

Community effort helps preserve Air Force history

by Airman 1st Class Stephen Collier
49th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Team Holloman members presented a piece of Air Force history to the Louis F. Garland Fire Academy and military firefighter's heritage museum at Goodfellow Air Force Base, Texas, during a dedication ceremony Tuesday.

The 49th Civil Engineer Squadron fire and emergency services department recently completed a

restoration of one of its own – a 1958 O-6 Cardox fire crash truck. Holloman Fire Chief Mark Giuliano said restoring the crash truck was a testament to the ingenuity of firefighters everywhere.

While visiting a friend, Chief Giuliano passed the truck sitting behind a dusty cafe. Mr. Albert Tengefisch of Oro Grande, N.M., owner of the cafe, purchased the truck from the Holloman Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office after its decommissioning in the early 1970s. Chief Giuliano

wanted the truck back.

"I felt that such a unique piece of Air Force fire protection history should be on display at Goodfellow with other historical fire trucks," Chief Giuliano said. "It was suggested that we keep the truck here to put on display. But because we believe this is the only O-6 in existence, it needs to be where it can be honored."

The local Firefighter's Union 164 purchased the crash truck for \$500 after learning of Chief Giuliano's intentions to restore it.

The organization donated it to the Holloman fire department. Local businesses also donated more than \$1,500 for the restoration project, according to Mr. Gregory Bouten, Holloman firefighter.

"Alamogordo and its residents have always had a strong bond with Holloman," Mr. Bouten said. "We can't thank the local community enough for helping with this restoration."

B and B Auto Body shop stripped the truck to the metal and repainted it. Alamogordo Sherwin-Williams paint store donated primer and safety-red paint for the restoration.

Chief Giuliano said the truck held a nostalgic value for both present and future-day firefighters.

"I want both present and future Air Force firefighters to look at the truck and wonder what it was like to be a firefighter in the early day's of the Air Force," Chief Giuliano said. "I hope they appreciate how far we have progressed as a firefighting profession over the past 40 years."

The military firefighter's heritage museum lies between the fire academy and its dorms and has on display nine fire trucks along the academy's troop walk.



Mr. Larry Daniels (right) and Senior Airman Chris Mellot, members of the Holloman fire department, wash out the O-6 crash fire truck. The truck, found sitting behind an old cafe in Oro Grande, N.M., was infested with rodents and insects and filled with sand.



Members of the 49th Logistcs Readiness Squadron load the O-6 Cardox fire crash truck on the back of a flatbed trailer Sunday. The truck was transported the same day from Holloman to Goodfellow Air Force Base, Texas.



Local sign artist Mr. Russ Feldbush peels away wax paper attached to decals to be applied to a O-6 Cardox fire crash truck. The truck is being restored to its original specifications for display at the Lewis F. Garland fire musuem at Goodfellow Air Force Base, Texas.



Mr. Mark Ledford, 49th Civil Engineer Squadron firefighter, cleans and adjusts the left side spot light on a O-6 Cardox fire crash truck. The truck was restored by the men and women of Holloman's fire and emergency services department.

Photos by Airman 1st Class Stephen Collier