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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Division Chief Matthew Knott selected into 2016 Fire Service Executive Development Institute

ROCKFORD, IL - The International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC), www.iafc.org, announced that Division Chief Matthew Knott of the Rockford Fire Department has been accepted into the fourth year of the Fire Service Executive Development Institute (FSEDI). Division Chief Knott competed with new fire chiefs and chief officers from across the country to become a member of the 2016 cohort program. Along with being accepted into the program, Chief Knott has been awarded a scholarship, which covers the expenses for attending the program.

Knott is the Division Chief of Administration and Fire Prevention for the Rockford Fire Department in Rockford, Illinois. He is responsible for planning, budgeting, and administrative functions. He is also responsible for fire investigation, code enforcement, and all community risk reduction activities. Chief Knott holds a Bachelor's and Master's Degree from Northern Illinois University. He is a Certified Emergency Manager (CEM) by the International Association of Emergency Managers and an Illinois Professional Emergency Manager (IPEM). He also holds designations as a Chief Fire Officer (CFO), Chief Emergency Medical Services Officer (CEMSO), and Fire Marshal (FM) from the Center for Public Safety Excellence. He is also a Member of the Institution of Fire Engineers (MIFireE). He holds numerous fire service and law enforcement related certifications in special operations and incident management. He also serves on numerous local, state, and national level committees related to emergency response.

Motorola Solutions Foundation has once again provided the IAFC with a grant to fund the program. “Motorola Solutions Foundation recognizes how these challenging times require a new breed of leader to head our local fire departments and national fire service,” said Matt Blakely, executive director of Motorola Solutions Foundation. “We’re proud to help support the education of these leaders to ensure they have the skills necessary to meet these complex and emerging issues confronting our communities.”

The Fire Service Executive Development Institute is a year-long leadership-development program created and implemented by the IAFC to provide new and aspiring chiefs with the tools they need to have successful and productive tenures. The members of the cohort will meet in March for their first 6-day session in addition to two other sessions six months apart. The group will communicate between sessions using an online community.

“Thanks to the generosity of the Motorola Solutions Foundation and the success of the first three years of the program, the IAFC is proud to make the Fire Service Executive Development Institute available to another group of emerging leaders,” said Chief Rhoda Mae Kerr, IAFC president and chair of the board. “Many who have completed the program have been successful in obtaining fire chief positions and contributing to the fire and emergency service at the national level.”

About the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC)

The IAFC represents the leadership of firefighters and emergency responders worldwide. IAFC members are the world’s leading experts in firefighting, emergency medical services, terrorism response, hazardous materials spills, natural disasters, and public safety legislation. Since 1973, the IAFC has provided a forum for its members to exchange ideas, develop professionally and uncover the latest products and services available to first responders.

About Motorola Solutions Foundation

The Motorola Solutions Foundation is the charitable and philanthropic arm of Motorola Solutions. With employees located around the globe, Motorola Solutions seeks to give back to the communities where it operates. The company achieves this by making strategic grants, forging strong community partnerships and fostering innovation. The Motorola Solutions Foundation focuses its funding on public safety, disaster relief, employee giving and education, especially science, technology, engineering and math programming. For more information on Motorola Solutions corporate and foundation giving, visit <http://responsibility.motorolasolutions.com/>

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