



Voice OF V
The official voice of Region V



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April 2007

2007 NATIONAL DISASTER MEDICAL SYSTEM (NDMS) CONFERENCE
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE
March 17-21, 2007



The NDMS National Conference was held at the **Gaylord Opryland Resort and Convention Center in Nashville, Tennessee on March 17-21, 2007.**

The following were **Conference Goals**: to deliver an understanding of the health and medical requirements generated by disasters of any origin; provide access to authorities responsible for managing these requirements; afford opportunities for the delivery of education and the exchange of ideas necessary to the development of capabilities at the local, state, regional, national, and international levels.

Conference Objectives included: conveying the principles which underlie professional emergency health and medical service delivery; documenting the status of the profession as of 2006; encouraging participants to engage in continuing education, training, research, and information sharing, to enable further development of this Nation's lifesaving systems.

For those DMORT members who were unable to attend, the following is a brief recap of several featured programs.

Pre-Conference Courses:

Mass Fatality Response

*Speakers: David McBath, CEM
Chuck Smith, DMORT Region VI Deputy Commander
Jennie Thommen, FACT Commander*

The panel of speakers at this two-day pre-conference course discussed a wide range of subjects, pertaining to a Mass Fatality Incident (MFI): components of NIMS (National Incident Management System), benefits of ICS (Incident Command System), protocols of a MFI, steps required to respond to a MFI, the roles and responsibilities of key personnel, incident morgue requirements, federal resources, and victim support plans. This course enabled participants to describe the operational process and tasks involved in conducting a response to a MFI; understand the stresses, reactions, and stress management techniques utilized in a MFI; and evaluate the readiness of their agency and jurisdiction to execute these operations.

Advanced Disaster Medical Response

*Speakers: Susan Briggs, M.D.
Roy Alson, M.D.
Richard Weisman, M.D.
Conrad Salinas, M.D.
Jake Jacoby, M.D.*

This course was designed to train multidisciplinary medical response personnel in the basics of medical and public health disaster care, medical response to terrorism, weapons of mass destruction (such as radioactive agents, biological agents, and chemical agents), specific injuries (blast, crush), environmental considerations, and specific circumstances, such as mental health and the care of dead victims. An overview of Mass Casualty Incident (MCI) response, with emphasis on the basic elements of disaster medical response common to all disasters (search and rescue, triage and initial stabilization, definitive medical care and evacuation), was also thoroughly described.

Incident Response to Terrorist Bombings

*Speakers: Joe Doyle
Mark Potter*

This awareness course prepared emergency responders to react effectively during incidents of terrorism, involving energetic materials (explosives and incendiaries). The program covered the different types of terrorist groups and potential targets, defined

terms and concept associated with energetic materials, discussed common explosive materials and devices, and described safe and effective response procedures in various terrorist bomb scenarios.

Prevention and Response to Suicide Bomber

*Speakers: Joe Doyle
Mark Potter*

This course provided participants with sufficient knowledge of suicide bombings, so they can become a part of their agency's overall prevention, deterrence, mitigation, and response effort to this threat. The program reviewed the definition of suicide terrorism, information regarding the three types of suicide bombings, the nine phases of an attack, knowledge in identifying some of the common sources of counter-terrorist protective information, and guidance on recognizing pre-attack indicators. The session also identified pre- and post-blast personal protection issues.

Main Conference Courses:

Identification Tools and Techniques

Speaker: LTC Louis Finelli, D.O.

This presentation served as an introduction and overview on the use of DNA technology in the identification of deceased individuals. The session provided participants with an inside look at the various ways the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology (AFIP) along with the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory (AFDIL) identify deceased individuals. Dr. Finelli discussed the three main types of DNA (nuclear, mitochondrial, and Y-chromosome) and their uses. He also addressed the limitations in the use of DNA in the identification process, necessitating the integration of other investigative methods.

Emergency Support Function (ESF) #6: How Do Mass Care, Housing, and Human Services Relate to the Work of NDMS and ESF #8 Public Health and Medical Services?

*Speakers: Dan Dodgen, Ph.D.
Carol Hall
CAPT Clare Helminiak, M.D.*

Following the experiences with Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, it was evident that better coordination was needed between the operations of NDMS and the American Red Cross under Emergency Support Function #6 (Mass Care, Housing, and Human Services) and

Emergency Support Function #8 (Health and Medical Services). This program explored the current concept of operations for each, as well as the outstanding challenges towards collaborating among them. The American Red Cross addressed its role for coordinating mass care under ESF #6 and its support for ESF #8. There was also a discussion on how NDMS can and will be utilized by ESFs #6 and #8.

Using NDMS/ESF #8/NRP in Response to a Major Earthquake

*Speakers: LCDR Timothy Davis, M.D., M.P.H.
Ann Norwood, M.D.
Jeffrey Rubin
Doug Sandy*

This presentation was a panel discussion on patient evacuation and movement in response to a major earthquake. The roles and responsibilities of NDMS, HHS, DOD, and the VA were explained, including coordination of information, deployment of personnel, disclosure of transportation/flight plans, and identification of staging areas for the evacuated people who are enroute to designated treatment facilities. The involvement of other primary and support agencies within the National Response Plan, including the effected State as a customer of these response services, was addressed.

Building a Portable Morgue for Your Municipality

Speaker: Larry Bedore, Region IV Member

This session explored the opportunity to create a portable morgue unit. The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner in New York City has successfully accomplished this. It contains specialized equipment and supplies similar to the DMORT DPMU, but on a somewhat smaller level. This unique asset will be available for local municipalities and will hopefully fill the gap between local response abilities and those on a Government level.

Field Hazards for Response Teams

*Speakers: Michael Olinger, M.D.
Dean Tillis, P.E.*

The field environment presents specific hazards to response teams, regardless of the type of hazard impact. Environmental as well as health hazards (PPE and food safety) were discussed in the context of response team deployment. In addition, specific material, related to structural collapse, was presented to allow the response team members to “size up” an impacted structure for its potential hazards. Team design was described, including rescue squad, structural engineers, communications, equipment, and medical

components. This presentation reviewed the lessons learned regarding common threats to responder's health and welfare from actual Urban Search and Recovery (US & R) responses to several national disasters.

Pandemic Flu Mass Fatality Planning

Speaker: Barry McLellan, M.D.

This session detailed Mass Fatality Planning in the event of a Pandemic event in Ontario and Canada. Similar in structure to the NDMS DPMU, the Ontario Government has in place supplies and equipment at the Toronto Airport. This session was an opportunity to compare both sets of equipment and learn about our neighbors to the North and how their plan deals with this potential threatening event.

Fatality Management: Working Towards Best Practice

*Speakers: Larry Bedore, Region IV Member
Ann Norwood, M.D.*

A work group of local, state, and federal experts in Mass Fatalities and law enforcement investigation operations have been revising the DHS Target Capability Lists (TCL) for Fatality Management and Law Enforcement Investigations, including the Family Assistance Center, missing persons operations, and ante mortem data collection. Members are also working on an annex to the National Response Plan to improve preparedness and response activities for all incidents. The presentation updated participants on progress and solicited input to the progress. The Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP) can be accessed via <http://hseep.dhs.gov>

The Morgue at Dover

Speaker: CMDR Craig Mallak, M.D.

This presentation focused on the New Morgue Facility at the Dover Air Base. Items of interest included the state-of-the-art equipment within the facility and the attention to detail maintained by all of the staff. The care and handling of the deceased is certainly paramount. In the last few years, all the war dead from Iraq and Afghanistan have been processed here. The process is fascinating and pride-building, as our uniformed men and women are prepared for burial by men and women who deliver the utmost of care to their bodies and by extension, the families at home.

DMORT Team Meeting

During the conference, a DMORT Team Meeting was held with representation from all ten DMORT teams, WMD, DPMU, and FACT. Leadership informed the team that DMORT is continuing to adjust to the transition between FEMA and DHHS. A transition team has already met and discussed some of the anticipated issues, which they plan on addressing before the actual transfer occurs.

2007 NDMS CONFERENCE AWARDS CEREMONY Nashville, Tennessee

“On behalf of the partners of the National Disaster Medical System (NDMS), the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Defense, the Department of Health and Human Services, and the Department of Veterans Affairs, I wish to extend our sincere appreciation to all of you for your outstanding dedication and hard work during the extraordinary events that have taken place during the last year. Through you, we are able to fulfill our mission to serve our Nation’s citizens in times of extraordinary need. I look forward to our continued partnership as we face whatever challenges lie ahead.”

*Jack W. Beall
Director
National Disaster Medical System*

CONGRATULATIONS

The **2007 NDMS Conference Awards Ceremony** was held in Nashville on March 18, 2007. The following DMORT members were honored with the **2006 NDMS Response Team Distinguished Member of the Year Award:**

DMORT I	Patricia Soucie
DMORT II	Kathleen Costigan
DMORT III	John Ingle
DMORT IV	Joseph Baldwin
DMORT V	Leslie Eisenberg, Ph.D.
DMORT VI	Glenn Billings
DMORT VII	John Frasco, D.D.S.
DMORT VIII	Mike Nathe
DMORT IX	Elverne Tonn
DMORT X	Deon Strommer
DMORT WMD	Leonard Parker
DMORT DPMU	Robert Shank, Jr.
DMORT FACT	Donald Bloom



Jan Simons congratulates Bob Shank, Jr.

DMORT Regions were also recognized at the awards ceremony for their participation in these events:

Comair 5191 Plane Crash, September 2005 DMORT X, DMORT DPMU,
DMORT FACT

Tropical Storm Ernesto, September 2006 DMORT III, DMORT IV, DMORT VI,
DMORT WMD

Congratulations to all of the recipients and anyone else who was recognized at this event!



Region V Leadership Team

***Jan Simons, Jim Adams, Sue Atwood, Mark Haskins, Frank Saul, Brad Targhetta,
and David Hunt***



Region V team members at the NDMS Conference



Our fearless leader, Dr. Frank Saul, and loyal body guards - Mark Haskins and Brad Targhetta



Region V team members convened for a short group meeting during the NDMS Conference.



“The Kids Club”: Frank Saul, Julie Saul, Sue Atwood, Brad Targhetta, and David Hunt



Region V team members socialize after a full day of meetings

CONDOLENCES

Region V would like to express its deepest sympathy to **Jim “Smokey” Weldy** of Havana, Illinois (former Region V Member, current DMORT DPMU Member) for the loss of his mother – Jean E. Weldy – on April 9, 2007 in Bloomington, Illinois.

The Weldy family will be in our thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

If anyone would like to personally send a note of condolence to Jim, please send it to:

Jim and Terri Weldy
18347 E Cr 1700 N
Havana, Illinois 62644