



Voice OF V

The official voice of Region V



EDITORS: SHEILA HALL AND TERRY SWANSON

August 2007

REGION V ANNUAL TRAINING

Danville, Indiana

June 20-22, 2007

Over seventy team members and guests attended the Region V Annual Training Session at the Danville Armory and Hendricks Regional Health Center in Danville, Indiana on July 20-22, 2007. The following were key agencies at this training: DMORT V, Emergency Coordinator Region 5, and the Indiana Department of Homeland Security. These groups provided a comprehensive and informative training for the team.

Opening Remarks

Region V Command Staff

Dr. Frank Saul (Region V Commander) led the team in a moment of remembrance for teammate **Gabe Hensley** of Moores Hill, Indiana. Gabe passed away on July 24, 2006, while piloting his single-engine *Cessna 172* aircraft. This training was dedicated to Gabe, whose letter to Frank Saul was instrumental in the training program, emphasizing the need for hands-on training with a Disaster Portable Morgue Unit (DPMU).

The following is a copy of Gabe's March 6, 2006 email to Frank:

I had never deployed before Katrina and I just wanted you to know that the training we had in Columbus last spring with the Ohio DPMU present was invaluable to me. When I got to Gulf Port in September I was already familiar with the morgue unit and felt very comfortable right off the bat. I served 4 months at both the East and West morgues serving most of my time on strike teams. I feel that having that training with the DPMU present got me off on the right foot with a very positive first impression. I am very proud of what we did in Mississippi and La. and am very, very proud to be a member of DMORT. Thank you for the opportunity to serve.

Gabe Hensley

Jan Simons (Region V Training Officer) reviewed the agenda for the training weekend: classroom session with a series of speakers, simulated morgue operations, review and discussion of morgue operations, and updates from Command Staff.

Earthquakes: A Primer

Konrad J. Banaszak, PhD & LPG

This presentation was a thorough introduction to understanding earthquakes: where they occur, how they are measured, and what to consider when they do occur.

Dr. Banaszak explained that the Midwest would experience aftershocks, which are more violent in magnitude than California. Anticipated problem areas include: Memphis, Southwest Indiana, Southern Illinois, and Ohio.

Earthquakes are measured with three seismographs, detecting and recording vertical and horizontal movements of the ground. These seismographs trace “P waves” (Primary), “S waves” (secondary), and “L waves” (slowest wave, which causes surface vibrations). Severity of damage is not only based on the intensity of the earthquake, but also the condition of the ground or foundation where buildings stand.

The speaker listed some of the main earthquake hazards: ground shaking, differential ground settlement, soil liquefaction, ground displacement, floods, and fires.

NDMS Update

Millard “Buddy” Bell, NDMS Program Manager

Mr. Bell addressed questions and concerns by members, regarding the HHS (Health and Human Services) background checks, new badges, uniforms, budget, and training.

Indiana Department of Homeland Security

David Perkins, Operations Director of the Indiana Department of Homeland Security

Mr. Perkins explained State Preparedness and the need to develop coordination between Federal, State, and local resources. He also described the Indiana DPMU, including the composition of the Indiana DPMU Team.

DMORT DPMU

Mike Gedert, DMORT DPMU

Mike Gedert updated the team on the status of the three DMORT DPMU’s. He reviewed the importance of maintaining equipment and inventory, in order to assure readiness of

the DPMU's. Mike introduced the team to the new DPMU Forms, relevant to the accountability, condition, and status of equipment, utilized during a deployment.

Victim Identification Program (VIP)

Gregory Klimetz, Family Assistance Core Team (FACT)

Mr. Klimetz discussed the history of VIP, the challenges with this program, and the updates made to it, in association with the development and advancements in forensics. He illustrated the organization of the FACT Incident Command System (ICS),

The following is a list of significant updates to VIP: Filemaker 8.5 Version (upgraded from 6.0), true relational database structure, complete conversion of old VIP database, more versatility in working with other software, easy EXCEL or PDF reporting, tables allow for faster searches, picture import capability, more secure options and access privileges, same easy interface, record tracking, web-enabled with appropriate security, and streamlined export protocols.

New Madrid Seismic Zone Catastrophic Planning

Phillip Roberts, Senior Planner, State of Indiana New Madrid Seismic Zone Catastrophic Planning

Mr. Roberts emphasized the importance of improving response capabilities for a catastrophic earthquake event and related hazards in the New Madrid Seismic Zone (NMSZ), including a plan to coordinate response and recovery efforts for Federal, State, and local agencies. He commented on the need to incorporate key lessons from the Hurricane Katrina response, the Southeast Louisiana Catastrophic Hurricane planning, and previous earthquake response and recovery actions.

Simulated Morgue Operations – Mock Earthquake

The highlight of the training was a mock mass fatality earthquake disaster at the Danville Armory: this realistic drill included a number of “unexpected” scenarios, which enabled participants to realize that not all disasters are alike and always be prepared! To further the realism, MRE's (Meals Ready-to-Eat) were served for lunch.

The scenario of the simulation was an 8.0 Earthquake of the New Madrid Fault Epicenter – Tristate: Kentucky, Missouri, and Tennessee. Numerous problems were encountered, such as limited communication due to disabled towers, power outages, water contamination, road and overpass damages, multiple aftershocks (the largest, a 4.0), delays in supplies, impeded barge traffic, restricted air service in Central and Southern Indiana, and 4 of the 5 major natural gas pipelines to Detroit, Chicago, Indianapolis, and Pittsburg run through the New Madrid Fault.

All team members and representatives from participating agencies were required to obtain and wear mission-specific photographic identification badges for security purposes.

A fully functional portable morgue based on the Federal DPMU's – the Indiana Department of Homeland Security DPMU – was assembled. Mock deceased victims were transported from refrigerated trucks to the temporary morgue, where post-mortem examinations were simulated. Trackers moved bodies through the various morgue stations, where findings were carefully documented: Admitting, Photography, Personal Effects, Radiology, Pathology, Anthropology, Dental, Fingerprinting, and DNA.

A separate area in the armory housed the VIP (Victim Identification Program) data entry team. Combined data from the temporary morgue and FACT (Family Assistance Core Team) are entered into the VIP database and used to match the deceased with the proper identity.

On the final day of the training, Jan Simons presented a comprehensive recap of the drill. This included explanation and results of the “unexpected” scenarios: mental health issues, aftershock situations, personal safety and accountability for all team members inside and outside of the morgue, team member cooperation, and overall team awareness of your surroundings at a deployment. DMORT Leadership, Morgue Section Leaders, and other participants also offered comments on their learning experiences.

Most memorable moments of the training simulation:

Julie's simple makeshift aftershock motion sensors and warning devices
Brad's “crack” (in the wall), with further expansion by Shawn Wilson throughout the day
Hew Simons' arrival with a huge semi truckload of “bodies” with more on the way from Memphis
Brent Hartley's meltdown equaled by Terry and Sheila's “fight”
Mike Frost never leaving his post at lunchtime
Dave Walters' infamous response to the question: “Are you a Structural Engineer?”
“No, but I stayed at a Holiday Inn Express last night!”
Jack Horbal's exercise-ending accidental “destruction” of the \$7000 NOMAD handheld X-ray unit

Updates from Command Staff and Special Guests

Dr. Frank Saul reviewed the new “DMORT Standard Operating Procedures” as they relate to the “DMORT NTSB Standard Operating Procedures” and the “National Association of Medical Examiners (NAME) Mass Fatality Plan.”

David Hunt (Region V Deputy Commander) updated the team on the DMORT V Recovery Team.

Sue Atwood (Region V Administrative Officer) reviewed team time sheets and form changes.

Carl Adrianopoli (Emergency Coordinator Region 5) updated the team on field management in response to an emergency. He informed the team that Rear Admiral Vanderwagon is in charge of the Incident Response Coordination Team. This team will take over Field Management issues, Logistics, and Communication on a rotating basis during deployments.

Marc Poulshock (*VeriChip* Representative) described *VeriChip* – an implantable or attachable Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) microchip. Mr. Poulshock explained the benefits and potential application of *VeriChip* during a DMORT mission.

THE COMMANDERS' AWARD FOR MERITORIOUS SERVICE TO REGION V



The contributions of the following Team members and others were acknowledged with the Commanders' Award:

Jim Adams
Marcia Adams
Buddy Bell
Helga Sharff-Bell
Kelly Cissell
Scott Davis
Leslie Eisenberg
Todd Grisier
Mike Frost
Jack Horbel

Dave Hunt
Karen Hunt
Mary Johnson
Denise Murmann
Bob Nicola, Sr.
Jim Offrink
Dave Perkins
Mike Pratt
Patty Pratt
Tim Schmidt

Hew Simons
Jan Simons
John Stanley
Dave Walters
Geoff Wells
John Williams
Shawn Wilson

Congratulations on a job well done!



Dave Hunt, Dr. Frank Saul, David Perkins, and Brad Targhetta



Dr. Frank Saul, Brad Targhetta, and Jan Simons



Brad Targhetta congratulates Rev. Jim Offrink on his award



*Region V attendees applaud **Jan Simons** for her significant role in organizing the Danville training*

**Congratulations to Dr. Jim Adams - our new Region V Logistics Officer and
Dave Walters - our new Region V Safety Officer**

*Special thanks to: Dr. Gary Berman for providing photographs from the training
Dr. Jim Adams for providing us with DMART supplies
Geoff Wells for providing the team with radio/ flashlights
Hendricks Regional Health for allowing us to use their meeting room
Indiana Department of Homeland Security
The Staff at the Danville Armory for all their assistance
Towne Air Freight for the use of their tractor trailer during our
simulation scenario
Tripp's for the evening retreats*

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:

Sheila Hall: halls@infantwelfare.org

Terry Swanson: robertaswanson@msn.com

