



Voice OF V

*The official voice of Region V**



EDITORS:
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March 2009

Flight 3407 Deployment
Brad B. Targhetta
DMORT V Deputy Commander

One quiet Sunday morning (February 15, 2009), Ronda and I returned from church and took my Mom and two oldest granddaughters to lunch. I received an e-mail from headquarters asking my availability to deploy that day to Buffalo, New York. When I called in, I spoke with **Kim Newcomer**. She informed me that the deployment needed another Mortuary Officer and asked me to fulfill that role. I told her that I could be at the airport anytime after 4:00 PM. By the time I arrived home, I already had e-mails regarding my flight, car rental and hotel location.

Once again, I called headquarters and asked what my duties would be in order to pack properly, since FACT or morgue duties require different attire. I was assigned to the morgue, so I packed some additional cold weather clothes. It's hard to believe that I wanted additional cold weather clothing, but from what I have heard about Buffalo weather, I thought it a good idea to be prepared.

I arrived at the St. Louis Lambert International Airport with time to spare, but the plane was late. My concern was that I only had 30 minutes between the connecting flights in Chicago, since this was the last flight to Buffalo from Chicago that night. Fortunately, the flight to Buffalo was also late, so my original arrival time of 11:30 PM in Buffalo became 1:00 AM. I had been in contact with **Mary Fischer** to let her know I was also deployed and she asked me to call her when I arrived - no matter how late. Since she was already

working in the morgue setting up the radiology section, we agreed to meet at the hotel when I arrived. Once in my room, I called and told her my room number. She asked me to stick my head out the door. Yep, we were neighbors and had adjoining rooms.

We started work that morning at 7:00 AM and worked 12 hour shifts. There were members working in the morgue from **Regions II, III, V and VII**. Our temporary morgue was set up within the Erie County Medical Examiner's Office. **Dr. James Woytash** (Erie County Medical Examiner) and his personnel were **FANTASTIC**. Our job was made so much easier by the interaction with him and his staff. **Kevin Costigan** (DMORT Region II Commander), **Robert Golden** (DMORT Region II Deputy Commander), **Scott Schmidt** (DMORT Region II Training Officer), and **Kathleen Costigan** (DMORT Region II Administrative Officer) ran the incident very well. They held morning and evening briefings which provided us with information regarding safety (always first) and procedural development within the morgue. **Shannon Dotson** (DPMU Commander) and/or **Mike Gedert** (DPMU Deputy Commander) informed us of proper protocol regarding the DPMU inventory, such as requisition forms and handwritten receipts. **Bob "Bubba" Stevens** (DPMU Logistics Officer) was stationed at the warehouse with the DMORT cache, which was located just down the street from the Medical Examiner's office. He provided us with any equipment that we requested. I was assigned to Admitting or "Intake" as they named it, which was a great area to be in, as far as I am concerned.

On Saturday, **Dr. Woytash** walked by our station when there were 3 items left to process. He asked if he could be a tracker and take the last item through the stations. There was a cheer when he stepped in and announced he had the last item. When he completed all stations, everyone lined the hallway and he walked between the double lines, taking the last item to trailer management. It was a very moving experience. He thanked us all as he walked past, shook hands and remarked how he could not have done this without us.

A new procedure was used regarding the tracking and use of the DPMU equipment that was located at each station in the morgue. All equipment was inventoried and the section leader signed for all equipment within their station. The section leader then became ultimately responsible for the equipment. As the equipment was returned to the DPMU, a release was signed and the equipment was returned to the DPMU cache. Tracking of equipment is essential for replacement and re-supply. In previous missions, equipment mysteriously disappeared and there was no way to track who had it. This new process eliminates the potential for lost equipment and the replacement cost which would be associated with it. My hat goes off to the wonderful DPMU Team as they always provided us with whatever we needed.

Another notable change was the placement of computers at all stations. After the VIP questionnaire had been filled out, the data was entered into the computer, saved and sent to the main server. This step eliminated the frustration in trying to read others' handwriting or questioning what was actually on the form. Also, full body x-ray images were stored on the main server and were accessible to all the other stations within the

morgue. This was a **HUGE** improvement for all of us. All of the data stored in the servers were ultimately given to the Medical Examiner's Office.

It was a relatively short mission for me; I left on Sunday, February 22nd arriving home at 6:30 PM. The members who remained in Buffalo were working on the VIP program, ensuring that all collected data was correct.

On my last night, Mary and I went out with the DPMU Team and the AFDIL DNA Team. **Bill Ambler** and his girlfriend, Wendy, drove down to visit, since they live fairly close. For those of you that may not know who Bill is, he was the DPMU Commander before Shannon Dotson. Bill retired from DMORT during the Hurricane Katrina deployment. It was great to see him again. We all miss seeing members from other regions and Bill is a wonderful friend.

As always, when we respond, we represent not only Region V, but all of DMORT. At the last briefing I attended before leaving, I stood up and thanked everyone for their assistance and let them know Region V is thinking about them as they work to complete this mission.

Pictures submitted by Mary Fischer



Mary Fischer and Brad Targhetta



Mary Fischer in the Radiology section



DMORT DEPLOYMENT FLIGHT 3407 BUFFALO N.Y. FEB 2009

**TIMOTHY SCHMIDT TO SERVE ON NATIONAL FUNERAL DIRECTORS
ASSOCIATION TASK FORCE**

Press release - January 2009

Brookfield, Wis. - **Timothy Schmidt**, of Cincinnati, Ohio, has committed to serve as a member of the National Funeral Directors Association (NFDA) Disaster Preparedness Task Force for 2008-09. Schmidt's role within NFDA will have a significant impact on the association, its members and the funeral service profession at-large.

"Timothy was appointed to serve on the Disaster Preparedness Task Force because he has demonstrated a strong commitment to advancing the goals of NFDA," said NFDA Chief Executive Officer Christine Pepper, CAE. "Timothy's efforts will uphold NFDA's mission of informing, educating and advocating to help members enhance the quality of service they provide to families."

Members of NFDA's Disaster Preparedness Task Force are charged with developing a disaster preparedness and response action plan that will guide and assist the association in mobilizing funeral service volunteers, suppliers and other necessary resources in the event of a catastrophic incident. The task force may be called upon to provide expert input on federal actions, proposals and policies dealing with mass-fatality management, disaster preparedness and related issues affecting funeral service.

NFDA is the world's leading funeral service association, serving 19,000 individual members who represent more than 10,200 funeral homes in the United States and internationally. From its headquarters in Brookfield, Wis., and its Advocacy office in Washington, D.C., NFDA informs, educates and advocates to help members enhance the quality of service they provide to families. For more information, visit www.nfda.org.

Tim credits his appointment in part to his training and experiences he has had with DMORT. We are very proud to have him as a member of Region V.

TRAINING ANNOUNCEMENT

Jan Simons

DMORT V Training Officer

The Region V Training dates and location have been confirmed. We will be training with the Indiana DPMU **June 5-7, 2009 at the Grissom AFB**, near Kokomo. Additional information for this event will be sent out as it becomes available. I would like to thank those of you who submitted suggestions for the training scenario. I am still looking for input from the members and if there is a particular issue or topic you would like to have included please send an email to janette.simons@hhs.gov.

Also, a **DMORT National Training** has been tentatively scheduled for **May 28-31, 2009**. This training will cover the same information that was presented last year in Nashville. Each team is limited to number of members they can send and **must** meet all of the following requirements:

- Did **NOT** attend the DMORT National training in Nashville last year
- Completed IS 100, 200, 700 and 800
- Current license/cert on file
- ID Badge – this may be waved for this training and a fingerprint kit would be available for those members who still need to complete the process.

If you are selected to attend the DMORT National training you will not be precluded from attending the Region V training and we would like to see you attend both. These trainings were scheduled on consecutive weekends and may pose a problem for some members. Please review your availability and send an email to Sue (susan.atwood@hhs.gov) or Jan (janette.simons@hhs.gov) indicating your interest in attending one or both trainings.

CURRENT UNIFORM REQUIREMENTS

As of 4/02/2007

COMPOSITION OF NDMS DMORT UNIFORMS

All NDMS DMORT uniforms will consist of, uniformly, **khaki blouse** (shirt), with same color **pants**.

Team authorized t-shirt may be worn underneath the uniform blouse and must be approved by the Chief, NDMS Section.

Socks (color optional).

Safety shoes or boots that meet OSHA Standards - **black** in color and appropriate for disaster areas.

A **belt** 1.25 inches web or woven elastic/nylon of **black** color with a black tip.

The **belt buckle** is **black** open-faced or military designed matt finish.

Additional optional clothing articles that may be worn include a baseball **hat**, with approved logo; outer covering to include **coats, raincoats or poncho; and gloves**.

The wearing **medical scrubs or other personal protective clothing** during inside morgue operations will be approved by the NDMS Section Chief or his designee.

INSIGNIA AND IDENTIFICATION PATCHES

The uniform blouse (front and sleeve views) and the designated locations of authorized insignia and identification patches are attached. All applications to the uniform must be in the area indicated on the diagram. No patch or insignia is to be affixed to the pants of the uniform without prior approval from the Chief, NDMS Section. Velcro must attach name and team designation/position description tapes, above the breast pocket, to the uniform.

Cloth name tape should be worn immediately above and parallel to the top edge of the right breast pocket. This patch is 1-inch wide, 4-1/2 inches long strip of cloth of the same basic color as the uniform. The tape extends to each pocket edge but not beyond. This nametape will have the individuals last name (hyphenated if required) only.

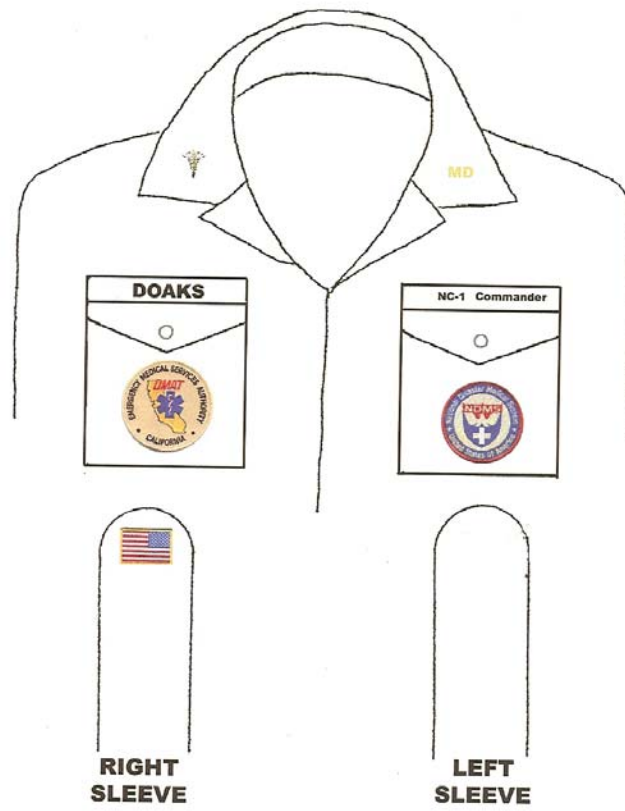
Team designation and functional position cloth tape shall be worn immediately above and parallel to the top edge of the left breast pocket. This patch is 1-inch wide, 4-1/2 inches long strip of cloth of the same basic color as the uniform. The tape extends to each pocket edge but not beyond. The Chief, NDMS Section, must approve the team designation and functional position wording.

NDMS patch is sewn on the left pocket of the blouse, centered (with the flap closed) between the bottom of the pocket flap and the bottom of the pocket.

DMORT patch is sewn on the right pocket of the blouse, centered (with the flap closed) between the bottom of the pocket flap and the bottom of the pocket.

U.S. flag patch will be sewn to the outside right sleeve of the blouse, located 1 inch below the shoulder seam centered across the sleeve, with the blue field facing forward.

NDMS UNIFORM ATTACHMENT “A”





EDITORS' NOTE:

The staff of the “Voice of V” needs your help in developing articles of interest and relevance to Region V. Please submit anything that you think would be appropriate to our editors at:

Terry Swanson: terryswanson@msn.com

Mary Fischer: mffischer53@hotmail.com

Sheila Hall: halls@infantwelfare.org

