General Curtis LeMay ended SAC's involuntary extension (Stop Loss) instituted during the Korean War, making him eligible for discharge. This is where Joe tells the story of one of his biggest challenges of his Air Force Career: Unknown to me, Major Chester Moorhead, now Commander of Air Installations at Gary AFB (ATC), TX had need for his former Fire Chief. How he knew I was eligible for discharge remains a mystery, but his visit to Bergstrom was to ask me to reenlist at Gary AFB at San Marcos, TX. I gladly accepted my former commander's invitation and was set free of SAC's control of frequent recalls and long mobility exercises. After completing my reenlistment oath, March 23, 1953 in Major Moorhead's AIO Orderly Room, he asked for me to accompany him to the Base Commander's office, Col Griffith. Both commanders thoroughly briefed me on a recent higher headquarters report rating the Base Fire Department below Air Force standards. They were emphatic about my new role as NCOIC to develop a fire protection and aircraft crash fire rescue program broad enough in scope to train all personnel to operate effectively. Thirteen of the last military Fire fighters had failed their Air Force Job Knowledge (AFSC 951X0) test. My charter to "up grade all activities of Gary's Fire Department" applied to senior level supervisory personnel as well and I had their full backing in this matter. I thanked the commanders for their confidence and advised them that I could handle the responsibility and authority. My plans were to work for and with the Base Fire Chief in all areas where I could be of help. My next stop would be Chief JXXX's office to explain my charter as NCOIC to him. Upon entering the chief's office, I found the Chief less than receptive to my new duties. When informed that I would need a desk in his office so that we might coordinate important matters, he informed me, "you will not have a desk anywhere in this fire department". I called Major Moorhead and informed him of the chief's remark about the NCOIC had not desk in his department. The Base Fire Marshal asked that I put the Chief on the phone and, shortly after that, we both were on our way to AIO. There, Major Moorhead

ordered the Chief to have a desk for the NCOIC in his office before sundown. While becoming acquainted with the department, I quickly learned that the chief and the three civilian assistant chiefs treated military fire fighters with less respect than due them. NCOs were not being used in positions consistent with their skill level, experience or rank. Only civilian fire fighters were assigned regularly to the structural fire station. After flying ceased, military fire fighters would be sent daily from the crash station to the structural station to clean the station and set alarm room watch while the civilian fire fighters slept. I felt duty bound to bring these shocking and tragic injustices to the chief's attention. The chief admitted he knew of this practice and that he considered this proper use of personnel. I told him there was nothing proper or fair and that these practices must stop immediately. Furthermore, NCOs must be utilized in accordance with the "table of authorizations, allowances, and equipment assigned". Shortly, after this, I was again made aware of a similar mismanagement of fire fighters. Off-base aircraft and helicopter training sites requiring fire vehicle crews for standbys used only assigned airmen for this isolated duty. Other issues found while developing an OJT program included, but were not necessarily limited to, the following: protective clothing shortages and use of defective bunker gear; insufficient reserve of foam agent and fire hose; fire prevention inspections records were past 60 day intervals; applicable AF tech orders, regulations, manuals, forms and other directives were poorly maintained or not available; structural/crash vehicles were poorly maintained by drivers or the motor pool, and lack of aircraft egress training. Realizing a change in leadership was necessary, I met with Major Moorhead and briefed him of the situation during the past four months and that the chief's performance was substandard. He asked for a HQ ATC/CE visit ASAP and was told they would be there in the morning for a briefing. The next morning I briefed a Brigadier General and Colonel from ATC why a leadership change was needed. The Colonel recognized me as TSgt Jarrell

previously at Lackland AFB. It was my former Base Commander Col Sterling. Col Sterling asked how could these charges be confirmed. Major Moorhead was asked to coordinate a crash drill in 45 minutes at the fire department crash drill pits. Each officer agreed this would offer a chance to confirm leadership and the condition of trucks and lack of protective equipment for fire fighters. The Training NCO and three of his students met me at the crash fire pit to make ready for an unannounced exercise. The three officers arrived and signaled the Airfield Control Tower to start the simulated aircraft crash drill using the crash grid location of the 200 gallons of burning fuel visible at the drill pits. The first arriving O-11A's roof turret was inoperative. The Class 125 operator had great difficulty in engaging the HP pump. Once the pump was engaged, the handlinemen had problems operating the high-pressure, 650 PSI, handlines to extinguish the fire. Of the 16 fire fighters responding, all wore bunker coats, but most were not fully bunkered. The ATC Staff Officers asked Major Moorhead what corrective action he had in mind to correct these deficiencies. He immediately stated: "I am relieving the Chief of duty and directing TSgt Jarrell to appoint one of the assistant fire chiefs as acting chief over my signature. Action will be taken through Civilian Personnel to fill this position as quickly as possible. TSgt Jarrell will assist in the selection process. Fire Chief William A. York headed the list of eligible candidates and he was available. After reviewing Chief York's application "I told Major Moorhead hire this man immediately". Chief York reported for duty in August 1953 and his very first day at roll call he discussed the methods he intended to use to bring Gary's Fire department up to levels of operations meeting Air Force standards. I knew immediately we had a Chief that I could work for. He gave me complete control of training, files, publications and supervising the proper use of military and civilian personnel according to their skills, rank and demonstrated abilities. This included all civilian supervisory personnel who were informed by Chief York of my additional responsibilities. The remainder of my tour at

Gary AFB was very pleasurable and I appreciated the level of confidence Major Moorhead and Chief York placed in me. By the time Chief York was hired, most of the major problems reported in the ATC Staff Inspection report were corrected or being corrected. The Wing Operations Officer noted during an inspection of the 3585th AB Group OJT program, in late May 1953, "that TSgt Jarrell has established a model OJT program and for other units having difficulty developing an effective training program to consult with the fire department training NCO. His department's, AF Job Knowledge Test rate of 100% failure rate, prior to his program, now is 100% passing. All Air Force, MAJCOM and base training forms were used and updated on a daily basis. Due to heavy flying schedules and fire standbys at outlying fields, crash crews are often receiving aircraft egress training after dark.

"Editor's comments: Another great story by Joe and he asked that "I relay that he took not pleasure in the Chief's JXXX's removal. However, during the 3 months that we worked together there was no response on the chief's part to correct major problems". Chief W.A. York read a DRAFT of this story and provided this comment "TSgt Jarrell hit the nail on the head as to the deplorable conditions of the fire department, prior to my arrival at Gary".

SICK CALL:



Chief Guy J. Wills Jr. - chiefwills@aol.com (CMSgt USAF Retired) had planned to attend Pioneer Day, but a change in his medical care & condition would not allow him to leave home. Guy, hope you are feeling better, now. Everyone at the Gathering in Dallas wanted to

thank you for the keepsake decorative pins that you provided for the conference badges.

Chief Val Allen Jr., CWO USAF Retired – Was rushed by EMT 911 crew to the South Austin Medical Center in Texas on September 23, 2003. He was admitted to the Heart ICU, via the ER. Our prayers and wishes are that a speedy recovery will be with Val. Val had been hospitalized earlier this year with a heart condition and was responding well under out patient care. In August his doctor told him not to make any long trips from home, that his condition might require surgery. This prevented his plans to attend the "Pioneer Day Gathering" in Dallas. Check DoDFIRE for updates.

Chief Bill Wilson, USAF CMSgt Retired of Fort Walton Beach. Son, Ronnie, his major caretaker that lives with Bill at home. He loves visitors and I check on him often, as do many others.

Fire Chief Glenn Cockerell- gecocherell@cybertron.com ,SMSgt, USAF (Retired). Glenn is recovering at home. He and Esther, his wife, would love visitors. They ask that you please call 850 862 5004 before you come due to the doctor trips several times a week.

Fire Chief Ed Sams- rosened2@concentric.net, and **Fire Chief Bob Vreeland** of Riverdale, CA are under doctors' care for heart conditions. Both are feeling much better. Ed is back to walking almost 1/2 mile a day and Bob is trying out for NASCAR, if he can get his license back.

Fire Chief Charles Peters - cpeters@nsams.navy.mil is at home recovering from surgery and doing well.

Say a prayer for the Lord's gracious care and comfort during this time for these brave chiefs and their families. There is strength in numbers when one truly believes in Him.

Hail & Farewell



CMSgt Jim Podolske will leave active

duty in late October (official retirement is 1 Feb 04) and start a civilian career in November 2003 at the Fire Protection office, jim.podolske@tyndall.af.mil Congratulations, Jim and we get to use all that corporate knowledge.

CMSgt Daryle Lopes, Deputy Fire Chief retired at Eglin AFB, August and starts his civilian career September 2003 as Assistant Chief of Training at Arnold AFB, TN, Daryle.Lopes@arnold.af.mil. Congratulation Daryle, that was a wonderful send-off they gave you at Eglin. Enjoyed your family and talking to your Dad.

Bits and Pieces

Chief John T Wright – Princetown, WV relayed the story of Kingsley Field, Bermuda Type 0-10 CFR vehicle (USAF Registration P-33) that had a broke starter back in 1953. The Motor Pool could not obtain parts to fix it. Chief Cook and Crew Chief SSgt Ragsdale instructed John and a civilian fire fighter to construct a wooden ramp adjacent to our converted nose dock crash station. The incline ramp was built to hold the Type 0-10. After each run, the Type 0-10 was backed up the ramp and chocked. During an emergency response the driver waited for chock removal, release the brakes and hope to start the engine as the truck rolled down the incline. Can anyone remember similar circumstances?

Pioneer Day Photos - The AF Fire Protection Staff supplied the photos below. All the pictures of the gathering are posted on the Retiree's web site at dodfire.com.

Review Comments – Here are some review comments received from those that attended the Gathering:

Hi **Sandy Sanchez**, so good to have a great showing of Pioneers. The Air Force Fire Communities and Fire Vendors appreciation of Retired Fire Chiefs and Pioneers were

outstanding. They echo many of the same sentiments received verbally from the 70 in attendance. Son, Frank & I arrived home safely in Fort Walton Beach at 9:40 PM, Sunday. It was so good to see the family and back in my bed... Thanks for your comments, "Stamp Fund Contribution" and door prize gift, Bob Barrow Best Wishes for some great holidays and support Fire Prevention Week, 5-11 October 2003. I plan to attend the Military Fire Fighters Heritage Foundation's 1st DoD Fire Fighters Ball, 11 October 2003 as the Grand Marshal. Until the next QNN "carry write on" and keep networking.

.....

Hi Bob. Evelyn & I got home last night 8-30-03, after spending two days at FDR State Campground, Warm Springs, GA. Great "Pioneer Day" event in Dallas. I complement you and others for the hard work organizing such a program. Those who attended had a great time. Those who missed it, missed a lot. **Doug Courchene.**

Hi Bob. Yes it was great being able to spend some most pleasant time with you and frank. What a grand event our pioneer meeting turned out to be. The eulogy portion with chief Jim Podolski standing at rigid attention will be fixed in our memories forever. **Fred Elkins**

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A note of thanks to you for all the effort put into "pioneer Day". It certainly was a success. It is a joy to chat with old friends and look back on our lives... May God Bless you all- **Sandy & Evelyn Sanders.**

Bob: Just got in, and I wanted to compliment you guys on a "JOB WELL DONE". Far above "well done", it was outstanding. I greatly appreciate your time and effort. It will remain in my memory bank until He calls me home. Since I do not have the e-mail addresses of the others who devoted so much time and labor, will you please convey my gratitude. They must be recognized for their dedication. THANKS!
Gene Courtemanche

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Chief. An outstanding job in carrying out an outstanding program. Further, you demonstrated distinguishing characteristics I look for in a REAL AF fire chief. Chief Val Allen came to get his "Pioneers With Intent" book. He asked that I pass on to you and Doug his full respect and best wishes. Finally, I appreciate your fatherly attention given me during the stay in Dallas. **Joe Jarrell**

Chief Barrow, I wanted to thank you for allowing my father, Joseph M Jarrell to thoroughly enjoy his visit to the convention of former fire chiefs. He came back positively glowing at the opportunity to renew old friendships after all these years. I am only sorry I was not able to attend. It sounds like there were more stories swapped than at any open-air market. There are many "Pioneers" that blazed a trail for the rest of us. I retired in Dec 2001 as a Captain from the Lackland AFB Fire Department in San Antonio, TX. If not for the courage and drive of those men who went on before me, my job would have been more perilous than it was. I served nearly 30 years as a firefighter and tasted my share of smoke. I salute those pioneers who shaped the course of firefighting and safety for all of us. **Mike Jarrell**

Chief Bob, I would like to say how much I enjoyed the day in Dallas with the Pioneers. I have read the Doug's book that was given out. To see all the names of the personnel I used to work with and be stationed with brought back lots of memories. With my two tours at Chanute I had the opportunity to come in contact with many personnel. I am remiss that I did not provide you with information concerning my experience. I remember first hand what it was like trying to instruct some of the Project 100,000 trainees that were selected for the fire protection career field, it was not their fault, they just did not have the ability to learn. I also could relate to the training when the 7-hour training day was tried. Oh, well that's water under the bridge. I am looking forward to the next newsletter. **Thomas E. Hinson**

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Best Wishes for some great holidays and support Fire Prevention Week, 5-11 October 2003. I plan to attend the Military Firefighters Heritage Foundation's 1st DoD Fire Fighters Ball, 11 October 2003 as the Grand Marshal. Until the next QNN "carry write on" and keep networking. **Merry Christmas & a Happy Holidays from the Barrows in Sunny Florida.**



Doug Eulogizes the Departed Brothers



Tom, Ben, Ray, & Bob



The Peterson AFB Color Guard



Don Presents Doug the First Book – *Pioneers with Intent* – off the press

The illustrious group of AF Fire Pioneers & Retired Fire Chiefs that attended the 2003 gathering



Seated: Donato Jaso, Fred Ellkins, Larry Gregory, Fred Owens, Doug Courchene, Charles Peters & Lennie Blau
Center: Ed Lee, Jerry Garrett, Ray Porter, Norris Sanchez, Wayne Adlesberger, Milt Puckett, Bill Ryan, Ken Spicknall & Joe Jarrell
Back Row: Jimmie McKay, George Hall, Vic Robinson, Tom Smith, Hoyd Sanders, Jim O'Regan



seated: Fred Owens, Doug Courchene, Charles Peters, Lennie Blau, Jim Deal, Ralph Shelton, Ben Partin & Bob Barrow
Center: Wayne Adlesberger, Milt Puckett, Bill Ryan, Ken Spicknall, Joe Jarrell, Gene Courtermanche, Bobby Flanagan, Don Smith, Tom Hinson
Back Row: Vic Robinson, Hoyd Sanders, Jim O'Regan & Freddie Harper