

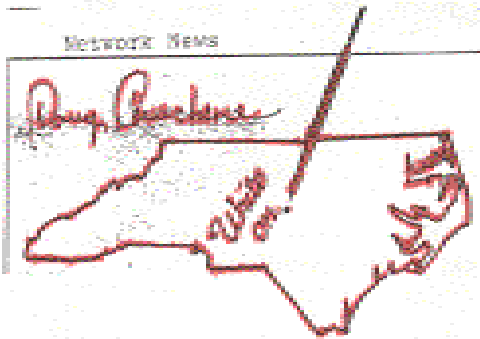


# RETIRED AIR FORCE FIRE CHIEFS'

QUARTERLY NETWORK  
NEWSLETTER (QNN)

Apr – Jun 2005

“LEGENDARY PIONEERS WHO  
REMINISCE ABOUT THE PAST, BUT  
FOCUS ON THE FUTURE”



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for QNN copies click on  
<http://www.dodfire.com/index.htm>



Chief Willie Barron's memory is fuzzy on the details. Could FAFB, actually be Fairchild AFB, WA? Two firefighters in foreground are advancing the 150 Cardox handline to cut a rescue path into the burning flammable liquid with 750 pounds per minute of low pressure CO2. A Type 0-10 Crash Truck on the other side of the 150 is applying protein foam through the roof turret. Appears the 155 has just arrived for setup. Crews are still on board and top twin turrets have not been activated. Note long protein foam barrels on the 155 turrets. This appears from the caption, to be a 1952 Fire Prevention Week Demonstration at the Fire



Source: Chief Willie Barron collection - [norra@wf.net](mailto:norra@wf.net) taken 5 October 1952.

Department Training grounds. Thanks Willie for a great photo of the Class 155.  
-- *Chief Barron's statement:* My first job assignment in the Fire Department was at Castle AFB, Merced, California as the rear turret operator on the 155 Crash Truck. No foam just water, and we installed a 100 gallon foam tank between the turrets, later. I did notice in this picture the turret operators were wearing hoods. When I first started Fire Crash rescue we had structural helmets only, turned backwards to shield the heat.

## **H-43A (USAF 58-5542) & TYPE 0-11B CRASH TRUCK @ WPAFB TEST 1959**

*Story by Chief Bob Barrow, CWO-4 USAF,  
Retired*

A large fire demonstration was conducted at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio in January and February 1959 to evaluate the firefighting effectiveness of Kaman Aircraft Corporation's H-43A Helicopter nicknamed "Husky". The temperature hovered at about "0" degree F during the fire test.

When two firefighters were first added to the "Husky" Flight Crews, their call-sign became "Firebird." Later in 1966 the call-sign was designated "PEDRO" whenever HH-43 Helicopters were used for Rescue missions.

Not shown in the photograph above is Pedro's airborne fire suppression kit (FSK) nicknamed "Sputnik", which was positioned just behind the "Husky" and the telephone pole shown on the extreme left of the picture. You can see part of the 150 foot section of 1&1/2" fire hose line being extended from the FSK by the Airborne Firefighters

Firefighters attacked a large scale flammable liquid (JP-4 Fuel) fire using 78.5 gallons of water and 5 gallons of protein foam concentrate, premixed as an extinguishing agent. The premix generated 690 gallons of aerated foam extinguishing agent. Agent was expelled by compress nitrogen gas. Note with protein foam the fire had to be completely covered as any break in the foam blanket would cause

a flashback fire resulting in re-ignition of the burning fuel. The goal of the PEDRO FF crews was to control the flames long enough to perform rescue of trapped aircrew members on board the crashed aircraft. "Sputnik" was never designed to necessarily extinguish all fires.



**SOURCE: Mr. John P. Gagliardo, R&D Engineer, FEECON Inc. standing in foreground**

Note position of the chopper directly behind and above the Firefighters. PEDRO Pilots directed the helicopter blade's rotor down-wash over the firefighters and the rescue path to the cockpit/fuselage area of the downed aircraft. This rotor-wash cooled the firefighters, increased visibility by blowing away smoke and assisted in spreading the protein foam. It also kept the flames low to the ground. The Huskies proved highly efficient in operations both on and off base. Base Fire Chiefs felt comfort in knowing that Airborne Firefighters had the capability to reach crashed aircraft off of base runways in minimum time. PEDRO would arrive in advance of the motorized Crash Fire Rescue vehicles and their crews. Hence, the purpose of the Type 0-11B Crash Truck at this fire test was backup.

The original H-43A models had limited airlift power available, depending on the temperature and weight load considerations. On hot days, the lifting capability of the aircraft was seriously reduced. Often the Copilot was left behind, the

aircraft was defueled allowing only enough fuel for a 15 minute flight out and back, with 10 minutes firefighting time on-scene. The Alert Crew would consist of the Pilot and two Airborne Firefighters. Occasionally on extremely hot days, even the FSK was left behind with the firefighters entering the fire protected only by the HH-43's rotor-wash. The HH-43 B and later models had more power and corrected this deficiency. The aircraft in the photo above is an H-43A (note the large reciprocal engine crammed into the rear). There was no rear cabin space so the firefighters had to slide in behind the Pilot's and Copilot's seats. Note difference below.



**B" Model with Fire Suppression Kit.  
Rotor-Wash to Aid Rescue Path**

The H-43B and later updated versions had a turbine jet engine, with larger lift capacity and greater range was introduced in the latter part of 1959. It was later re-designated the HH-43B. During a period from 31 Jan 1962-1964, H-43s worldwide saved 262 military and civilian lives, assisted 1,473 other persons, many who would otherwise have perished and scrambled 12,613 in "Alert Status" to assist aircraft in trouble.

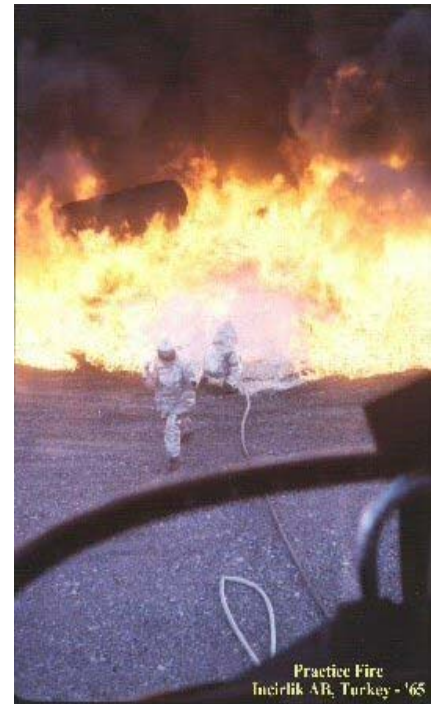
The H-43 and their PEDRO Crews were crucial during the Vietnam War, but for some reason shortly after the war the whirlybird with wooden blades and crews of steel disappeared from the Air Force. Chief Steve Mock, MSG USAF

Retired - [h43husky@libby.org](mailto:h43husky@libby.org) and SSGT Paul Metzner USAF- [H43huskie@comcast.net](mailto:H43huskie@comcast.net) both are former Airborne Firefighters and now Editors of the "PEDRO News-  
<http://users.acninc.net/padipaul/pedrohome.htm>. The PEDRO News is an excellent source for information on Pedro. Air Force records reveal only 2.7% of the Enlisted USAF personnel were ever on Flying Status. That makes the miniscule percentage of Airborne Firefighters very unique. Steve Mock and Paul Metzner consider themselves very fortunate to have been included in that group.

The Wright Laboratories at WPAFB had led the Air Force Research and Development of Crash Fire Rescue apparatus and Fire Protection equipment. In the late 1970s, Wright Labs established a Fire Research and Development Office at Tyndall AFB, Florida in conjunction with the Air Force Engineering Support Agency's Civil Engineering Labs. I had the pleasure of

working with this office the last 8 years of my 42-1/2 years in the Fire Protection career field. 36 of those years were as a Fire Chief and the last 8 was as a Fire R&D Project Officer in the grade of Chief Warrant Officer-4. I retired in 1992 as the last Air Force Warrant Officer.

I Currently serve with the Retired Air Force Fire Chiefs Group as their Editor of the Quarterly Networking Newsletter -- [chief.one@cox.net](mailto:chief.one@cox.net).



Practice Fire  
Incirlik AB, Turkey - '65

**BERGSTROM AFB Firefighters' Reunion,  
San Antonio, Texas, 24-29 October 2004**

**Left to Right Standing: Jaso-Jarrell-Shearrer.  
Seated: Overcash-Dunn-Snow-Colone-McGuire in  
the hospitality suite.**

**A base closure cannot stop firefighters from  
fellowshipping. Since 1981 Bergstrom  
Firefighters of the 12<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> FW (SAC) have  
been holding reunions periodically around the  
country. This year 11 Firefighters, 10  
wives/widows and 2 sons enjoyed beautiful San  
Antonio River Walk and the Alamo when they  
setup Headquarters at Holiday Inn's Market  
Square /Downtown .**

Attending were James C. Overcash, Manchaca, TX  
who summed up the Firefighters feelings "When you  
realize that you have known these reunion members  
over 50 years and that you enjoy seeing them



again...exchanging stories and memories of long  
ago...you realize just how much each have touched  
your life during your active-duty tour, both as

military and/or civil-service careers. Then the reality  
sets in on just how many of your buddies and their  
wives are no longer making the roll call". Other

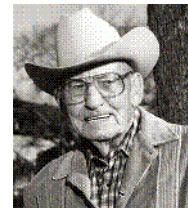


attendees: Curtis Dunn\*,Mike Jarrell\* &  
Harold/Jeanie Collins of San Antonio; Joe Jarrell\* &  
Donato Jaso\* of Austin, TX; Glenn Cloud\*, New  
Brunsfelds, TX; Melvin/Erwine McGuire of Orange,  
TX; Daylon/Jean Shearrer of Pleasanton,  
TX; Gene/Josie Snow of Menomonee Falls,  
WI (Reunion Planners) ;Charlie/Wanda  
Parker\* of Martinsburg, WV; Mark/Armida  
Colone of Oneonta, NY: widow of Billy  
Sellers, Barbara Sellers & Son, Ken of  
Conway, SC; widow of John Zaloski, Jan  
Zaloski and widow of Mike Runkle, Olivia  
Runkle of Texas. On 26 October the group  
visited Dorothy Dunn, wife of Chief Curtis  
Dunn in their home due her being in bed  
sick. Dottie & Curtis had attended about all  
the previous reunions. We were sad to learn  
that Dorothy died two days later on 28  
October and Curtis just 2 months later  
answered his "Final Alarm", 18 December  
2004. They will be greatly missed for their  
kind sweet spirit.

The NEXT REUNION is being planned  
for Myrtle Beach, SC and their policy is  
to welcome all retired Air Force FFs that wish to  
attend.

**“Four Fire Chiefs Laid to Rest in this Quarterly”**

**Chief W.A. York, USAF (Retired)**  
**May 26, 1921 - January 31, 2005**



**Richard I. Waller, USAF (Retired)**  
**June 2, 1920 - March 22, 2005**



**Kenneth L. Erwin Sr., CMSgt, USAF (Retired)**  
**August 5, 1937 - March 10, 2005**



**Chief Don Smith, SMSgt, USAF (Retired)**  
**September 27, 1933 - January 21, 2005**



***Last Alarms!***

**William Albert York**, Born May 26, 1921 - Died January 31, 2005. Chief W.A. York of Staples, Texas answered his final alarm following emergency surgery at Seton Central Medical Center, Austin, TX, at age 83. “W.A.” is the last of the original fire service instructors that help to organize the renowned Lowry Army Air Field Fire Fighting School at Denver, Colorado in 1946. He trained thousands of Army Air Corps and Air Force firefighters before retiring as Base Fire Chief at Randolph AFB, TX in the 1974.

Chief York and wife, Bonnie were married the past 29 years (both had lost their first mates), however, it is no easier the second time around for Bonnie who has now lost her Chief. Bonnie requested that she remain on the QNN mailing list and that her family appreciated so much the condolences received from Chiefs around the world.

Chief Doug Courchene’s book “Pioneers With Intent” has some good stories about Chief York’s earlier service. The QNN publications have feature stories on “W.A.”: These stories and others may be viewed on DoDFire Retirees/Pioneers link.

Chief Fire Inspector and Fire Protection Specialist **Richard I. Waller**, 84, Arlington, Texas, died 22 March 2005. I’m deeply saddened by Dick’s death. His lovely wife, Marie emailed me nearly everyday on his condition. The entire Air Force Fire Protection Community is shocked and saddened at the passing of one of my most remembered figures.

Dick and I met, January 1968. He at Hq Alaskan Air Command (AAC) I, Chief Elmendorf AFB. Before his AAC assignment, Dick was Chief

Technical Service, Eielson AFB Fairbanks, Alaska where he managed the most impressive fire prevention educational programs in the Air Force. Eielson AFB enjoyed the lowest fire loss in the command. On the other hand, Elmendorf AFB reported 35 fires and \$1,000,000.00 loss annually. Specialist Waller came to Elmendorf on a staff visit with one purpose: Develop a fire prevention educational program for everyone on base. In one year, Elmendorf fire loss was reduced 98%. In my book, *Pioneers With Intent*, I wrote about Dick.

Chief Don Warner, Headquarters United States Air Force Fire Protection has challenged us to honor pioneers worthy of recognition, 2 Feb 2005. At his moment, Dick's biography has been written with others to name classrooms, and pavilions at the Lou Garland Fire Academy, Goodfellow AFB, San Angelo, Texas. The classroom absolutely fits my dear friend Richard I. Waller.

- *Doug Courchene, Chief, Retired, Mount Olive, NC 28365 [dougecourchene@aol.com](mailto:dougecourchene@aol.com)*

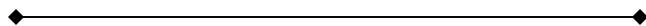
ADAIRSVILLE, Ga. - **Kenneth L. Erwin, Sr.** was born in Adairsville , Georgia to Sidney and Jewell Erwin. Mr. Erwin lived in North Georgia until he joined the military as a firefighter in 1956 at age 17. Ken met his wife, Eva in 1956 while he was stationed at Whiteman Air Force Base in Missouri . Following an eleven-month courtship they married in June 1957 and began their quarter-century journey around the world. After 26 years of faithful service, including two unaccompanied tours in Vietnam and Greenland , Ken retired from the United States Air Force in 1981 in the grade of Chief Master Sergeant. In 1983, Ken and Eva moved to the city of Augusta when Ken accepted the position of Fire Chief at Fort Gordon . After several years as the Post Fire Chief he became one of Fort Gordon 's commercial building inspectors. He retired from civil service in 1995. Mr. Erwin was surrounded by friends and family to include his wife of 47 years, Eva Irene Erwin; daughter, Vickie along with Harvey and their three boys, James, John, and Philip of Luanda, Angola Africa;

son Ken, Jr. along with Catherine and their son, Kenneth III of Charlotte, North Carolina, and Ken's daughters, Leslie and Lauren; son, Randy along with Joyce and their three children, Adam, Elaine, and Seth of Anchorage, Alaska. Ken and Eva also have three great-grandchildren, Jared, Destini, and Katelyn. Grovetown, on Saturday, March 12, at 2:00 p.m. The graveside service will take place at Hillcrest Memorial Park , 2700 Deans Bridge Road . Pallbearers will be Wally Arceneaux, Greg Capers, Robert Centers , David Hamilton, Robert Hatcher, Gene Sammons, Frank Shirey, Wallace Taylor. This will include Mr. Erwin's life of service being recognized by a full military honor guard. In lieu of flowers please send donations to the CSRA Parkinson's Support Group in care of Barbara Gagnon, 1193 New Bridge Road , Aiken , South Carolina , 29805 . Sign the guestbook at [AugustaChronicle.com](http://AugustaChronicle.com) Published in The Augusta Chronicle on 3/11/2005.

**Donald D. Smith**, 71, retired Fire Chief of Carswell, AFB passed away at his home on Friday January 21, 2004. Don was born in West Virginia and served his country proudly in part during the Korean and Vietnam Wars. He was a member of the United States Air Force for 23 years prior to being a member of the Civil Service for 22 years. Through hard work, he was ultimately promoted to multiple positions of Fire Chief both domestically and abroad. He was the recipient of many awards of recognition including the Bronze Star.

Full Military and Fire Department Honors were given during his burial at the Dallas - Fort Worth National Cemetery ,December 26, 2004.

Survivors: Wife and best friend, Gwyneth, sister Eleanor Greathouse of West Virginia, his daughter Donna and husband Mark Yelmokas, daughter Cindi and husband Mike Sutton, step-son John Carpenter and wife Sue, step daughter Claire Carpenter; granddaughters Alexandria and Margaret Sutton; step-grandson Tom Carpenter and many extended relatives and friends.



**STAMP FUND CONTRIBUTORS:** The QNN is privately funded by members' contributions. Most members have good intentions to feed the kitty, but like the Editor who is getting older, they sometimes forget the last time they send the kitty anything. This past quarter contributors are: Mrs. Velma "Dottie" Butler, widow of Chief Michie C. Butler, Sequin, TX wrote "I do not want to miss a newsletter, please note my new address and enclosed a few dollars for the kitty; Chief James L. Deal, Colorado Springs, CO a check to support "The Snail Mail" and hope to see you at Denver, August 13, 2005 for the Air Force F&ES Conference (No "Pioneer Day" activities this year, next "Pioneer Day" will be at Dallas in August 2006)so please say "hi" for me. Chief Don Warner said retirees are welcomed at Denver; Chief Glenn E. Cloud, New Braunfels, TX, "Didn't forget the kitty, just not as fast as I use to be. I have it on my "To Do List" now"; Chief Bob Borgesbeckborges@cox.net "Really do appreciate the things that you do to keep us informed about our fellow firefighters. Our prayers are with those that are sick or have lost a love one); Chief Hugh Akers-hbakers@comcast.net "You do a great job with the QNN. God Bless"; Chief Jim Leggleggman10@cs.com "Mina & I enjoy the QNN together hope to see Nan & you again, soon"; Chief Chester Weger-Chetweger@gci.net "Been enjoying the lower 48, but I am back in Alaska, now. I use DoDFIRE.com to read my QNN"; Chief Ray Porter-rporter@co.lincoln.me.us "I've relocated near to my old Loring AFB, Maine after nearly 40 years of traveling the World. My new job is the Director of the Lincoln County Emergency Management Agency, and Communications. Here's wishing you and the others on the Disable List a speedy recovery"; Chief Leo DumondDumondL@usfk.korea.army.mil "Little something, \$100, from the land of the frozen chosin, hope to see everyone at Denver 2005 & Dallas 2006"; Chief Marty Jester, Miami, FL "Keep missing you on my road trips through the Florida Panhandle on my firefighter Road King Harley Davidson. 36,000 miles in the first 18 months and fixing to go on a 10,500 trip to

Mexico, Alaska's Artic Circle and Prince Edwards Island, Canada, plus many points in the Lower 48 before returning to Miami. Enjoy your freedom, thank a Veteran; Chief Larry J. Lowmanmojolentz@planetusa.net "Maureen & I doing well here in North Carolina. Thanks for keeping us informed about our friends; especially those that are sick or answered their Final Alarm."; Chief Joseph Jarrell-firechief6736@yahoo.com "Ruth & I feeling much better. Ruth's follow-on surgery has made her feel more like her old self. The Texas Connection believes in PoP-Power of Prayer. God Bless"; Chief Donato Jaso-donato.jaso@tlc.state.tx.us "Feed the kitty, Joe and I enjoy the QNN and keeping in touch with our friends"; Mr. & Mrs James F. and Mary P O'Regan-Joregan657@aol.com "Thanks for the snail mail copy as we have trouble downloading the email copy sometime. Regards to the family" Address checks: Bob Barrow, 126 Clements St NE, Ft Walton Bch, FL 32548. Thanks, the kitty is in the black. Note email addresses shown to promote networking.



I take much pleasure in reporting The Power of Prayer (PoP) is working for those previously on the Sick Call list. My wife, Nan has recovered nicely from her surgeries and my Hormone Replacement Therapy to replenish my red blood cells is working and I feel much better. Mrs. Ruth Jarrell reports that her doctor is pleased with her progress following major surgery to correct a bowel condition. Mrs. Phyllis Cooper's cancer is in remission. Chief Lennie Blau received a good report from his urologist and feeling the best he has in a long while. Chief Hugh Martin's cancer is reported in remission and he is looking good, we had a nice visit in March this year. Our good friend Chief Bill Wilson's condition confines him to home, except for his visit to a clinic for dialysis treatment 3 times a week. Unity in PoP is credited for this healing blessing, praise Lord Jesus Christ.

*And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and*



body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.-- 1 Thessalonians 5:23

Another great photo from Willie. This aircraft carrying the US Army Golden Knights Parachute



Team crash landed with no fatalities in front of an Armed Forces Day Demonstration in Wilmington, NC. The Fire Fighting teams and equipment were on display when the unannounced crash occurred. The PEDRO Team was first to arrive at the crash site, followed by an Air Force TYPE 0-10 Crash Crew and an Army CLASS 530-C Fire Team. How many unsafe practices can you pick out in this photo? The 0-10 drive engine stopped while fighting the fire, requiring an all hands push to get closer to the fire.

Source: Chief Willie Barron collection-[norra@wf.net](mailto:norra@wf.net)

|   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
|    | <p>Staff Sergeant. <b>Ray Rangel</b>, 29, was killed Feb. 13, 2005, while on a rescue mission in Iraq. SSgt Rangel was attempting to rescue two Soldiers trapped in a Humvee that overturned in a canal. He was deployed to an Air Force unit operating out of Balad Air Base, Iraq.</p> <p>He was permanently assigned to the 7th Civil Engineer Squadron, Dyess AFB TX, and was a native of San Antonio. He arrived in Iraq in September 2002 and had been on active duty since September 1994. Ray left a wife and three children.</p> <p>“All of Team Dyess mourns the loss of one of our own. Sergeant Rangel died courageously attempting to rescue others. While we grieve for him and his family, we are at the same time filled with pride and gratitude for his heroism. He will be missed, but others will honor his sacrifice by carrying on the fight with the same courage he displayed,” said Col. Garrett Harencak, 7th Bomb Wing commander.</p> |  |
| <p>I designated Noon, February 16, 2005, as the designated time for all Air Force Fire Protection organizations to honor SSgt Rangel with a Last Alarm and Moment of Silence. I asked each organization to send a picture of the ceremony so I could share it with the family. I shared the pictures with the family at the Memorial Service at Dyess AFB TX on February 19, 2005.</p> <p>There aren't many things we all agree on in this world. But this was one request that was honored throughout the Air Force, without hesitation or complaint. I received pictures from all over the world, and some from non-AF fire departments. I was very proud and humbled by our people who showed tremendous respect and honor for their fallen brother. Pictures are at <a href="http://DoDFire.com">DoDFire.com</a> on the News page. —Donald Warner</p> |  |   |