



# Voice OF V

*The official voice of Region V*



**EDITORS: SHEILA HALL AND TERRY SWANSON**

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## **LEARNING MORE ABOUT OUR TEAM MEMBERS**

### **CAROLINE CALIGURI**



**Caroline Caliguri** is an Ohio licensed Funeral Director and Embalmer. She also maintains an Ohio Life, Accident & Health, and Variable Life Annuity License. Along with her professional capabilities, Caroline is an experienced businesswoman: she and her husband own and operate a flooring company in Cleves, Ohio called “*Carpets From Georgia.*”

Mrs. Caliguri received her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Anthropology, graduating *Magna Cum Laude*, from Ohio State University. She continued with her education by earning her Associate of Applied Science Degree in Mortuary Science from Cincinnati College of Mortuary Science.

Since 1998, Caroline has been an active member of The Ohio Funeral Directors Association’s Mortuary Response Team (OFDA MRT) – she has attended numerous trainings and has assisted the organization at their drills, presentations, and conventions. She is also a member of the Ohio Funeral Directors Association, as well as the Cincinnati Firefighter’s Auxiliary.

Influenced by her close affiliation with the OFDA MRT, Caroline joined DMORT V in 2000. Since that time, she has been deployed several times: The World Trade Center

Tragedy (New York 2001); American Airlines Flight 587 Crash (New York 2001); and Hurricane Katrina (Gulfport, Mississippi 2005). During these deployments, she worked in the Morgue and the Family Assistance Center, performing various tasks, including Victim Identification Profile (VIP) ante-mortem data entry. Caroline's "people skills" are derived from a background in mortuary science and customer service in various sales and service-oriented professions.

Caroline and her husband – Nick, a Cincinnati Fire Lieutenant - have been married for ten years. They reside in Cleves with their son - Victor Michael (2 years) and their dog - Guinness. When she finds leisure time from the family business and her energetic 2-year-old, Caroline enjoys traveling, gardening, yoga, and attending Ohio State University football games.

DMORT V is beaming "wall-to-wall" with Caroline as our team member!

### **2006 NDMS ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

The NDMS National Conference was held in **Reno, Nevada on April 22-26, 2006.**

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 the DMORT portion of the program.

### **Pre-Conference Course:**

#### **Mass Fatalities Train the Trainer, Disaster Mortuary Operational Response Team**

*Speakers: Todd Ellis, DMORT Region VI Commander  
David McBath, DMORT Region II  
Chuck Smith, DMORT Region VI Deputy Commander  
Cotton Howell, DMORT Region IV Commander  
Jennie Thommen, DMORT FAC 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), characteristics 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.

### **Conference Courses:**

#### **General Session, Emergency Support Function #8 / National Disaster Medical System: Response to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita**

*Speakers: Arnie Bierenbaum, Department of Veterans Affairs; Carol Hall, American Red Cross; CAPT Andrew Stevermer, USPHS, ARNP; CDR Mick Core, USPHS*

Representatives from the Department(s) of Defense, Health and Human Services, Homeland Security, Veterans Affairs, and the American Red Cross shared their individual agency perspectives and discussed interagency operations during two of the most historic natural disasters in United States history - Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

#### **DMORT Adapts to Intolerable Circumstances - Katrina: The First 72 Hours**

*Speaker: Doug McKown, F-ABMDI, DMORT Region IV*

During the 2005 hurricane season, unprecedented death and destruction occurred in the Gulf Coast. Two major hurricanes and levee failures produced never before seen

destruction and mass fatalities to two areas, which were only seventy miles apart. Doug McKown explained the various ways in which the responders were housed in the austere conditions in Mississippi during the initial stages of the deployment. He discussed the many ways in which team members came together as a functioning unit, in order to not only complete the mission, but also to survive in conditions that no one had anticipated. He defined and discussed the term “survivor mentality.” Mr. McKown also demonstrated how local infrastructure might not be able to support responders during mass fatality incidents and possible ways to overcome this obstacle.

### **General Session, Pandemic Flu: Planning and Responding to a Worldwide Threat**

*Speakers: Howard Backer, MD, MPH; Gary Osman, MD, MPH;  
Benjamin Schwartz, MD*

This presentation described the pandemic influenza threat, highlighting the H5NI avian influenza situation. It explained the potential impacts of a pandemic threat, summarized critical response activities, and reviewed the planning and preparedness activities that will increase the effectiveness of a response at the local, state, and Federal levels.

### **Where It All Comes Together: Information Resources**

*Speakers: Donald Bloom, DMORT FAC Deputy Commander  
David Hunt, DMORT Region V Training Officer  
Brad Targhetta, DMORT Region V Deputy Commander*

The management of fatality-related data is critical to the successful outcome of a mass fatality operation. A shortage of qualified personnel for this job was apparent during the 2005 hurricane responses. This session utilized the Disaster Portable Morgue Unit (DPMU) Information Resources equipment to provide an active, hands-on exercise designed for those DMORT people who have a basic knowledge of computer data entry. After a period of instruction, attendees were presented with a mock set of ante and post mortem data and were tasked with entering that data into the VIP program. The VIP program was updated to FileMaker 8 during the last deployment. There was a review of the new sign-in, password features, time stamping, record locking, and an overview of the types of reports generated during deployment. The standard operating procedures for working with the VIP program in the Information Resources section were discussed. This exercise gave attendees a basic understanding of how to create new records and search for identifying characteristics.

## **From Ordinary to Extraordinary: DMORT Workers**

*Speaker: Denise Bulling, MA, LPC*

Work at a disaster is grueling, as all NDMS personnel know. There are long hours, shortages, inconveniences, and lack of sleep. DMORT members have selected themselves for a job that not many people can or are willing to do - work with human remains. Exposure to traumatic death is significantly related to later symptoms of intrusion and avoidance. In this presentation, Denise Bulling described what could be done about the emotional and psychological risks associated with this work. She also addressed the things that can be done before the workers leave the job and after they get home that will mitigate the stress effects. This session discussed the DMORT member, the unique stressors they encounter, and ways in which their organization, family, and friends can help reduce the stress response.

## **Hurricane Deployment Overview**

*Speaker: Chuck Smith, DMORT Region VI Deputy Commander*

This presentation encompassed the DMORT response to the largest natural disaster in United States history from a mortuary standpoint. Hurricane Katrina devastated the Gulf Coast on August 27, 2005 and was responsible for over 1,100 deaths. On September 24, 2005, Hurricane Rita devastated Southwestern Louisiana and caused the disinterment of hundreds of previously buried human remains. The total disinterred from both storms exceeded 1,300 bodies.

Mr. Smith discussed in detail the West Morgue Operations. The three components of the 2005 DMORT response were Forward Operations, FAC-FENCE, and Morgue Operations at both St. Gabriel and Carville. He expounded in greater detail the statistics of these missions. The difficulties of these missions were discussed, such as the lack of businesses, hotels, food, water, and amenities. Problems in New Orleans and the difficulties encountered with removing remains from the swamps and marshes were discussed. As of April 25, 2006, there are 66 bodies that are still unidentified.

## **An Update on Coordination of the Federal Mass Fatality Response**

*Speaker: Dale Downey, DMORT WMD Commander  
Ann Norwood, MD*

A work group of local, state, and Federal experts in mass fatalities participated in the revision of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Target Capability List (TCL)

for Fatality Management. A Federal-level Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Emergency Support Function #8 subgroup was formed to examine mass fatality issues. Federal-level government and association stakeholders in fatality management are working together to improve Federal preparedness and response activities across all incidents, e.g. crime/terrorism (FBI), transportation accidents (NTSB), and natural disasters (HHS/DHS and the NDMS Disaster Mortuary Operational Response Teams). As work progresses, there will be greater involvement from state and local stakeholders. This presentation updated participants on the progress of this process.

### **DMORT Team Meeting**



All ten DMORT regions, the DPMU team, the DMORT Family Assistance Core Group (FACG), and the WMD team were represented at a DMORT Team Meeting, during the NDMS Conference in Reno, Nevada. Changes in DMORT, training requirements, team funding, and team member responsibilities were among the topics discussed.

**DPMU-** The DPMU is now a **Stand Alone Team**.

**Shannon Dotson** is the new DPMU Commander.

The DPMU team will increase team membership to 25 by June 2006; there are currently 6 members.

**FACG-** The **FACG** Is now a **Stand Alone Team**. There are currently 25 team members.

New leadership positions: Commander- **Jennie Thommen**

Deputy Commander- **Don Bloom**

Administrative Officer- **Arbie Going**

Training Office- **Warren Tewes**

**WMD -** The **WMD** team is a **Stand Alone Team**.

**Note:** The “Stand Alone Teams” are still part of DMORT

**Search and Recovery Teams -** There will be a 25-person Search and Recovery Team on each regional team. They will have specialized training and equipment.

**Region I -** New Administrative Officer: **Robert Plante**

**Region IX-** New Training Officer: TBA

**Cotton Howell** (Region IV Commander) addressed team members on the issue of “self deployment.” The proper channels for deployment **must** be followed following a mass fatality incident. This involves keeping in touch with your Administrative Officer and Team Commander regarding your dates of availability. Self-deployment will **not** be tolerated.

**Buddy Bell** (Program Manager for DMORT) answered DMORT related questions, including training requirements and team member responsibilities.

**Jack Beall** (Chief, NDMS Section) discussed DMORT team funding and distribution.

**2006 NDMS ANNUAL CONFERENCE AWARDS**  
**Reno, Nevada**

*“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*  
*Chief*  
*National Disaster Medical System Section*



## CONGRATULATIONS

The **2006 NDMS Conference Awards Ceremony** was held in Reno on April 23, 2006.  
The following DMORT members were honored with the **NDMS Response Team Distinguished Member of the Year Award**:

DMORT I	James Mockler
DMORT II	John "Cliff" Oldfield
DMORT III	John M. Carson, D.D.S.
DMORT IV	Bobby Wyatt
DMORT V	<b>David Hunt</b>
DMORT VI	David Hawthorne
DMORT VII	James M. Fullerton
DMORT VIII	Jeffrey Andrew Zealley
DMORT IX	James J. Cullen
DMORT X	Frank Sebastian
DMORT WMD	Douglas Nobles
DMORT DPMU	<b>Michael Gedert</b>
DMORT FAC	Warren Tewes



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

**TOPOFF III, April 2005**

DMORT II, IV, WMD

**Hurricane Katrina, August 2005**

DMORT I, II, III, IV, V, VI, VII, VIII, IX,  
X, DPMU, WMD, FAC

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

## 2007 NDMS ANNUAL CONFERENCE

**Location and date: TBA**

**Scott Smith** (Region II Training Officer) will be the new DMORT Program Director for the Annual NDMS Conferences. He succeeds **Duane Bigoni** (Region X Commander) who had held this position for several years.

## **REGION V ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The DPMU, FAC and WMD specialty teams have now become stand-alone teams and dual membership with Regional teams is no longer possible.

It is with mixed sadness and pride that we announce the following shifts in membership:

**Shannon Dotson** has become the Commander of the DPMU Team and **Bob Shank, Jr.** (our longtime Deputy Commander) will serve as the DPMU Deputy Commander. Joining them on the DPMU Team are **Bob "Bubba" Stevens** (our founding DMART proprietor), **Mike Gedert** (our Training Officer/Assistant Training Officer), **Scott Davis** (our Logistics Officer), and **Jim "Smokey" Weldy**.

**Don Bloom** (the inventor of VIP) has become the Deputy Commander of the FAC; **Todd Grisier** and **Anthony Qualiero, Jr.** will join him.

**Roger Lunt, Howard Cooper, Tom Stachowicz, and Gerrit Bunschoten** have moved to the WMD team.

All of the above have played major roles in creating the Region V Team and DMORT itself as we know and appreciate it today. They shall be greatly missed individually and personally, but we suspect that their greatest contributions are yet to come as DMORT and NDMS continue to learn from our past missions and plan for the future.

Fortunately, Region V has many talented team members.

**Dave Hunt** will fill the Deputy Commander's position vacated by Bob Shank, Jr.

**Eric Larson** will fill the Logistics Officer's position vacated by Scott Davis (who will actually serve as the DPMU POC for Region V in addition to his other DPMU responsibilities).

**Jan Simons** will become our new Training Officer, filling the TO position vacated by Dave Hunt.

**Dr. Jim Adams** has volunteered to assume some of Bubba's DMART activities - stay tuned.

## **HOUSEKEEPING CORNER**

### **SUE ATWOOD** **Administrative Officer**



The expiration on your 2006 ID cards has been extended. The 2007 ID cards will only be issued after background security checks are performed and fingerprints taken. This service will be provided at our June training. For those of you not attending training, stay tuned for further direction.

Current licenses must be on file and immunizations must be up-to-date with a copy on file, in order to be considered deployable. Having current banking information on file helps ensure prompt payment. Notice I did not say 'guarantee' payment. I know there were several of you who waited and a few who are still waiting for payment from last year's hurricanes. Participation in our regional training and/or attendance at the annual NDMS conference is strongly encouraged.

As we approach hurricane season this year, be mindful of the situation we might be going into and pack accordingly. Last year caught many of us by surprise. Past experience always had us in a hotel-type sleeping arrangement, but we now know that may not always be the case.

## **REGION V ANNUAL TRAINING**

**June 2-4, 2006**

**Argonne National Laboratory**  
**Argonne, Illinois**

**Region V's Annual Training** will include presentations of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita from several viewpoints.

**Chuck Smith** (Region VI Deputy Commander) and **Amy Taylor** (Region VI) will discuss their experiences and the challenges they faced during the deployment.

**Doug "Bigun" McKown** (Region IV) will address the challenges of working in austere conditions when the infrastructure of the community no longer exists.

**David Hunt** (Region V Deputy Commander) and **Sean Wilson** (Region V) will review the challenges of Search and Recovery operations.

**David Hunt** will include a discussion about the formation of a Search and Recovery Team, anticipated for each DMORT region.

A mandatory 2-hour sexual harassment class will be presented.

Detective Inspector **Gary Locker** of the Metropolitan Police, United Kingdom will describe his experiences in dealing with the train bombings in London.



*Team members represent Region V at the NDMS Conference in Reno*

