

# R. David Paulison, U.S. Fire Administrator to be Honored at National Fire and Emergency Services Dinner

Washington, DC - 30 April 2004 - The Congressional Fire Services Institute's Board of Directors recently selected U.S. Fire Administrator David Paulison as the recipient of the 2004 CFSI/Motorola Mason Lankford Fire Service Leadership Award. The presentation will take place at the 16th Annual National Fire and Emergency Services Dinner on May 5, 2004 at the Hilton Washington, in Washington, DC.

A fire service veteran with over 30 years of experience, Paulison has served as U.S. Fire Administrator since December 2001, when President Bush appointed him to the position. Following the creation of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security in 2003, Paulison received additional responsibilities when he was named Director of the Preparedness Division of the Emergency and Preparedness and Response Directorate. His primary responsibility is administering a broad range of programs with DHS designed to protect our nation against both manmade and natural disasters.

Mr. Paulison has played an important role in overseeing the administration of the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program (FIRE Act), a highly successful grant program for delivering federal funds directly to local fire departments. He has also been a leading voice in promoting communications interoperability and compatibility for firefighting equipment.

Prior to arriving in Washington, DC, Paulison served as Chief of the Miami-Dade Fire Rescue Department. Few chiefs have ever had their leadership skills tested as Chief Paulison did when he served as incident commander for both Hurricane Andrew in 1992 and the crash of ValueJet Flight 592. While serving as chief, Paulison also rose through the ranks of the IAFC leadership, serving as President in 1996-97.

"This is a very unique award," said William Jenaway, CFSI President. "Whereas there are various awards presented for extraordinary actions of valor, this award recognizes individual leadership at the local, state and national levels in advancing the readiness of first responders and making our communities safer. I cannot think of anyone more deserving of this award than Chief Paulison."

Named after the late J. Mason Lankford, Jr., and sponsored by CFSI and Motorola, Inc., the award recognizes an individual who has been proactive at the local, state or federal government level to raise the awareness and support of fire/emergency services and life safety issues. Lankford was a catalyst in the formation of the Congressional Fire Services Institute and Congressional Fire Services Caucus, founded by Congressman Curt Weldon in 1987.

For additional information about the 16th Annual National Fire and Emergency Services Dinner, please visit the CFSI website at [www.cfsi.org](http://www.cfsi.org)

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