

Individual Outstanding Service Award 2007

I would like to nominate Joseph Alexander (Sandy) McKinnon, who is employed by the New Brunswick Department of Natural Resources; Forest Fire Management Section.

Sandy is the provincial training coordinator, is a member of the Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre Training Team and is the current chair of the Training Working Team of the Northeastern Forest Fire Protection Compact. His hard work, dedication and professional attitude has earned him the respect of his peers and subordinates on both sides of the border. Over the years, Sandy has taken on or helped out with many projects that provided pertinent and timely training in forest fire management between Compact member agencies that helped to enhance the mission and image of the Northeastern Forest Fire Protection Compact. Sandy worked very hard to organize the Spring Academy that was held in Edmundston NB – This was the 1st French Academy and it was well received. The L280 and the S300 courses were taught. .

This past summer he was part of a CIMC team (Logistics Chief) that was mobilized to Georgia. New Brunswick hosted the Wildfire Origin and Cause Determination Training Course that was attended by compact and non compact personnel. Sandy assumed the lead as organizer which was no easy task. Sandy was instrumental in arranging for the training venue, all classroom equipment, students' and instructors' lunches and appropriate burn plots. In the days leading up to the program's delivery he liaised with a number of departments and agencies, both Canadian and U.S., with regards to filling the course with appropriate students and ensuring required student information was timely obtained. There were meetings with the Department of National Defense prior to the course being held as the burn plots were on CFB Gagetown property. No less than 85 personnel were assembled as support staff prior to the commencement of the course this included ignition staff, suppression staff, air operations personnel, cooks, only to mention a few. An IMT team was put in place to oversee the operation involving the burn plots.

Kim Connors; Manager of the Forest Fire Management Section received a letter from: Douglas T. Adkins, Federal Law Enforcement Training Centre, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Washington Office. In part of his letter Mr. Adkins wrote: "As a result of Sandy's dedication, commitment, and attention to detail, the program was delivered without a single hitch. I very much appreciate the substantive contributions Mr. McKinnon made to the training program. The Coordination support he provided to the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center had a positive impact on the program's overall success. I personally am grateful for the valuable time and effort he invested in this program".

For all the above reasons and achievements that Sandy has obtained I again respectfully submit Sandy's name for the Individual Outstanding Service Award for 2007.

Charles Beaulieu
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