



# THE REVIEW

Central Arizona Fire and Medical - 8603 E. Eastridge Dr., Prescott Valley, AZ 86314 – **March 5, 2021**

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*"You will face many defeats in your life, but never let yourself be defeated."*

Maya Angelou



**Scientists Predict Humans Will Simply Be Giant Rolling Balls Of Masks By 2024**



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## The Chief's Desk

Are you ready? No rush, I'll give you a minute to think.....

Oh, I'm sorry, you're probably wondering *what you should be ready for*. Allow me to rephrase the question slightly: Are you ready for life's challenges *and* opportunities?

Probably not a question you hear often, but one you should certainly consider regularly. I am currently reading Jason Redman's new book entitled *Overcome*. Some of you may recall I've referenced Jason's first book, *The Trident*, in a previous writing. Jason is a former Navy SEAL Officer who fell from grace, but through a long arduous personal battle fought his way back to acceptance within the teams. Unfortunately, he was subsequently caught in an ambush on the battlefield in which he suffered grievous injuries. Once again, he found himself in the midst of another long and arduous personal battle, only this time it was for his life. Today he is a respected author and speaker.

His new book focuses on the concept of life ambushes. In the military, when you or your unit is ambushed, the first thing you need to do is get off the X. He has adapted the concept to fit everyday life, i.e. when life takes a swing at you, get off the X and keep going. What does it mean to get off the X? It means move, make a decision, and execute.

Life is full of choices, opportunities, but is not without its challenges. It's a challenge to stay motivated to hit the gym every morning before work, but keeping your body in good shape aids in keeping your mind and spirit in good shape. Yes, getting up early is a challenge, but it's a simple mental hurdle to get over.

I believe everyone reading this can remember a time in your life when something happened that just took the wind out of your sails. As I think back on my life, I can recall multiple instances of feeling like I was gut punched. The interesting thing is that as I have "matured" over the years; I've come to realize that I played some role in every one of my life's ambushes. Life is about choices, that is for sure.

When I enlisted in the Air Force I signed up for a particular job. I was not what you would call a smart or mature teenager, but I had put a lot of thought into the job and how it fit my career plan. Not long after I arrived in San Antonio for basic training I was pulled aside and told I had to choose a job. After explaining that I had already been approved for a particular position, they informed me that that job required a two-year degree. That little bit of information would have been good to have months earlier when I enlisted. However, at that point the military owned me and I had no option. Ambush number one, at least as far as this example.

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### Upcoming Events:

March 8-12: Chief on Vacation  
Moab

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### Board Meetings:

March 22 Administration

CVFD – 1600-1630

CYFD – 1630-1700

CAFMA – 1700-1830

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## **A firefighter's guide to communicating via two-way portable radios**

By: Jim Spell

The two-way portable radio is an integral part of firefighting and operational safety. If there is ever a moment of equality in the fire service, it is when the microphone of a two-way radio is keyed. Critical information and important updates know no rank during an emergency. For this reason, all firefighters must be proficient in the use of a two-way portable radio.

### **RADIO TRANSMISSION CHALLENGES**

It's important to first acknowledge the difficult conditions under which you will be transmitting information over a two-way radio. Communications on the fireground are fast-paced and noisy. Firefighters are working with loud power saws and striking tools. The environment is smoky and restricts visibility. Add an SCBA and full PPE to adverse working conditions, and it's easy to see why there can be so many radio communications challenges.

Further, wireless radios are susceptible to interference from vehicle ignitions, electric motors, high-voltage transmission lines and computers, as well light sources, including LEDs, fluorescent lights and energy-efficient bulbs.

[firerescue1.com](http://firerescue1.com)

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## **Leadership: A Resource In Demand But Often Limited In Supply**

By: Vincent Burruano

While few would question the importance of leadership in any organization, it is often in short supply — despite the evident benefits. There are those who believe leadership is a trait you are born with, but many others who have studied leadership believe it to be a skill. You may have certain inherent attributes that make it easier to learn and master leadership, but it is still a skill that can be developed by anyone who is willing to put forth the necessary time and effort.

The question that occupies my thoughts is "What is the reason such a precious resource is in short supply?" Leaders are necessary to the health of any organization, and the future of that organization is ultimately dependent on attracting, retaining and developing leaders.

It occurred to me that a potential reason is that despite the talk about its importance, many organizations fail to take the necessary steps to develop a culture of leadership. It is not an accidental phenomenon. It must be a conscious decision to develop this type of culture and requires giving the resources necessary to truly identify and foster the development of leaders. I believe it is important for any company to develop a culture where future leaders can learn necessary skills.

In reading about leadership, I have found John Maxwell offers a great insight about "proximity." Leadership is taught and learned when someone has access to a good leader and is able to observe leadership in action. Leadership is not simply a theory, it is an art. Among the best ways to learn about leadership is to have a trusting relationship with a leader where your proximity to them allows you to observe, discuss and truly understand the skills in action.

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## **Chief's Desk Continued**

Like a good enlisted person I chose three other positions. The first was B-52 Tail Gunner which was hands down the next best thing to working in the public relations field I had pursued. My second choice was Firefighter, and my third choice was Air Traffic Controller. I was in my final security clearance for B-52 Tail Gunner when I was pulled out of the room and informed that my MOS had been pulled again. This time I was assigned as an Air Traffic Controller. For me, this was ambush number two, and I was furious.

As a 19 year-old immature kid, I reacted to the situation. Not immediately, but over the rest of my time in the Air Force. Granted, they had lied to me and upended my plan. Then they had redeemed themselves by promising me flight wings, a sidearm, and a giant cannon out the back of an airplane. Finally, they grounded me. I was unable to see or understand the opportunities that may lie ahead for me as an air traffic controller. Instead I sort of did what I was told and found myself in trouble from time to time. After a couple of injuries, the military and I parted ways.

Hindsight is certainly 20/20. I don't discuss my time in the military much, or even consider myself someone who served my country. Rather, when I look back at that time in my life, I see someone who squandered opportunity because I reacted to my situation.

Just to close the loop, I did plan to pursue air traffic control as a career when I left the military. I was accepted to the FAA school in 1992 just before the presidential election. This was the news Jen and I needed as a newly married couple with a baby and no other real job prospects. Unfortunately, the school was closed a few weeks after I received my letter as a result of federal budget cuts, which ended those career aspirations. Come to think of it, that was just another ambush. However, this time I didn't stay on the X. No, this time I moved as quickly as I could to seek an alternate career path. It's not that I was more mature, really I was more desperate to take care of my family. Sometimes it's the right motivation that moves a person.

There really wasn't a good way for me to prepare myself for the possibility that the military would upend my entire life's plan. However, I was not ready to deal with the reality that it could happen, and I certainly did not handle it well. That said, I would not go back and change anything. Why? Because if anything would have changed, I may not be where I am today. I would not trade my family or my time with CAFMA for anything.

It is important to understand that life is going to hurl things at you from time to time. Sometimes it will be a minor challenge and other times it may be a significant life challenge, e.g. major health scare, loss

of a job, loss of a loved one, divorce, etc. If we are honest with ourselves, many of the major challenges we face are of our own making. It's a bit like normalization of deviance, i.e. we take short cuts, or we do things we know are wrong only to be hit with a predictable surprise. So, first tip, start by making better life choices. A lesson I continue to learn.

Do your best to plan for the unexpected. When I was hired as an Assistant Chief at my last agency I was also in the process of completing my graduate program. For those not aware, you get your degree and the bill for your student loans about the same time. While you generally do not walk into a new job thinking about the possibility of losing your job, Jen and I felt it best for us to consider the possibility. At the time, we were taking a pay cut to accept the position and we had student loans coming due. While not our normal approach, we opted for the longest term loan to keep the payments at a level we felt would be sustainable should I find myself unemployed for some reason.

Seemingly a small thing, but that's what I mean by plan for the unexpected. Life doesn't always present you with challenges. Sometimes life will present you with amazing opportunities. The question is – are you ready? Have you prepared yourself to take advantage of an opportunity when presented? Part of being prepared is knowing what you want out of life and making sure you are putting forth the effort to achieve it.

I'll share one final personal life ambush story with you because it is the one that paved the way for me to be here. As most of you know, I was not happy with the direction my last agency was headed. It was clear to me that the values and ethics I hold true and the values and ethics that were being employed by the agency were diverging. Knowing me, you can rightly guess that I pushed back. Sometimes I had a good approach, and other times, probably not.

The culminating event for me happened in June of 2013 after returning from a vacation with my family. Full disclosure, I took part in two phone interviews during my time away. I might have "forgotten" to mention to Jen that I had applied for a couple jobs out of state... Again Jen, my apologies. I digress, my then fire chief called a meeting with staff. Without getting into too much detail, all of our titles were changed, however, mine was the only position impacted. After 8.5 years as the Operations Chief, I was told I would no longer be working in that capacity. Basically, I was being reassigned. Once I was able to regain my composure, I approached the chief and asked what I had done. His response was that I had not done anything, he was just trying to take some of the load off of me – by removing a majority of my responsibilities.

As you can imagine, I felt like I had been gut punched multiple times – it left me feeling physically ill. That afternoon I began looking for work outside the Fire Service. I was done and ready to give up the career I had worked so hard to develop. When I arrived home Jen asked me how the day had gone. I explained the situation and my concerns. She gave me a hug and said she now understood why I had been looking for another position. I told her about a consulting job I was considering that would require extensive travel. She reminded me that I did not want to travel that much to which I replied "Well, you don't want to move so there aren't a lot of options." What she said next lifted the weight off my shoulders and immediately moved me off the X, "You find another job, and I'll move."

I still believe that the events at work that day were not about me. You see, I understood where things were headed for me with that agency. To that end, I believe the events of that day happened because

Jen needed to clearly understand where things were headed. Her words took away the feeling of being gut punched and replaced the pain with a tremendous amount of hope and excitement for the future.

The next week Chino called and offered me the opportunity to interview out here with the caveat that the trip was at my expense. Jen agreed, I flew out, and the rest, as they say, is history.

Life will give you lemons sometimes. It's your job to turn them into lemonade, or margarita, whatever the case may be. The trick is to be prepared, or as prepared as you can be for both the good and the bad in life. If you can choose to respond, if you can get your mind right and own your part of whatever situation you face, then and only then, can you move forward.

So I'll close with the opening – Are you ready?