

**Mission report
Convoy 32
Paraguay
1st to 15th
November
2010.**



IFRA TEAM

**Jim McDonald (JM)
Jake Anderson (JA)
Gary Johnston (GJ)
Charles Gill (CG)**

**Fife Fire and Rescue Service (Mission commander)
Dumfries and Galloway Fire Service (The chosen one)
Dundee airport Fire and Rescue Service
Mines Rescue service**

Monday 01.11.10

After a good nights sleep 'for some', a relaxed breakfast was enjoyed by all in the Chaco hotel. A meeting was convened at lunch time and a very fluid programme of training events was mapped out by Reece Sanchez, Jim Mc Donald and Peter Logan.

The same evening was spent in the company of Peter and Marcos in the apartment to iron out the details and locations of the intended training requests.

Tuesday 02.11.10

JM, JA, GJ, CG

The morning was taken up at the equipment depository in Luque where a lot of explanations were required of the team to identify and describe the application of the equipment held at the depository.



From there the team was taken to the site of the new academy near the airport. The design of the new establishment was relayed to the team and options were given verbally to the attendees. These were largely dismissed however, the team was asked to prepare a report on the new site giving their opinions in detail.

That afternoon the full team went to the Plaza station in Asuncion, where Jake gave the turntable a service and identified faults in the equipment. A clutch was required and dispatched the next day for repair.

In the evening JM, GJ, & CG attended the San Lorenzo fire station in the city to conduct training in fire fighting techniques, B/A operations and checks with a practical session of search and rescue techniques (blind folded). The training session was attended by 19 Bomberos and concluded at 9.45pm.

Wednesday 3.11.10

JM, JA, GJ, CG

All team members were taken to a multi story building in Asuncion to assist in a fire risk assessment being conducted by the local Bomberos, assisted by Peter Logan who interpreted for us.

Once concluded the team was taken to Brava Alpha station which was strategically placed under a fly-over in the city. The team inspected two fire appliances and offered suggestions for improvements in the equipment being carried on them both.

That evening the team attended Fernando fire station to conduct training in B/A checks, use and operation of the B/A board. Further guidance in the meaning and identification of flashover and back-draft were given. Practical exercises were then conducted in door entry, search and rescue and fire fighting procedures. The session expanded into high rise building procedures (stairs) and casualty recovery down stairs.

Post training session the team fielded a million questions from the Bomberos who seemed very interested and willing to learn. On the down side a problem with B/A cleanliness was identified during the training and advice and possible causes were offered by the team.

Thursday 4.11.10

JM & JA set off for Roma Plata

GJ & CG were deployed to the new academy to build the confined space unit in one of the containers; a good day's physical work was undertaken in temperatures of approximately 40°C in the container but the experience was unforgettable and worth while.

Friday 5.11.10

GJ & CG

The plan was for the above to complete the construction of the confined space module. However, they ended up at the docks in Asuncion to collect, bring back to life and deliver a Citron Berlingo and Volvo fire truck (Ex B.P. Grangemouth).

Unfortunately after 8 hours of failed attempts to start the Volvo we had to call it a day at 5.00pm.

After a quick brush up, the team attended Luque fire station to deliver training to 21 Bomberos. Training again consisted of B/A maintenance, operation, checks and operation of the B/A board. The operation, function and fittings of appliance equipment. The session concluded at 9.30pm with a light supper.

Saturday 6.11.10

GJ & CG

The day started at 5.30am with a bus journey of a life time to San Pedro. The team arrived at 2.30pm. After lunch the team conducted training in B/A and the function and operation of the B/A board. The training was then reconvened by the river Ocho for confined space entry techniques including door entry techniques, search and rescue in smoke. Back to the fire station where the Bomberos were given explanations on Backdraught and flashover reinforced by films on the subject.

The students eight in all were cadets and seemed to relish the training they received and participated well.

Sunday 7.11.10

GJ & CG

Bus ride back to Asuncion at 11.00am and arrived back in Asuncion at 6.00pm to find JM & JA spark out on there separate beds after a gruelling day.

Monday 8.11.59

JM, JA, GJ & CG

The team went to the academy to complete the construction of the confined space crawl unit before the sun reached its zenith and the same was completed in good time. Off to lunch and then across to the garage to check on the progress of repair on the turn table clutch.

That evening the team was invited to the home of Peter Logan (International liaison officer for the Junta) and his family for dinner

Tuesday 9.11.10

JM & JA

Justice department and fire safety at a school within Asuncion

GJ & CG

Left Asuncion at 9.30 am to travel east to Naranjal; arrived approximately 4.30pm. One of the best equipped and run station encountered on the whole trip. That evening the team conducted search and rescue techniques and B/A checks, use and maintenance training. The attendees were very attentive and copied examples of B/A control and B/A check sheets from the blackboard in order to replicate them electronically.



The station commandant lead from the front and was very keen to improve his station and the performance of his Bomberos. He was avid in his quest for knowledge and this was reflected in his team of 15 who attended the event.

Wednesday 10.11.10

CG & GJ

In the morning the team visited the Co-operative at San Cristobel to attend a meeting with the co-op management to finalise the setting up of a new fire station.

Back to Naranjal; where GJ showed the crew how to use and fit the ladders to the fire truck. When he got the lighting mast to operate and actually emit light he might have been made town mayor.

On to Santa Rita, to inspect the under construction fire station. The station commander showed the team around the station and gave us a display of the fire truck operation.

From there the team was taken to Hernandias fire station to deliver B/A and cutting equipment training alfresco.

That same evening the team travelled to President Franco fire station where the team was quickly high-jacked into delivering a fire safety course at the University there. Following that we went back to the fire station where after B/A training and confined space equipment inspection and training the day finally concluded at around 12.30am with a meal on the station and a couple of medicinal cervesas.

Thursday 11.11.10

GJ & CG

A relaxing day which included a visit to the water falls at Iguazu on the Brazil, Argentina boarder, which should be the eighth wonder of the world. A long travel back to Asuncion; which left us off the road after experiencing Paraguayan overtaking first hand.

Friday 12.11.10

All team

The team attended the civil airport to inspect the two newly bought fire appliances from America at approximately £1M each. 'A breath taking contrast with the Bomberos who have to make do with what they have'. The second fire appliance bought was for resale to another airport.

Attended the military airbase in Asuncion to conduct B/A, fire fighting techniques on aircraft with the military personnel.

Saturday 13.11.10

All team

Approximately 30 Bomberos attended the training exercise at the military air base from three stations around Asuncion. The team split in order to deal with the numbers and to keep everyone occupied. One team dealt with confined space rescue, casualty assessment and handling including stretcher drills, while the other team dealt with fire fighting techniques on aircraft. The final exercise included casualty handling and fire fighting techniques.

The attendees were full of enthusiasm, but displayed a dire need for the standardisation of training as they perceive themselves as separate entities and knowledge is not shared between stations or indeed by individuals within each station. These facts were evident during any practical exercises where individuals were reluctant to make errors or work with Bomberos from other stations, each having their own methods of operation and techniques.



Sunday 14.11.10

All Team

Final luncheon at the Chaco hotel where gifts, awards and pleasantries were exchanged. The team left Paraguay at 6.30pm that evening to arrive home at 9.45pm Monday the 15.11.10.