



**A/C Randall W. Hanifen, Ph.D.**



### **Bio**

Dr. Hanifen is the current Chair of the IAFC Company Officers Section, serving as the vice chair and chair since the creation of the section. Dr. Hanifen is the Assistant Chief for West Chester Fire, Professor at APUS, and a Fire Service Consultant. Member of NFPA 1021 Fire Officer Committee. Credentialed CFO by the CPSE and Fellow with IFE. Provided presentations for numerous fire conferences. Contract instructor for NFA's EFO Program. Ph.D. in Homeland Security.

### **COS Accomplishments**

- Chair of COS
- Development of mentoring program
- Sections first Strategic Plan
- Author/Editor of Succession Management

### **Future COS Goals**

- To establish COS as the authority on Company Officer issues in the fire service and develop revenue streams for national engagement.
- Development of white papers and training materials for company officers to promote to the chief level.
- Development of programs that will allow aspiring officers to become company officers.

# Randall W. Hanifen, Ph.D.

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## Objective

To attain a board position with IAFC COS.

## Certifications

- Chief Fire Officer Designee, Firefighter, Paramedic, Fire Inspector, EFO Instructor
- Institute of Fire Engineers-Fellow
- NIMS 100, 200, 300, 400, 700, 800b, EMI PDS-EM

## Experience

**West Chester Fire-Rescue**  
2/1998-Present

### Assistant Fire Chief-Operations

Operations Chief for 5 station fire department. Manage operations and Logistics for Department. Member of Executive Management Team. Lead Strategic Planning process. Accreditation Manager. Collective bargaining negotiations team member

**Butler County Special Operations Team**  
5/2005-Present

### Executive Chairman

- Act as agency chairperson. Oversee annual budget, strategic planning, hiring and promotion, as well as interagency interaction for an all volunteer agency
- Work as Team Manager for operational incidents
- Butler County ESF9 Coordinator and EOC Representative

**Hanifen and Associates**  
9/2004-Present

### CEO/Principal Consultant

- Conduct strategic planning projects utilizing analytics with fire departments
- Conduct station location analysis with GIS, Budgets and work plans
- Create Labor-Management solutions through collaboration

## Education

**Northcentral University**

### Ph.D. Homeland Security

- Homeland Security Policy and Analysis
- GPA 3.90

**Grand Canyon University**

### M.S. Executive Fire Service Leadership

- GPA 3.87
- Degree based on National Fire Academy EFO Program

## Volunteer Work

**Institution of Fire Engineers**

### United States of America Branch-President

- Lead 500-member organization in domestic and international initiatives.
- International General Assembly Representative for IFE Global

**Butler County IMAT Team**

### Operations & Planning Section Chief

- Lead IMAT through planning cycle
- Command groups and divisions under the Operations Section

**International Association of Fire Chiefs**

### Company Officer Section-Chair

- Lead board of directors related to many professional development initiatives.

**Center for Public Safety Excellence**

### Program (FRI) Planning Committee

- Responsible for selection of courses and updates to the Company Officer Leadership Program

**National Fire Protection Assoc.**

### Chief Fire Officer Peer-Reviewer

- Review candidates for Chief Fire Officer Designation

**Ohio Fire Chiefs**

### Fire Officer Professional Standards (NFPA 1021)

- Assigned to Technical Committee as Subject Matter Expert

## Publications

**Disaster Planning and Control (2009)**  
**IAFC On-Scene (2016)**

### Legislative Committee

- Testify as proponent of proposed legislation.

### Associate Author

- Penwell Publications.

### Primary Author/Project Manager

- Succession Management for the Fire Service

### West Chester-Liberty Chamber Alliance

- Attend Monthly meetings and leadership program as Fire Department representative.
- Provide link from business community to Fire Department

**West Chester University (2008, 2009, 2010) Ohio Fire Chief's Conference (2021-22)**

**Working Fire Video (2002, 2005) CPSE Excellence Conference (2018, 2023)**

**Ohio Township Association (2008); Ohio GIS Conference (2009,2010)**

**International Fire World (2012), Fire Rescue International (2013-2023)**

## Professional Affiliations

## Presentations

**NAME:**

Brian T. Morrison

**EMPLOYER/POSITION:**

Centerville-Osterville-Marstons Mills Fire District

Captain

**BIOGRAPHY:**

As the IAFC Company Officers Section vice chair and a captain, it has been an honor and a privilege to serve company officers. My journey in the fire service started in 1994 as a high school intern. Some 30 years later I now supervise 11 firefighters responding from three fire/rescue stations. As a shift commander I value the knowledge and assistance I receive from my company officers. I value the importance of trained and educated officer's and believe in making sure they have access and receive the tools they need to succeed. Since becoming a section, I am proud of the strides we have made. Every year at Fire-Rescue International I am proud of the work we do and of the assistance we provide as a section to the IAFC. Therefore, I am asking for your vote so that I may continue on the board as the section's vice chair. Thank-you for your support and stay safe!!!

LaRon Ward  
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Austin Fire Department  
Lieutenant

### **My Statement**

My qualification listed;  
Instructor 1 and 2 and lead instructor for one of the cadet training courses.  
Fire officer 1 and 2 and involved in the leadership committee.  
Recently promoted Lieutenant and seeking to expand my knowledge and training outside of my organization.

With over two decades of dedicated service in the fire department, I bring a wealth of experience and a passion for advancing our profession. My commitment to fostering diversity, equity, and inclusivity has been a driving force throughout my career as a firefighter, Engineer, and now as a Lieutenant. As a liaison between the Austin Fire Department and local high schools, I have actively engaged in building relationships and inspiring the next generation of firefighters locally. I am eager to leverage my expertise and dedication to serve as a board member, contributing to strategic decision-making and initiatives that promote excellence and inclusivity within our organization and learning from outside my organization.

### **Biography**

I am LaRon Ward, a Lieutenant with over 19 years of experience dedicated to serving my community in firefighting, high-rise operations, and being an academy instructor for our cadet program. Hailing from Savannah, Georgia, my journey in the fire service began with a deep-rooted passion for helping others. Throughout my career, I have demonstrated unwavering dedication and commitment, earning me promotions within both departments I worked.

My tenure as a firefighter in my hometown provided me with invaluable experiences and insights into the importance of community service. My performance and life-saving efforts have

# LaRon Ward

## FIRE LIEUTENANT

**Austin Texas | 912-257-8002 | Laron.ward@austintexas.gov**

### Objective

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Proactive and progressive Lieutenant with proven expertise addressing stressful and chaotic emergencies. Natural leader with analytical problem-solving skills, observational expertise, and strategic planning strengths. Enthusiastic self-starter that's eager to contribute to team success through hard work, attention to detail and excellent organizational skills. Clear understanding of people skills and training in leadership. Motivated to learn, grow, and excel in any atmosphere.

### Experience

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#### **Austin Fire Department | Fire Lieutenant** **January 2024-Present**

- Lead a Crew of Diverse Firefighters
- Manage a Fire Station
- Certified Field Examiner for Probationary Firefighters and Cadets
- Recruiting Adjunct- High-school liaison
- Maintain accurate records of emergency responses, incident reports, and equipment usage logs.
- Conduct fire prevention inspections and assessments

#### **Austin Fire Department | Fire Specialist** **December 2019- January 2024**

- Driver Operator Downtown Austin Texas Engine 13
- High-Rise Trainer for the battalion compliment and training academy
- Lead Instructor for Apparatus Familiarization Course at the Academy (Training classes 128-134)
- Established and organized the Austin Fire Department Explorer Program Post 370
- Lead Advisor for Austin Post 370 Explorer program. Managed 25 students and 5 support
- Drone operator for the Austin Fire Department RED Team

#### **Austin Fire Department | Fire Fighter** **March 2015- December 2019**

- Relief Driver Certified for Pumper & Aerial
- Academy Instructor for Cadet class 124 and 126 (90 cadets)
- Support training instructor at the training academy
- Administer first aid, CPR, and other life-saving techniques to individuals in distress

**Savannah Fire Department | Master Firefighter****March 2011- March 2015**

- Assisted with Savannah Fire Department's accreditation process
- Academy Instructor for cadet class- 30 cadets
- Effectively operate firefighting equipment, including hoses, ladders, and extinguishers, to combat fires and prevent their spread

**Department of Homeland Security | Transportation Security Officer****February 2008- March 2009**

- Used X-ray screening machines to screen people, containers for potential hazards and weapons.
- Demonstrate proficiency in emergency response procedures, evacuations, lockdowns, and first aid
- Collaborate effectively with law enforcement agencies and airport authorities
- Communicate effectively with individuals from diverse backgrounds, demonstrating cultural sensitivity and respect

**Austin Fire Department | Advance Firefighter****August 2005- March 2011**

- Demonstrate proficiency in firefighting techniques, such as fire suppression, search and rescue.
- Collaborate with EMS personnel to provide timely and effective medical assistance to patients
- Coordinate with hazardous materials teams and other agencies to mitigate risks

**Education**

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**Columbia Southern University, Associate of Applied Science****2011**

Major: Business Administration

**Committees**

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- Leadership Austin Fire Department
- Uniform Austin Fire Department
- Firewise (Neighborhood)
- Robotics Emergency Deployment Team- Drone program
- Recruiting Austin fire and Savannah Fire Department

## **Certifications**

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- Basic Firefighter
- Pumper Operator Driver
- Aerial Operator Driver
- Instructor 1
- Instructor 2
- Fire Officer 1
- Fire Officer 2
- Field Examiner
- Arson Investigator
- Honor Guard
- IAFF Fire Ground Survival
- Texas Department of Emergency Medical Technician
- Hazardous Material Operations
- TEEX: Weapons of Mass Destruction Basic Concepts
- TEEX: Enhance All- Hazard Incident Management/ Unified Command
- Drone Operator with Part 107 License