Paris Fire Brigade as part of the Army

Brig Gen Philippe BOUTINAUD,
Commander - Paris Fire Brigade

Zagreb, 12 May 2017
The French Fire Services

French fire services: 250,000 firefighters in France:

- 38,000 professional (15%) (Civilians)
- 200,000 volunteers (80%) (Civilians)

12,000 are military Firefighters:
- 8,500 in Paris (BSPP belonging to the Army)
- 2,000 in Marseille (Navy)
- 1,500 FORMISC (National reinforcements - Army)
The BSPP: specific position and status

DOUBLE SUBORDINATION

Ministry of interiors
PRÉFET DE POLICE
OF PARIS

Missions and Budget

Paris Fire Brigade

DEFENCE Administration

Military status and career

Since 1811
Civil or Military Firefighters: same missions

**Usual risk**
- Emergency aid (80%)
- Car accidents (5%)

**Critical risk:**
- Fire-fighting (3%)
- Gas leaks...

**Exceptional Risk:** CBRN, USAR, Research dogs, Scuba Divers, High risk intervention teams (Terrorism, Urban unrests, Pandemic, flooding...)

→ Same versatility of the French fire units
BUT THE STATUS IS DIFFERENT....

Military Firefighters (BSPP):
• Volunteers to serve and fit for military service in the Army
• Initial contract for 5 years, then renewed if capable and volunteer
• To be between 18 and 29 years old
• Starting as a volunteer to then be selected and promoted to NCO
• Possibility to pass an exam to become an officer (Military Academy)
• Age limits:
  ❖ For the volunteers: minimum 17 years of service to be retired with reduced pension, 19.5 years with full pension. Limit of service 27 years.
  ❖ For the NCO’s and officers the age limit is 59

• For the officers:
  ❖ first part of their career (LTN and CPT) at the BSPP
  ❖ Selection for the Joint staff College (Major)
  ❖ Several assignments in the Armed forces before promotion to Colonel (Ops Group Cder)
Civilian Firefighters:
- Each “Département” organizes its own exam and then recruits when they need.
- Initial contract for 1 year, then permanently appointed (local administration).
- Promotion by seniority or examination to become an officer (civilian officers’ school).
- They can be a member of Trade unions.
- Age limits: 65 years old.
BSPP’s area of responsibility

The BSPP’s AOR covers Paris and 123 municipalities + 2 external detachments: Biscarrosse (SW of France) and Kourou (French Guyana).

- Military status for classified activities

- Biscarrosse

- Kourou

- 92

- 75

- 93

- 94

- 40 km

- 35 km

- 800 Km2
- 7 Millions inhabitants + 2 M commuters/day
- 35 Millions tourists/year
- 25% of the French GDP
A MILITARY FIREFIGHTING UNIT FOR STRATEGIC MISSIONS

Since 1966, BSPP has been responsible for the fire protection of the DGA’s Missile Test Center in Biscarrosse (SW of France)
Since 1969, BSPP has been responsible for fire protection of the Guianese Spatial Centre for:

- Soyuz (Russia)
- Ariane 5 and soon 6 (European Space Agency)
- VEGA (Italy and France)
BEING A MILITARY UNIT MEANS....

- **Youth**: average age of the BSPP is 29 (25 in the Ops Coys)
- **Discipline**
- **Organization and planning**
- **State continuity, no strike!**
AS MILITARY, PARIS FIREFIGHTERS CAN BE DEPLOYED...

Mali

Niger

Lebanon

Kosovo
Suggestion of new equipment.... A Hearse!
Specialised Extraction Groups (GES) Military Mission for civilian purpose...

Exclusion Zone

Controlled zone

Support zone

Extraction corridor

Extreme urgencies

Relative urgencies

Tactical Command Posts

Hospital

Advanced medical post

Casualties Grouping point (PRV)

Extreme urgencies

Relative urgencies

Police officers

GES Chief

GES teams (firefighters)

Ambulances

Medical team BSPP

Extraction entrance PRV
Improved Equipment

- **First aid equipment**
  - Stretchers

- **Damage control kits**

- **New equipment**

  Damage Control bags with:
  - Tourniquets
  - Hemostatic dressings
  - Rescue blankets...