



# Roanoke County Fire & Rescue Department News Release

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Roanoke County Fire & Rescue Promotes 11 Officers

*Promotions are to fill County's new station # 1 and Clearbrook Station after city agreement ends*

June 30, 2009 (ROANOKE COUNTY) -- Roanoke County Fire & Rescue Department held a Promotion Ceremony on Tuesday, June 30, 2009 to promote eleven personnel to officer rank.

Members of the Roanoke County Board of Supervisors, Roanoke County Administration, Chief Richard E. Burch, Jr., department personnel, and family members were in attendance to witness the official pinning of three captains and eight lieutenants. The officers then recited the department's official officer oath.

The promotions are to accommodate the County's new station that will open later this summer, along with the Clearbrook Station after the joint staffing agreement between the city and county ended today. The bulk of the promoted officers will fill the new North County Fire & Rescue Station #1, located near the corner of Hershberger and Plantation Roads, which is expected to be operational in late August and will house around-the-clock personnel. The remaining officers will fill the positions left vacant at the Clearbrook Station after the joint staffing agreement between the City of Roanoke and Roanoke County ended on June 30.

Listed below are the Officers who were promoted.

**Dean Peroulas** was promoted to the rank of Captain. Peroulas was hired in 1995 after serving as a volunteer firefighter for six years with the Hollins Volunteer Fire Company. Over the years, Peroulas has served at the County's Cave Spring, Hollins, Clearbrook, Back Creek, and Vinton stations, in addition to a stint in the Prevention Office. He currently serves on the department's Honor Guard and the Wildland Firefighting Team. He lives in Bonsack with his wife, Missy, and two daughters, Morgan and Mallory.



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**Randy Spence** was promoted to the rank of Captain. Spence was hired in 1985 after volunteering with the Fort Lewis Volunteer Fire Company for three years. Spence has served at the County's Cave Spring, Hollins, Clearbrook, Bent Mountain, and Masons Cove stations and most recently served in the Fire Marshal's Office as a Deputy Fire Marshal. While there, he was the President of the Southwest Virginia Fire Investigators Association and was a board member of the Virginia Fire Prevention Association. He lives in West Roanoke County with his wife, Donette, and two daughters, Kristen and Brittany.



**Regan Underwood** was promoted to the rank of Captain. Underwood was hired in 1997 as a Paramedic/Firefighter and promoted to Lieutenant in 2003. He has served at the County's Cave Spring, Mount Pleasant, Clearbrook, and Fort Lewis stations. Underwood is currently a member of the Wildland Firefighting Team and the Heavy Technical Rescue Team, and previously served as a Field Training Officer. Underwood lives in Floyd County with his wife, Angie, daughter, Caitlyn, and son, Logan.



**Don Altice** was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant. He was hired by the department in 1998 after volunteering with Vinton Volunteer Fire Company and Vinton Volunteer Rescue Squad for seven years. He has served at the County's Mount Pleasant, Clearbrook, Fort Lewis, Masons Cove and Vinton stations. Altice lives in Vinton with his wife, Denise, and two daughters, Grace and Natalie.



**Jonathan Blank** was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant. He was hired in 1999 after volunteering with the Hollis station for 6 years. Blank has served at the County's Cave Spring, Hollins, Clearbrook, Fort Lewis and Back Creek stations. He lives in North Roanoke County with his wife, Barbie, and five children ages 3, 5, 7, 7, and 9.



**Charlie Ferguson** was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant. Ferguson was hired in 2001 and has served at the County's Masons Cove and Back Creek stations. He is a member of the department's Heavy Technical Rescue Team. Ferguson lives in Franklin County with his wife, Wendy, and four month old son, Charlie the IV.



**Kevin Gresham** was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant. Gresham was hired to work full time for the County in 2000. He has served at the County's

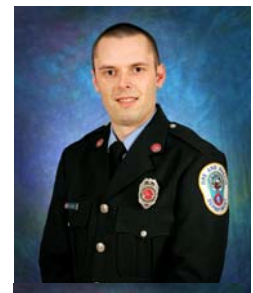


Mount Pleasant, Clearbrook and Masons Cove stations and will be assigned to the new North County Fire & Rescue Station # 1 when it opens in August. Gresham is a member of the Technical Rescue Team. He lives in Goodview with his wife, Kimberly, and daughter, Lenae.

**Riley McClure** was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant. McClure was hired by the department in 2001 and has served at the County's Cave Spring, Mount Pleasant and Fort Lewis stations along with a three year period in the training division. McClure is a member of the department's Heavy Technical Rescue Team and Honor Guard. He lives in Salem with his wife, Alitia, and two sons, Sean and Liam.



**Jason Patterson** was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant and was originally hired in 2001. Ferguson has served in the County's Mount Pleasant, Clearbrook, Masons Cove and Vinton stations. He is a member of the department's Wildland Firefighting Team and recently served as a Field Training Officer for three years. He lives in Franklin County with his wife, Laurie, daughter, Emily, and dog, Buddy.



**Mike Roth** was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant and was originally hired in 2003. He currently serves as the department's SCBA and ferno repair technician. Roth was a member of the Roanoke County U.S. Challenge Team for three years and is currently training for the Marine Corps Marathon, representing the International Association of Firefighters (IAFF). He is also involved with raising money and awareness for the IAFF Burn Foundation. He lives in North Roanoke County with his wife and two daughters. Roth will soon be assigned to the County's new North County Fire & Rescue Station #1 when it opens in August.



**Jeff Yopp** was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant. Yopp was hired in 1990 as a Paramedic/Firefighter after having served as a volunteer with the Bent Mountain Volunteer Rescue Squad and Bent Mountain Volunteer Fire Company for over seven years. He is a member of the department's Honor Guard. Yopp currently lives in Floyd County with his wife, two step sons, and foster baby-girl.



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