

that Officer Bethel could use. Joe worked diligently with the Denver Home Builders Foundation to assist Officer Bethel. I would like personally to thank Mr. Paddilla for all of his hard work on this project. He and his company have also designed and built a \$1.5 million, state-of-the-art home as a donation to Cherish the Children, an organization that provides educational assistance to children. He is currently the president and chairman of the Costuyendo Education Network, a program that educates minority and immigrant construction workers through bilingual education, teaching them how to start their own businesses in Colorado. Mr. Paddilla has helped his community in many ways, and continues with his active involvement in various philanthropic organizations.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I recognize Mr. Joseph Paddilla before this body of Congress and this nation. Through his efforts to help his community, Mr. Paddilla has served others in an exceptional manner, and I feel honored to have the opportunity to pay tribute to him.

IN HONOR OF ALEX ANTÓN'S AND
ROGER E. HERNÁNDEZ'S PUBLI-
CATION, CUBANS IN AMERICA

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2003

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the publication of Cubans in America: A Vibrant History of a People in Exile, by Roger E. Hernández, and Alex Antón. A documentary of four centuries of Cubans living and thriving in America, the book follows the history of Cubans in America from the 16th century, with the settlement of St. Augustine, to the present day.

Mr. Roger E. Hernández, a nationally syndicated columnist writing on Hispanic-American issues, along with Alex Antón, published Cubans in America in May of 2002.

Mr. Hernández writes for a weekly op-ed column distributed by King Features Syndicate to some 40 daily newspapers across the nation. He also writes articles for other newspapers and magazines, is a frequent guest on televisions and radio political talk shows, travels the country delivering lectures, and wrote several books that make up part of a series about South America for 4th through 6th grade students.

Mr. Hernández left Cuba with his parents at the age of nine. He quickly established himself in the United States and earned a BA in Journalism at Rutgers University in 1977. Currently, he lives with his wife and two children in Boonton, New Jersey.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Roger E. Hernández and Alex Antón for the publication of Cubans in America: A Vibrant History of a People in Exile. I commend these authors for celebrating the importance and influence of Cubans in our Nation.

TRIBUTE TO RUSSELL D. SERZEN

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with honor that I recognize Mr. Russell D. Serzen of Durango, Colorado. Russell was a man of absolute integrity and strength. His conviction and dedication to Fort Lewis College's Community Concert Hall was a great asset, and yielded great benefits to his community. At this time, I would like to pay tribute to Russell's life and accomplishments.

Mr. Serzen was born in Chicago, in 1933. He attended the University of Illinois, where he played hockey and baseball. He was named Most-Valuable-Player in baseball in 1954, and that same year he signed a contract with the New York Yankees. His baseball career was cut short in 1956, as he entered the Army. He was the first baseball player to be introduced into the University of Illinois's Hall of Fame. On September 19, 1950, Russell married Elizabeth Hanson. The two were blessed with three children. During his youth, Mr. Serzen was a medical supply salesman and a founding member of the Institute for Orthopaedic Enlightenment.

In 1989, Mr. Sezen retired to Durango, Colorado. Once he was there, he became a strong supporter of Fort Lewis College's Community Concert Hall. He was always doing something to promote the community's interest in the Concert Hall, from organizing pledge drives to helping with the program planning. While living in Durango, his passions included jazz and handball. It was this passion for jazz that lead him to become so involved with the Community Concert Hall. Through his many efforts, Fort Lewis College's Community Concert Hall has grown in strength and in renown.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I recognize Mr. Russell D. Serzen before this body of Congress and this nation. His advocacy for the Performing Arts in Western Colorado has helped establish a strong tradition of music and its appreciation. His memory will live on in the lives of his family, his friends, and the many people who were touched by his life.

TRIBUTE TO POSADA AGENCY

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to recognize the Posada Agency of Pueblo, Colorado for their outstanding commitment to Southern Colorado's homeless citizens. Recently, the Posada Agency held an open house celebrating the opening of the newly remodeled Elko Motel. The Posada Agency renovated the building to provide a safe living area for Pueblo's homeless families. Today I would like to pay tribute to their service before this body of Congress and this nation.

The Posada Agency for the homeless is a non-profit organization that provides for the immediate needs of the homeless while simultaneously working to overcome the problems that have led to their homelessness. The

agency incorporates the services of many philanthropic groups, government agencies, and nonprofit organizations to provide the resources necessary for the fight against homelessness. Through their transitional housing and employment assistance programs, Posada has been able to serve over 37,000 homeless in Southern Colorado.

The Elko Motel was purchased by the Posada Agency two years ago with financial contributions from the El Pomar foundation and the David and Lucile Packard Foundation. Since then, the Posada Agency has been completely renovated. Today, the hotel has new plumbing, wiring, and carpeting, providing a structured and safe environment for Pueblo's homeless families.

Mr. Speaker, it is with earnest respect that I recognize the Posada Agency for the homeless before this body of Congress and this nation. I would like to commend all the men and women of the agency for their tireless commitment to such a noble endeavor. Through their dedication and goodwill, the Posada Agency has been able to help countless numbers of homeless get back on their feet, and it is an honor to represent such an outstanding group of Americans in this Congress.

IN HONOR OF NORTH HUDSON
REGIONAL FIRE AND RESCUE

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2003

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor North Hudson Regional Fire and Rescue (NHRFR) and its outstanding professional firefighters and rescue personnel who are the pride of the five northern New Jersey communities that they serve with such great distinction—Union City, Weehawken, North Bergen, West New York and Guttenberg.

In the aftermath of the 9/11 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, there is renewed national appreciation and respect for the heroic men and women who put their lives at risk in the line of duty every day in every American community. These are truly the heroes in our midst, each and every one an authentic profile in courage. I share the pride of my fellow Hudson County citizens in the outstanding performance of NHRFR fire and rescue personnel in support of their NYFD and NJ-based colleagues on 9/11, and each and every day preceding and following that horrific tragedy.

Prior to my Congressional service, I had the privilege of being the mayor of Union City, New Jersey. As a mayor, I learned a lot about what it takes, in terms of money, management and leadership capability, and training time to develop and maintain a fire and rescue fire-responder team that is prepared and equipped to handle every conceivable emergency situation in a community. I am grateful to have had that experience, because I gained a great deal of understanding and insight about what we, as a nation, must now do to ensure that our fire and rescue first responders have the tools and the training to meet the growing demands and dangers of their public safety mission.

Since 9/11, the mission of our local fire and rescue first responders has expanded exponentially, and is now elevated to the level of

a national defense imperative. With the ominous continuing threat of more terrorist attacks on American soil, our local fire and rescue teams face a daunting array of new and highly-dangerous emergency response conditions, ranging from "conventional" bomb attacks on buildings, aircraft and public transportation systems, to attacks involving "dirty" nuclear bombs, lethal chemicals and biological warfare materials.

Regrettably, the President's words about providing resources for first responders have not yet been matched with funding that our local fire and rescue teams desperately need for upgraded equipment and specialized training to meet the growing challenge of post-9/11 terrorist attack scenarios. I have publicly urged Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge to release critical funding for our nation's first responders. The President's words of praise for fire-fighters and rescue personnel at the World Trade Center disaster site included his promise to deliver major funding for first responders. This Presidential promise must be kept, because failure to do so imperils the safety of the American public, and endangers the very lives of the heroic men and women whose job it is to run toward the danger and help to save their fellow human beings.

Specialized training for our local fire and rescue first responders is a key area where there is a critical need for additional federal funding. In order to underscore the importance of good training, I would like to share with my colleagues an article about North Hudson Regional Fire and Rescue that appeared in the December, 2002 edition of *Fire Engineering*. I commend this article about NHRFR to my colleagues, because it will provide them with a "window" through which to view all of the complexities involved in planning and managing technical rope rescues. Though the NHRFR team might regard this operation as "just another day at the office", the techniques employed in their dramatic rescue of a man who had fallen 100 feet off the Palisades cliffs should conjure up images in the minds of my colleagues about the application of these highly specialized technical skills in disaster site settings.

I also want to extend my congratulations to North Hudson Regional Fire and Rescue for its achievement as the winner of the New Jersey State League of Municipalities 2002 Innovation in Governance Award for its exemplary Quantitative Safety Project. NHRFR's achievement has been further recognized by the National League of Cities, which has added NHRFR's project information to the NLC national research database of "best practices" models.

Mr. Speaker, I ask consent to include the text of the December 2, 2002 *Fire Engineering* article about North Hudson Regional Fire and Rescue with my remarks in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

[From *Fire Engineering*, Dec. 2002]

PLANNING AND MANAGING TECHNICAL ROPE RESCUES

(By Anthony Avillo)

On October 11, 2002, North Hudson (NJ) Regional Fire & Rescue responded to the Palisades cliffs for a reported injured man. The victim was discovered approximately 100 feet below Boulevard East in Weehawken, New Jersey. Rescuers successfully removed him from the cliffs and transported him to a local hospital, where he was treated for injuries

suffered in the fall and for hypothermia (see photos and cover photo).

Successful technical rope rescues (TRRs) do not just happen. Successful rope and rigging operations are the end product of a program approach based on planning, preplanning, practice, and implementation.

There are three priorities to address whenever operating at a technical rescue:

Priority 1: Safety of operating personnel (Command's overriding concern).

Priority 2: Stabilization of the victim medically and of possible incident complications.

Priority 3: Victim removal.

KEYS TO SUCCESS

For a positive outcome, you must consider the following points:

Preplanning. A large percentage of TRR decisions lend themselves to preplanning. The "we'll figure it out on the mountain" school of thought is a failure-rich mindset. When preplanning, consider tactics, strategies, and action paths. Preplanning clears the screen for the rescue commander and allows him to focus on unique aspects and variables of the particular incident. TRRs require rapid, on-site decisions and tactics. This task can consume command energy and divert attention away from other command and control goals. If you preplan system construction, apparatus placement (anchor points), and on-line and in-system personnel assignments, the IC and rescue personnel will arrive on-scene with a continuum of pre-determinations and are more able to respond to the variables.

Training and technical skills. North Hudson Regional performs three or four of these rescues a year, and each presents its own set of challenges. Improvisation is often the name of the game to be successful. Remember, however, that only through mastery of the technical skills and equipment required to conduct a technical rope rescue is safe improvisation possible. To be able to safely improvise at the scene takes countless hours of training and extreme familiarity with the equipment.

At times, it may be necessary—based on staffing and the demands of the rescue—to teach simple rescue techniques such as belay line on the spot as the incident is unfolding. This still requires initial personnel with technical skills.

Preassigned positioning of the rescue team. Successfully conducting this type of operation requires developing an organization prior to the incident. Training on rigging construction and rope and knot skills is essential, but you also must focus on preassignment of incident positions and responsibilities. Address span-of-control issues and key operating positions, and spell out responsibilities and duties in standard operating procedures. Preassign primary and backup personnel for all on-line and rigging positions. It is a good idea to have at least one member of each on-line team trained to at least the first responder or EMT level so that you can perform an immediate victim assessment when you reach the victim. Also preassign Command positions such as rescue group leader, hauling boss (that member assigned to run the actual hauling/lowering operation), rigging master (the member assigned to oversee all anchoring and rigging operations), hot zone safety officer, and other support positions. Continuous cross-training of personnel will increase organizational and operational flexibility and thus effectiveness.

Apparatus positioning. You get only one chance to position properly at this type of incident. Officers should stage apparatus for optimal tactical flexibility. Congesting the scene, especially in a remote area where

many of these rescues take place, will only complicate the problem. Aerial apparatus should get the key positions, as the device will likely be used as a gin pole from which to lower personnel and hoist victims. Again, preplan. Companies responding without aerial capability must not drive into the middle of the operational zone.

Foremost in the minds of the IC and the first-arriving officers is the availability of anchor points. These should be "bombproof," or immovable. Common anchor points include apparatus, trees, telephone poles, and solidly anchored fences. In apparatus-unfriendly areas, big trees or big rocks have been used. Leave a clear path between anchor points, hauling/lowering devices, and the target zone.

Command and control. Strong command and control are integral to safe, organized, and coordinated rescue operations. The key to this organization is decentralization of the rescue ground. If this can be resolved prior to an incident, the less the IC has to think about in regard to how to break down the operational area and to whom to assign these responsibilities.

Predesignation of rescue personnel coupled with an effective SOP that is both adhered to and enforced is the first step in this organizational process. One of the most crucial positions assigned is the Operations Section chief, who will act as a buffer between the IC and the rescue operation, freeing the IC to attend to other issues pertinent to the incident, while not directly participating in the operation itself.

Control of the scene by designating operational zones is the next step in the command and control process. Address scene and perimeter control in SOPs, similar to establishing haz-mat control zones. Control zones are as follows:

Target zone: The area where the victim is located. Keep the number of target zone personnel to a bare minimum, usually two rescuers. This is the most dangerous area on the rescue ground, usually the last zone established and the first terminated. A major focus of Command should be to minimize operational time in the target zone. It is essential that, whatever number of rescuers are on-line, there be an equal number of rescuers (basically a rescue rapid intervention team) properly geared up and ready to go should something go wrong in the target zone.

Hot zone: The main area where technical rescue operations (rope systems and rigging) take place. Participation in the hot zone should be by "invitation only" and be limited to those personnel whose duties and responsibilities are directly related to the safe setup, operation, and breakdown of rescue systems. The rescue group leader, hot zone safety officer, hauling boss, rigging master, and rescue group support personnel are located in the hot zone.

Warm zone: The area where support of the technical rescue operation is attended to. The Operations Section chief is generally located in this area. He should liaison with the hot zone safety officer and rescue group leader and reinforce and support the hot zone activities as required. He will also keep Command informed and updated on incident progress. Generally, if the incident is going smoothly, the Operations Section chief remains in the warm zone. He only moves if the need arises. The incident safety officer, whose duty is to monitor overall scene safety, is generally located in the warm zone but may spend some time in the other zones as the situation dictates. Also initially located in the warm zone are those personnel who will support the operation and work in the hot zone once the rescue system is assembled. They are essentially hauling personnel,

who are best kept a safe distance from the main setup area until the hauling/lowering is ready to proceed.

Cold zone: This is the area where incident support operations are directed to both the internal rescue operation and external activities required to coordinate and bring the incident under control. The Command Post is located in this area, providing direction and overall control of the incident. An accountability officer and entry control point supervisor should also be located in this area. In addition, firefighter rehab and EMS are located in the cold zone, as are personnel assigned as tactical reserve.

Public zone: This area is for such extrinsic activities as public information. The department's public information officer should establish a press area. Uncommitted apparatus staging should also be located in this zone. Perimeter and scene control is nothing new to the fire service, but it is a critical and often overlooked portion of the technical rescue operation.

Victim/target zone access and stabilization. The main priority of the entire operation must be the victim and where he is located (the target zone). The rescue group leader must determine the safest, most effective path for rescuers to reach the victim.

Assess target zone terrain. Ask yourself, What hazards are present? Is it dark? Is a steep slope involved? Is there a frictionless footing hazard such as wet or icy terrain? Are there anchor points in the target zone that can be used as temporary tie-offs for rescuers? What special equipment will be required to work in the target zone, and what is the best way to get it there? Utility umbilicals should be built into all rescue systems to ferry equipment and supplies to the target zone. Lifelines should NOT be used for this purpose.

Then, assess the victim: Can you even see the victim? Is there more than one victim? Can a thermal imaging camera help? What is the probable medical profile of the victim(s)? You must try to improve victim comfort as soon as possible. This may include conducting a medical assessment in the target zone, providing blankets to keep body heat from being lost, and administering fluids and possibly intravenous medication prior to removal. The rescue group leader must keep the victim's comfort in mind as the incident unfolds. Sometimes, so much is going on top-side that the victim's needs take a backseat. Remember, the entire complex operation stems from the victim's predicament.

EMS considerations. EMS will play a large part in this type of rescue, from administering to the victim to medical monitoring of rescue personnel. As with any other agency, determine the scope of EMS personnel's participation, roles, and responsibilities in advance. Assign an EMS group supervisor, preferably prior to the incident. The bulk of the EMS responders should remain in the cold zone, with unobstructed access into and out of the operational area. A skeleton crew of EMS personnel with equipment should stand by in the warm zone until the victim has been packaged and is being removed from the target zone. EMS personnel should be in a safe area (you can call this area the victim landing zone) where they can have immediate access to the victim when he is brought safely topside.

Unassigned personnel/staffing considerations. To conduct technical rope rescues safely and properly requires much staffing. Command must ensure that a tactical reserve is on-scene as soon as possible. A good rule of thumb to follow is to double the number of personnel you think you will need. To

maintain proper control over incoming personnel, establish strict staging and non-assigned personnel policies. Additional personnel should report to the command post for assignment. This requires a gatekeeper position similar to the lobby control officer in a high-rise operation. Establish a gatekeeper position at each zone to keep track of who passes in and out.

From the command post, assign staffing as per the requirements set forth by the operational zones. As stated, personnel will be required for the bull work, the working of rescue and belay lines. These personnel are not usually essential to the rigging operation, so stage them in the warm zone. When they are needed, conduct a briefing outlining their hot zone duties. In the hot zone, brief them again prior to operation.

You will need other personnel for equipment and stretcher shuttles, lighting, and other support operations not directly involved in the rescue but essential to the operation. Remember, too, that other odd jobs will always pop up. The work of support personnel keeps the operation moving in the proper direction.

Communications. Communications during large-scale incidents can be a nightmare if you do not properly control and predetermine them before the incident. The rescue team (on-line), the rescue group leader, and the hot zone safety officer at a minimum should operate on a rescue frequency (basically the fireground frequency) while the Operations Section chief and the IC maintain a Command frequency. Aides can be used to monitor the rescue frequency.

Although many of the communications will be face-to-face, also establish a hand signal communication system—especially for the member operating the aerial device. From the turntable, it may be difficult to hear the commands of someone guiding the device over the target zone.

Establish communication with the victim as soon as possible. Make every effort to put him at ease. Explain to the victim that he should not risk further injury by trying to respond to conversation or attempting to help the rescuers in the rescue operation. Also explain to the victim what is taking place and how the rescue will unfold. Establishing confidence and trust will greatly assist in the transition (vertical trip) from the target zone to the hot zone.

Safety. Safety must be the IC's overriding concern at all times. He must have zero tolerance for firefighter injury and must communicate this attitude through strong command and control.

A predesignated hot zone safety officer must oversee the operation in the hot zone and monitor and advise on activities in the target zone. He must have the technical skills and training of the other members operating in the hot and target zones. An overall incident safety officer should monitor hazards in the other designated operational zones. Safety should permeate the entire rescue ground.

Aerial devices must be rated for rope operations. Light-duty ladders rated for 250 pounds at the tip are not acceptable. Aerials should be rated for at least 500 pounds at the tip. Platforms may be well-suited if they have an adequate tip load to handle such rescues. Use aerial devices as gin poles only. While rotation of the devices is acceptable and will be necessary, using the devices for raising and lowering a load is not advised. This should be done only by manipulation of the rope systems.

All rope systems for rigging and on-line operations should be redundant—no member

should operate with fewer than two ropes attached to him. The same is true for any victims moved on-line in litters.

Use utility tag lines on all equipment lowered and raised. This will eliminate unwanted equipment movement and help steer it in the right direction.

Another safety consideration is proper lighting of the target zone and topside, especially if the incident will extend into the night hours. Request a light unit well in advance of when you'll need it.

Engine noise and exhaust can create problems on-scene. Shut down apparatus not directly involved in the operation, especially those in the hot zone just being used as anchor points.

Technical rope rescue operations often show just how well or how poorly a department is prepared on the command and tactical levels. How well are you prepared?

TRIBUTE TO PRINCE ARTHUR SPEIGHTS

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to honor Prince Arthur Speights of Pueblo, Colorado for the selfless act of courage he displayed on November 8, 2002. Prince's quick actions, along with the efforts of other students from Centennial High School, helped Edith Lichtenberg to safety after flames engulfed her home.

On November 8, 2002, billowing smoke one block from Centennial High School prompted a group of students—Prince Speights, Clint Albrecht, Nick Pino, Kathy Ortiz, Linus Trujillo, and Taylor Proctor—into action. Driving toward the smoke, the group quickly discovered the bushes and trees in 86-year-old Edith Lichtenberg's yard ablaze and used a cell phone to contact emergency dispatchers. The flames rapidly spread to the house and the group moved swiftly to make sure no one was in the home. With the fire engulfing the front of the house, the students jumped the locked fence around the backyard to warn anyone who might still be inside. Noticing the back door open and seeing Ms. Lichtenberg still inside, they caught her attention and guided her outside away from the flames. Prince courageously helped Ms. Lichtenberg out of the house personally, and the group moved her to safety.

The youths maintained their composure during a time of adversity and conducted themselves in a fashion that has brought honor to themselves, their families, their school, and the entire community of Pueblo. It is always heartening to see young Americans meet such an extraordinary circumstance successfully. Courage like theirs strengthens and protects our communities every day.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to rise today and recognize the heroic efforts of Prince Speights before this body of Congress and this nation. Prince's quick actions, coupled with those of his fellow students, prevented a terrible fire from ending in great tragedy. Their selfless actions are an inspiration to us all, and it is an honor to represent such an outstanding group of Americans in this Congress.