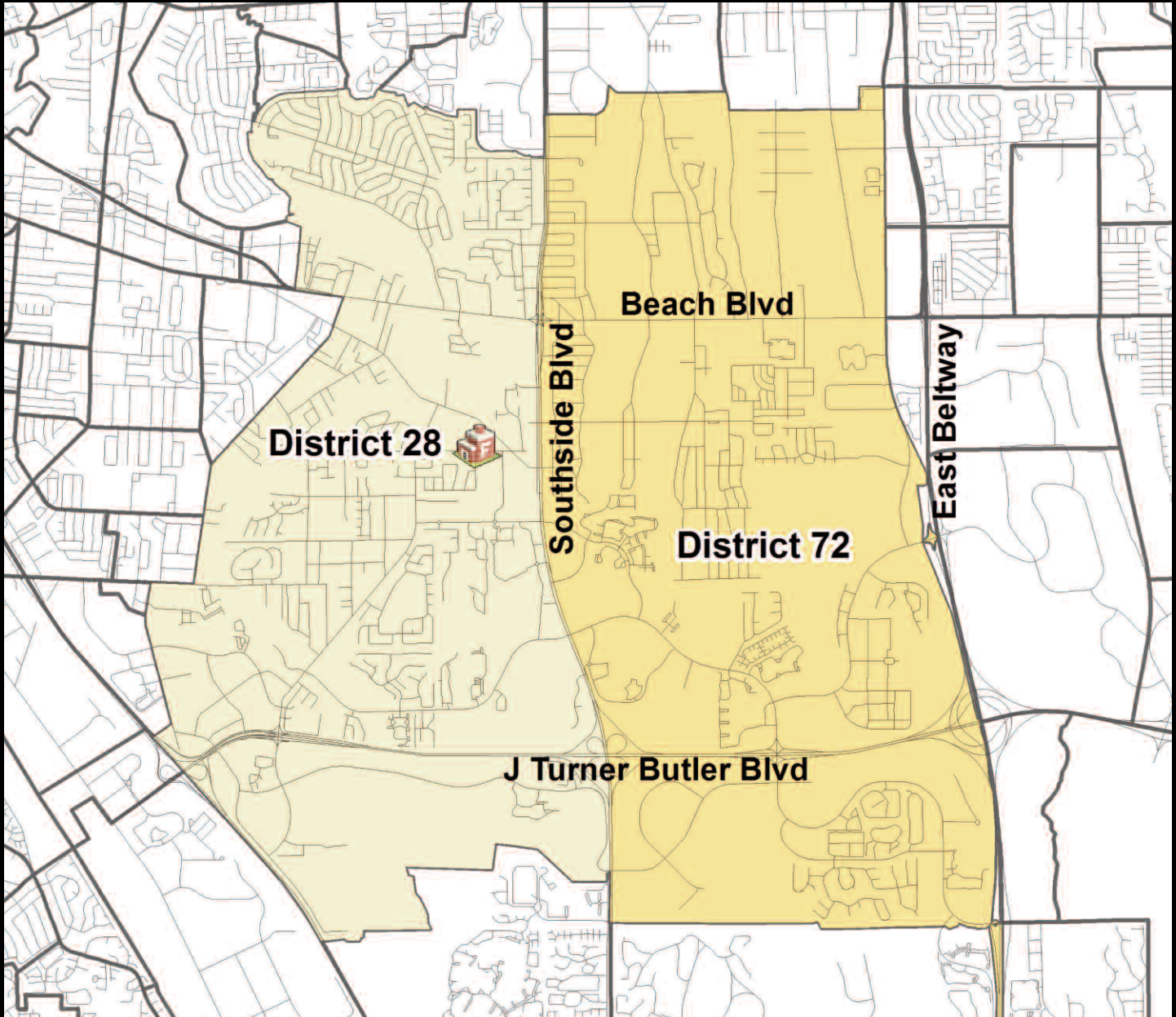


ON SCENE



March 2017



Station 72 in Service

Station within Station is Relief for JFRD's Busiest Crews

DEAR FELLOW FIREFIGHTERS



The June 3, 2010 e-mail from JFRD's Director to the field detailed a variety of proposed budget reductions, including laying off the majority of Recruit Class 110 and demoting 29 employees. There were also proposed reductions in every division of the department.

Not a good day in JFRD's history.

Our department, our local government, our country and most of the world were experiencing the effects of the economic downturn which experts say began in 2007. Media covered the causes and effects, and for the most part, the blame for the downturn landed on the prevalence of subprime mortgages.

Locally, we were hearing about the "unfunded liability" of the city's pension plans, especially the Police and Fire Pension. Media covered our retirement plan's effect on the city budget with intense interest. Firefighters and police were suddenly in the spotlight, and the scrutiny had nothing to do with firefighting or crime fighting.

Eventually, city employees took a pay cut, and then we entered a prolonged period of uncertainty about pension reform. This affected morale in JFRD. The change was probably most apparent to our personnel who at that point had a decade or more on the job. They could recall when morale was very good, when we were proud to wear a JFRD t-shirt or cap off duty, and when we were just as proud to display a fire department decal on our vehicle. We believed that the public focused on our service, not our paychecks or retirement plans.

It's time for our morale to come roaring back, especially since we have good reason.

Now that our voting membership has accepted the collective bargaining agreement, one that includes pay raises and just one pension plan for all of us, maybe we can put our frustrations behind us and claim a victory in negotiations. Maybe we can possibly refocus upon our enthusiasm for the career and remember why we chose our profession and the feeling we experienced the first time we put on our uniform.

With the agreement now in the hands of City Council, it is with profound hope and prayer that the CBA is ratified, as the last 10 years were challenging and emotionally taxing. But it's time to move forward, focus on the positives, and hopefully see morale return to where it should be, where it deserves to be: with *The Best Fire and Rescue Department in the Country!*

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kurt Wilson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Kurt Wilson
Chief of Department

On the Cover

JFRD's Administration placed Station 72 into service in late January by dividing Fire District 28 at Southside Boulevard and designating the eastern half to 72 and the western half to 28. The change yielded an immediate reduction in Station 28's call volume. Story, page 3.



William Coyle is Engine 72's Captain. JFRD's newest engine company, which went into service in late January, covers the eastern half of the original Fire District 28. In February, Engine 72 had 266 runs, and Engine 28 had 318. Before 72, Engine 28's call volume was consistently in the mid- to high-400s, and last August, Engine 28 answered 534 calls.

New Neighbors: Fire Districts 28 and 72

Someday, Station 72 will be a bona fide brick and mortar fire house.

For now, it is Station 28's closest neighbor— actually a roommate, a great roommate.

Engine 72 and Rescue 72 began riding out of 28 in late January, bringing consistent relief to Engine 28, the country's 14th busiest engine company as ranked by Firehouse Magazine, and the consistently busy Rescue 28. JFRD's station-within-a-station concept is balancing the distribution of the workload in the city's highest-demand area. That relief comes immediately without waiting for a new station to be built.

"Station 28 has been the busiest house for several years, and the demand is continuing to grow. We split the district at Southside Boulevard because the number of runs on either side were nearly equal," said Chief of Department Kurt Wilson. "This balance is good for the people assigned to 28, and it's good for residents, workers, and visitors in both districts because more apparatus is available."

Engineer Jean Paravisini, who's driven Engine 28 for about three years, agrees.

"You can actually make it back to the station instead of being gone for three to four hours," he said. "When you get off the next morning, you have more energy."

Continued

In February, Engine 28 had 318 calls for service. Although February is a shorter month, Engine 28 has not seen the low 300s on a monthly basis for several years. Engine 72 had 266 calls in February. The more even distribution of calls is yielding a variety of positive results.

On a recent February morning, Engine 28's Capt. Robert Hancock was able to train his new firefighter for a couple hours without interruption. He also says there's more time to check hydrants and to complete Target Solutions.

"Before, we were going on back to back calls more often," Hancock said. "Now that's every once in a while."

Engine 72's Capt. William Coyle has experienced slow and busy stations since he joined JFRD in 2007; he also was briefly assigned to 28 as a lieutenant and enjoyed the pace.

"I like the action and the people," he said. "But now there's also a bit of reprieve here. It's the best of both worlds."

"You can actually make it back to the station instead of being gone for three to four hours."

**– Jean Paravisini
Engineer, Engine 28-B**

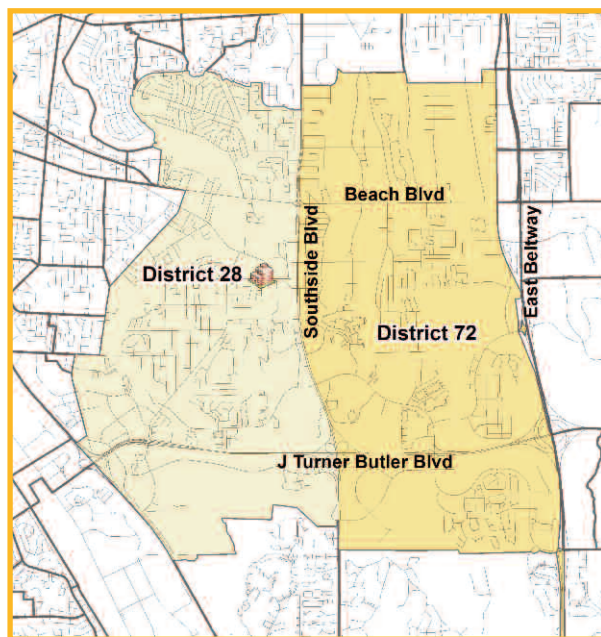
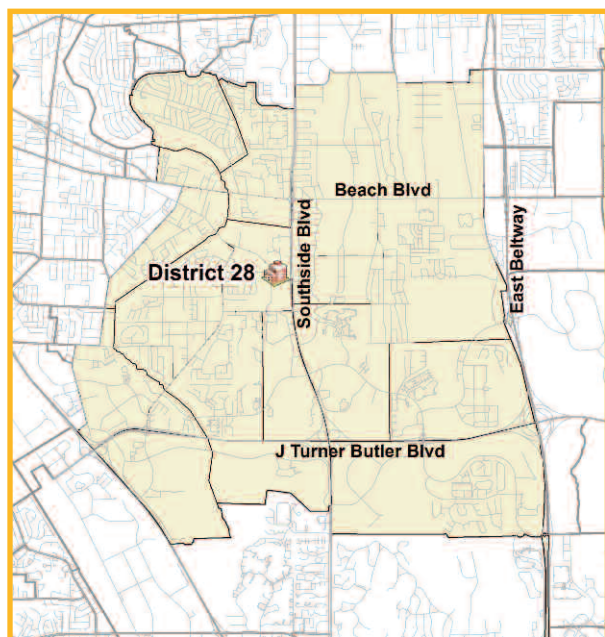
Rescue 28's Capt. Chris Harper has been on light duty for a few months. With 72 in service, he is more optimistic about his return to the street.

"It's definitely going to be a nicer thing to return to," Harper said. "I've seen the worst: countless sleepless nights. Eventually, it wears on you. It's those calls after midnight where 28 and 72 will help each other."

In February, Rescue 28 had 295 calls and Rescue 72 had 264.

Continued

Creating Fire District 72



Maps by Hien Lam, Information Technologies Division

In 2016, Fire District 28 accounted for 6,208 calls for service, the majority of which involved multiple apparatus. When JFRD was designing Fire District 72, Southside Boulevard appeared to be a logical divide to split 28's territory. It was perfect because approximately half of those 6,208 calls occurred east of Southside Boulevard, and the other half west of the busy road. Once FD72's boundaries were set, Fire Communications' CAD system was updated with the new apparatus and the new district. Fire Communications Officer William Green had to manually reconfigure approximately 200 "run cards" which correspond to Traffic Analysis Zones or TAZs within the 11 fire districts surrounding FD72 and FD 28. Green first had to enter the new information in the Training CAD for testing, and then he had to duplicate his efforts for the "live" or Production CAD.



Jeff Kendall is Rescue 72's Captain. JFRD's newest full-time rescue covers the eastern half of old Fire District 28.

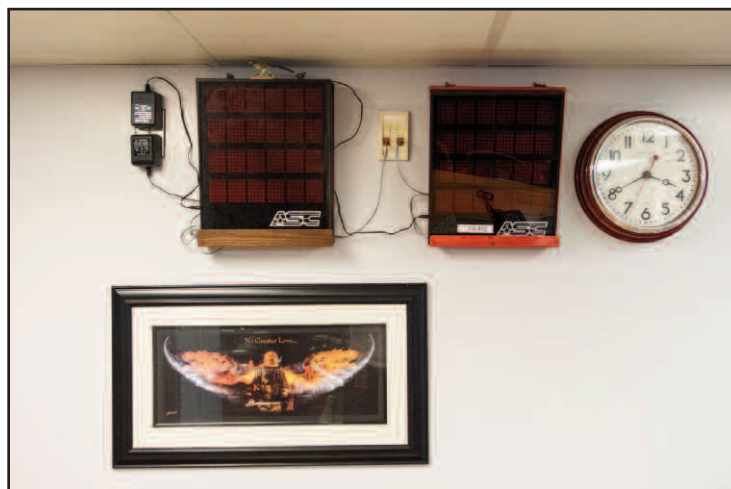
That's an improvement from 2016, when Rescue 28 averaged 377 calls per month. In August, Engine 28 recorded 534 runs, which is considered to be its all-time high.

"We can agree that 500 [per month] is way too much, 400 is very busy, and 300 is reasonable," said Rescue 72's Capt. Jeff Kendall. His experience includes Rescue 17 before it moved to Station 26 as well as Rescue 10 Able (aka Rescue 81), which is JFRD's busiest peak time unit.

To make room at Station 28 for Engine 72 and Rescue 72, JFRD relocated Tanker 28 to Station 50 and Rescue 28 Able to Station 29.

Engine 28's Lt. Eric Prosswimmer says that he has always enjoyed being busy; that's why he chose his assignment. He also admits he has mixed feelings about his engine company slowing down. But one thing isn't going to change with the addition of

Station 72. "We're still the 'Southside Roadrunners,'" Prosswimmer said. "We've earmarked 72 as 'The Coyotes.'"



Station 28 and Station 72 have their own light boards throughout Fire Station 28.



MVA survivor Dylan Roughton (Front Middle) is on the road to recovery thanks to JFRD Station 43, Clay County Engine 13 and Orange Park Rehabilitation Center. In late January, Roughton was driving by himself to North Carolina and was about to enter Duval County on U.S. 301 when a vehicle crossed into his lane resulting in a head-on collision. Photo back row (L-R): Rescue 43 Eng. Ryan Hidalgo, Engine 143 Firefighter Kendra Thorsell, Rescue 43 Eng. Mikhail Semenov, Rescue 43 Capt. Paul Mrgich, Clay County Capt. David Teetsell, JFRD Engine 143 Capt. Rod Odom, Clay County Eng. George Hildebrand and volunteer George Hildebrand III. Front row: Orange Park Rehab Center staff and Roughton.

MVA Victim Credits Engine 143, Rescue 43, Clay County Fire Rescue, Toyota Camry for Survival

Long before his body was mangled in a head-on collision on U.S. 301, Dylan Roughton wanted to be a physical therapist.

Thanks to JFRD Station 43, Clay County Station 13 and Orange Park Medical Center, Roughton can pursue that career choice in the future. He will also raise his infant son and marry the woman he loves. And later this year, the 22-year old will get out of his wheelchair and once again walk.

On January 21, Roughton was traveling by himself from Sarasota to his hometown of Hendersonville, N.C. to see his

family. About four hours into the northbound drive, he was approaching the Duval County line on U.S. 301. Roughton says he has no memory of a vehicle in the southbound lane crossing into his lane, nor does he recall the 45 minutes that JFRD and Clay County firefighters worked to extricate him from his vehicle. Police say the other vehicle's driver was impaired.

"I remember waking up in the hospital and wondering what was going on, and they told me I was going to physical therapy," Roughton said.

The impact broke Roughton's left femur,

his pelvis and crushed his right ankle. The collision also totaled his 2011 Toyota Camry, which he'd bought only a couple months earlier. It was the first car he bought in his name. Though Roughton cannot recall the details of his traumatic accident, his sense of humor is intact.

"Toyota all the way!" he said in a room full of Jacksonville and Clay County firefighters at Orange Park Medical Center's rehab facility in mid-February. Roughton believes that his car's safety features helped him survive the force of impact, but he's most grateful to the firefighters who responded, pulled him from the

Continued

wreckage, and who also visited him in rehab. He is especially thankful after seeing the damage to his vehicle and photos of him in the hospital on a ventilator.

“You guys literally saved my life, and I can’t tell you how much I appreciate that,” Roughton said to the first respon-

ders who were seeing him for the first time since the MVA.

During the hour-long visit, Roughton emphasized his strong will to recuperate so he can walk with his son, to resume his family role as someone to depend upon, to realize his goal to earn his col-

lege degree, and when the time is right, to buy another Toyota.

After Roughton had thanked the firefighters, the hospital and rehab staff several times, he paused and admitted “I wish I just knew what to say to you guys.”

“You’ve already said it. We come in here and see you sitting there; that’s all we need,” said Clay County Eng. George Hildebrand who drove Clay County’s Engine 13 to the scene of the MVA.

“All I could see was his head and left hand,” Hildebrand said. “It’s a miracle. I didn’t expect him to survive.”

“This just shows that with our education and training, we do make a difference.”

Capt. Paul Mrgich, Rescue 43

Poor weather conditions grounded ATUs, so the extrication timing was even more critical for E-143 and the other units. JFRD Rescue 43’s Capt. Paul Mrgich, who transported Roughton to Orange Park Medical Center, credited the excellent working relationship that Jacksonville and Clay County have as well as the firefighters’ field experience to the successful outcome.

“This just shows that with our education and training, we do make a difference,” Mrgich said.

In addition to Rescue 43 and Engine 143 as well as Clay Engine 13 and Clay Rescue 13, responding units included JFRD Fire 6, Safety 2, Engine 46, Rescue 46, Ladder 31, Clay Battalion 2 Chief and Clay Engine 14.



Dylan Roughton’s mother, Angi Hunter, is overjoyed that her son is expected to walk again. Roughton turned 22 in February and says he is looking forward to walking with his toddler son later this year.

Station 42 Didn't Do It For Recognition

Melissa Bartley, a registered nurse who works for Concierge Home Care, knows how to demonstrate gratitude. So does Megan Sams, who works for VITAS Healthcare.

Both women and a team of their coworkers recently visited Station 42's B-shift to thank the crew for an emergency response that exceeded their expectations, but more on that in a moment. The original center of attention was an elderly woman who is a client of Concierge Home Care.

Bartley was coordinating the 97-year-old woman's placement into a local rehabilitation center because the woman was struggling to care for herself in her own home. When Concierge Home Care repeatedly called the woman to schedule transportation to the center, she didn't answer the phone.

"That was not normal for her," Bartley said. "That's what stemmed the call to JSO for the wellness check."

After a few knocks on the woman's front door with no answer, JSO checked the back of the house and soon spotted her through a window, Bartley said. She was on the floor and apparently couldn't move. Moments later, Engine 42's Lt. Todd Kasica, Eng. Heath O'Shea and Firefighter Beth Harkins were exploring their options for making entry into the house. Eventually, O'Shea grabbed a Halligan tool and broke through one of the plate glass windows. Harkins climbed through and then unlocked a door so Rescue 42's Lt. Mike Binder and Eng. Jimmy Osborne could begin patient care.

JSO notified Bartley, and she arrived in time to watch the firefighters in action. She was impressed by their compassion, but what really got her attention was the action Engine 42 took once the call was done. Kasica and his crew bought supplies at a home improvement store, returned to the house and boarded up the window.

"I've been in home health care for 18 years," Bartley said. "This is the first time I've seen this level of attention. I was just so touched that they took time to secure her home."

When Sams with VITAS Healthcare learned about Engine 42's extra efforts from Bartley, she was also impressed.

"We hear different stories, but nothing like this. I was blown away," said Sams.

Kasica and O'Shea have heard about plenty of JFRD personnel taking similar measures, and they don't consider their actions extraordinary.

"We didn't do this for the recognition," O'Shea said. "We just got caught."



Employees from two local health care agencies thanked Station 42 for providing "above and beyond" care for an elderly patient. Photo (L-R): Kristine Joyner, Shellie Adkins, Kim Cardounel, Melissa Bartley, Engine 42's Eng. Heath O'Shea and Lt. Todd Kasica, Rescue 42's Eng. Jimmy Osborne, Engine 42's Firefighter Elizabeth Harkins, Lindsey Hal and Megan Sams. Not pictured: Rescue 42's Lt. Mike Binder.

"She [the patient] had enough on her plate, and she didn't need to be worried about her home being unsecured," Kasica said.

About a week after the emergency call, Bartley, Sams and representatives from both health care agencies covered Station 42's kitchen table with enough donated food for lunch and dinner just to let the crew know how much they appreciated the attention given to the elderly woman and her home.

"They went above and beyond," Bartley said.

Promotions



Captain Jerry Hammett



Captain Jason Lutzen



Captain Phillip Orelli



Captain Justin Pickett



Captain Chris Rhoden



Captain Timothy Torbett



Captain Jim Wilson



Lieutenant Brielle Barnhill

Promotions



Lieutenant Josh Covelli



Lieutenant Jonathan Cyrus



Lieutenant Daniel Dantzer



Lieutenant Justin Hodges



Lieutenant Willie King



Lieutenant Joseph Mancino



Lieutenant Jeremy Pilcher



Lieutenant Tony Reid

Promotions



Lieutenant Michael Scott



Lieutenant Taylor Shearn



Lieutenant Joseph Stewart



Lieutenant Chris Stover



Lieutenant Preston Taylor



Lieutenant Chris Vance



Engineer Carlos Daniels



Engineer Robert Tison



40-Hour Firefight

Photos by Lt. Mike Peery

From the afternoon of March 22 to early March 24, JFRD provided mutual aid to Nassau County during the Garfield Road Fire in Bryceville which affected approximately 700 acres and destroyed or damaged 29 structures.

Responding JFRD Units to Garfield Road Fire

T33, R33, BR32, RI05, L26, BR42, EI43, SI4, BR43, E32, T43, R43, F6, F5, E46, RHB5, E33, BR35, TR10, R46, SF2, LI0, T57, E53, BR53, EI3, E31, E26, E57, B5, T50, E30, E51, E24, E25, E29, F7, E9, E5, L28, T29, E34, E20, EI1, E23, E27, EI7, E2, E9, E28, E49, E59, E44, EI9, EI, F8, T52, C1A, C2, C4A, SV2, CI, B5, BR46, T31, BR31

Combined on scene time was 725 hours, 43 minutes. Some apparatus were dispatched on multiple shifts.



Engine 53's Lt. Napoleon Kornegay and Firefighter Joshua Jordan are on scene at the Garfield Road Fire.



Congratulations to the 28 members of Recruit Class 117 who graduated March 30. They stood for this portrait the morning of March 22 at the Veterans Memorial Wall adjacent Everbank Field.

JFRD Recruit Class 117

Christine D. Absher, Medic

James D. Adkins, Medic

Pavlos K. Angelopoulos

Joseph A. Barilla

Bryan J. Baumgartner, Medic

Adam Cardoza, Medic

Robert L. Delaney

Joseph N. Dineen, Medic

Dylan A. Evans, Medic

Ross A. Fenn

Gabriel L. Forshee

David B. Gray, Jr., Medic

Brandon S. Kumm, Medic

Joshua C. Lee

Kyle B. Luense, Medic

Danielle L. McMillon

Christopher Melendez, Medic

Conner S. Petty

Henry B. Rivera, Medic

Jason Rivera, Class Leader

Matthew B. Smith

Cole C. Stanford, Medic

Daniel B. Tennison, Jr., Medic

Jeffrey M. White, Medic

John A. Wilkinson, Medic

Jared N. Worley, Medic

Colby J. Wright

Timothy M. Yonn, Medic

FEBRUARY 2017 CALL VOLUMES

Turnout time averages follow the unit's call volume total. Turnout time is the period between dispatch to time enroute.

RESCUES

R1381 1:13
R81381 1:18
R22352 1:12
R19350 1:11
R18337 1:24
R2327 1:01
R30327 1:08
R20320 1:09
R25318 1:17
R21310 0:51
R87307 1:19
R36304 1:19
R31298 1:24
R28295 1:08
R24291 1:14
R13290 1:06
R70289 1:03
R52287 1:01
R27283 1:16
R51281 1:05
R5275 1:08
R7269 0:55
R72264 1:15
R34263 1:17
R15253 1:17
R32249 1:14
R26238 1:12
R35228 1:22
R55215 1:29
R42206 1:22
R50204 1:22
R58204 1:14
R54198 1:09
R59194 1:21
R71190 1:08
R23173 1:10
R33161 1:37
R57149 1:19
R49116 1:27
R62109 2:37
R5379 1:16

R4368 1:23
R4647 1:36
R4017 1:35
R8517 1:10
R4515 0:59

ENGINES

E22385 1:06
E31383 1:14
E19376 1:00
E30366 1:03
E18361 1:06
E36358 1:01
E1338 1:09
E152 ...332 1:12
E44323 0:45
E51322 1:06
E27321 1:16
E28318 0:52
E10316 0:57
E20316 1:04
E21304 1:00
E24296 1:04
E25279 1:14
E9270 1:11
E72266 1:08
E32264 1:02
E42258 1:07
E13253 1:05
E7238 0:49
E34231 1:10
E17225 0:56
E135 ...223 1:16
E2222 1:03
E5221 1:16
E59218 1:21
E150 ...198 1:12
E58187 1:23
E154 ...180 1:13
E26173 1:17
E55154 1:07
E33139 1:41
E62133 1:16

E29132 1:30
E57127 1:12
E49125 1:27
E41121 1:16
E23115 1:20
E11110 1:12
E5375 1:24
E5656 1:27
E4647 1:38
E1646 1:15
E4842 1:15
HAZ7 ...33 0:39
HR4 ...30 0:35
HAZ21 ..29 0:45
AIR5 ...28 3:47
RHB5 ...23 2:58
E143 ...23 1:15
CR56 ...12 0:59
CAV56 ...11 0:43
E409 1:30
E456 1:03

SQUADS

S4282 1:12
S12207 0:55
S37193 1:03
S14176 1:28

LADDERS

L31167 1:07
L44157 0:55
L30136 1:13
L10113 1:20
L134 ...100 1:12
L199 1:06
L2896 1:00
L495 1:05
L995 1:20
TL21 ...92 0:51
L781 0:51
L2659 1:19

TANKERS

T5272 1:32
T3152 1:14

T4250 1:28
T5041 1:21
T3337 2:31
T2935 1:57
T5431 1:50
T5729 2:49
T4923 1:35
T437 3:16

BRUSH *(Top 5)*

B5310 2:39
B329 0:48
B428 1:29
B317 1:19
B506 3:20

MARINE

M3811
M3911
M409

FIELD CHIEFS

R107 ...137 1:03
R104 ...121 1:33
R106 ...96 1:03
R105 ...94 1:15
SF188 1:14
R103 ...72 0:58
SF270 1:12
FIRE 6 ...51 1:23
FIRE 5 ...50 1:26
FIRE 3 ...47 1:14
FIRE 7 ...43 1:17
FIRE 4 ...41 1:21
FIRE 9 ...36 0:57
FIRE 8 ...35 1:28
FIRE 1 ...34 0:53
FIRE 2 ...31 1:21

FEBRUARY 2017

EMS9,991
FIRE1,194
NON EMR .201

Total ..11,386