



NEW TACTICAL FIRE FIGHTING TRUCK

By Specialist Judith D. DaCosta

Representatives from Pierce[®] Manufacturing, Incorporated, and the Department of the Army, including the Commanding General of the 89th Regional Readiness Command, presented the 406th Engineer Fire Fighting Detachment with a new M1142 Tactical Fire Fighting Truck (TFFT) on 29 January 2005, at the Army Reserve Center in Salina, Kansas. The TFFT is engineered like no other vehicle in use by the military today. It combines the superior mobility of the Army heavy expanded-mobility tactical truck (HEMTT) with the advanced firefighting capabilities of Pierce fire apparatus. The result is a multifunctional vehicle that is ready to deploy in almost any terrain and combat five types of fires/hazards: wildland; structural (limited to two stories or less); petroleum, oils, and lubricants (POL) and hazardous materials (HAZMAT); tactical vehicle; and aircraft crashes.¹



The M1142 Tactical Fire Fighting Truck in action

The development of the TFFT adds another dimension to what Pierce offers to the fire service and the U.S. military. Pierce technology demonstrates how this firefighting apparatus can help first responders in domestic communities as well as worldwide. Many Reservists are full-time civilian firefighters who use Pierce equipment in their hometown fire departments and—now—on deployment. This is a unique feature that no other company can say about its equipment.

The new TFFT, which was on display during the presentation, was referred to as a product of dedication and of great benefit to the military. More than 7,000 employees of Pierce Manufacturing and Oshkosh[®] Truck Corporation have taken great care and pride in providing Reservists with the finest firefighting truck in the world.

In addition to the presentation of the new TFFT, the ceremony highlighted the achievements of the 323d Engineer Fire Fighting Detachment, whose members were recognized in November 2004 for rescuing injured Soldiers from a downed Chinook helicopter in Al Fallujah, Iraq. The 323d unit members were also recognized for the completion of a week-long TFFT training course.



Specialist DaCosta is the unit administrator of the 203d Mobile Public Affairs Detachment. She has completed the journalism course at the Defense Information School in Maryland and is majoring in English at Wichita State University.

Endnote

¹ Major Mollie Pearson and Mr. Mike Bonomolo, "The Future Army Tactical Fire Fighting Truck," *Engineer*, January-March 2005, pp 59-61.