

NEWS RELEASE

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SUFFOLK BATTALION CHIEF COMPLETES PRESTIGIOUS EXECUTIVE FIRE OFFICER PROGRAM

SUFFOLK, Virginia (March 28, 2011) - Suffolk Battalion Chief Franklin Theodore Adams recently completed the prestigious U. S. Fire Administration's National Fire Academy's (NFA) "Executive Fire Officer Program" (EFOP). This 4-year program is administered through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and U. S. Department of Homeland Security.

The program is designed to provide senior fire officers with a broad perspective on various facets of fire administration, in addition to providing them with the expertise they need to succeed in today's challenging environment.

Completion of the course required extensive study in Executive Development, which emphasized team development and decision-making to enhance organizational effectiveness, and Leading Community Risk Reduction, which focused on identifying risk and assessing and reducing this threat in their own community. Third-year studies included an Executive Analysis of Fire Service Operations in Emergency Management course which is especially critical in today's incident response environment. The final course, Executive Leadership, examined all aspects of executive-level leadership and tied together the educational experiences of the three previous years.

Battalion Chief Adams has been with Suffolk Fire & Rescue since 1987. When asked about this accomplishment, he said, "It was a privilege just to be accepted

for the course. That was the first challenge – the second was actually completing it! Time away from home, writing an applied research project over six months while still being a father, husband and working full-time were additional challenges over the four years. I couldn't have done it without support from my family and co-workers. Completing the course is an important step in achieving my goal to be a leader in the fire service.”

Chief Mark Outlaw advised, “I am very proud of Battalion Chief Adams for his accomplishment. He is a dedicated and respected leader that always encourages others to better themselves through education and training. The EFO program has provided him additional tools to further enhance services to our city.”

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