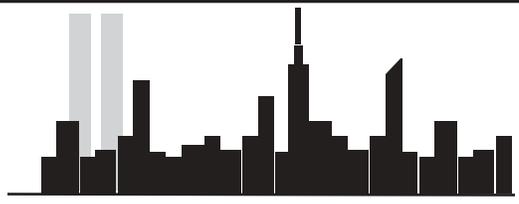


APRIL 2005

VIEW  
P O I N T

FROM 9 Metro Tech  
THE NEWSLETTER OF THE NYC FIRE DEPARTMENT



# FDNY Honors Key Supporters at \$1.6M Fundraiser

For one night a year, members of the FDNY get the opportunity to publicly thank their most committed supporters – and give a big boost to fire safety education in the process.

On April 4, the FDNY Fire Safety Education Fund honored philanthropists Stephen Dannhauser, Jim Fassel and Jeffrey Immelt; the FDNY Family Assistance Unit; and Brooklyn’s PS 24 at the 2005 Fire Commissioner’s Humanitarian Awards Dinner. More than 1,200 individuals — including hundreds of firefighters and Fire Officers — attended the black-tie gala at the New York Hilton, raising a record-breaking \$1.6 million for the Fund.

“This evening is a celebration of our commitment, in partnership with the FDNY Fire Safety Education Fund, to the important causes of fire prevention and fire safety education,” Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta said. “This evening is an opportunity for us to formally recognize some of the extremely valuable contributions made on behalf of our men and women in uniform.”

NewsChannel 4 Anchor Chuck Scarborough emceed the night’s festivities, which included music by the Emerald Society Pipes and Drums, a silent auction and the sale of Fire Zone gear.

“It’s a night to raise money for the Fund,” said Michelle LeMay Santiago, Executive Director of the Fund. “But it’s also a way to show New York’s leaders what the Fire Department is all about.”

Among the night’s honorees was Stephen Dannhauser, Chairman of Weil,



(Top) Commissioner Scoppetta congratulates 2005 Fire Commissioner’s Humanitarian Award winners (L to R) Jim Fassel, Stephen Dannhauser and Jeffrey Immelt.



(Left) Commissioner Scoppetta presents Gwen Curran with an FDNY Special Recognition Award on behalf of her father Retired Lieutenant Jim Curran. Lt. Curran has been instrumental in raising money for and awareness of the New York Firefighters Burn Center Foundation since he became President of the organization in 1982.

Gotshal & Manges, LLP, and President and Co-Founder of the New York Police and Fire Widow’s and Children’s Benefit Fund, which just marked its 20th year helping families of firefighters police officers. Dannhauser was praised for his tireless efforts and decades of commitment to assisting the families of Department members lost in the line of duty.

Jim Fassel, founder of the Fassel Foundation, was honored for his organization’s support of the families of fallen firefighters and police officers. Mr. Fassel, Offensive Coordinator for the Baltimore Ravens and former Head Coach of the New York Giants, was also commended for coordinating opportunities for children of fallen first responders to meet NFL players through his strong support of Kids Connection.

An award was also presented to Jeffrey Immelt, Chairman and CEO of GE, for his continuing generosity to the Department

and New York City after 9/11. His donation of \$10 million on September 12 helped launch the Twin Towers Fund which eventually raised more than \$200 million for families of emergency responders who lost loved ones at the World Trade Center. Immelt also continues to donate use of GE’s expansive educational facilities in upstate Crotonville for the FDNY Officers Management Institute (FOMI).

“Together, all of tonight’s honorees have had a profound impact on the FDNY, on the families of our firefighters, and on the city we serve,” said Commissioner Scoppetta. “They have each come to play a vital role in our organization, and tonight we say thanks.”

Also recognized was the FDNY Family Assistance Unit, which serves approximately 450 Fire and EMS families who

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**Q&A** *Chief of Department Peter Hayden, Chief of Operations Sal Cassano and myself have visited each of our nine Divisions during the past few weeks, meeting with several hundred chief officers and sharing in a dialogue on matters important to us all in the Department. In an effort to keep you informed about what's going on in the FDNY - and to dispel some of the rumors out there - here's a question-and-answer format that I'll use periodically in this column.*

**We've heard that the Department of Justice has launched an investigation into the Department's hiring practices. Will this weaken or change any of the current hiring standards or requirements?**

The Fire Department and the Department of Justice have the same goals: to be certain that our testing and hiring practices are fair and non-discriminatory and that we increase diversity in the FDNY. The City's Department of Citywide Administrative Services (DCAS) is the agency responsible for the administration and scoring of the civil service exams. DCAS validates all of its exams to ensure that they meet Federal guidelines as well as requirements under the New York State Constitution. No changes in hiring standards or requirements have been suggested to us by DCAS.

We want a Department that reflects the communities we serve and we're working vigorously to achieve this goal. We've found success in a number of diversity initiatives and, going forward, we hope to build upon those successes. We'll cooperate fully with the Department of Justice and I believe they will look favorably on the recent gains we've made in diversifying the ranks of the FDNY and conclude that our testing and hiring practices are fair and impartial.

**What is the latest update on the ropes?**

The committee studying a Personal Safety System meets weekly. Approximately 36 different ropes and 11 descent control devices have been tested and evaluated over the past two months by firefighters and fire officers at the Division of Training. After rigorous testing, several systems did not meet our standards and requirements, and thus were eliminated. Today, four ropes and three descent control devices are undergoing further testing. We have invited the UFA and UFOA to be present for all or any part of the testing they may wish to observe.

**Has a final report been issued on the January 23<sup>rd</sup> fires?**

No, but it will be soon. Two teams of Battalion Chiefs operating under the Safety Command were formed in January to investigate the fatal fires that occurred at 236 East 178th Street in the Bronx and 577 Jerome Street in Brooklyn. We anticipate that final reports on both fires will be issued before the end of May.

**What is the purpose of the pilot program installing cameras on fire trucks?**

In August 2004, FEMA released a report entitled "Emergency Vehicle Safety Initiative" (FA-272). The purpose of the report was to identify practices that have the potential to increase the personal

safety of emergency responders. Section 3 of this report is titled "Apparatus Safety Devices," and lists initiatives such as striping on sides of vehicles, seat restraints (seat belts), warning lights, and the use of electronic monitoring equipment such as backing-up cameras, recording cameras, and on-board computers, which are commonly called "black boxes." Specifically, FEMA cites the use of apparatus cameras in the Plano Texas Fire Department.



Commissioner's  
— Message

In an effort to increase the safety of our members and the public, the Department began a pilot program to test apparatus cameras.

The Safety Command proposed cameras for several reasons, namely to assist Safety and the Bureau of Legal Affairs in crash investigations. Eyewitness accounts often prove unreliable, and involved drivers often times have differing stories. Cameras can accurately reveal the facts involved in a crash.

We believe that the cameras will show that in the vast majority of crashes, the Department chauffeur was operating appropriately and that the improper action taken by the civilian driver caused the accident. (According to data from a Midwestern fire department, cameras were able to prove that their engine and truck chauffeurs were in the right more than 80% of the time.)

The cameras will also be beneficial as a training tool for company officers and administrative Battalion and Deputy Chiefs. Members can periodically review the videos to identify both safe and unsafe driving techniques and then take the necessary actions to modify bad driving habits to prevent future accidents.

The present pilot program utilizes cameras from *DriveCam* and is scheduled to run for 90 days. Two other manufacturers have expressed an interest in participating in the pilot program, but at this time we have not confirmed a launch date.

**Is it true that the Department plans to close additional fire companies?**

No, it is absolutely NOT true that the Department is planning to close additional fire companies.

**Has the Random Drug Testing program been effective?**

The Random Drug Testing program implemented in 2004 by the Fire Department has yielded results very close to our own estimates: Out of nearly 1,300 samples, less than 1% of our personnel has tested positive for illegal substances. These results again reinforce my belief that the vast majority of this Department does NOT have widespread problems related to substance or alcohol abuse.

I encourage any member who feels that he or she may have a substance abuse problem to seek help through our Counseling Services Unit. The Department has resources in place to help you – without fear of punishment.

# Fire Promotions: Reflection and Celebration

## 32 Members Promoted Including Fallen Firefighter John Bellew to Lieutenant

A mix of tears and joy marked the Fire Department's Promotion Ceremony on April 1.

Thirty-two firefighters were promoted in the event held at the Fire Department's Training Academy on Randall's Island, including fallen Firefighter John Bellew of Ladder 27, who was posthumously promoted to Lieutenant.

"This is a day we celebrate his life, but it's also a day of sorrow," Chief of Department Peter Hayden said. "And a day we reflect on what might have been."

Members of Ladder 27 attended the ceremony to support Eileen Bellew and her four children, Brielle, Jack, Katreana and Kieran, as she accepted badge number 27 on behalf of her husband. The number, a tribute to his company, has been retired by the Department.

Lt. Bellew was killed on January 23, after being forced to jump from a fourth-floor apartment window in the tragic Bronx fire that also took the life of Lt. Curtis Meyran of Battalion 26. Firefighters Eugene Stolowski and Brendan Cawley of Ladder 27 and Jeffrey Cool and Joseph DiBernardo of Rescue 3 were also forced to jump, and continue to recover from the injuries they sustained in that fall.

Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta described Lt. Bellew as a man who "was always thinking of his family" and said that his promotion marked "a day of reflection and a day of celebration."

Also promoted were two deputy chiefs, two battalion chiefs, 11 captains and 16 lieutenants. Family members, friends and fellow firefighters packed the auditorium, lining the walls with banners and cheering loudly as the members walked across the stage to accept their new ranks.

"There is a tremendous amount of potential in this room: a mix of experience and dedication, hard work and bravery, a commitment to service and a quality of character," said Commissioner Scoppetta. "Each of you knows what it takes to do this job and each of you has done it—you



On April 1, Fire Commissioner Scoppetta and Chief of Department Peter Hayden presented Eileen Bellew and her children, Brielle, Jack, Katreana and Kieran, with the badge officially promoting her husband, Firefighter John Bellew, to Lieutenant. Members of Lt. Bellew's firehouse, Ladder 27/Engine 46, attended in support of the family.

have embraced the roles we asked you to assume and you have met new challenges."

Chief Hayden stressed that in their new roles, the officers have accepted an exceptional responsibility to keep members of the department safe. "You have to be a teacher, you have to be a role model, you have to be a leader," he said.

Many of the promoted members were also recognized for their achievements outside the firehouse, including work with the Family Assistance Unit and bone marrow donation. However, each member's own individual commitment to strengthening the Department was the key to success.

"This is the greatest fire department in the world," Chief Hayden said. "And you deserve the credit."



**Going Home.** Firefighter Jeff Cool of Rescue 3 is greeted by Chief of Operations Salvatore Cassano along with thunderous cheers on April 16 at the annual FDNY/NYPD hockey game at the Nassau Coliseum. Cool was released from the Helen Hayes Hospital earlier that day and took his first steps nearly three months after suffering life-threatening injuries in January's tragic Bronx fire. Cool dropped the first puck of the game as the Bravest went on to a 5-3 victory over the Police Department.

Photo by Frank Koester/Daily News

## FDNY Preps Community for Disaster Response

**F**irefighters and EMS personnel are working hard to make New York safer.

And it's not just by fighting fires or administering medical assistance.

FEMA's New York City Community Emergency Response Team (NYC CERT) has enlisted the help of FDNY personnel to train neighborhood and community-based volunteer teams in local disaster response. Thirty firefighters along with 10 paramedics and EMTs were selected to take part in the "Train the Trainer" instructor education program held March 22 - 23 on at the Fire Academy on Randall's Island.

"It gives [professional emergency responders] an opportunity to educate communities and, in the long-term, help support emergency personnel in response and recovery efforts," said Sharon Hawa, Community Coordinator/CERT Program Manager for the New York City Office of Emergency Management (OEM).

Joined by the NYPD and OEM, members of the FDNY attended this instructional course to learn how to administer the 11-week, 25-hour NYC CERT volunteer team training sessions.

Although there are numerous CERT teams across the country (the program was launched by the Los Angeles Fire Department in 1985), New York's program is unique, Hawa said. FEMA and other City

agencies have worked together to develop New York's curriculum to be specific to its extraordinary urban setting.

Volunteers learn everything from how to direct traffic, to how to help with a subway evacuation, and are equipped to assist their neighbors before responders arrive. Volunteers inform, educate and train their neighbors in disaster preparedness; support public safety agencies and local community boards at special events; and assist agencies in managing volunteers at a disaster site.

"With all that CERT members can do, it is very exciting to have the opportunity to mold these teams in the direction that we need them to go," said CERT Instructor Coordinator EMS Lieutenant John Scotch II. "Members of the Department who teach in CERT classes get the opportunity to meet motivated individuals who recognize the need to be prepared. The students all come from a wide range of cultural, ethnic and economic backgrounds, and it's refreshing to see the enthusiasm that's brought to the course."

In the past, FEMA has supported the training of two 'clusters' of teams each year, with each cluster comprised of one volunteer team from each borough. Teams are organized by their local Community Board and then selected by their individual Borough Presidents to participate in the training.

This year, a new grant is allowing FEMA to train twice as many teams for each cluster. Currently, there are 17 trained volunteer teams throughout New York City, with five more groups completing their training at the end of April. With this additional funding, NYC CERT representatives say they are aiming to have 59 teams certified by the end of 2006.

"It's like bringing back the old Civil Defense program, everything is about disaster preparedness and awareness," said Fire Lieutenant Bill Reddan, a CERT Instructor Coordinator. "And right now we're just in the beginning stages."

But beyond learning the material, Lt. Reddan said CERT volunteers will also develop a close relationship with their instructors and a vested interest in the work of the FDNY.

Participating firefighters, paramedics and EMTs were selected from a pool of 94 applicants for the positions. These individuals were chosen based on their teaching experience, extraordinary skill set, demonstrated sensitivity to diverse populations and motivation to participate.

"When everyone who lives and/or works in New York City is pulling together to make a program happen, being a part of it is truly one of the most inspiring things that anyone can do," said Lt. Reddan.



*On April 5, Commissioner Scoppetta was joined by (L to R) Chief of EMS John Peruggia, Chief of Fire Operations Salvatore Cassano, Chief of Department Peter Hayden, Mayor Michael Bloomberg, Acting President of Health and Hospital Corporation Dr. Alan Aviles and Department of Design and Construction Commissioner David Burney at the ribbon-cutting ceremony officially opening EMS Station 38 in Wingate, Brooklyn. The 6,100 square foot, \$4.2 million facility will house six ambulances and serve the communities of Crown Heights, Prospect Heights, Lefferts Gardens and Wingate.*

## Web-Based Tool Helps FDNY Spot Trouble and Success

*Launch of MIRS puts operational data at your fingertips*

By Deputy Assistant Chief  
James Esposito

Real-time fire and EMS operations data is just a click away with the launch of the new FDNY Management Indicator Reporting System (MIRS).

MIRS is a web-based Fire Department interface program, which will give uniformed and civilian managers access to critical data regarding Fire and EMS operations. MIRS will enable the Fire Department to evaluate organizational performance, recognize accomplishments, identify common problems and develop strategies to meet the current and future goals and objectives of the Department.

Primarily functioning as a data analysis

tool, Fire and EMS officers will be able to identify trends relative to their commands and response areas; gain insight into these trends; initiate fire prevention activities; make recommendations regarding resource allocation; and identify additional training needs for members of the Department.

MIRS will capture data from a variety of sources and data warehouses including the FDNY/EMS computer aided dispatch system, DSCO, BICS and the Safety Command. The MIRS web site will take this data and provide end users with information in the forms of existing reports, new reports recently developed and reports that have yet to be developed. The MIRS web site will be accessible from the FDNY Community Home Page. A login user

name and password are required for access.

This is a very efficient and effective way to provide accurate and timely information to our civilian managers and our Fire and EMS supervisors. Currently, all Borough Commands and Divisions have been set up with high speed FDNY intranet access. The Bureau of Support Services is currently scheduling the installation of hard wire access. Depending on location, either a cable or a DSL provider is used. The target date for all Battalions to be connected with high-speed intranet access is May 1, 2005. Our thanks goes out to the civilian staff working diligently on this project including the BTDS group and the MAP group.

## Racing to Win...And Save Lives

*FDNY Participates in 2nd Annual EMS Competition in Philadelphia*

Providing high-quality medical care to trauma victims can be strenuous — especially when more than 100 people are watching, you're being timed and the patient isn't real.

Paramedics Joseph Hudak and James Fallar, and EMT Joseph Fortes competed in the second annual EMS Today Conference and Exposition Games from March 18 – 22 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

"It was a wonderful experience to see other agencies and how they function," Paramedic Fallar said. "It was definitely a learning experience."

The team placed 11<sup>th</sup> among the 18 teams that participated from across the United States, Canada and Australia, with only a minute and 30 seconds separating third place from 18<sup>th</sup>. Teams were judged on their performance of pre-hospital assessment skills and treatment delivered to simulated patients, as well as on proficiency and timeliness.

Each team was comprised of three members, including at least one paramedic. In the preliminary rounds, the units were presented with standardized patient situations and given 10 minutes to assess and treat these individuals. Scores were tallied at the end of each round and the top 10 teams continued to the finals. Scoring was based on skill, speed and technical accuracy.

This year's challenges included everything from administering an intravenous drip of Dopamine to a simulated patient to performing a spinal immobilization with a short obstacle. First place went to the Sus-



*Paramedic James Fallar and EMT Joseph Fortes tend to a simulated patient as they compete in the 2005 EMS Today Conference and Exposition Games in Philadelphia.*

sex County EMS based in Georgetown, Delaware.

"It really tests your ability to think under pressure," Paramedic Fallar said.

Most of all, he said, the event was educational, adding that the team will be able to share their experiences with the classes they teach at the EMS Academy.

"We learned that working as a team is probably the most important part of everything we do," he said. "Everyone is working on the same page to accomplish a task."

Now the FDNY team is gearing up for the EMS Week competition in May and is even thinking ahead to next year's EMS Today Games.

"We're always up to the challenge of bettering ourselves, no matter how we place," he said. "But next time we plan to win."

## EMS Unit of the Month

The exceptional work that paramedics and EMTs perform every day can sometimes go unnoticed. And the Chiefs of the Department want that to change.

This March, the Fire Department launched the "EMS Unit of the Month" Award. Award recipients receive a Unit Citation Bar, certificates of achievement and a \$50 check funded by the FDNY Fire Safety Education Fund.

The first EMS Unit of the Month Award was presented on March 8 to EMTs Matthew Asis, Emillio Martinez and Thomas Rosa of unit 12B2, assigned to EMS Station 10 at Metropolitan Hospital in Manhattan.

"What our people do is important to us," said Chief of EMS Command John Peruggia. "And, it's important that they get recognized for their work."

EMTs Asis, Martinez and Rosa are stationed on the corner of 125<sup>th</sup> Street and Third Avenue in Spanish Harlem, and have a combined 32 years on the job. They were selected from a group of 10 applicants.

Battalion Commander Luis E. Basso described them as "responsible, respectable and knowledgeable technicians." He went on to say: "Their positive interaction with the public and other agencies is conducted with an easy rapport born of confidence, competence and integrity."

To be chosen, a unit's EMS Station Captain must forward a recommendation to Headquarters, including the unit's statistics for the month as well as a narrative explaining why they should be considered.

*(Continued on page 8)*

# In the Borough:

## BRONX BOROUGH UPDATE

By Assistant Chief Joseph Callan  
Bronx Borough Commander

*The Bronx Borough Update article will be replaced in this issue by some of my thoughts on the events of January 23, 2005. Two fires that day took the lives of three valiant Firefighters and severely injured four others. The enormity of the horror of that day dwarfs other subjects that normally would be presented in this column about the borough of "The Bronx."*

The members of the Bronx Borough Command, like all members of the FDNY, continue to deal with the tragedies of January 23, 2005, and their aftermath. On that day, we suffered one of the worst losses in Department history, the deaths of three firefighters in two different fires. Making the ultimate sacrifice were Lieutenant Curtis Meyran, Firefighter John Bellew (promoted to Lieutenant

posthumously) and Firefighter Richard Sclafani.

Firefighter Sclafani was killed while searching the basement of a fire building at Brooklyn Box 2-2-1770.

Lieutenant Meyran and Lieutenant Bellew died in the line of duty while operating at Bronx Box 3-3-2997. This horrific fire in the Bronx developed to such an inferno that it forced six heroic firefighters to jump out of a window on the floor above the fire to the ground 50 feet below. Of the six who jumped, four firefighters survived their massive injuries. Firefighters Joseph DiBernardo and Eugene Stolowski are now recuperating at rehabilitation institutions, while Firefighters Jeff Cool and Brendan Cawley continue their road to recovery at home.

The sight of six firefighters choosing to leap 50 feet, over the alternative of burning to death, has to be one of the most tragic events in the history of the Department. To those on-scene, from proby to deputy chief, to our EMS brothers and sisters, it will be a nightmare that will never be forgotten. This memory will be dealt with in many different ways. Our Counseling Service Unit will be sought out by some, while others will try to block it out as best they can. Some members will convince themselves that this is part of the job and others will say enough death and sorrow and write the words "the end" on the last page of their book.

On my visit to the quarters of Ladder 27 and Engine 46 that tragic day, I found

the house filled with members going to or returning from the hospitals. As we sat around the kitchen table, the look on the faces of the firefighters ranged from blank stares to bewilderment to disbelief.

In fires where firefighters are killed, there are usually common threads that senior members have seen before. This fire was an exception. The sight of six firefighters jumping out of a top-floor window never was experienced by any fire department and never could be envisioned, even by our most senior and experienced members. There were no adequate answers to any of the members' questions that day and, interestingly enough, there was no finger pointing at who was to blame or who was responsible: just the same words, "how could this happen?" repeated over and over and over again.

It's now been more than two months since that tragic day. The families of our lost Brothers will continue on, never forgetting January 23, 2005, often waking up in the middle of the night, wishing it was all just a terrible dream. The members of Ladder 27, Ladder 103, Rescue 3, Engine 46 and Engine 290 will continue to care for the families of our fallen Brothers and those who were terribly injured.

We would like to believe that this was a once-in-a-lifetime tragedy that will never happen again. I certainly hope so. It does come to mind that I had a similar hope on a September day in 2001.

### Fast Fact

#### Did you know?

In 1961, the Emerald Society officially organized its Pipe and Drum Band in the Bronx. The bagpipe ensemble consisted of 17 official members, all full-time firefighters, 15 of which were from Bronx companies. For nearly a year before they could afford instruments, the Band tirelessly practiced on drum pads and chanters (the pipe of the bagpipe on which the melody is played). They finally made their debut at a Society dance in November 1962, and made their first St. Patrick's Day Parade appearance the following March. Since then they have appeared everywhere from the Ed Sullivan Show to Carnegie Hall, Vogue Magazine to Madison Square Garden. Three of its original members continue to perform with the band today.

### IN MEMORIAM 5 - 5 - 5 - 5



Lieutenant  
Curtis W. Meyran



Lieutenant  
John G. Bellew



Firefighter  
Richard T. Sclafani

Made the Supreme Sacrifice on January 23, 2005

# The Bronx

## A Look Back: Bronx Firefighter Invents Vital Lifesaving Tool

Most people have heard of the Halligan, but how many of us really know the story behind the man whose creativity gave birth to this essential tool?

Sixty years ago, Bronx native Hugh A. Halligan developed the Halligan Tool, which today is one of the most commonly used tools by firefighters and first responders worldwide. Consisting of a fork, adze and pick, this forcible entry tool is used for everything from opening hot spots to removing locks.

Although Halligan's name is widely associated with his creation, he also left a tremendous impact on the Department.

Appointed as a New York City firefighter in June 1916, Halligan was assigned to Engine 88 in the Bronx. His career was interrupted by service in the army during World War I, but upon his return he was promoted to lieutenant in 1922. Two years later Halligan was promoted to captain, working in Engine Companies 73 and 82, among others. In 1929, he was appointed Battalion Chief and rose to Deputy Chief in 1934. His last promotion was to First Deputy Fire Commissioner in 1941.

It was during that decade that he began

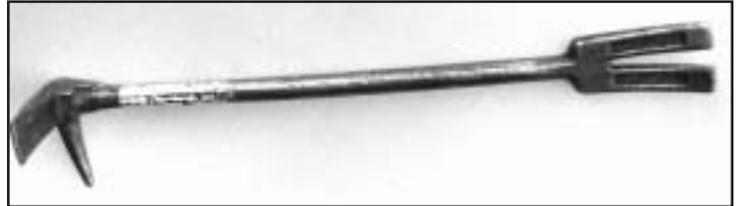
developing his namesake tool.

Before the Halligan Tool, firefighters carried the original "Irons," namely the claw, Kelly Tool and striking tool.

The claw was a heavy, off-centered instrument that required flawless coordination to use and was remarkably dangerous to the firefighter handling it, as well as anyone standing nearby.

The Kelly Tool, named for Captain John F. Kelly of Ladder 163, was put into use years later to improve upon the claw's weaknesses. And although it was indeed safer and easier to handle than the claw (due to its straight drive), it was still terribly heavy and did not include the useful hook portion of the claw tool.

At the time, Halligan had said that he decided to create his own forcible entry tool after working a cellar fire in a frame building. The fire extended upward through walls, and he remembered that a quick ventilation of the upper floor was necessary to relieve the pressure. He said the disadvan-



tage of the claw tool at this fire made such an impact on him that he talked with the Commissioner, John J. McElligott, about designing something better.

In an April 1950 WNYF article, he wrote that he had wanted to create a tool with a "solid feel" and "my primary thought was to provide the firemen with an easily handled, light, straight-drive tool that would be used with confidence."

After numerous evaluations and tests, the first Halligan Tools were created in the mid-1940s, made of a solid piece of No. 4140 steel and weighing only 8¼ pounds. In a short time they went on the market, and the Boston Fire Department immediately bought one for each of their ladder trucks.

It is rumored that the first company to get, and name, the Halligan Tool was Ladder 47, the first due truck to Halligan's home in the Bronx neighborhood of Parkchester.

## EMS DIVISION 2 UPDATE

By EMS Division Chief Frances Pascale  
On Sunday, March 6, the decentralization of the Resource Coordination Center (RCC) continued with the opening of the Division Two RCC. This office will now coordinate all the resources assigned to the Bronx and Upper Manhattan. I thank the members of Division 2 for their cooperation and patience during the realignment of resources in this division.

Division 2 will also be receiving one of the first Mobile Respiratory Treatment Units deployed in the City. This unit (MRTU) will be assigned to Station 20. This vehicle can provide oxygen to up to 30 patients in a controlled environment. The on-board oxygen capacity can effectively allow for continuous oxygen treatment in excess of three hours before cylinder exchanges are necessary (assuming 30 patients receiving 10 LPM Oxygen therapy). The vehicle is designed to facilitate

rapid cylinder exchange in the field without disruption of patient interactions. The FDNY Medical Supply unit can effectively deploy an oxygen re-supply unit within 60 minutes to anywhere in the City if necessary.

Emergency Repairs to the apparatus floor at Station 20 have been ongoing and through a joint effort between construction management and all members at Station 20, the overall operations is running smoothly. Thank you to all for your hard work, patience and cooperation during this renovation period.

We wish to salute the nine members from this division who have recently been promoted to the rank of EMS Lieutenant. We wish them much success and look forward to seeing them, as well as others, who may be joining our "large" family.

The Division would also like to extend our thanks to Dr. Gonzalez, who has devot-

ed much of his time toward Continuing Medical Education (CME) and education for our Division members. Dr. Gonzalez's monthly CME presentations have covered a variety of seasonal, medical and traumatic topics. His participation has been most appreciated and educational.

Recently, one of our paramedics was diagnosed with a severe medical condition, requiring an extended period of time off from active duty. While the donation of time from colleagues within the Division has been quite extensive, members assigned to other Divisions have also donated generously to ensure uninterrupted payroll coverage. I want to commend the members of the EMS Command for their concern and selflessness in assisting fellow members. Thank you for your continued hard work and dedication to the EMS Command and the Department.

## Humanitarian Awards

(Continued from page 1)

have suffered a line-of-duty loss or face other exceptional day-to-day challenges. Created to assist families after 9/11, the group has gradually expanded to support all families who have lost a loved one in the line of duty.

PS 24 in Sunset Park, Brooklyn was honored for its commitment to fire prevention and safety. More than 700 students from the school have visited the FDNY Fire Zone in Rockefeller Center since January 2004, and the school continuously helps the Department spread its safety message.

"Just as our members have dedicated their lives to the service of others, tonight's honorees have shown extraordinary gen-

erosity in supporting the FDNY at our time of greatest need," Commissioner Scoppetta said.

Guests at the ceremony included fashion designer Tommy Hilfiger and Irish Tenor Ronan Tynan, as well as Honorary Chairman Rudolph Giuliani and the Fund's Chairman of the Board Thomas Von Essen. Ms. Santiago says proceeds will help the FDNY Fire Safety Education Fund expand its education programs and provide resources to modernize equipment and training for the Department.

"[The Fire Department] has so many friends," said LeMay Santiago. "This is our way of saying thank you to them; and it's an opportunity for them to continue their relationship with the Department."

## EMS Unit of the Month

(Continued from page 5)

Awards are given to the unit with the best statistics citywide for that month, including best average response, hospital turn around and in service times. Additionally, use of sick leave, equipment maintenance, community involvement, uniform appearance and ACR compliance are also evaluated.

"We look at everything, not just their performance on the job," Chief Peruggia added. "We identify people who are truly professionals. And we look at how they display that professionalism, not just on ambulance calls."

Recommendations for the EMS Unit of the Month Award should be received by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month (i.e., submissions for performance in the month of April should be received by May 15). Winners are announced a few days later and presentations are made at the unit's station.

In April, the Department will launch an initiative recognizing an EMS Station of the Quarter – an award that honors outstanding EMS supervision. Similar to the EMS Unit Awards, stations will be evaluated based on performance as well as community involvement.



*EMS Members Proudly Display New Badges. Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta joined Chief of Department Peter Hayden and Chief of the EMS Command John Peruggia to present new badges to the members of the EMS Command on March 16. They were presented to the most senior member of each rank. Members in the field will be issued their badges at their stations beginning immediately. Completion of the distribution of badges to members in the field is expected on or around April 30th.*

## PHOTO OF THE MONTH



Photo by Mark Herrmann

Brooklyn Box 8090, March 23, 2005, Brooklyn-Queens Expressway & Atlantic Avenue. While returning to Staten Island from training at the Fire Academy, Ladder Co. 81 came upon a fully involved tractor-trailer on the opposite side of the BQE. They exited the highway and came up the eastbound side to shut down traffic while they attempted to quench the flames with extinguishers. Engine Co. 224, which had just been operating at a minor accident a few blocks away, arrived on the scene shortly thereafter, and stretched a line. The driver of the truck escaped without injury.



# VIEW POINT

APRIL 2005

NEWSLETTER OF THE NYC FIRE DEPARTMENT

**FIRE DEPARTMENT  
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