DoD Military Fire Officer of the Year

Award Description:
This annual award recognizes an individual military fire officer for superior job performance and outstanding contributions to the fire service, with specific focus for on-duty related contributions to Fire and Emergency Services programs.

Eligibility:
Military Fire Officer serving in one of the following duty positions: Station Captain, Assistant Chief of Operations, Assistant Chief of Training, Assistant Chief of Fire Prevention, Assistant Chief of Operations and Readiness, Deputy Fire Chief, Fire Chief, and Component, staff (Component, Major Command or Region) Fire Protection Specialists. Military Fire Officers with different duty position titles, but equivalent duty responsibilities (including shipboard and aircraft rescue fire officers), are also eligible. Calendar year 2005 Military Fire Officer of the Year award winners from the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard (Note: DLA does not have any military fire officers). The component annual award winners are the only individuals eligible to compete for this DoD level award.

Criteria:
• Component (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard) selection as “Military Fire Officer of the Year” for 2005.
• Component prepared nomination document describing significant achievements and contributions using the following headings:
  - Accomplishments
  - Job Performance
  - Technical competence
  - Leadership ability
  - Initiative
  - Resourcefulness

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Army
US Army Military Fire Officer of the Year for 2005
Staff Sergeant Chyleciale Washington
Fort Hood, Texas

Accomplishments:
- Active Duty Noncommissioned Officer in Charge (NCOIC) for two of the Army’s newest Engineer Firefighting Detachments, the 507th and 557th Engineer Detachments on Fort Hood.
- Served as Training NCOIC for the 664th Ordinance Company, Fort Hood, Texas, responsible for direction and oversight of various local programs:
  -- Physical Fitness, Weight Control, Remedial Physical Fitness, DOD Certifications, Warrant Officer/Officer Candidate School processing, Basic Noncommissioned Officers Course, and the Advanced Noncommissioned Officers Course.
- Awarded two Army Commendation Medals, three Army Achievement Medals, Overseas Service Ribbon, completed Primary Leadership Development Course and the Basic Noncommissioned Officers Course.
- Department of Defense Certified in Fire Officer I and II, Inspector I and II, Instructor I, Driver Operator Pumper, Aerial, and ARFF (Airport Rescue Firefighting).
- Fort Hood Military Fire Officer of the Year 2005; received third Army Achievement Medal.
- Individual Quality of Excellence Award 2005.

Job Performance:
- As NCOIC for the 507th and 557th Engineer Firefighting Detachments on Fort Hood, commands a platoon of 10 active duty firefighters (21M) of which two were selected as Fort Hood’s Firefighters of the Quarter in 2005.
- Fire Captain at Fort Wainwright, Fairbanks Alaska, Fire Department and Ambulance Service providing mutual aid to the city of Fairbanks and Fort Wainwright.

Technical Competence:
- Coordinates with the Department of Defense Fire Academy to mobilize firefighters from various installations to Fort Hood to strengthen the command.
- Trained and assured all active duty firefighters were trained on the Army’s newest Tactical Firefighting Truck (TFFT) for use in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Leadership Ability:
- Currently serving in the role as 1st Sergeant and Company Commander in the establishment of the newest military units in the Department of Defense, the 507th and the 557th Engineer Firefighting Detachments.
- Hand picked from among contemporaries to attend the Department of the Army Drill Sergeant School.

Initiative:
- Created Civilian Clothes Day as a fundraiser for those that were evacuated by Hurricane Katrina. All proceeds were donated to the American Red Cross. Received Individual Quality of Excellence Award.
- Integrated active duty military firefighters with civilian firefighters that aided in strengthening the firefighting command on Fort Hood.

Resourcefulness:
- Over the past year, has been instrumental in assuring that each firefighter is trained and prepared to deploy to Operation Iraqi Freedom with the newest tactical firefighting equipment.
Navy
ACCOMPLISHMENTS: Accomplished mentor, leader, and proven warrior
- Hand selected as the “best of the best” under the most stringent criteria to be Fire Chief at the President Of The United States (POTUS) official retreat, Naval Support Facility Thurmont, MD; true patriot, proud to serve
- DCCS Garver’s devotion to duty as NSF Thurmont Fire Chief resulted in a dramatic transformation; increased fire program visibility through personal intervention and detailed curriculum to enforce/track fire protection standards
- Identified deficiencies with dated SCBA equipment. Implemented upgrade, certification, and annual flow test plans and processes for all gear, including the addition of CBRN protection; this effort improved the safety and fire fighting capabilities of our firefighters and increased readiness and emergency response capability of the command
- Initiated a robust preventive maintenance program for all fire and emergency service vehicles bringing all vehicles up to current standards and ensuring maintenance was performed on schedule; mandated initial inspections to identify and execute required repairs and established rigorous schedule for recurring maintenance and testing
- Coordinated with local, state and DoD organizations to conduct two live-burn training sessions, Fire Fighter I procedures supporting the command’s emergency response vehicle maintenance program; yielded positive results
- Identified enroute training requirements for inbound personnel being reassigned to NSF Thurmont, which allowed members to receive Fire Fighter II, ARFF, and Hazardous Materials training prior to reporting for duty there

JOB PERFORMANCE: Epitome of customer service with primary goal always mission accomplishment
- Spearheaded the training and day-to-day operations of the command fire brigade, consisting of Navy professional firefighters and all non-firefighting rate Sailors; aggressive training program yielded quantum leap in capability
- Evaluated responses during training exercises and implemented upgrades to training, techniques, and procedures
- Expertise and persistence paid dividends! Zero fire related injuries or property damage occurred during his tenure

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: Always increases his value to subordinates, peers, commanders, and Navy
- Spearheaded the training and day-to-day operations of the command fire brigade, consisting of Navy professional firefighters and all non-firefighting rate Sailors; aggressive training program yielded quantum leap in capability
- Evaluated responses during training exercises and implemented upgrades to training, techniques, and procedures
- Expertise and persistence paid dividends! Zero fire related injuries or property damage occurred during his tenure

LEADERSHIP ABILITY: Follow-me style leadership with an unbridled passion and enthusiasm to succeed
- Led the command fire brigade in ensuring the fire safety and well-being of the President, First Family and guests
- Developed the plan to transition from the existing, mostly collateral-duty fire brigade concept to a full-time professional fire department with aviation and damage control rated personnel, including all required training, qualifications, and schedule rotations; successfully implemented initial phase of transition plan on schedule

INITIATIVE: Never waits for things to happen, makes great things happen with superior results
- Lives to be a firefighter and emergency response professional to help others through the most difficult situations
- Coordinated Pump Operator course with Maryland Fire Rescue Institute to certify 12 driver operators; doubled amount of qualified operators who previously learned pump ops via internal training from non-certified personnel
- EMS Lt for Alpha Volunteer Fire Company in Littlestown, PA; responded to 58 critical EMS calls and 61 fire, rescue, and HazMat calls; member of the Company since 2000, made a positive difference in the local community
- Initiated a robust preventive maintenance program for all fire and emergency service vehicles bringing all vehicles up to highest standards required for POTUS support
- Increased the life safety and extrication equipment inventory to significantly enhance our rescue capabilities

RESOURCESFULNESS: Took the tough, additional jobs and made them look easy
- Coordinated with local, state and DoD organizations to conduct two live-burn training sessions, Fire Fighter I courses and other training opportunities at reduced cost to the government; training significantly enhanced skills
- Established a Standard Operating Procedure and trained on new medical evacuation (medevac) aircraft procedures with the command fire department and medical staff; set up on-site training with air assets to increase understanding and teamwork between the two units to prepare for medevac emergency requirements
- Identified enroute training requirements for inbound personnel being reassigned to NSF Thurmont, which allowed members to receive Fire Fighter II, ARFF, and Hazardous Materials training prior to reporting for duty there

Protecting Those Who Defend America
Air Force
Air Force Nominee for the DoD Military Fire Officer of the Year Award
Master Sergeant Scott C. Knupp, Ramstein Air Base, Germany

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:  Ranked #1/62 as HQ USAFE/A7 Senior Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year
- USAFE Fire and Emergency Supt.--provided oversight for over 24 USAF and NATO emergency service flights
  -- Articulated Command position for funding/manning/equipping 1,690 firefighters--lauded by O-7 and HQ staff
- Managed crash rescue programs responsible for protecting USAF's $4.5B physical plant assets at 6 major bases
- Vehicle officer for USAF's second largest fire fleet; managed 195 crash and 57 command vehicles valued at $71M
  -- Articulated fire chiefs' needs; developed master plan & fought to modernize/replace aging fleet--garnered $2.1M
- Command HazMat Compliance Co-chair; developed strict standards and protocols--zero release of contamination
- Sourced 8 AOR taskings within USAFE; 96 firefighters deployed--contingency support 100% filled and on time
- Articulated DoD and USAF standards during base inspections--hands-on leadership fostered corrective actions
- Authored/implemented mgt plan to realign 44 manpower authorizations; maximized UTC MISCAP capabilities
- A7 Physical Training Leader; lead weekly sessions and conducted assessment testing--increased pass rate by 14%

JOB PERFORMANCE:  #1/650 firefighters as USAFE nominee for GEICO Military Service Award
- The only MSgt in the Command responsible for protecting the largest number of military personnel outside USA
- Mitigated fire agent shortfall impacting USAFE largest base maintenance contract--special weapons in ready state
- Coordinated USAF/USAFA Space Shuttle launch support--deployed personnel/assets--ensured on time launch
- Developed vision to re-classify Incirlik's first strike agent requirements--saved $600K a year in contract fees
- Surveyed USAF's largest rescue programs; provided oversight for training resulting in 30% readiness increase
- Partnered with CENTAF/AEF Center--streamlined deployment plans; obtained 100% buy-in from Fire Chiefs
- Authored integration plan reassigning NAS Keflavik to AF control; seamless transition--"best seen in 2½ yrs"
- Hosted two national certification traveling courses for USAFE; increased mission readiness--40 now DoD certified
- Active member of Base Top III and VFW--consistently encouraged/brought fellow SNCOs to monthly meetings
- Corrected long term manning shortfall at GSUs; response capabilities in line with DoD standards--first time ever

TECHNICAL COMPETENCE:  Total package; completed fire chief certification courses--exceeds trng standards
- Completed 9 semester hours--Awarded Bachelors Degree in Occupational Safety and Health/Fire Science
- Top student! Graduated in top 10% of class for Fire Inspector III and Fire Officer IV--now fire chief certified
- Completed 48-hour Space Shuttle Rescue Course; training directly impacts NASA's ability to launch shuttle crews
- Completed 32-hour FEMA’s National Response Plan--key to USAFE's adoption of an Incident Command System
- Full Spectrum Threat Response expert; provided insight and articulated fire standard for 3K FSTR first responders
- Mentored 600 junior fire fighters during monthly base visits throughout command; better career option educated

LEADERSHIP ABILITY:  Already showing executive-level leadership potential; exceeds peer group in ability
- Filled in 6+ months as USAFE’s Command Fire Chief--exceeded standards in executive fire officer position
- Managed USAFE Fire and Emergency Services training program responsible for 120 AETC courses for 24 flights
- Designated driver during MSgt/TSgt promotion party attended by 350 base personnel; zero DUIs for all attendees!
- First Sgt Academy grad--filled in 274 hrs for CMSgt incumbent as additional duty; leadership for 1.2K troops
- Volunteered in support of Ramstein Welfare Bazaar--funds supported KMC schools, organizations, and families
- SNCO Induction Ceremony Committee Member--organized social programs and fund raising/morale events
- Provided technical review of USAF's second largest base maintenance contract--articulated national standard
- Created live fire ORM template used to mitigate risk and identify training deficiency--25% increase in training
- Coached Little League Baseball team--mentored 9/10 year old youth on basic fundamentals and core values

INITIATIVE:  Short notice vehicle taskings no longer problem--set up contingency vehicle standby plan w/A4
- Introduced helmet thermal imager camera to bases for trial run--used analysis as justification for USAFE purchase
- Mentored junior fire inspectors during facility fire prevention inspections--better prepared technical specialists
- Standardized data collection program--engineered computer tracking programs and educated 25 fire officers
- Developed strategic plan to categorize airfields across USAF's AOR--redistributed $2M in vehicle resources
- Improved fire C2 and night vision capabilities--postured UTCs at strategic locations valued in excess of $2M
- Identified command-wide fire pump vehicle testing deficiency; directed resources--mitigated loss of flying mission
- Authored IG checklists; researched 18 AF pubs and 293 codes encompassing 1M line items--standardized USAFE
- Mentored Senior Airman outside of unit--spent countless hours educating junior troop on career path choices
- Identified deficiency in ARFF turret testing requirement, AF NPFA 403 committee rep requesting interpretation

RESOURCEFULNESS:  Developed strategic plan for modernizing USAFE ARFF trainers; secured $2M for repair
- Developed risk assessment matrix to quantify manpower/availability and associated risk--MAJCOM/CE in tune
- Support Equipment Working Group Team Chief; identified deployment equipment shortfalls--justified $1M
- Coordinated congressional funds plan to construct Ramstein fire trainer; validated $3.6M project--226 FFs impact
- Pointman for USAFE's for Prime Vendor Program; educated fire chiefs on streamlined cost and potential benefits
- Identified deficiency in NATO agent requirements; educated host nation on protocols--certified new equipment
- Despite 32% reduction in AETC training courses, acquired 16 funded allocations--increased readiness ratings
Marine Corps
THIRD ENDORSEMENT on OIC, ARFF's ltr 1600 3A of 25 Apr 06

From: Commanding Officer, Marine Corps Air Station Camp Pendleton, CA 92055
To: Commandant of the Marine Corps (ASL-38)


1. Forwarded with enthusiasm.

2. Staff Sergeant Aldredge is enthusiastically recommended for the Department of Defense Military Fire Officer of the Year CY 2005 for his superior job performance and outstanding contributions to the fire service.

3. Demonstrating superb technical acumen, Staff Sergeant Aldredge has positively impacted mission accomplishment of the Fire and Emergency Services provided by his Department. In addition to completing further certifications and qualifications, he has unselfishly contributed his off duty time to enable other Marines and civilians to achieve further certifications. His expertise is relied upon and was vital in implementing and updating the Training and Readiness program while concurrently assisting other Fire Service offices. Staff Sergeant Aldredge is an outstanding Marine who is well rounded and a true asset to the fire fighting community.

G. L. GOODMAN
SECOND ENDORSEMENT on OIC, ARFF's ltr 1600 3A of 25 Apr 06

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commandant of the Marine Corps (AVN ASL-38)
Via: Commanding Officer, Marine Corps Air Station Camp Pendleton, CA


1. Forwarded with enthusiasm.

2. Staff Sergeant Aldredge is enthusiastically recommended for Fire Officer of the Year. Throughout this period, he has led the way in implementing the Training and Readiness program for Marine Corps Air Station Camp Pendleton while concurrently aiding other Fire Departments throughout Southern California. His technical expertise, leadership and proven performance have had a positive impact on mission accomplishment, readiness and morale of the Marines in the Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting Section.

3. Staff Sergeant Aldredge is enthusiastically recommended for selection as the Department of Defense Fire Officer of the Year.

J. W. CARL

J. W. CARL
FIRST ENDORSEMENT on OIC, ARFF ltr 1600 of 25 Apr 06

From: Operations Officer
To: Commandant of the Marine Corps (AVN ASL-38)
Via: (1) Commanding Officer, Headquarters & Headquarters Squadron, Marine Corps Air Station Camp Pendleton, Ca.
     (2) Commanding Officer, Marine Corps Air Station Camp Pendleton, Ca.


1. Staff Sergeant Aldredge has become one of the anchormen for MCAS Camp Pendleton Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting. Enthusiastic and self-motivated, he is a key member in both the division training program and the train-the-trainer program, where he has earned the respect of his superiors, and more importantly his peers, as a duty expert and go-to Marine. His past record of duty and performance speaks for itself.

2. Forwarded with enthusiasm.

[Signature]
J. E. SZEWCZYNKI
From: Officer in Charge, Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting (ARFF), Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron, Marine Corps Air Station Camp Pendleton, CA

To: Commandant of the Marine Corps (AVN ASL-38)

Via: (1) Airfield Operations Officer, Marine Corps Air Station Camp Pendleton, CA

(2) Commanding Officer, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron, Marine Corps Air Station Camp Pendleton, CA

(3) Commanding Officer, Marine Corps Air Station Camp Pendleton, CA


Ref: (a) CMC WASHINGTON DC AVN ASL-38 msg R 060024Z APR 06, ASLUC Department of Defense Fire and Emergency Services

Encl: (1) Award Nomination Sheet

(2) 3x5 JPEG Photo of Nominee

(3) Electronic Copy of MCAS Camp Pendleton ARFF Patch

1. Staff Sergeant Kenneth G. Aldredge is enthusiastically nominated and recommended for the Department of Defense Military Fire Officer of the Year for the period of 1 January through 31 December 2005.

2. During this period, Staff Sergeant Aldredge has expertly served as the Department’s Training Chief. Due to his demonstrated performance, and personnel shortages, he has served as a Section Leader and on occasion as the Crash Chief while concurrently accomplishing his primary duties as the Training Chief.

3. Whether acting as the Training Chief, Section Leader, or Crash Chief, Staff Sergeant Aldredge has displayed superior leadership, technical expertise, and meticulous organizational skills. He successfully initiated, developed, coordinated, and instructed many new programs and courses that have enhanced the proficiency, readiness, and professional development of this Department and many other Marine Corps, Air Force, National Guard, and Federal Fire Departments worldwide. His dedication, resourcefulness, and “can do” attitude has produced multiple new
training programs, many constructed from the ground up. These programs range from a fully integrated Naval Air Systems Command and Training and Readiness program that has effectively and accurately documented all training completed, ensuring that the Department is in compliance with all current orders and directives, to an advanced training certification program that has certified many military and Department of Defense (DoD) civilian firefighters worldwide.

4. Staff Sergeant Aldredge’s many accomplishments during this period are a testament of his dedication, hard work and maturity. He has been enthusiastically recommended for the Enlisted to Warrant Officer Program for both Fiscal Years 2006 and 2007. Staff Sergeant Aldredge demonstrates proven and reliable leadership, with the vision, and communications skills necessary to implement ideas into action. He is a “mission accomplishment” Marine in every sense of the word and is currently the lead instructor and coordinator for teaching emergency services personnel in coordination with the Texas A&M Annex.

5. Staff Sergeant Aldredge has the complete trust and respect of his superiors, peers, and subordinates alike. This respect was not gained solely by what he wears on his collar; it was earned with a superior work ethic and a genuine concern for this Department and all its Marines. Staff Sergeant Aldredge’s demonstrated leadership coupled with his technical acumen, have made him the “go to guy” in this Department, and a source of reference for DoD departments within the western region. Staff Sergeant Aldredge has made a positive impact on the DoD Fire and Emergency Services and will continue to serve our profession for many years to come. Staff Sergeant Aldredge is enthusiastically recommended for selection as the Fire Officer of the Year for the period of 1 January through 31 December 2005.

6. I can be contacted at commercial (760)725-4707 or DSN 365-4707 or by e-mail at: vincent.alexander@usmc.mil. The unit mailing address is: COMMANDING OFFICER, HQHORON (ARFF), BOX 555151, CAMP PENDLETON, CA 92055-5151

V. A. ALEXANDER
Award Category: Military Fire Officer of the Year, 1 January to 31 December 2005
Nominee: Staff Sergeant Kenneth G. Aldredge, Training Chief, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron, Marine Corps Air Station Camp Pendleton, Marine Corps Installations West, California

Accomplishments:
- Excelled beyond expectations in developing, organizing, and implementing a comprehensive training program that encompasses requirements from the Training and Readiness (T&R) Manual, Naval Air Systems Command (NAVAIR), Department of Defense (DoD) Fire Fighter Certification, and military subjects into one package.
- Monitored the live burn pit while awaiting construction of a $2 million dollars propane training facility that will be utilized for ARFF and structural applications; responsible for obtaining funding by Environmental Department.
- Coordinated 11 public/community relations/static displays with over 348 attendees.
- Coordinated with MCAS Safety to conduct an Emergency Vehicle Operators Course (EVOC) Instructor Course that certified 6 ARFF and 1 Provost Marshall’s Office Marine.
- Coordinated with Red Cross to certify a First Responder Instructor that led to the certification of 15 ARFF Marines as First Responders.

Job Performance:
- Implemented the new T&R program, publishing 12 monthly and 2 annual training schedules that delineated the 16 NAVAIR subjects and 46 T&R subjects.
- Implemented new ARFF driver/operator program that enabled Marines to be International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC) certified and licensed.
- Audited and organized 75 individual training records for accuracy and completeness.
- Combined experience and technical skills to create an easily understood Advanced Fire Fighter Certification Program for the Department through Texas A&M University Proficiency Board (Pro Board).
- Coordinated and managed 16 Advanced Fire and Emergency Services Certification courses, personally instructing 9 of them in which 139 various Pro Board certifications were obtained by both Marines and civilian emergency service personnel with a 95.5 percent average.
- Coordinated weekly, high-risk training for ARFF Marines, ranging from high-angle rescues to live fires.
- Developed a quarterly Memorandum of Understanding familiarization training with Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton Fire Department to enhance the coordination for mutual response.

Technical Competence:
- Instructed 13 Fire Officer III and 10 Fire Officer IV classes that were 80 hours in duration and are American Council on Education accredited toward 50 hours upper level Bachelor's degree. Students ranged from Sgt-CWO-2 to GS-7 to GS-11.
- Exceptionally qualified ARFF technician. Intelligent, motivated, and succeeds in any environment. His potential is unlimited.

Leadership Ability:
- Supervised cadre of 6 instructors for the following courses: Fire Instructor I, II, and III, Fire Inspector I, II, and III, and Fire Officer I, II, III, and IV, Telecommunicator I/II.
- Technical expertise is sought after by other departments and U.S. Military services to develop their programs, specifically MCAS Miramar and MCAS Yuma.
- Provided visionary guidance to subordinates that resulted in the development of a comprehensive licensing program for DoD Fire Drivers/Operators and EVOC Certification.
- Continually provides sound counseling to subordinates in both line and staff positions.

Initiative:
- Self-starter who possesses a far-reaching vision that has a profound affect on those around him. His systematic approach to problem solving, organizational skills, and staffing ability has yielded a self-sufficient training program that is unmatched by any ARFF unit. His efforts have enabled the Department to produce certified ARFF Marines that can operate in any area of operation.
- Revamped the previous training program that was challenging to understand and implement, developing a new T&R program that meets all requirements and simplified the existing program. His development of the new T&R Program is user friendly, easy to setup, utilize, and maintain. This program is currently being reviewed for use as a model for implementation for all Marine ARFF units.

Resourcefulness:
- Exploited every possible resource from the Marine Corps, Air Force, and civilian sector to create the T&R Program. His decisive nature dramatically increased the mission readiness of the organization and other ARFF units within Marine Corps Installations West and the Federal Fire Departments in the southern California area.

Enclosure (1)