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Disaster Mortuary Operational Response Team

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2005 NDMS ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The following article originally appeared in the June 2005 issue of Region V's newsletter: "Voice of V"

The NDMS National Conference was held in Orlando, Florida on April 30-May 4, 2005. 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 2005; 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 not able to attend, the following is a brief recap of the DMORT portion of the program.

The Good, Bad, and Ugly of Embalming

Speaker: James M. Fullerton, CFSP, CPC, and DMORT Region VII

In this presentation, Mr. Fullerton discussed what is involved in preparing a deceased human who has been traumatized by accident, suicide, homicide, debilitating illness, or natural causes. This presentation helped responders understand when and how a deceased person may be

made presentable for open casket viewing for their families. Participants learned some of the techniques used by professional embalmers to restore a person to an acceptable level of viewing. In addition, this session helped responders understand and recognize the difference between when a person is/is not viewable.

ICS/NIMS for the Responder

Speaker: Darryl Sensenig, MA, CEM

The initial response management for large-scale events involves multiple agencies, disciplines, and jurisdictions. The results used to be a less than effective effort to efficiently resolve the mass casualty/fatality incident. This presentation discussed how the Incident Command System (ICS) brought about an expandable command structure that could address any contingency. The newest step to this planning and control now includes the National Incident Management System (NIMS), which is flexible enough to enable all responding organizations to work together with an understandable standardization for all components of the plan.

Mass Fatality Incident Response:

Overview

Speaker: Chuck Smith

This presentation dealt with the management of a mass fatality incident by describing the incident, and addressing the need and requirements of establishing a temporary morgue. The flow of victims was discussed, as well as privacy concerns, legal next of kin rights, and releases. Mr. Smith also discussed the management of a mass fatality incident beginning with the actual incident and then describing procedures for body removal and

documentation. He detailed an appropriate management system to track remains. In addition, Mr. Smith described the need for forensic identification for all victims and the need for a CISM program being put into place for all workers at a mass fatality incident.

WMD: Only What We Need to Know

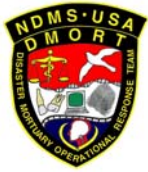
Speaker: Steve Tinder, FEMA/NDMS, and DMORT WMD

The term Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) has become a common term in today's society and reflects the horrors associated with acts of terrorism and the resulting mass death and destruction. WMD, whether they are nuclear, biological, or chemical, have the potential to cause death ranging from a few hundred to many thousands. Those victims who die as a result of a WMD attack will most likely be contaminated and must be decontaminated and declared safe for the health and safety of all. Mr. Tinder discussed the various methods in which WMD can be delivered, e.g. nuclear, biological, or chemical. He explained the extent of death that can result from a WMD event. He also addressed contamination issues of human remains following a WMD event, and what has to be done to decontaminate these remains.

Planning the Recovery Operations

Speaker: Lee J. Sweat, Georgia Bureau of Investigation

This presentation provided an expeditious and effective mechanism for the planning of a Mass Fatality Recovery Operation. The course content focused on the long-term preparation of a Mass Fatality Recovery Operation, and the execution of an immediate event when no plan is in place prior to the incident.



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Human Identification in a Post-9/11 World: The Attack on American Airlines Flight # 77 and the Pentagon

Speaker: Andrew Baker, MD, Chief Medical Examiner Hennepin Co. (Minneapolis MN), and DMORT Region V

On September 11, 2001, American Airlines Flight #77 was hijacked and intentionally crashed into the Pentagon. The responsibility to identify and autopsy each decedent fell to the Office of the Armed Forces Medical Examiner. All of the human remains, more than 2,000 separate specimens, were moved to the U.S. Air Force Port Mortuary at Dover Air Force Base in Delaware for evaluation. There, a multidisciplinary team of pathologists, dentists, anthropologists, fingerprint specialists, radiologists, DNA technologists, photographers, funeral directors, and support personnel used a systematic, stepwise approach to ensure that every scientifically available method was utilized to maximize the number of victims that could be positively identified, reassociated, and returned to the families. Dr. Baker discussed the response by the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology in the Pentagon attack event. He explained the various methods of identification, including their strengths and weaknesses.

Dealing with the Dead: Planning & Response Issues in Health Care

Speakers: Lori Hardin, MFS, and DMORT Region III

Lori Hardin is a Medicolegal Death Investigator at the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner for the Commonwealth of Virginia; she is also a U.S. Navy Veteran and a member of DMORT Region III. This presentation discussed the differences between managing mass casualties and mass

fatalities; explained jurisdiction issues in mass fatalities from Federal, State, and Local levels; and described some of the past problems encountered at the Virginia Medical Examiner's Office. Emphasis was made on the necessity for cooperation between a number of groups - Medical Examiner/Coroner, Police, Fire, EMS, Hospitals, Behavioral Health Specialists, Crime and Disaster Compensation Units, Veterinarians, EPA, Volunteer Services, PIO's, Department of Defense, Public Health, Media, and Politicians - in order to assure proper communication amongst everyone involved.

The Impact on Hospitals from a Terrorist Event: Lessons from the Madrid Train Bombing

Javier Ortiz, MD

Mass casualty incidents, resulting from bombings, are historically among the most common forms of terrorist violence. These events present a unique epidemiology and challenge for hospitals. On the morning of March 11, 2004, ten terrorist bomb explosions occurred almost simultaneously in four commuter trains in Madrid, Spain, killing 177 people instantly and injuring more than 2,000. Over 900 patients were taken to hospitals, and 509 were admitted. The challenges of surge capacity with little warning, the mobilization of health care personnel resources, and the psychological impact to rescuers and victims was unprecedented and overwhelming. Dr. Ortiz discussed the real time surge capacity in response to a mass casualty incident; the implications of over triage and rapid intervention of patients in a mass casualty event; and the emotional, psychological, and

financial costs from a terrorist mass casualty incident.

Kirkville, Missouri: American Connection Flight 5966: Team Work Prevails

Speakers:

Bill Young, Reg. VII Commander Mike Henderson, Reg. VII Deputy Cdr.r John Filippi, DDS, Reg. VII T.O. Bill Ambler, DPMU Gary Daugherty, FAC Paul Sledzik, MS, NTSB Joan Harding, Region VII E.C.

This session described the American Flight 5966 Crash in Kirkville, Missouri. Representatives from the NTSB, DMORT Region VII, DPMU, FAC, and Emergency Management presented information about the mission (roles and responsibilities), the processes involved in victim identification, and the assistance to and help from local authorities. This operation was a model of a multi-faceted approach to a mass fatality incident, where different response teams merged as one, resulting in a successful outcome.

National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) Update

Speaker: Paul Sledzik, MS, NTSB

DMORT and the NTSB have had a long-standing relationship. This presentation provided information on recent NTSB/DMORT responses, and presented an update of the new interagency agreement between the two groups. Paul Sledzik discussed the administrative changes to DMORT support of NTSB activities, and reviewed concepts for future issues, regarding NTSB/DMORT interactions.



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Public Health and Medical Impact of the South and Southeast Asia Earthquakes and Tsunami

Speakers:

Mark Keim, MD, CDC

RADM Christine S. Hunter, MC, USN

Havidan Rodriguez, PhD

On December 26, 2004, a magnitude 9.0 earthquake, off the west coast of Northern Sumatra, Indonesia, triggered massive tsunamis that affected several countries throughout South and Southeast Asia, as well as Somalia, Tanzania, and Kenya in East Africa. The world's most powerful earthquake in more than forty years struck deep into the Indian Ocean, obliterating villages and seaside resorts. There are estimates that the death toll will exceed 200,000 persons. Responders from the Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance and the Red Cross discussed the public health and medical impact of this mass fatality event of epic proportions. The panel of experts discussed their experiences and messages of hope, as they address issues such as mass fatality management; sanitation and personal hygiene - food, potable water distribution; safety - illness, vector-borne disease control, injury; behavioral health surveillance - prevention, control, and care.

Pre-Conference Course:

Update on the Integration of Win ID3 and Dexis Digital Imaging

Speakers:

Dick Weems, DDS

David Senn, DDS

Bryan Chrz, DDS

This pre-conference course - limited to those in the dental field - demonstrated the progress made in the integration between WinID3 (the third generation in dental identification software) and Dexis (digital dental imaging system). Currently, there is a comprehensive

step-by-step manual to assist responders in utilizing this impressive software combination and a PowerPoint tutorial that can be used at advanced on-site trainings. WinID3 and Dexis both have unique data interpretation abilities, such as deciphering various tooth numbering systems. This increases its application in both foreign and domestic disasters involving international victims.



Dr. Bryan Chrz demonstrates the application of WinID3 and Dexis in forensic dental identifications.

2005 NDMS ANNUAL CONFERENCE AWARDS Orlando, Florida

“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, NDMS

CONGRATULATIONS

The 2004-2005 NDMS Awards were held in Orlando on May 1, 2005. The following DMORT members were honored with the NDMS Response Team Distinguished Member of the Year Award:

DMORT I	Patricia Soucie
DMORT II	Kevin Costigan
DMORT III	Richard M. Scanlon
DMORT IV	Bert Brooks, Jr.
DMORT V	Mary Fischer
DMORT VI	Jesse Moreno
DMORT VII	Michael L. Phillips
DMORT VIII	Dave Fulkerson
DMORT IX	Emil Moldovan
DMORT X	Jeffery A. Gibson
DMORT FAC	Jennie L. Thommen
DMORT WMD	Terry Dabney
DMORT DPMU	Mark Maupin

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

Hurricane Ivan – September 2004

DMORT IV

American Airlines Flight 5966 Kirksville, Missouri – October 2004

DMORT III, V, VII, VIII, X, FAC

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

REGION I NEWS

MICHAEL O’NEIL APPOINTED REGIONAL COMMANDER



Michael E. O’Neil has been appointed Region I Commander. Mr. O’Neil is Chief Engineer at the Burlington Fire Department in Burlington, Vermont.



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He is also Deputy Sheriff at the Chittenden County Sheriffs Department in Vermont. Mike is a Vermont licensed Emergency Medical Technician, Certified Fire Investigator, Certified Fire Inspector, Certified Fire Service Instructor, Certified Level I Firefighter, and a Certified Part-Time Law Enforcement Officer.

Mr. O'Neil attended Holyoke Community College in Holyoke, Massachusetts and Bridgewater State College in Bridgewater, Massachusetts. He earned his Bachelor of Science Degree in Municipal Fire Administration from Empire State College in Saratoga, New York. Mike also received certification in a number of specialized programs at the National Fire Academy.

Michael O'Neil has an extensive background in education: he is an instructor with the Vermont Fire Service Training Council, specializing in "Fire Investigation" and "Flammable Gas Fire Control"; he teaches "Fire Arms" with the Vermont Criminal Justice Training Council; he lectures on "Fire Investigation for the First Responder" and "Emergency Response to Terrorism Incident Command" at the National Fire Academy; he lends his expertise in the course "Expert Witness Courtroom Testimony" with the International Association of Arson Investigators.

Mr. O'Neil actively participates in organizations within his profession: he is currently President of the Vermont Career Fire Chiefs Association, past-President of the Vermont Chapter of the International Association of Arson Investigators, State Vice-President of the International Association of Fire Chiefs, and a member of the National Fire Protection Association.

Military service has been an integral part of Mike's life. He graduated from the United States Army Military Police Academy and served with the Rhode Island Army National Guard Military Police, the Vermont Air National Guard Security Police, and the Vermont Army National Guard Military Police. He was also a member of the United States Army Reserves for twelve years.

Mr. O'Neil joined DMORT in April 2001. He was deployed, following the tragedy at the World Trade Center (New York, 2001), and he responded in the aftermath of the Warwick Night Club Fire (Rhode Island, 2002).

Mike resides in Colchester, Vermont with his wife - Michele. They have two children: Michael, Jr. (20 years) and Katie (17 years). When he has leisure time, Mike enjoys motorcycling, snowmobiling, bicycle riding, rollerblading, playing ice hockey, and target shooting. Congratulations to Michael O'Neil on his new leadership position!

REGION I TRAINING MAYNARD, MA June 3-4, 2005

Region I conducted their annual training in Maynard, Massachusetts on June 3-4, 2005. The leadership team -Michael O'Neil (Region I Commander), Joe Allen (Deputy Commander), Dwight Camp (Deputy Commander), Byron Kelly (Administrative Officer), and Patricia Soucie (Training Officer) - organized a comprehensive program for all who participated.

Michael O'Neil commenced the session with an overview on

DMORT and the future of the organization.

Buddy Bell (DMORT Program Manager) updated the team on the Department of Homeland Security, DMORT participation during a disaster mission, and his new role as Team Program Manager.

Gary Kleinman (Region I Emergency Coordinator, FEMA) delivered a presentation on the underground bunker and the significance of the FEMA Emergency Coordinator.

Adam Freeman (Region I Forensic Odontologist) reviewed WinId (dental identification software) and its integration with Dexis digital imaging (digital dental radiography), in forensic identifications during mass fatality situations.

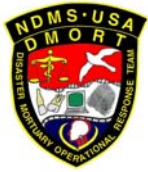
Following the lectures, participants trained on computers, accessing the FEMA Online Training Courses; they began the required series of modules: IS-100, IS-200, IS-700, and IS-800. Also, during the entire meeting, members received their mandatory vaccinations, in order to meet deployment qualifications.

Overall, the 2005 Region I Annual Training offered an excellent opportunity for team members to regroup, share information, and prepare for deployment. The Team's next training is September 16-18, 2005 in Albany, New York with the Region II Team.



REGION II TRAINING

Region II will be conducting their annual training session in



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Albany, New York on September 16-18, 2005. The training will be held at the Holiday Inn Turf in Albany. Please refer to the Region II website at www.dmort.org for more details and information.

REGION III TRAINING

GETTYSBURG, PA April 15-17, 2005



Region III conducted their 2005 Annual Training Session in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania on April 15-17. Three team traditions started up the weekend: an old movies and popcorn “drop-in,” a “pub crawl” through historic Gettysburg, and a black-tie dinner.

Training commenced with an intensive Dexis Digital Radiography training for DMORT III’s fifty-member forensic dental team. Presentation of a surgical jaw resection protocol was also offered for all in attendance.

A variety of other lectures were featured, including topics on the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), embalming principles, morgue pathogens, and the correct wearing of the uniform. The Pennsylvania State Police Forensic Services Unit was also present and led a comprehensive DNA presentation.

In addition, the training allowed team members an opportunity to work diligently on module IS-700 of NIMS (National Incident Management System) Online Training. During the session, team members reviewed and updated their required immunizations, and there was also a special orientation for new members.

Deployment experiences from the previous year were shared: this included a review of the 2004 American Airlines Flight 5966 (Kirksville, Missouri) plane crash, and the 2004 Florida Hurricanes logistic mission.

A distinct highlight of the session was a presentation by the PA-2 DMAT’s (Disaster Medical Assistance Team), who joined DMORT III for a second consecutive joint annual training exercise.

An awards ceremony was held on Saturday night, during the team dinner. *The Developments* – a classic rock and roll band, including two team dentists performing – provided the entertainment that evening.

Overall, the 2005 Region III Annual Training Session enabled members to learn, review, and work in “team harmony.”

For information regarding the Region III 2006 Annual Training, please contact DMORT III Training Officer, Dr. Patrick Murray, at pmurraydds@aol.com.



Deputy Commander Dr. Richard Scanlon (far left) presents 2004-5 Meritorious Service Certificates to forensic dentists (from left to right): Dr. Terrie Massie, Dr. Bill Yeomans, Dr. John Hosage, and Dr. Andrew Stewart

REGIONS IV AND VI TRAINING

NEW ORLEANS, LA July 22-24, 2005



Region IV hosted a combined Region IV and Region VI training session in New Orleans, Louisiana from July 22-24, 2005.

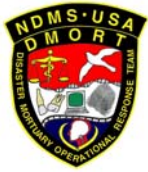
Separate Mortuary Officer and Dental Personnel sessions were conducted, followed by a Medico-legal Information Resource session. Kim Plunk (Region IV Administrative Officer) and Cindy Arnold (Region VI Administrative Officer) held an informative orientation session for new members.

Brian Fiffick (National Transportation Safety Board) gave an NTSB update, including the new NTSB-DMORT standard operating procedure draft.

James Montgomery (FEMA headquarters) provided valuable information on numerous topics, ranging from sexual harassment to employee responsibilities.

Buddy Bell (DMORT Program Manager) brought team members up-to-date on NDMS issues and “what is happening at headquarters.”

The FBI Evidence Recovery Team from the New Orleans Field Office was present to provide information and case studies. Through this interaction, team members developed a new appreciation for the evidence recovery process. The FBI agents were openly impressed with the forensic expertise of DMORT.



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The meeting also provided an opportunity for team members to work on the National Incident Management System (NIMS) on-line training requirements.

The teams enjoyed an extraordinary social event on Saturday evening. Members of the Region VI team organized a fund-raiser that raised enough funds to rent a restaurant, along with a band, for the entire night. Additional street cars were assigned to transport everyone to *Michaud's* for the festivities. A delectable buffet and Cajun music maintained the crowd's satisfaction throughout the evening.

Region IV commented that the entire Region VI team is unequalled in their hospitality and ability to create the best possible training environment.

Tentative plans have been made for the Region IV and VI Annual Combined Training July 21-23, 2006 in Louisville, Kentucky. Please refer to the Region IV website www.dmort.org for more details and information, as they become available.

REGION V NEWS



NEW REGION V TRAINING OFFICER APPOINTED

The following article originally appeared in the August 2005 issue of Region V's newsletter: "Voice of V"



David Hunt

David Hunt is an Indiana licensed Funeral

Director and Embalmer. He earned his degree in Mortuary Science from Vincennes University in Vincennes, Indiana. David is currently attending Indiana Wesleyan University, where he will soon be receiving his Bachelor's in Management.

Mr. Hunt is a fourth generation funeral home owner, practicing with his father and brother at Hunt and Son Funeral Home in Crawfordsville, Indiana. Besides managing his mortuary business, David is Chief Deputy Coroner of Montgomery County, Indiana; he is a Certified Medicolegal Death Investigator with the State of Indiana; and he is an instructor for the Indiana State Medicolegal Death Investigation Program.

David is active within his profession, as well as the community. He is a member of the Indiana Funeral Directors Association (IFDA), the Independent Funeral Directors of Indiana (IFDI), and the Indiana State Coroners Association (ISCA). David was elected Coroner of Montgomery County for two consecutive terms. He is also past president of the local Kiwanis Club.

Mr. Hunt's initial contact with a mass fatality incident was the 1994 crash of American Eagle Flight 4184 in Roselawn, Indiana. He responded to this disaster as a volunteer with the Indiana Funeral Directors Association. His duties included: sorting and identifying remains, and working in Personal Effects.

David joined DMORT in 1997, after learning about the organization at an Indiana Coroners Medicolegal course: the mission and responsibility of DMORT inspired him. He was deployed to New York City, following the tragedy at the World

Trade Center (New York 2001). In June 2005, David was appointed DMORT Region V Training Officer, succeeding Past Training Officer – Mike Gedert: David hopes to emulate Mike's integrity and devotion to duty in his new position.

David and his family reside in Crawfordsville, Indiana. He has been married fifteen years to his high school sweetheart, Karin. They have two children: Holly (12 years) and Kyle (11 years). When he is not preoccupied with work, family, or DMORT, David enjoys "taking to the skies": he has been a licensed pilot for over ten years and a member of the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA). His other hobbies include karate, ice hockey, and scuba diving.

The Region V Team congratulates David Hunt on his recent leadership appointment and wishes him "altitudes" of success!

REGION V TRAINING COLUMBUS, OH June 3-5, 2005

The following article originally appeared in the July 2005 issue of Region V's newsletter: "Voice of V"

Over eighty team members attended the Region V Annual Training Session in Columbus, Ohio on June 3-5, 2005: the theme of the training was "Partners in Preparedness." Over fifteen local response agencies participated, including EMS, Fire, and Law Enforcement. County and State level offices – Emergency Management and Coroners - also convened to support and train together. The following were the key agencies at this exercise: DMORT Region V, Ohio Funeral Directors Association Mortuary Response Team (OFDA MRT),



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Franklin County Coroners Office, Franklin County Emergency Management Agency, Columbus Regional Airport Authority, Rickenbacker Airport, Columbus Chapter of the American Red Cross, and the Cleveland-based FBI Evidence Response Team.

The highlight of the training was a mock mass fatality airplane disaster at Rickenbacker Airport: this realistic drill, entitled "Operation Unified Effort," was one of the largest of its type. After the fires were extinguished, fifty mock live victims were transported to three area hospitals, while the Coroner handled sixty-five deceased victims. Most airport trainings stop at this stage; however, this drill continued for the next 36 hours, in order to concentrate on the identification of the fatalities. Full-scale mock victims, complete with associated personal effects, clothing, and medical histories were utilized.

All team members and representatives from participating agencies (including the FBI) were required to obtain and wear mission-specific photographic identification badges for security purposes. This allowed restricted admission into the disaster scene, temporary morgue, and Family Assistance Center. The OFDA MRT provided the equipment for this purpose, and strict identification badge regulations were enforced. For instance, Brad Targhetta (Region V Deputy Commander) turned away an airport policeman who insisted that his badge was sufficient ID. He left, but quietly returned having obtained the required DMORT/OFDA ID. Do not try this if you are not Brad.

A fully functional portable morgue – Ohio Funeral Directors Association Disaster Portable Morgue Unit (OFDA DPMU) - was assembled the evening

before and the morning of the drill. Shannon Dotson (DMORT DPMU, OFDA MRT, and DMORT Region V), Joe Main (Clinical Supervisor-Cincinnati College of Mortuary Science, OFDA MRT), Ed Babcock (OFDA MRT), Tim Conley (OFDA MRT), Jim Dempsey (OFDA MRT, DMORT Region V), and others spent twelve hours inventorying the morgue contents, and five hours completing the morgue set-up.

Mock deceased victims were transported to refrigerated trucks at the temporary morgue, where post-mortem examinations were simulated. Trackers moved the bodies through the various morgue stations: Admitting, Photography, Personal Effects, Radiology, Pathology, Anthropology, Dental, Fingerprinting, and DNA Stations carefully documented their findings, before Embalming and Casketing.

Meanwhile, a complete and operable Family Assistance Center (FAC) was established at a nearby hotel. Mock family members were interviewed for pertinent ante-mortem information.

The combined data, collected from the temporary morgue and FAC, were then entered into the Victim Identification Program (VIP) database and used to match the deceased with the proper identity. This process produced simulated identifications for over thirty victims during the drill period.

At the conclusion of the training, a comprehensive recap of the drill was presented. This included a videotape of the entire exercise – disaster site, morgue, and FAC - which was skillfully taped and edited by Mark Haskins (DMORT Region V) for the team. Participants also offered

comments on their learning experiences.

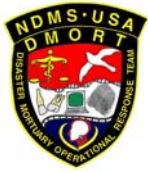
Noteworthy, the exercise demonstrated how use of the Ohio DPMU allowed for the smooth transition of a disaster from a local level mission to a federal level mission. Jack Sudimak (Franklin County Coroner's Office) was especially impressed by the cooperation, exhibited between local, state, and federal agencies.

Besides the airport drill, DMORT Region V conducted a team meeting. Dr. Frank Saul (Region V Commander) and the other Region V Officers provided an overview of the training and introductions.

Sue Atwood (Region V Administrative Officer) updated the team on Administrative Protocols and FEMA Travel Policies, including: Travel Vouchers, National Travel Arrangements, Per Diem rates, Eligible/Ineligible Expenses, and Government Travel Card information.

Mike Gedert (Region V Training Officer) informed the team on the current online training requirements: although it has been determined there is no mandatory requirement at this time, there is a high probability that there will be in the near future. He also reviewed DMORT's logistic mission in Atlanta, following the series of Florida Hurricanes last summer.

Bob Stevens (Region V Quartermaster) described his deployment to Florida, in the aftermath of the devastation, caused by the Hurricanes. He delivered a "colorful" power point presentation, recounting his experiences: driving and relocating the trailers/mobile homes, and working in the Mobile Disaster Recovery Center (MDRC).



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Brian Fiffick of the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) discussed mission protocols, standard operating procedures, and the interaction between the Local Coroner/Medical Examiner, NTSB, and DMORT. He stressed the importance of interagency cooperation, while preserving local responsibility.

Dr. Alan Warnick explained the use of Dexis Digital Dental Imaging, the integration of Dexis and WinId, and the importance of both systems in supporting Morgue Operations.

Dr. Frank Saul provided an overview of the acceptable modalities of positive identification, followed by a description of the role of the Anthropologist at the scene and in the morgue. **Dr. Joyce deJong** discussed the subject from a Pathology and DNA perspective.

Michael W. Lowder (Director, Planning and Operations; Response and Recovery Directorate; FEMA, Washington DC), **Captain George J. Havens III**, USPHS (Unit Leader; Medical Field Operations; NDMS, Washington DC), **Carl Adrianapoli** (Regional Emergency Coordinator, FEMA Region V, Chicago) led an NDMS Update and Discussion. (**Captain Janet Odom**, our other Regional Emergency Coordinator, FEMA Region V, Chicago, was with us on Friday, but could not stay due to a conflict.)

Michael Lowder supports the role of DMORT: he will do all that he can to educate others on what DMORT is capable of accomplishing during a disaster situation. At the conclusion of his presentation, Mr. Lowder presented Dr. Saul with a gold FEMA coin, symbolizing the organization's honor to the achievements and esteem of its recipient. Dr. Saul, in true team spirit, passed the coin on to Mike Gedert for

his untiring efforts as Region V's Past-Training Officer. Mike announced his resignation as Region V Training Officer; he then introduced Region V's Newly Appointed Training Officer – **David Hunt**.

Carl Adrianapoli discussed "regionalization," or the integration effort between DMORT and DMAT. He also addressed the benefits of reclassifying DMORT as a division of FEMA, with an expanded range of deployment possibilities as one of the modifications.

Two local Federal Occupational Health (FOH) nurses were also present at the training to provide medical immunization updates and administer necessary immunizations.

Overall, the 2005 Region V Training Session was a success: the team regrouped, reviewed administrative protocols, discussed team business, and shared information. Lecture content clarified many questions that members have been asking. The "hands on" simulated disaster drill was an extraordinarily significant training exercise, demonstrating the successful interaction between pertinent local, state, and federal agencies. The exercise confirms that a seamless integration of ALL resources can be achieved, if we ALL work together as "Partners in Preparedness."

For more information on Region V and photographs from the 2005 Training Session, please refer to the Region V website at www.dmort.org.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION EVIDENCE RESPONSE TEAM MOBILE UNIT

The following article originally appeared on the July 2005 issue of Region V's newsletter: "Voice of V"

Members of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) were present at the Region V Annual Training Exercise in Columbus, Ohio – June 3-4, 2005.

At Rickenbacker Airport, Paul Messner (Special Agent/Cleveland Division of the FBI and DMORT Region V Team Member), along with Christopher Garnett (Senior Team Leader, Special Agent), Jane Pearson (Special Agent), and Victoria Erickson (Special Agent), guided other DMORT members on a tour of their Evidence Response Team Mobile Unit, utilized for efficient on-site evidence recovery, inventory of evidence, task coordination/command, and data entry. This unit is considered second generation, distinguishing it from a less modern prototype.

The Mobile Unit is fully equipped with workstations, highly technological instruments, satellite television, and essential evidence recovery supplies. Included with the unit is a built-in generator, capable of up to 24-hours of service time; concurrently, the workstations function on a separate circuit breaker for energy efficiency.

Every FBI Division in the nation has either a first or second generation Mobile Unit. There are currently over fifty-six units nationwide.

The Mobile Unit complements the Scene Response Truck, which carries the bulk of the evidence recovery and packaging equipment. The Cleveland Emergency Response Team (ERT) also has a cargo trailer outfitted to respond



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to clandestine gravesites and body recovery operations. This carries additional supplies for mass fatality incidents.

REGION V CONDOLENCES

With sincere grief and sorrow, the DMORT team shares the news of a team member's death. Mr. William "Bill" J. Shank died Thursday, August 4, 2005 at the age of 65. Bill was the brother of Bob Shank, Sr. and uncle to Bob Shank, Jr.

Mr. Shank had worked for many years with his brother, Bob Shank, Sr., as a funeral director's assistant at Witzler-Shank Funeral Home in Perrysburg and Walbridge, Ohio. For the past ten years he had been an active member of the DMORT Response Team. In January 1997, he was dispatched to the airline crash in Monroe, Michigan. He was also greatly involved in the recovery efforts at Ground Zero after the 9/11 attacks. Bill possessed a prominent law enforcement background: he was a security officer at St. Luke's Hospital in Maumee, Ohio and a member of the Lucas County Sheriff's Department Auxiliary.

The DMORT family expresses their deepest sympathy to the Shank family.

REGION VII TRAINING



**PORT ARROWHEAD
LAKE OZARKS, MISSOURI
May 20-22, 2005**

Jim Fullerton

Region VII held their annual training at Port Arrowhead in Lake Ozarks,

Missouri on May 20-22, 2005. Over 75% of the team participated in this informative session.

On the opening evening of the meeting, members registered and completed necessary administrative requirements: updating and verifying contact information, distributing new FEMA/NDMS identification badges, and acquiring current member photographs.

The training, which consisted of a series of various relevant and interesting topics, began the following day: Bill Young (Region VII Commander) outlined the FEMA hierarchy, emphasizing chain of command; he also reviewed the organization's goals, direction, and mission.

Commander Joan Harding (United States Public Health Service) explained how DMORT integrates into System 101 of the DHS/FEMA/NDMS system. She remarkably simplified an otherwise complicated subject into comprehensible terms.

Dr. John Frasco (Region VII Administrative Officer) updated the team on Administrative Policies and FEMA Travel Procedures. He also discussed Team Ethics and Code of Conduct.

Mark "Mudflap" Maupin (Region VII Logistics Officer) gave a comprehensive presentation on the Disaster Portable Morgue Unit (DPMU), explaining the unit's mobilization, operation, equipment, and inventory.

Mike Henderson (Region VII Deputy Commander) reviewed a variety of Team Readiness topics, including the recommended contents in a basic

deployment bag, the difference between Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) classifications, and how the deployment call up system operates.

Mary Fischer (Region V X-Ray Technologist) explained the role of the X-Ray Technologist on a DMORT mission. In a "What, Where and Why" format, she described the X-Ray station at the temporary morgue and the associated responsibilities.

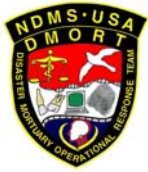
The "Colors of Kirksville" was presented by Bill Young, Mike Henderson, and Dr. John Filippi (Region VII Training Officer). Utilizing a panel discussion, they summarized the American Airlines Flight 5966 Crash in Kirksville, Missouri (October 2004) and detailed why this deployment was a success.

Sandy Ramsey (Red Cross mental health advisor) described her experiences in Sri Lanka, following the vast devastation caused by the Tsunami. After Sandy's presentation, Bob Monserrate (Region VII Member and Team Counselor) delivered an emotional, yet humorous lecture on Critical Stress Debriefing: he effectively alerted the team on how to "Stop and Say Help."

Photographs from the entire training session were transformed into a short slide presentation and shown at the conclusion of the meeting.



Participants of the 2005 Region VII Annual Training



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REGION VIII TRAINING

AURORA AND FRANKTOWN, CO
June 9-11, 2005

Region VIII conducted their annual training in the cities of Aurora and Franktown, Colorado on June 9-11, 2005. Lance Peterson (Region VIII Commander) presented an overview of NIMS, while Alan Siddoway (Region VIII Deputy Commander) reviewed DMORT operations and operational procedures. Federal Occupational Health (FOH) nurses were present to provide medical immunization updates and administer necessary immunizations for the team.

The integration between WinId (dental identification software) and Dexis Digital Imaging (digital dental radiography) was discussed, providing training to the dental professionals. The combination of the two systems is extremely valuable in forensic identifications during mass fatality situations. Dr. Kim Look donated the use of a portable dental x-ray machine for the region.

A full-day training drill took place on Saturday, which included a mock scene and recovery exercise. Members of the Franktown, Colorado Fire Department were also present to participate in the drill. DMORT Region VIII has an operational scene recovery and evidence collection training cache, which is supported by the Summit County (Utah) Sheriff's Department. The trailer and its contents were utilized in the recovery exercise.

For more pictures from the 2005 Region VIII Annual Training Session, or more information regarding DMORT Region VIII, please check their website at www.dmort8.org.



Region VIII team members participate in a mock scene and recovery exercise

REGION IX TRAINING



BEN CLARK REGIONAL TRAINING FACILITY AND MARCH AIR RESERVE

BASE RIVERSIDE, CALIFORNIA
May 26-29, 2005

Region IX held their Annual Training Session at the Ben Clark Regional Training Facility and March Air Reserve Base in Riverside, California on May 26-29, 2005. The training consisted of informative lectures and a day of field training at March Air Reserve Base.

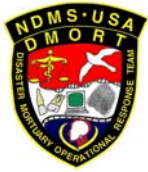
Barbara Salazar (Region IX Administrative Officer) discussed the administrative responsibilities of each team member. She explained the DMORT deployment requirements designated by DHS/FEMA/NDMS, such as annual training prerequisites and immunizations. She addressed the new payroll regulations and paperwork, regarding Time/Attendance Forms and Travel Vouchers. Information on team insignia, FEMA identification cards, team readiness clarifications, and GETS cards (Government Emergency Telecommunications Service) were also updated.

Richard Sword, PhD (Region IX Psychologist and Mental Health Specialist) reviewed the role of grief therapy in a mass casualty incident. He sited the future trends in Family Assistance Centers and demonstrated how behavioral characteristics in groups can be broadly disseminated via the Internet. He also introduced WI-Max technology and its use in a mass casualty incident.

Nicole Pham, DDS (Region IX Forensic Odontologist) explained the procedures, roles, and functions of the various DMORT dental sections and personnel at a mass disaster. She defined the properties and benefits of WinID3, as well as its integration with a digital radiography system (DEXIS).

Mr. Dave Boyer (Director of DNA Repository, Armed Forces Institute of Pathology) familiarized team members with the procedures used in DNA analysis, to expedite identifications in mass disasters. He also expounded on the issues involved in DNA identifications - availability of DNA, laboratory sites, and processing.

Mr. Holt Clark (Senior Exercise Manager for EG&G, Inc.) rendered a



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thorough presentation on the diverse types of weapons of mass destruction (WMD). He also reexamined terrorist activities within the United States, and impressed on everyone the probability of WMD within our borders.

Laura Fulginiti, PhD (Region IX Forensic Anthropologist) and Detective Frank DiModica (Region IX Team Member and Detective for the City of Phoenix Police Department) directed the Field Training Exercise at March Air Reserve Base. All team members participated in crime scene evaluation; evidence and personal effects collection; evidence and personal effects documentation; simulated human remains collection and forensic material transport to the temporary morgue; and complete morgue operations, acting as both runners and evaluators.

The disaster scenario consisted of an actual car bombing, using a car, a 200-pound pig, and a suitcase of personal effects. A second explosion followed, utilizing a 300-pound pig; this enabled a second group of team members to participate in the training exercise.

In conclusion, the Region IX Annual Training was extremely successful. It enabled team members to train in all areas of a search and recovery exercise, and participate in realistically simulated morgue operations. In addition, team members were educated on a variety of informative forensic topics, and updated in FEMA policies and procedures.

The entire Region IX Team expresses its sincere gratitude to Emil Moldovan (Region IX Training Officer) for his efforts in planning, preparing, and organizing this outstanding training event.

REGION X TRAINING



UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA ANCHORAGE, ALASKA
June 10-12, 2005

Region X held their annual training session in Anchorage, Alaska on June 10-12, 2005. One-third of the team traveled to the University of Alaska campus for their annual training exercise.

A variety of topics were discussed, including: the various aspects of Incident Command, the challenges encountered when deployed to a disaster in Alaska, the application of *Ground Penetrating Radar*, and the devastating consequences of oceanic erosion.

Bill Romberg of the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) delivered an informative and interesting lecture on Search and Rescue in the Alaska area.

During the training, team members completed the FEMA Online Training Requirements: ICS-100, ICS-200, and ICS-700 modules. Federal Occupational Hospital (FOH) nurses were also present during the session to update team members on their mandatory immunizations for deployment eligibility.

The highlight of the training was a "mapping exercise," in which team members learned how to interpret maps while on deployment.

Plans have been initiated to conduct a major drill in Fall 2006, at the Department of Energy facility in

Washington State. It will involve all the NDMS resources of FEMA Region X, three DMATS, an International Medical-Surgical Response Team (IMSuRt), and the DMORT Region X team.

DMORT WMD TRAINING

KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE
May 2005

Dr. Howard Cooper

The DMORT WMD team held their annual training at the famous University of Tennessee Body Farm and the Knoxville Fire Department Training Center in Knoxville, Tennessee on May 20-22, 2005. The program was clearly the most intense and realistic team training experience: for the first time in history, DMORT WMD team members trained with actual human remains. Steve Tinder and Arthur Bohanan, along with many others, organized this extraordinary, educational event.

The training began with an informative and enjoyable presentation by Dr. William Bass. After his presentation, the team toured the Body Farm – a truly impressive facility. The data, which is collected here by the University of Tennessee Forensic Anthropology Department, is extremely significant. The WMD team expresses its sincere gratitude to Dr. Bass and the University for designing and actually putting together this facility. The students and Dr. Lee Jantz also contributed much of their time to the WMD training, especially in preparation for the team's all day Body Farm exercise.

The Body Farm exercise was an incredible learning experience. In addition to the DMORT WMD team,



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there were approximately fifty VIP's who were invited to view this training session. The VIP's were from Knoxville, Washington D.C., New York, and even Great Britain! The training also attained considerable media attention. The WMD team did not disappoint: they all worked intensely, and the decontamination "decon" line proceeded smoothly. Since this was the first time that the WMD team incorporated actual bodies and body parts into their training, techniques were slightly modified. In reality, adjustments are always considered, because every deployment is different. There may be unforeseen issues that will have to be dealt with; however, as a team, these obstacles can be overcome. Upon satisfying the goals of the exercise, Dale Downey (DMORT WMD Commander) proclaimed its conclusion at the end of the day, and the "decon" line was disassembled.

The following day, the team conducted a "hot wash" – a comprehensive discussion about operations during the training. This provided them an opportunity to elaborate on means in which to improve on future deployment activities.

The results from this training were invaluable: working with human remains was an unprecedented, realistic simulated experience for team members. The consensus was that because the 2005 DMORT WMD Annual Training was so successful, the team will continue to conduct their training in Knoxville annually.

HURRICANE KATRINA

August 29, 2005

On August 29, 2005 Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast as a Category 4 storm. The 145-mph winds and rain caused massive devastation in Louisiana and Mississippi. DMORT Regions IV, V, and VI have been deployed to these areas; other DMORT teams are preparing rosters for possible deployment in the future.

DMORT National News

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