



Berlin – Los Angeles 2022



Background and details to the Itinerary:

Visit of the Berlin Firefighters (Hight and Deep Rescue Team) on the occasion of the GRIMP™ North America on the Battleship USS IOWA

March 21 to March 27, 2022

The Berlin Hight and Deep Rescue Team joined national competitions every year since 2004. As they were looking for more opportunities to challenge themselves, they started to attend the international competitions in Belgium since 2009. From which they retrieved successfully with three wins in 2013, 2014 and 2017.

This year, it's their first time being selected as one of the twelve qualified teams to participate in the GRIMP challenge in the United States of America at March 24 to March 26, 2022.

GRIMP™ North America is an international rescue skills challenge hosted by CMC on the magnificent Battleship USS Iowa in Los Angeles, California. This event is designed to provide an opportunity for education and spirited competition surrounded by peers.

The goal is to foster learning and collaboration within the global rescue community, knowing that as teams work to sharpen their skills and response capabilities, rescues become safer and increasingly successful for everyone involved.

(For more details about the GRIMP™ North America: <https://www.cmcpro.com/grimp-details/>)

This international competition is a great chance to continue with our city partnership. We will visit various facilities of the LAFD and take the opportunity to exchange ideas and learn from each other on different levels, e.g. we will have a training with the special urban search and hight rescue team of LAFD.

In this context, the Berlin Fire Department wants to commemorate Tom LaBonge and his great work, efforts and contribution to the city partnership between Berlin and Los Angeles, so we shall never forget him. It was a personal wish of the Fire Chief Dr. Karsten Homrighausen to bring this to print with a commemorative plate to honor Tom LaBonge's work of over 20 years of cooperation.

In 2019, the Fire Chief Dr. Homrighausen gave Tom LaBonge a medal of the German Fire Union to pay tribute to him for all his support in the past years. As President of the Sister City Committee he was responsible for a living partnership between our amazing cities and has done a lot for the Berlin Fire Department. He opened the door for so many firefighters and police men to visit their facilities in Los Angeles.

And we will not forget Isaac Burks for his efforts, because he was always involved for the success of our journeys in all the past years. Tom LaBonge and Isaac Burks ultimately made it possible over the years that we were able to take an intensive look at the technology and structures of the LAFD.