

TAILBOARD

Year-End Edition

One single word – like EMERGENCY, or love –
can revise a whole night. A whole life.

Alen Graedon

TAILBOARD

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NOT HIS TIME

FERNANDINA MAN'S LIFE SAVED BY NCFR PERSONNEL



Dave Holland, patient whose life was saved by NCFR personnel after sudden cardiac arrest.

Shortly after lunch one afternoon, Trish Holland heard her husband snoring in the living room. Not believing her husband, Dave, had fallen asleep so quickly after lunch, she walked into the living room to find Mr. Holland sitting upright on the couch, eyes open, not responsive. Seconds later, Mrs. Holland noticed her husband had stopped breathing.

Mrs. Holland immediately dialed 9-1-1 and was connected with a dispatcher. The dispatcher asked Mrs. Holland the usual probing questions to determine what course of action should be taken to best meet the emergency. During the quick exchange, Mrs. Holland was advised by the dispatcher to move her husband to the floor and begin CPR.

Trying, but unable to move the over six foot tall Mr. Holland to the floor, Mrs. Holland put her husband on his back on the couch and began chest compressions. "The dispatcher was very professional," stated Mrs. Holland as she recalled being instructed by the dispatcher on how to perform CPR.

"The fire department was here in just a few minutes," Mrs. Holland recalled. The first unit to arrive on scene was E70, quickly followed by Chief 1, Chief 2, and Rescue 71. Nassau County Manager Mike Mullin was also present, as he was riding with the Fire Chiefs for the day. Rescue 70 was deep into territory at the time of dispatched, but arrived shortly after the other units.

"We found the patient on the couch and immediately moved him to the floor," recounts Lieutenant Sean Watts, "We then placed Lucas, a King Tube, IO, and the LifePack. The initial rhythm observed was V-fib." Lieutenant Watts went on to explain that the team was able to deliver one round of Epinephrine and one shock, which led to return of spontaneous circulation (ROSC).

Shortly after ROSC was achieved, Mr. Holland was loaded without incident into R71 and was transported to Baptist Medical Center Nassau. "They kept me calm and helped me gather medications for them to take to the hospital," recounts Mrs. Holland.

Shortly after arriving at the hospital, family members were told the prognosis was grim, however, Mr. Holland underwent therapeutic hypothermia and later regained consciousness. “A combination of the quick response of Fire Rescue and the hypothermia treatment got him back,” Mrs. Holland said.

When asked about his memory of the day’s events, Mr. Holland told us he couldn’t remember the day, but went on to say that doctors believe that atrial fibrillation (A-fib) and possibly a medication to treat the condition may have contributed to his cardiac arrest.

According to a Centers for Disease Control & Prevention study, Atrial fibrillation is responsible for more than 750,000 hospitalizations annually in the United States. They further report that A-fib contributes to an estimated 130,000 deaths annually.

During the interview with Mr. Holland, he raised questions about defibrillators, how they work, and for what conditions they are utilized, “Who makes the decision [to use it]?” Chief Roland explained that professional firefighters and paramedics receive training to recognize what types of heart rhythms exist and what treatments are appropriate. “We have all the equipment...that can help us diagnose what [rhythm] you’re in,” Chief Roland relayed, “So if you needed a shock, we can deliver it.”

At the time of the interview, Mr. Holland told us that he had on-going follow-up appointments with physicians to develop a long-term treatment plan.

This successful and positive outcome is one that the entire department should be proud of. Being able to speak with a patient whose life was saved by the very training, professionalism, and can-do attitude NCFR is known for was a remarkable experience. Hats off to everyone involved!

TRAGIC YULEE FIRE

Residence Fire Claims the Life of a Local Woman

Two days after Thanksgiving, on November 24, E30 and R30 had just left the County Jail for a medical call refusal, when they were dispatched to a structure fire on Kyle Frasier Rd. According to the dispatch information, light smoke was showing from the structure.

E30 was the first NCFR unit to arrive. NCSO deputy was already on scene. E30 Engineer Chris Arnold noticed light smoke coming out of the bravo-charlie side eve. “Neighbors stated there was someone still inside,” Arnold recalled. While the crew of R30 and E30 officer were quickly bunkering out, E30 laid out a primary attack line and placed it at the front door, where a NCSO deputy was standing- fire extinguisher in hand.

After realizing there was heavy smoke inside the structure, E30 engineer Chris Arnold advised the NCSO deputy that it was unsafe to enter. “I told him not to go into the house, because of the heavy smoke and he had no protective gear,” Arnold said.

R30 crew made their way to the front of the residence to begin a primary search while Arnold returned to the Engine to pull and lay out a secondary attack line. Upon returning to the front of the residence to drop the line, Arnold noticed the door was open and the deputy was dragging the resident out the front door with the help of R30 crew.

The patient was taken to the yard and was found to be pulseless and apneic. CPR was initiated immediately and the patient was placed on a stretcher and loaded into R70. R70 crew went to work, securing an airway, placing Lucas, and securing IO access. After resuscitative measures were underway, R70 went en route to UF Health Jacksonville. R70 crew achieved ROSC en route to the hospital, but unfortunately the patient later died at UF Health Jacksonville.

Because of the quick work of all units involved, the structure fire was contained to the kitchen, and the residence was saved. According to reports, the fire appears to have originated in the kitchen, on the stove. It is believed the patient fell asleep while cooking.

The crews are to be commended for their swift action to save this structure and for their noble attempt to save the life of their patient.

According to NFPA, for the period of 2012-2016, fire departments in the United States responded to approximately 172,100 residence structure fires that involved cooking equipment annually. These fires are responsible for 530 civilian fire deaths, nearly 5,300 civilian fire injuries, and \$1.1 billion in property damage.

A TAIL OF TWO KITTIES

It is a rare and rewarding experience when all of a firefighter's training is utilized in the form of saving a life (or lives) from the devastation of a structure fire. On a couple of consecutive "A" shifts, the crew of Rescue 30, comprised of Engineer Wes Gill and Firefighter Jeremy Staub, was able to do just that while responding to two separate structure fires.

In the early morning hours of September 16, a structure fire was toned out in District 71. Station 70's first due crews jumped into action as the tones continued to blare at approximately 01:12 for a report of flames showing with all occupants out of the house. E-70 arrived on scene and Battalion 1 ordered a water supply line from the nearest hydrant be placed into service. "We put 1,000 foot of 5 inch hose on the ground" recalls Lieutenant Patrick.

Lieutenant Patrick went on to state that Station 70 made the initial interior attack on a room and contents fire, quickly bringing the blaze under control.

As a standard practice, Rescue 30's crew began the primary search of the residents, even with reports of everyone out of the structure. As their training has so often taught them, Engineer Gill and Firefighter Staub made the initial search quickly and thoroughly and found a tiny animal amongst the fire and smoke-damaged residence.



Firefighter Jeremy Staub, left assists feline victim with specialized oxygen delivery system as Engineer Wes Gill, right, checks on the status of the small cat and his colleague.



Close-up of the specialized SurgiVet oxygen delivery system as it is employed to help one of the cats rescued from the blaze.

Rushing the animal quickly outside to safety, a specialized oxygen mask for animals was used to revive a small cat. With such a dire situation at hand and the chance for survival small, Theo, the cat was revived by the crew. “Station 70 did a great job with the fire and we were just working hard to do ours” Engineer Gill stated. While it is unclear how many of its nine lives the cat used, Engineer Gill and Firefighter Staub made sure Theo had some to spare.

But the story of Rescue 30 “A” shift’s heroics doesn’t end there. The very next “A” shift, another structure fire was dispatched, this time in District 30. The dispatch tones began to sound at 02:43 on September 19th and Station 30 arrived within six minutes of the dispatch time. Reports of fire through the front door were relayed by Battalion 1 to the incoming units and Station 30’s crew quickly brought the fire under control and began to search the structure.

Again, the initial dispatch report of everyone out of the structure was stated to the responding units, but still a quick and thorough primary search was conducted. In another outstanding effort, the crew of Wes Gill and Jeremy Staub found another cat, clinging to life. They rushed the cat to the specialized oxygen mask and began to revive the animal. This cat, Grace, was still struggling, but alive, when Animal Control was called to assist. Firefighter Staub stated, “It was just crazy that it happened in back-to-back shifts”.

With Firefighter Staub having specialized training in animal rescue, the citizens (even the little fury ones) can count on him and his crew for help in their time of need.

Article by Lieutenant Darron Ayscue

FIREFIGHTER SPOTLIGHT:

KYLE ADAMS



A man of few words, Firefighter Kyle Adams recently opened up about his time with Nassau County Fire Rescue. Kyle, a product of Nassau County's own West Nassau, has served in his role as firefighter at Station 40 "B" shift for two years.

In asking about where the desire to pursue a career as a firefighter began, Kyle didn't have to look far for inspiration. "My grandfather, Charles Lee, retired as a Captain with JFRD after 35 years and my uncle, Charlie Lee works there now". With that kind of bloodline, making the choice for a career in the fire service was an easy one and a choice that was decided before he graduated high school.

Kyle began classes for EMT school with Nassau County Fire Rescue's own Lieutenant Ken Barr at FSCJ while still enrolled at West Nassau. "From there I went to FSCJ for Firefighter and Camsen for Paramedic", Kyle stated. Kyle was soon a Firefighter/Paramedic and was hired by Nassau County Fire Rescue on October 26, 2016.

With two years under his belt, he was asked if the fire service was meeting his expectations. He responded by stating, "The fire service and department was everything I expected and prepared for and more". From the calls for service to the interaction with his crew and station he states emphatically "It's been all good; no complaints".

In the very little down-time that he and the crew have, Kyle enjoys a friendly game of ping pong with the other guys on the shift. While being brutally honest about who wins most the games he says "It's probably a tie between Engineer Davis, Engineer McAlee and myself".

Kyle has completed his classes to take the next promotional exam for Engineer but in the meantime has a home at Station 40 "B" shift. Feel free to stop by and say "hello" or maybe even challenge him to a friendly game of ping pong.

MUTUAL AID

Marine 20 Assists JFRD



Late afternoon on October 13th, the marine unit stationed at station 20 was called to respond by JFRD for mutual aid to assist with the search of a missing father and his son. At 16:42 Marine 20 was en route south on Heckscher Drive to meet units from JFRD, including marine units from JFRD station 40 to aid in the search of a man and his school aged child who had fallen into the water while fishing from the rocks of a nearby park off of Heckscher Drive.

Lieutenant David Lee and Engineer Greg Foote arrived at the Alimacani Boat Ramp with the 17.5 foot RHIB boat, powered by a 70 HP four stroke Suzuki outboard engine that was secured with grant money from Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation. After a quick briefing of their assignment the boat was launched and a search of the water around the point that the man and child were last scene was conducted. “We were assigned to do a grid search from the rocks to the bridge, looking for the missing persons”, stated Lieutenant Lee.

Using special marine equipment in the Simrad Go7 xse to search the river's bottom by using sonar, Lieutenant Lee and Engineer Foote searched feverishly for survivors. Although not being the first time using the equipment, this was a first for the crew in a real life situation involving missing persons. Multiple hours of training within the marine division and training with other marine agencies had prepared them for the challenges that lay ahead. Engineer Foote stated "The Simrad has a side scan that is helpful in searching larger areas in a grid search". The depths that were searched ranged from 4 foot to 8 foot and the search continued until it was suspended at approximately 19:30.

Marine 20 had to navigate from their location at Alimacani to Sister's Creek, also off of Hecksher Drive in order to safely retrieve the boat from the water due to tide and weather conditions. With the added dangers of nighttime operation, Marine 20 operated admirably when called upon in its first use.

Article by Lieutenant Darron Ayscue



ASPHALT BECOMES GLASS

Car vs. Electric Utility Pole

On September 24, 2018 Station 70 was toned to a single vehicle MVA in front of the ABC Liquor Store on SR 200. While there weren't any injuries, the sedan involved (a black Volkswagen) careened into a light pole at a moderate-to-high rate of speed, according to Station 70 personnel.

As a result of impact, the car received moderate to heavy frontal damage, and the electric pole was ripped from the ground, causing three high-voltage electric lines to lay across the eastbound side of SR 200.

With the help of NCSO, Station 70 was able to stop traffic, thereby preventing any potential injuries or damage to other vehicles traveling on SR 200.

"The three electric lines that came into contact with the road actually caused a portion of the asphalt to melt into glass," recalled Lieutenant Sean Watts.



Engine 70, left, blocks eastbound traffic on SR 200.

Electric utility pole seen on top of VW sedan, right.



NCFR ADDS NEW SUPPRESSION APPARATUS

TANKER 71

Nassau County Fire Rescue added a second tanker to the fleet on September 29th, with the apparatus and personnel placed at Station 70.

Tanker 40, on the west side of the county, has been in place for a few years but with the need for a consistent response from a portable water source on the east side, Tanker 71 was brought on to solve that problem. Currently, Tanker 71 is responding out of a spare tanker but the delivery of a new tanker is expected by early 2019.

New Tanker 71, while currently being outfitted, is an E-One single cab tanker equipped with a 3,000 gallon tank, a 1,000 gpm Hale pump and quick dump for fast deployment of water into a dump tank. It comes complete with wireless headsets, a new computer, back up camera and a slew of other state of the art features. Tanker 71 will provide a quick response with a much needed water supply to areas on the east side of the county that lack permanent water sources, such as hydrants.

Fire Chief Brady Rigdon stated, “Tanker 71 has already made a huge impact, not only on fire calls, but medical calls as well”. Along with being able to provide water at fires, the tanker will provide extra manpower on fire scenes and medical calls. Lieutenant Sean Watts has already seen the benefits of Tanker 71 on medical calls. “On multiple occasions, Tanker 71 has been able to respond with Rescue 70 or Rescue 71 to medical calls that have been toned simultaneously in district 70/71, allowing Engine 30 to stay available”, stated Lieutenant Watts.

While life safety is the priority, Tanker 71 has also made its impact on saving property. Lieutenant Matt Collins has seen the tanker become a huge resource on a recent fire in district 70. “Having enough water on scene immediately, we were able to contain the fire to a room and contents” says Lieutenant Collins. He goes on to say “There was danger of losing a vehicle that was close by but having the additional water, we were able to save that as well.”

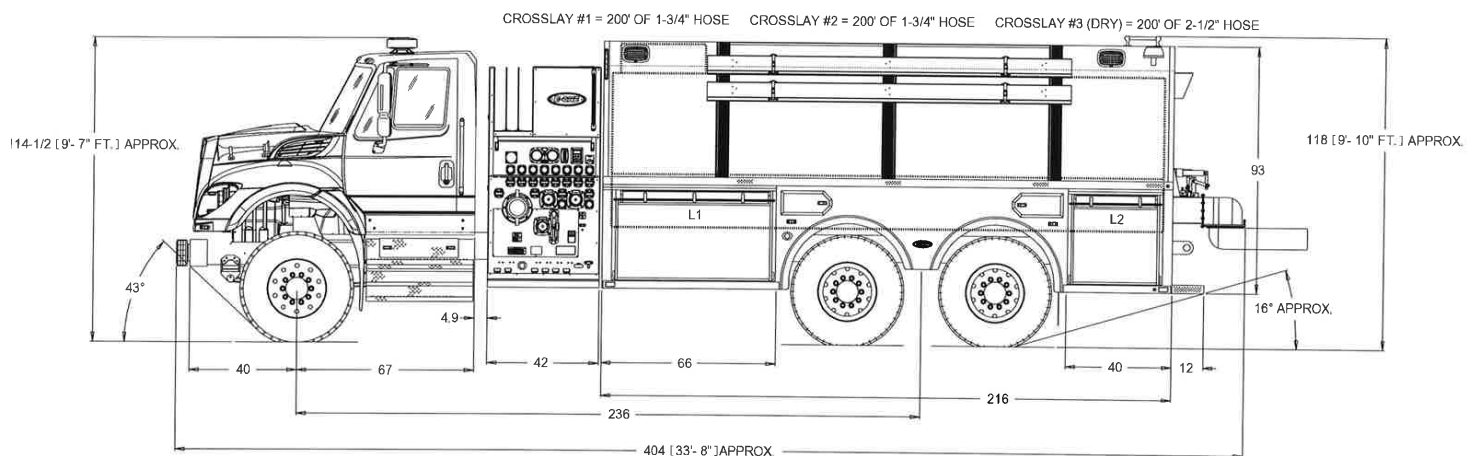
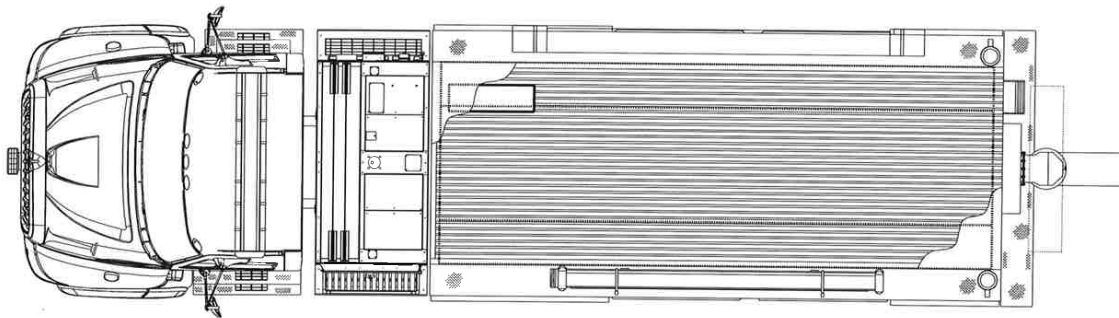
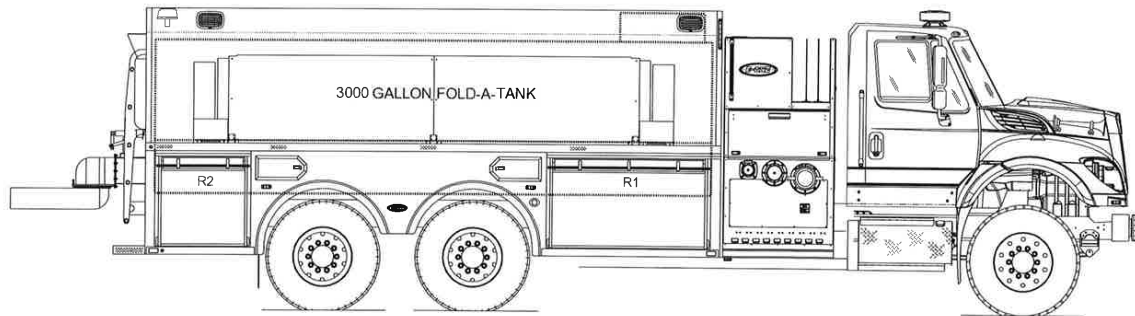
With the addition of Tanker 71, three firefighters were promoted to engineer. Congratulations to Engineer Chris Altman, Engineer Carl Nishiyama and Engineer Sean McKendree on their latest career advancement.



NEW TANKER 71 SPECS

New Tanker 71 is currently under construction and the department expects to take delivery in 2019. Here are a few specifications on the International chassis-based tanker, outfitted by E-One:

- + Cummins L9 Engine 380 HP
- + 3,000 gallon water tank
- + 1,000 GPM pump rating
- + Side-mount pump panel
- + Storage for 8 SCBA bottles
- + 4" rear direct tank-fill
- + 2 ea. 1.5" cross lay
- + 4 ea. 2.5" discharge
- + Hose bed cover



SHOT Red Dragon Mitigates Propane Leak

December 6, 2018, South 6th & Ash, City of Fernandina Beach, FL.

Construction personnel working outside a local bed & breakfast began to notice the smell of gas. The workers called for assistance and Fernandina Beach PD, Fernandina Beach Fire Rescue and NCFR Battalion 1 and NCFR Station 30 SHOT units soon arrived on scene. FPU arrived on scene ahead of NCFR SHOT.

It was discovered that an underground propane tank was leaking around its fill valve. In an apparent attempt to prevent residual leakage around the valve during a potential tank-to-tank transfer, it was determined the best course of action would be to burn off the propane from the leaking tank.

The immediate area was cordoned off and crews went to work. The NCFR SHOT Red Dragon was deployed, attached to the leaking propane tank, the pilot light tank was attached, the pilot was ignited, and the propane was burned off for the following 4 hours.

The incident resolved without incident and there were no reports of injuries or property damage.

Well done!

Below, Red Dragon in operation.



PROMOTIONS & NEW HIRES

The second half of 2018 has been a busy time at NCFR. We're proud to say the department has grown, and with that growth has come opportunities for advancement in the ranks as well as the opportunity to fill vacant positions.

Engineer to Lieutenant

James Graf, FS 70, October 18, 2018

Firefighter to Engineer

Chris Altman, FS 71, September 29, 2018

Sean McKendree, FS 71, September 29, 2018

Carl Nishiyama, FS 30, September 29, 2018

Chris Arnold, FS 30, October 20, 2018

New Firefighter Hires

FF Joshua Fitchett, FS 40A

FF David Kirk, FS 71C

FF Stephen Lawson, FS 30B

Congratulations to all!



BY THE NUMBERS

Run data from July 1, 2018 through December 13, 2018

2018	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC (YTD 12.13.18)
FIRE DISTRICT						
20	94	76	78	77	65	43
30	181	202	222	182	188	86
40	116	101	117	112	106	38
50	126	143	154	203	147	80
60	27	26	23	32	20	13
70	109	129	114	89	112	49
71	75	108	85	100	82	40
90	26	30	47	23	42	10

KEEP UP THE GREAT WORK

FROM THE FIRE CHIEF

Brady Rigdon

It's really hard to believe we're at the close of another year. Around this time each year I like to reflect on the days and months gone by, remembering the good times and bad, taking stock on all I've learned, and making plans for the future.

The end of a year is a time of imminent renewal...of new, exciting changes just on the horizon. Our department has accomplished much in 2018 and I'm proud of each member of the department for his or her role in making a positive difference in the lives of the citizens we serve as well as making our department one to be admired.

Sure, the last year hasn't been all great times...we've experienced challenges. I'm here to report that, together, we have met each challenge head-on and I believe our department is stronger as a result. We have added new suppression and rescue apparatus, we've hired many new firefighters, and have promoted many within our ranks. Our call volume has been increasing, and with it, the demand of meeting the needs of many people in our community. A lesser group of individuals may allow professionalism and courtesy to slip. Not our department. Not our team.

I'm so very proud of each member of our department for the collective spirit of unity, professionalism, and courtesy each of you show to those we serve...and to each other. No matter how many times those tones drop, you respond with kindness and empathy. Letters and phone calls are constantly coming in to headquarters commending the honorable job our department members do. As your Fire Chief, nothing makes me more proud.

As we all make plans to enjoy Christmas and New Year with our family and friends, I encourage each of you to take a moment and reflect on this past year. Remember the great work you've done, the friendships you've strengthened among your colleagues, and then look forward to 2019.

There is much coming next year, and I am looking forward to continuing to strengthen and modernize our department alongside each of you. Thank you for your tireless service and I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

MILBOBOARD

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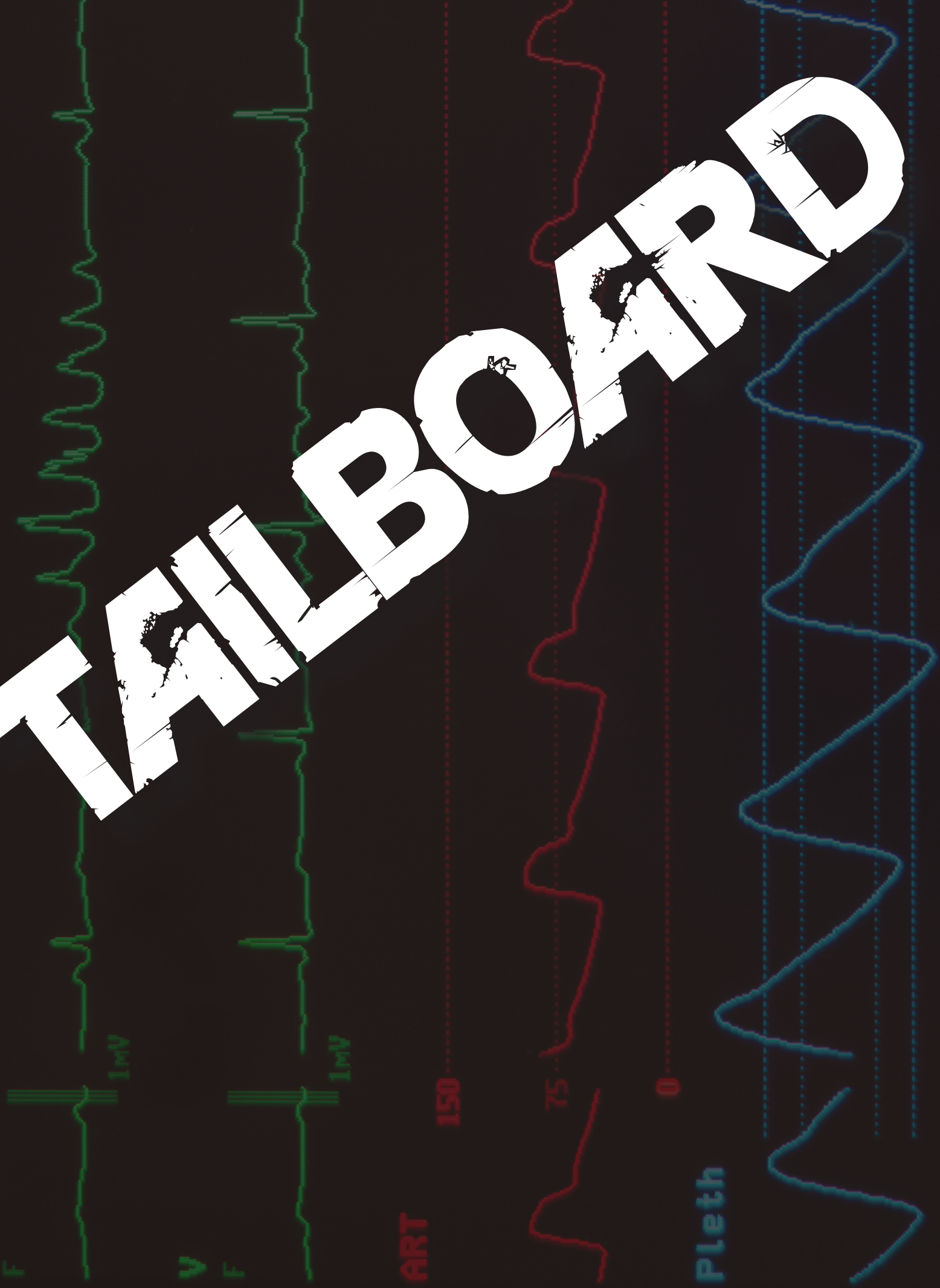
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TAILBOARD