

MAY 2005

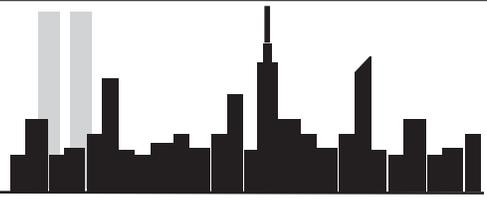
VIEW  
P O I N T

FROM



metroTech

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE NYC FIRE DEPARTMENT



# EMS WEEK: STARS OF LIFE

*This year's theme says it all: Ready, Responsive, Reliable.*

National Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Week officially commenced May 15, publicly recognizing the life-saving work of the more than 750,000 paramedics and EMTs nationwide. The annual salute enables the Department to not only praise the City's "Best" for the tremendous work they do each day, but to also educate the public and attract potential recruits.

"In all the excitement at an emergency, sometimes people don't appreciate the enormous contribution EMS makes to the people of New York," Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta said. "So [EMS Week] is all about celebrating their outstanding work."

The FDNY's series of events kicked off on May 16, when Chief of EMS John Peruggia and other members of the EMS Command rang the opening bell at the New York Stock Exchange.

Chief Peruggia said he hoped that the week's festivities would allow New Yorkers to "recognize the dedication and hard work of the EMS that has allowed us, and will continue to help us, to be the best EMS-based fire department in the country."

## Fifth Annual Paramedic/ EMT Competition

It's not often that you see an EMS physician trying to make a patient's wounds appear worse, but then again, administering patient care doesn't often earn you a boisterous round of applause



*(Top) EMTs Eddie Perez and Javier Mendoza of Station 20 tend to a "victim" at the 5th Annual FDNY EMT/Paramedic Competition. As winners of the BLS division, they will travel with teammate Joseph Fortis to compete in July's National EMS Competition in Florida.*



*(Left) EMTs Erin Doyle and Charles Forchelli, winners of the 2004 Lieutenant Kirby McElhearn Medal, celebrate with their families. The EMTs earned the Medal for rescuing a child dangling from a fire escape and helping numerous others flee a burning building in Queens.*

either.

At the fifth Annual Paramedic/EMT Competition at Metrotech Commons, 18 teams of three showed off their Advanced Life Support (ALS) or Basic Life Support (BLS) skills, each vying for a chance to participate in July's Bill Shearer National EMS Competition in Orlando, Florida.

"All competitions are useful training," said EMT Bernadette Mejia of Station 20,

whose team placed second among all BLS competitors. "It helps your assessment and efficiency, and it refreshes your memory."

On May 17, teams were given 30 minutes to complete a 100-question exam testing their basic EMS knowledge as well as their recall ability. Then all competitors had 15 minutes to respond to a

*(Continued on page 2)*



## IN THIS ISSUE

- ❑ *Commissioner's Message* Page 2
- ❑ *FDNY News* Pages 3-5
- ❑ *In the Borough* Pages 6-7
- ❑ *Photo of the Month* Page 8

## Making CIMS Work

In early February of this year, I, along with the senior leadership of this Department, presented our case to Mayor Bloomberg and the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) for unified command at CBRN (Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear,) and HazMat events. We strenuously argued the merits of our case, but ultimately, the decision was made for a single command structure until terrorism can be ruled out.

On May 9, Police Commissioner Ray Kelly, OEM Commissioner Joseph Bruno and I testified before the City Council's Committee on Public Safety. Our goal was to reiterate that CIMS is a workable document and that all agencies involved will work to ensure that the plan is implemented and that public safety is not compromised. Although the Department did not prevail on the issue of HazMat, I believe that when implemented in good faith by all agencies, the CIMS protocol can and will protect public safety. It is our obligation to the people of the City to make this protocol work.

Chief of Department Peter Hayden was also called to testify and he reiterated his concerns to the Committee.

In an increasingly challenging environment where terrorism is a real and present danger, it's critical that all responding agencies follow the guidelines set forth by the City.

We put forth a compelling argument for the Fire Department to have control over hazardous materials incidents in the city under the framework laid out in CIMS. The Department has conducted extensive training and we have a wide variety of resources at our disposal that can be used in mitigating a HazMat incident. In calendar year 2004, the Fire Department responded to and operated at more than 25,000 HazMat incidents – both large and small. We

Next month, the Viewpoint will resume its Q&A format. If you have a question for the Fire Commissioner, please submit it to the Viewpoint Editor at [lamv@fdny.nyc.gov](mailto:lamv@fdny.nyc.gov) or by fax at 718-999-0033.

have been able to do this because thousands of our members have advanced HazMat training, including the members of HazMat Company 1, who have more than 530 hours of specialized training.

In regards to the command structure of HazMat incidents, both Commissioners Kelly and Bruno testified to the City Council that life safety remains the number one priority.

Commissioner Bruno stated that, "the agencies will operate under their core competencies. In their area of competency, they direct the operation. If it relates to life safety operations at a HazMat incident, the Fire Department will have the say on how to do that. Other agencies will follow their direction."

Commissioner Kelly also agreed that life safety operations were a priority at the scene of HazMat incidents, saying, "clearly, life safety is always paramount."

He went on to say, "it is the stakes that are involved here that makes this different. Again, it's important to emphasize that nothing that we do impedes with life safety operations. That is the first priority."

Ultimately, the decision about control rested with the Mayor and he made the decision he believes is best for the city. The NYPD will have control over the scene of a HazMat incident until it has been determined that it is not a crime scene. The Fire Department will continue to be charged with – as all parties have identified – the most important role: ensuring life safety.

At the end of the day, the Fire Department will still use all of the resources at our disposal to protect the people of this city. It is what we have always done, and it is what we will continue to do.



Commissioner's  
— Message

## EMS WEEK: STARS OF LIFE

(Continued from page 1)

simulated emergency: a power outage at a dialysis center with three critically ill victims (one mannequin and two EMS actors).

First-time participant Paramedic Lt. Scott Heinz of Station 17 in the Bronx was all smiles after he competed, but admitted he was nervous. "I have some big shoes to fill," he said, describing how his teammates had performed well and even won the competition in years past. He was part of the only all supervisor team participating this year, and said because of that, "we have high expectations." His team placed second for the ALS division.

It was a team from the EMS Academy that garnered first place honors for the ALS group. Paramedics Rolando Gardon, Joseph Esquivias and Philip Lewis threw each other enthusiastic high fives and cheered as they bound to the front of the crowd to collect their three-foot tall trophy.

And it was déjà vu as EMTs Joseph Fortis (from the EMS Academy), Eddie Perez and Javier Mendoza (both from Station 20) won for BLS. Teams from Station 20 have won the EMS Competition twice before, and although they labeled themselves the "Bronx Boys," when the competition was just beginning, many of their peers were referring to them as the Competition's "rock stars."

### EMS Medal Day

It's a day honoring the best of the City's "Best."

Commissioner Scoppetta, Chief of Department Peter Hayden and Chief Peruggia honored 11 paramedics and EMTs for their quick thinking and heroism at EMS Medal Day on May 18.

"This is a highlight to an outstanding week," Chief Peruggia said. "These individuals have extended themselves at great personal risk to help their fellow New Yorkers."

Family, friends and fellow EMS personnel filled the auditorium at FDNY Headquarters and repeatedly jumped to their feet with applause as the Department

(Continued on page 8)

## A Step Up

### Fire Promotions Celebrate Accomplishments and Miracles

On May 10, the Department celebrated what many simply described as a very happy day.

Thirty-one firefighters were promoted to lieutenant, another firefighter was promoted to marine pilot and one fire marshal was promoted to supervising fire marshal at the FDNY Training Academy on Randall's Island.

"You passed the test, you've been given new titles," Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta said. "Now the real challenge begins. I know you're up to it."

Members lined the walls and were even crouching on the stairs of the packed auditorium as they cheered in support of the promoted members. And although all the new officers were applauded for their hard work, dedication and impressive skills, Commissioner Scoppetta and Chief of Department Peter Hayden deemed one to be the "star" of the ceremony.

Firefighter Joseph DiBernardo, Jr. of Rescue 3 was critically injured in January's tragic Bronx blaze, shattering his legs and requiring 10 plates and 60 screws throughout his body. When his name was called, DiBernardo smiled as he gingerly walked up the steps – without any aid – and across the stage to accept his promotion.

"Because of all he has gone through, and because of all he has yet to offer to us, to his family, to the people of this city, we are fortunate to have Joe here with us today, to accept promotion to the rank of lieutenant," Commissioner Scoppetta said.

The crowd gave the new officer a standing ovation, and Chief Hayden commended him for his "selfless courage" and "extreme dedication."

Lieutenant DiBernardo was also one of several of the day's promoted members who were recognized for their distinguished Department lineage. Also among them was Lieutenant Robert Brown, whose father, Captain Barry Brown of Division 6, was killed in the line of duty on July 22, 1982.

Everyone provided words of praise and congratulations for the new officers,



(Left top) Firefighter Joseph DiBernardo, who is still recovering from injuries he sustained in January's tragic Bronx fire, received a standing ovation as he walked, unassisted, across the stage to accept his promotion to lieutenant from Fire Commissioner Scoppetta and Chief of Department Hayden.



(Left bottom) On May 10, 33 members of the Department were promoted in a ceremony at the FDNY Training Facility on Randall's Island, including 31 lieutenants, one pilot and one supervising fire marshal. The new officers will be assigned to various Divisions throughout the City.

and some offered a little guidance as well.

"You have the opportunity to set the tone in the firehouse and it's your responsibility to make your unit the best on the

job," Chief Hayden said. "You train your firefighters and you make sure they stay safe. That's the biggest responsibility you'll have in this job."



On May 14, friends and family of probationary firefighters got a taste for what life is like at the FDNY Fire Academy at Proby Family Day. Dozens gathered to watch the new firefighters show off their life-saving skills and even got to do a little fire-fighting themselves at the annual event.

## Apparatus Cameras: Increasing Safety On the Roads

By Assistant Chief Allen Hay  
Chief of the Safety Command

Yes, "Big Brother" is watching you, but not for the reasons you think.

There is a misunderstanding in the field about the purpose of the Department's apparatus camera pilot program. The Safety Command embarked on this pilot program in an effort to increase the safety of our members.

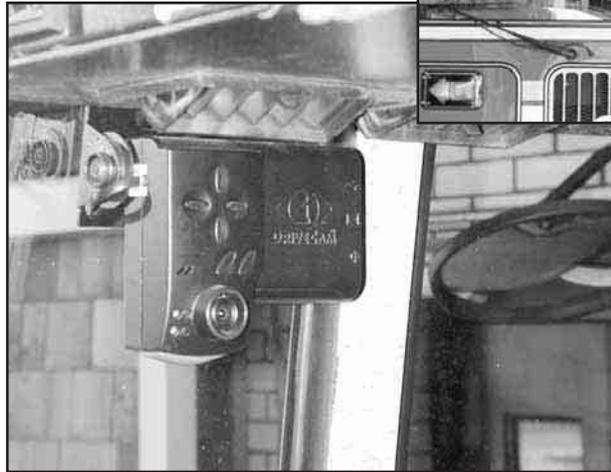
Across the country, fire departments are undertaking similar steps to increase apparatus safety. Many of these changes were prompted by an August 2004 report released by FEMA entitled "Emergency Vehicle Safety Initiative" (FA-272). The purpose of the report was to identify practices that have the potential to increase the personal safety of emergency responders.

Section 3 of the report titled "Apparatus Safety Devices," 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 success of apparatus cameras in the Plano Texas Fire Department.

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



*Driver cameras such as the ones in the FDNY pilot program are small unobtrusive devices that are able to capture images both inside and outside the vehicle.*

crashes, the Department chauffeur was operating appropriately and that 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.

## Head of the Class

### National Fire Academy Executive Fire Officer Program Brings Together First Responders from Around the World

Call it "First Responder University."

The U.S. Fire Administration's four-year National Fire Academy Executive Fire Officer Program is a unique curriculum that helps first responders sharpen their skills and broaden their base of knowledge to respond to a variety of complex emergencies. The program draws from top leadership in fire and emergency service from around the world.

"It's all about the exchange of ideas," said EMS Deputy Chief Toni Lanotte.

Lanotte is one of only four Fire Department members who have participated in the prestigious program. Chief of EMS

Command John Peruggia and Deputy Fire Chief Richard Tobin completed the program last year, and Fire Captain Brenda Berkman recently completed her third year.

"[The coursework] makes you think outside the box, you get ideas and bring them back to the higher level chiefs in the Department," said Lanotte.

The curriculum involves two weeks of classroom instruction at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland, and an applied research project that students are given six months to complete.

The projects require students to

research and develop a means to improve their individual department in a way that relates to the focus of their class work. First-year students are asked to develop plans involving executive development, risk management in the second year, incident management in year three and executive leadership in the final year.

"It's a lot of work," Deputy Chief Lanotte said. "But the payback is well worth it."

Established in 1985, the graduate-level program accepts 200 officers each year. According to the Program's Chair, Chuck

*(Continued on page 5)*

# Recognizing Flashover

## *New simulator allows firefighters to experience flashover conditions*

If you look closely, you'll find two black trailers tucked back by the fence at the Fire Academy on Randall's Island. They look inconspicuous, but when in use, their interiors get so hot they can melt the eye shields right off your helmet.

And Department officials think they can also save your life.

The Academy's new Flashover Simulators are helping firefighters, from probies to seasoned veterans, learn the warning signs of one of the deadliest conditions they can encounter on the job. The devices have been incorporated into Annual Education Day since January 20, and so far, more than 2,000 firefighters have experienced the simulation.

"It's all about firefighter survival," said Chief of the Academy Nicholas Santangelo. "Firefighter survival depends on recognizing the flashover."

Flashovers occur in between the growth and fully developed stages of a fire. As in any fire, the smoke collects at the ceiling and the heat from the fire is absorbed into the walls and contents of the room. When the heat in the room reaches roughly 1,130 degrees Fahren-

heit, the combustible gases in the room ignite and a flashover ensues.

When the flashover starts, firefighters have only two seconds to get out before the room erupts into flames.

"This Simulator will help [firefighters] recognize the signs of an impending disaster," said Captain Al Hagen of Ladder 43, an adjunct instructor at the Academy. "And, an early getaway equals survival."

The Department received its two Simulators, also known as Fire Behavior Labs, from the Leary Firefighters Foundation. Inside, instructors ignite a large metal barrel containing one and a half pallets of straw and wood. The barrel is placed on a platform three feet above the orient strand board-lined area where eight students and three instructors are then closed inside to observe the flashover for approximately 10 minutes.

During the simulation, temperatures can reach between 1,200 to 1,500 degrees Fahrenheit at the ceiling while the floor temperature hovers around 275 degrees.

Many firefighters said they found the experience valuable.

"You don't get to see this too often," said four-year veteran Firefighter Gregory

Elukowick of Engine 74, just after leaving the Simulator. "It's something different. A lot of guys wouldn't know what to do in this situation."

To increase the public's awareness of the dangers firefighters face, the Department also allowed New York Daily News Reporter Tony Sclafani to experience the Simulator firsthand.

"I was just in a barbecue, basically," said Sclafani laughing, still red-faced from the heat. "I'm sure everybody couldn't do that. It was pretty intense."

Captain Hagen noted that flashovers are one of the leading causes of serious injury and death to firefighters. And although still rare, they are occurring more frequently today due to a quicker and more aggressive response by firefighters and an increased use of plastics and synthetic fabrics in the home.

"If you're in there, five rooms deep, it's lonely and you have to be on top of your game," Captain Hagen said. "[In the Simulator] I want students to close their eyes and concentrate on how they feel before the flashover. So they'll know to get out before it's too late."

*(Continued from page 4)*

Burkell, 80 percent are senior fire executives and 20 percent are company level officers who have demonstrated keen leadership potential.

He added that although many officers enroll for the classroom education, they also benefit from what they learn from their fellow students. "One of the critical benefits of the program is the networking opportunity," Burkell said. "It encourages fire executives to share issues and problems among a peer group that is representative of a wide area."

Deputy Chief Lanotte said she became interested in the program after taking several leadership courses at the Academy. And, she says she applied because "I

thought it would be a good challenge for personal growth and development, and would give me the opportunity to develop change in the Department." She is currently in her second year of study.

"It provides a wonderful opportunity to learn effective management techniques," Chief Peruggia said. "And it provides a huge network of senior fire officers from all over the country and world to interact with and learn from."

Chief Peruggia's projects included an evaluation of the FDNY's Periodic Medical Exam Program, which confirmed its success, as well as a plan for improving EMS delivery in the Department, pieces of which have been included in EMS's Strategic Plan. He added that he regularly

confers with former classmates from as far away as Gonzalez, Louisiana and New South Wales, Australia.

Chief Peruggia says he believes Deputy Chief Lanotte will perform well in the program and encourages other officers to enroll, noting that, "it offers a tremendous environment for learning."

Deputy Chief Lanotte agreed, describing the education she is receiving as invaluable.

"You're looking at something and saying it's good enough, but how can we make it even better," she said. "You're not just taking things at face value, but saying is there more to this than meets the eye and you're looking at it from a global perspective."

# In the Borough:

## QUEENS BOROUGH UPDATE

*By Assistant Chief Robert Sweeney,  
Queens Borough Commander*

The Borough of Queens is always burgeoning with activity. From neighborhood growth to the expansion of train service at JFK airport, the borough is ever changing and the Queen Borough Command is constantly working to meet the community's needs.

### Interagency Drills

On May 21, Queens fire units participated in a Simulated Air Disaster Drill

(SADD) with the Port Authority Police Department at JFK Airport. The mock air crash took place on one of the airport's runways and tested our response working in conjunction with the Port Authority's resources.

### New Train Service

For more than a year, the JFK AirTrain has been in service. The AirTrain system is singularly unique in that its sole purpose is to transport individuals and their baggage

to and from the airport. The train offers transportation to the airport's terminals from the Jamaica and Howard Beach stations with connections to both the MTA NYC transit system and the Long Island Railroad (LIRR). The train system is fully automated and unmanned – offering a unique challenge to firefighters when responding to emergencies.

With increased service and ridership on the AirTrain, the Queens Borough Command, under the leadership of Division 13 Commander Deputy Chief James DiDomenico, drafted Addendum #12 to AUC 207. The purpose of this document was to familiarize all fire units with the AirTrain system in the event that they should respond to an AirTrain emergency.

Addendum #12 addresses the unique features of the system, including its lack of supervision onboard the trains, lack of cameras or surveillance equipment onboard trains and along the guideways (tracks) and the potential of high speeds up to 70 mph. The Addendum also addresses operations such as 3<sup>rd</sup> Rail power and power removal procedures as well as evacuation and removal of passengers.



*Assistant Chief Robert Sweeney,  
Queens Borough Commander*

### New Facilities

Last November, the City's first joint fire and EMS station opened in Rockaway. Located at 303 Beach 49th Street, the new facility houses Battalion 47, Engine 265, Ladder 121 and EMS Battalion 47 and serves the Arverne, Far Rockaway and Rockaway Beach neighborhoods. Engine 265 and Ladder 121 were originally located at 58-03 Rockaway Beach Boulevard, but a sink-

ing apparatus floor and decaying walls forced "The Best on the Beach" to relocate to their new home.

### Centennial Celebrations

On September 14, Engine Companies 264, 265, 266, Ladder Company 121 and Battalion 47 will be celebrating their 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with an event at Russo's on the Bay. Both retired and active members and their families will be attending this event to celebrate the longevity and history of these units.

## Fast Fact Did you know?

The New York City Fire Museum was born in Queens. In the early 1930s, Deputy Chief George L. McKenna, Director of the Fire College, wanted to assemble a collection of restored fire equipment for a new Fire College Museum, to preserve the history and heritage of New York's fire service. To realize his dream, he enlisted the help of Firefighter Walter Beatty from Ladder 116 in Richmond Hill. Firefighter Beatty had helped Henry Ford preserve his historical collection in Michigan, and was well known for using his own time and money to assemble and restore the Department's antique fire apparatus. Under his direction, the Museum opened in 1934 to great fanfare in Long Island City's Packard Building. It grew so quickly that in 1948, the Department opened a larger space in the nearby Shops building to house the collection. By 1959 the Museum had expanded even more in size and popularity, so much so that Department officials decided to relocate it to a more central location – Manhattan. The museum changed locations several times before settling into its current home at 278 Spring Street in SoHo in 1987.

## BE A PART OF THE VIEWPOINT!

Do you have a  
great story idea?

How about an  
upcoming event?

Email your suggestions to  
the Viewpoint Editor at  
[lamv@fdny.nyc.gov](mailto:lamv@fdny.nyc.gov).

# Queens

## Spotlight on: EMS Deputy Chief Carl Tramontana

It ain't over 'til it's over.

As a rookie paramedic in 1980, EMS Deputy Chief Carl Tramontana and his partner Kenneth Honig, refused to believe that they could not save the life of Jack Pintchik – even after physicians had pronounced him dead. They labored tirelessly to restore Pintchik's vital signs.

Their work paid off.

Pintchik was saved and their efforts that day served as the inspiration for the first EMS medal: The Pintchik Life Saving Medal.

For more than 27 years, Tramontana has brought this same “can-do” attitude to EMS.

From his early days as an EMT and Paramedic to leading EMS Division 4 in Queens, he's shown the Department what it means to proudly serve the City in the Emergency Medical Service. His retirement is a great loss to the Department, said John Peruggia, Chief of the EMS Command.

“Carl serves as an example for all of us,” said Peruggia. “He has gone above and beyond to help lead EMS and grow this Department. His work ethic is second to none.”

“Carl's dedication to the job is extraordinary,” said Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta. “For nearly three decades, he has contributed selflessly to the welfare of this City. His broad base of knowledge, his expertise and his leadership will be greatly missed by all in the Fire Department.”

On April 15, Deputy Chief Tramontana completed his last tour of duty.

He began his career with NYC EMS in 1978, back in the days of the “Bread Box” style ambulances and the Motor Vehicle Operator (MVO) partner. Within his first year, he entered the Jacobi Paramedic Class 5 in 1979.

He was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant in 1983, while serving as a Paramedic Instructor for the Bellevue Paramedic Program. He went on to become an instructor with the EMS Academy at Queens Hospital Center, where he also served as the Physical Training Officer Instructor developing a pilot Rescue Vehicle Extrication course.

Deputy Chief Tramontana was assigned to Field Operations in 1989, at which time he was asked to be involved in the development of the EMS Officers Training Program, eventually becoming the program's coordinator in 1991.

While at the EMS Academy, he became involved with the Employee Assistance Program (EAP). It was then that the first EMS Critical Incident Situation Team was developed to provide counseling to EMS personnel affected by traumatic incidents. This program was a first in the City and was used almost exclusively until the 1996 merger with the Fire Department.



*EMS Deputy Chief Carl Tramontana, retired on April 15th after 27 years with EMS.*

In 1993, Deputy Chief Tramontana worked with Division Chief Charles Wells to promote and develop the EMS component of the NYTF-1, New York City's Urban Search and Rescue Team, where he worked as a medical specialist until his retirement.

In 1995, Deputy Chief Tramontana was deployed with Dr. Dario Gonzales, Chief Wells, Deputy Chief James Booth and Paramedic Ray Bonner (retired) for search and rescue operations following the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City.

This was the first major deployment of NYTF-1. Through the years, the team was also deployed for various other disasters, including the crash of Flight 800 off the coast of Long Island in 1996, Hurricane Georges in 1998, ice storms in upstate New York in 1998 and the scaffolding collapse that closed 42<sup>nd</sup> Street in 1999.

Deputy Chief Tramontana was promoted to captain in 1996, and was assigned to the Hazardous Material Training Unit, a newly created division located at the Fire Academy on Randall's Island. He worked as an instructor for Squads, HazMat Support Units and Chemical Protective Clothing (CPC) Companies about their response to hazardous material incidents and terrorism-related responses.

In 2001, he was promoted to Deputy Chief and assigned to EMS Division 6 in the Bronx. A short time later, he was re-assigned to Division 4 in Queens.



*Pictured in 1995, then-Lieutenant Carl Tramontana (far right) was joined by (L to R) Lt. Dave Russell, DOT; Dewey Perks, Fairfax County Fire Department; Capt. Charles Wells, SOD; Joe Hiponia, FEMA; and Sean Foohey, FEMA, as a member of the City's Urban Search and Rescue Team.*

## EMS WEEK: STARS OF LIFE

(Continued from page 2)

honored paramedics and EMTs who provided highly effective patient care under some extraordinary circumstances in 2004.

This year, the prestigious Christopher Prescott Medal was awarded to EMT Ronald Johnson of Station 8, for bravely working to save a woman who had been electrocuted on a Manhattan street. The Tracy Allen-Lee Medal was given to Paramedic Joseph Losquadro of Station 57, who, at great personal risk, applied his specialized collapse training to treat a victim trapped in a trench.

Additionally, the James Scullion Medal was presented to EMTs Ellis Williams and Jerry Bond for a daring fire rescue, EMTs Charles Forchelli and Erin Doyle received the Lieutenant Kirby McElhearn Medal for courageously assisting at the scene of a fire, and the Jack Pintchick Medal was awarded to EMTs Timothy Dluhos and Hanfort Bautista who helped treat and rescue an injured construction worker in unstable conditions.

EMT Donna Glaude also received the Emergency Medical Dispatch Commendation for her 20 years of dedicated service to the Department, and Paramedics William Gettens and Mark Peck received the Office of Medical Affairs Commendation for the incredible knowledge and skills they have demonstrated in their combined 54 years of service.

"It's safe to say that we're not only the largest, most comprehensive EMS Department in the country, but truly the best,"

Commissioner Scoppetta said. "And today is proof of that."

### 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Second Chance Brunch

It may have just been a meal of French toast and scrambled eggs, but to 12 lucky New Yorkers, it was a new beginning.

On May 19, the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Second Chance Brunch provided victims of cardiac arrest with the opportunity to personally thank the paramedics, EMTs and firefighters who saved their lives.

"Looking around this room, nothing more clearly demonstrates the work that we do each day," said Commissioner Scoppetta as he smiled at the crowd of survivors.

Each year more than 350,000 people experience cardiac arrest. Some of the City's most fortunate survivors, their friends and family got to share laughs, tears and hugs as their miraculous stories were read to the crowd.

Among the honorees was Abraham Lind-Oquendo, a renowned opera singer, and William McGowan, a small, quiet man who has survived three heart attacks.

Chief Peruggia said that the survivors bring to light the importance of the work the EMS Command does every day, noting "Together we are committed to one mission: saving lives."

The event also allowed the Department to stress the importance of civilian CPR training. No one demonstrated the importance of this knowledge more than honoree Katherine Anne Thorpe, an 11-month old girl with big brown eyes, who was just three months old when she went into car-

diac arrest. Her father immediately administered CPR, sustaining her until EMS arrived and were able to revive her.

Commissioner Scoppetta added that he too was recently trained in the life-saving technique, saying with a laugh to the crowd, "If you think you may need a third chance, maybe I can help you out."



*Katherine Anne Thorpe and her mom, Pam, appreciatively hug EMT Ryan Daley at the 11th Annual Second Chance Brunch. EMT Daley helped resuscitate then 3-month old Katherine when she went into cardiac arrest last year.*

## PHOTO OF THE MONTH



*Budding firefighters, paramedics and EMTs took an honorary Oath of Office at FDNY Headquarters on April 28 as part of Take Your Children to Work Day. Children of all ages started the day with refreshments and tours of EMS and fire apparatus, and then spent the afternoon observing their parents busy at work.*



# VIEW

## POINT

MAY 2005

NEWSLETTER OF THE NYC FIRE DEPARTMENT

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ViewPoint is published entirely in-house by the FDNY  
Office of Public Information

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**A 139 YEAR HISTORY**

**OF COMMITMENT,**

**COURAGE & COMPASSION**