

Sacramento 2022:

Monday, Sept. 5, '22

The group meets at Brussels Airport to depart for San Francisco via Amsterdam

Our flights were scheduled to depart at 10:25 a.m. from Brussels to Amsterdam, there we had a slight delay.

Finally after departure in Amsterdam we arrived in San Francisco a little hour later than planned



Now on our way to immigration etc. and then towards rental cars and we can be on our way to our first hotel in Vacaville, where we will have a bite to eat after a little refreshment



Tuesday, September 6:

Today we are scheduled to visit HQ of the San Francisco Fire department where we will be welcomed by Chief Scotty, among others.

Most of us were up fairly early due to the 9-hour time difference, and were up early for continental breakfast at our hotel.



Since this meeting could not take place until 1 p.m., we still had the opportunity to buy some supplies at the local Target for our stay at the stations.

During this hot day of about 47 degrees Celsius (it turned out to be the hottest day since the early 1900s) we also went to Old Sacramento where we were thrown back in time.





After our shopping at the Target and the walk there was still time left for lunch , this was of course consumed at the Firehouse sub , these sandwich stores were founded by 2 firefighting brothers from Jacksonville Florida and are decorated based on the fire stations



Na deze ochtend zijn we gearriveerd op HQ voor het ontvangst aldaar, na een korte tour aldaar en de eerste verwelkomingen aldaar door de verschillende Chiefs werden de eerste geschenken overhandigd





After all the obligations, the layout was made for the stations and everyone was brought to their stations for commencement Ride Alongs

stations:

Station 17: Frederik Matthijss

Station 18: Pieter-Jan Suetens

Station 43: Steffi Dhont

Station 15: Mario Minnen

Station 2: Sander Doesburg

Station 4: Nelis van de Nest

Station 6: Jordy Minnen

Station 11: Jeroen wildeman

Station 16: Mario Colle

Wednesday, September 7:

Today there were 2 visits on the program

1st visit was the 911 Dispatch center of Sacramento, here we had the opportunity to take a look and listen how they handle their calls, this was an interesting and fun morning for all to be able to witness.



2nd visit on this again hot day was to the cannabis facility Center in Sacramento, here they legally produce various cannabis products , we were able to see all aspects of producing the many products that come out of this , what struck us was how much handwork is involved here .



Thursday, September 8:

Today there are again 2 visits planned:

1st visit today was a visit of a heavy drill training at a training location, here we could watch with Rescue 20 how they used hydraulic tools to move heavy equipment and rescue people at e.g. collapsed buildings

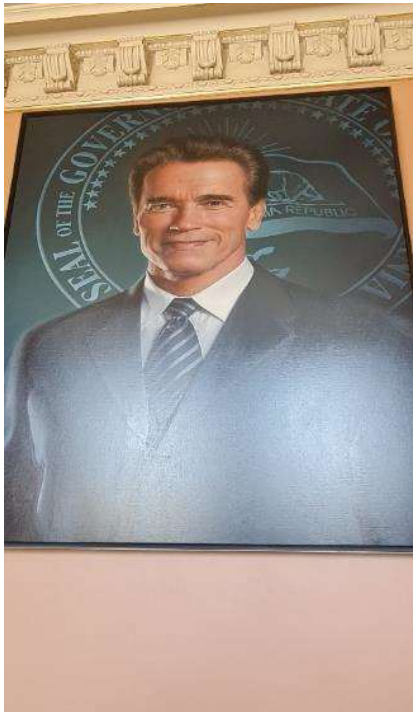


2nd visit was to the State Capitol of Sacramento.

Here we were received by the local State Trooper of the Capitol.

Here we got a private tour through and on Capitol, we came to places where normal people will never come , which still gives a unique touch to this stage .

We could also see one of the most famous Governor of California.



Friday, September 9:

This day originally nothing was planned but since we were competing in the stair climb on Sunday 9-11 it was made sure we had intervention clothes to compete here in the proper attire .

We were also all given an American firefighter helmet here which we all got to keep, so everyone was delighted with their so far finest acquisition.



Now it was time again to go to the stations for the ride alongs.

Saturday, September 10:

This free day was dedicated to a day visit to the city of San Francisco.

After an early warm departure from Sacramento we arrived in a chilly San Francisco, the first stop was at the lookout point where we should have a beautiful view of the Golden Gate bridge, unfortunately thick fog threw a spanner in the works and we saw nothing of the bridge.

After leaving this point we drove over the Golden Gate Bridge to the visitors center there , here we could buy some souvenirs and walk a bit over the bridge , fortunately the fog had lifted by now and we could see most of the bridge and Alcatraz and the city itself , after a short walk we went towards the Painted ladies , known from the series Full House .

After a short stop there we continued our way to Lombard Street , we drove down this winding road and stopped to take some more pictures.

After Lombard street we parked the car in the center and walked via China Town to the Fisherman's Warf, where we had a few hours of free time to spend on Pier 69 for a snack or drink and to buy many souvenirs.

After Fisherman's Warf we took a ride in the world famous cabletrain of San Francisco.

After this impressive day we headed back to Sacramento with a stop at an Outback Steakhouse for a small bite to eat and some time at the stations for the necessary interventions.



Sunday, September 11:

This day was all about the Memorial Stairclimb in Scaramento.

We had to get up early this day to report downtown at 0700 approximately for the climb .

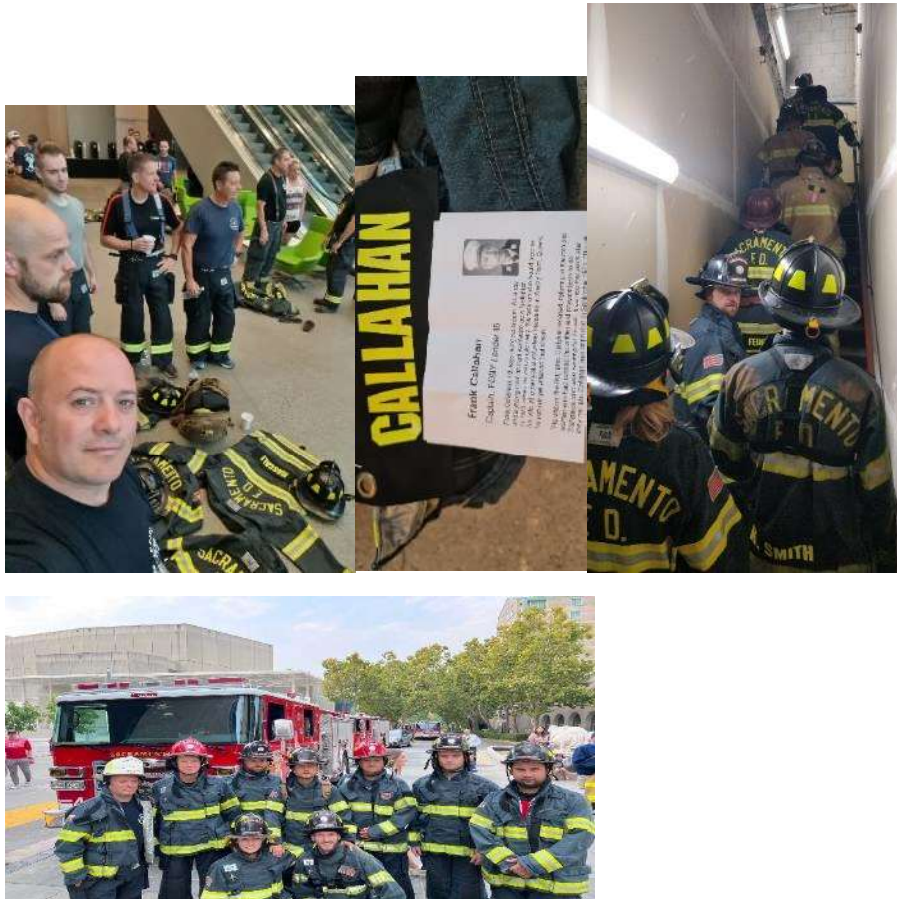
The climb is dedicated to all the fallen firefighters who died in New York on this 9-11 in 2001 .

We go up 110 stories today to honor those fallen , since the building being used is only 22 stories high the 5 x climb .

After an impressive gathering of all participants the names of all the fallen were put on the participants and the climb could begin , in column we went to the respective building for the start of the climb , for some it was a piece of cake but for others it was a day of suffering , in the end everyone got to the top and achieved their goal .

After the necessary tribute with hanging the carried name on a symbolic Twin Towers and the saluting and ringing of the bell was set course to the "Bank" where people came together for a snack and a drink.

There this day was concluded with the gathering of the participants .





Monday, September 12:

This day we had 2 visits planned.

After we picked everyone up from the stations to start the visits , it turned out that everyone was not walking so smoothly and almost everyone had sore calves from yesterday's climb (this would haunt us all week) .

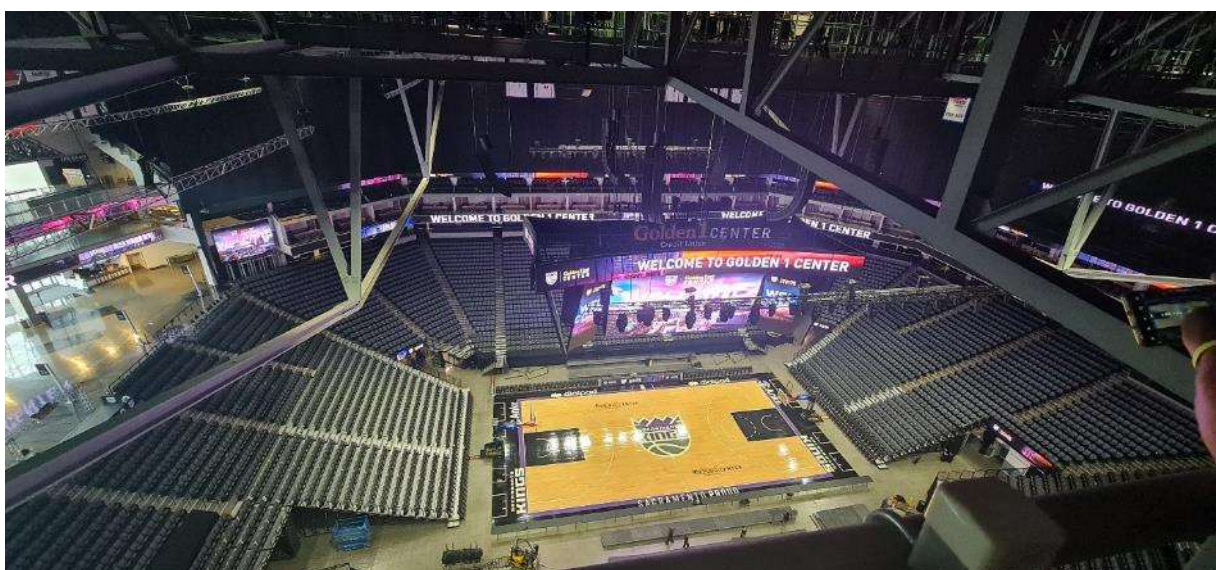
Our first visit was to the Evos drivers training facility , here all drivers of all vehicles of the Sacramento Fire Department get a driving training in order to react safely and responsibly to all kinds of situations .

After this short instruction on the basis of videos we were allowed to show our skills in the various vehicles, we were even allowed to show our driving skills on a wet track with the cars, which again led to the necessary hilarity.



After this visit we were expected down Town to visit the Golden 1 center , in this center the Sacramento Kings play their games .

We were given a grand tour of the stadium and again came to places that are not accessible to the normal spectator , this made an impressive impression on most of us.

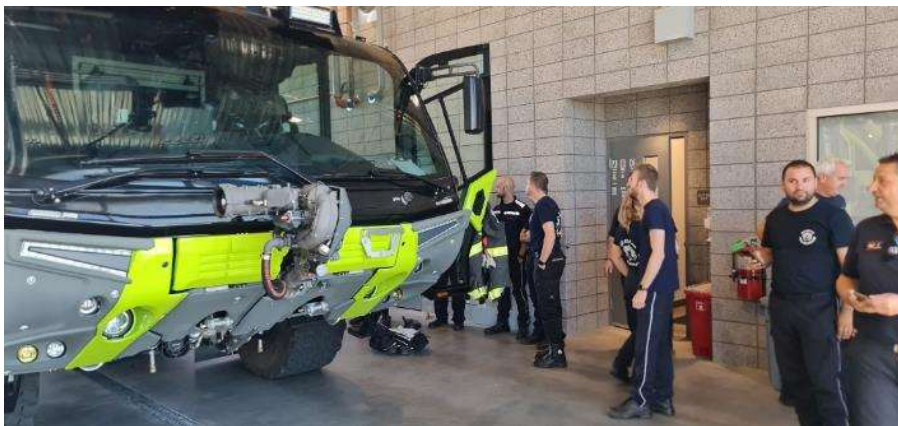


Tuesday, September 13:

Today we were scheduled to visit the fire department at Sacramento International Airport.

Once there, we were given a tour of their new facility.

After admiring their equipment and housing we got a small demonstration of their newest vehicle



After this visit we stopped for lunch in Downtown Sacramento where we were expected at HQ for the official farewell there.

After the necessary gifts we received, the new Fire Chief came to say hello and wished us a pleasant continuation of our 2nd week in the USA.

After these formalities, everyone went back to their stations to work one last night with their respective shifts and to get ready for the tourist part.

During this beautiful training week at the various stations we had the necessary interventions where mainly the medical interventions took the lead, for the most in our eyes incomprehensible situations the fire department was called, such as "I don't feel well" but also stabbings etc. where the most normal thing there, in addition we have fortunately also had various fires and emergency interventions.



Especially a big thank you to Ass. Chief Scott Williams for guiding us this entire week to all the activities



Wednesday 14-9-22:

Today we say goodbye to the Sacramento Firedepartment and start the tourist part of the stage , also today the 2nd stage supervisor Carl Fairstripes comes to support us during this week.

After everyone said goodbye to their stations we gathered at station 4 where we could return all our gear we had used for the stairclimb.

From here we start the tourist week and head to Yosemite for a visit and picnic there at Cathedral Beach picnic area.

On the way we stopped for a quick breakfast and of course groceries for the picnic.

Arriving in yosemite we enjoyed the natural beauty and the picnic .



From Yosemite it was toward Fresno for our first overnight stay

Thursday 15-9-22:

Today we were scheduled to drive towards LA .

Arriving at Venice beach the group was split up in a part that went to Venice beach and part went to Sante Monica Pier.

After everyone had done their shopping etc we gathered for a short drive through LA, first stop was Rodeo Drive and a stop at the Beverly Hills sign.

After this the drive continued to Mull Holland drive for a beautiful view of the city.

From here it was off to the hotel for our 2nd night.

After we had deposited our suitcases in our rooms it was time to explore Hollywood boulevard, after enjoying our first cocktail there it was time to eat at the Hardrock Cafe there.

Tomorrow the long drive towards Laughlin is scheduled.



Friday 16-09-22:

Up early again today to make our drive to Laughlin , on the way first a stop to have breakfast and a short stop at the local supermarket for snacks along the way.

On the way to Joshua Tree National Park disaster struck one of our cars , Carl's car got a flat tire.

After some time waiting for the car to be repaired, we decided to let one of the cars drive on in the direction of Joshua Tree park, after the first car left we got the message after half an hour that the tire was repaired and they were on their way.

After a nice drive through the Joshua Tree park it was time to drive to our hotel in laughlin and the group was completed again by the 2nd car, after checking into this hotel we had to take care of the inner man.

After consuming the necessary steaks and salads etc half went to the rooms and the other half went looking for some entertainment, it ended up bowling ... there were actually 34 bowling alleys in this hotel.

Tomorrow the drive to the Grand Canyon is on the program.



Saturday, 17-9-22:

Today the drive to the Grand Canyon is on the program.

After checking out and of course another light breakfast the first stop was in Oatman , this old western town is a unique location where you go back in time.

After some shopping and a nice western show it was time to drive to the Grand Canyon with a short stop in Seligman to fill up the cars.

After a long drive to the Canyon we stopped at several lookout points to take breathtaking pictures of this natural phenomenon.

After enjoying the sunset at this beautiful location it was time to head to our hotel in Williams.

After arriving at the hotel, we headed back to an eating establishment in this town.

This day ended tired and satisfied.

Tomorrow is the last drive to Las Vegas.



Sunday, 18-9-2022:

Today the trip continued towards Las Vegas .

The first stop was again Seligman, now there was more time to spend here, again the necessary shopping was done by most.

Afterwards we continued on the historic route of Route 66 towards Hackberry to enjoy this beautiful location.

Here again the necessary purchases and photos were made.

Also the inner man had to be taken care of and there was a stop in Kingman to enjoy the local specialties.

After everyone was tired and satisfied there was one more stop planned before Las Vegas and that was the Hoover Dam.



After a relatively short drive for us today we arrived in Vegas in the afternoon and it was time to check in , after we parked our car it turned out we were not the only ones wanting to check in it turned out to be a Football weekend of the local Las Vegas Raiders.....after about 1.5 hours of waiting we finally had our room keys .

After dropping off our bags etc we took the local bus the "Deuce" to Freemont street to enjoy the many performances etc there and of course have a bite to eat.

After this we headed back to the strip so that everyone could go their own way and enjoy the many activities this city has to offer.



After 2 full days in Vegas we could have written 8 A4 pages for this report of what we experienced, but we know what happens in Vegas Stay's in Vegas.

Tuesday 20-9-22:

Today it is time to say goodbye to both Las Vegas and the United States and get ready to head back to Respectively Holland and Belgium.

After a quick stop at the local fire station we returned the cars and got ready for the return flight.

After a flight of about 8 to 9 hours to Amsterdam where we said goodbye to Jeroen, the rest went on the last short flight to Brussels.

When we arrived in Brussels we said goodbye to the group and went home.

I think we can speak of a successful internship and hopefully we will see each other again on the next internship.

On behalf of the supervisors I would like to thank everyone for this great time.

Mario & Carl.

