



# Voice OF V

*The official voice of Region V*



**EDITORS:**  
**MARY FISCHER**  
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## **NEWSLETTER TEAM EXPANDS**

We are pleased to announce the addition of **Mary Fischer** as a new co-editor of The “Voice of V” and National Newsletter Team. Mary has been a DMORT Region V team member since 1999 and has made significant contributions to the team since that time. Most recently, Mary went to Frederick, MD to help with the testing of the new computer equipment which will be available for use during deployments. For more information on Mary, see the November 1999 issue of the “V of V.”

**Congratulations and welcome to the team!**

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

**DAVID WALTERS**  
**Safety Officer**



**Dave Walters** is a nationally certified paramedic and trained firefighter. He has been working with the City of Naperville Fire Department in Illinois since 1994, where his duties include: Fire Suppression, Technical Rescue, and Emergency Medicine. He is also a licensed instructor in Cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and Fire Training.

Dave is a graduate of Bradley Bourbonnais Community High School. He continued his studies at Kankakee Community Collage, where he completed the EMT-A, I, and P Programs. While attending the Illinois Fire Service Institute, he became a state certified Firefighter III, Fire Officer I and Fire Instructor I. Dave also has extensive training and experience in Technical Rescue including: Concrete and Structural Collapse, Confined Space, Trench, Above and Below Grade Vertical Rope Rescue, Auto Extrication, and Water Rescue. He furthered his studies by completing Medico-Legal Death Investigators Course at the University of St. Louis School of Medicine in Missouri.

Dave has been an active member of DMORT since September, 1999. When the Amtrak Train Crash occurred in Bourbonnais, Illinois in March, 1999, Dave was the recovery sector officer for The Bourbonnais Fire Protection District. He was assigned to the recovery operation for this disaster. DMORT was called in to assist, and Dave “crawled through train cars for three days with Julie Saul, recovering remains.” Dave, with his extensive safety training background, insisted that Julie be clothed in full protective gear before entering the potentially unsafe areas. Julie complied by wearing Mark Justen’s fire gear - which was five times too big for her! After this experience dealing with Julie, Dave was recruited into DMORT by Frank and has been an active participant since that time. Dave has been involved in several deployments: The World Trade Center Tragedy - New York City (2001) - Morgue Operations; Hurricane Charley - Port Charlotte, Florida (2004) - FEMA Logistics Mission; Hurricane Katrina/Rita - Gulfport, MS (2005) - Morgue Operations, Strike Team Leader/Cemetery Recovery Operations at Southern Memorial Park and Biloxi National Cemeteries, and Strike Team Operations/Field Medic at St. Bernard Parrish in Chalmette, LA.

In June, 2006, after unusually creative and meaningful service as our Indiana Training Exercise Safety Officer (see the August 2007 V of V), Dave was appointed to the position of Region V Safety Officer.

Dave is a recipient of the Commanders’ Award for Meritorious Service to Region V and the Founding Recipient of the Holiday Inn Express Overnight Learning Expert Certification.

Dave resides in Bourbonnais, Illinois, with his wife Tami and four children - Jenna (20 years), Jared (16 years), Drew (8 years), and Trever (4 years). In his free time, Dave enjoys baseball, motorcycles, hunting, fishing, and staying in Holiday Inn Expresses as often as possible.

The Region V team “expresses” their congratulations to Dave on his new team position and wishes him success in the future.



### **BEING CONSIDERED “DEPLOYABLE”**

*Sue Atwood*

**Travel issues:** All authorized travel is arranged through headquarters. Travelers are not to change or cancel flights, contact the airline directly or call the travel agency, even though your itinerary may state otherwise. All requests for changes **must** go through the OSC and every change incurs a charge to the team. All airline travel is charged to a central account and should not be put on your US Bank credit card. Travel authorizations include dates of travel and members are not to travel outside of those dates. Expenses incurred outside of your authorized dates will not be reimbursed.

Hotel room expenses are to be charged to your US Bank card. Meals and other expenses, while on official travel, can be charged to your card. Only those travelers with permission to rent a vehicle are allowed to purchase fuel and put it on their US Bank card. It is the traveler's responsibility to pay the invoice from US Bank before the due date, whether or not reimbursement has been received for travel expenses. Reimbursement is by direct deposit, not by receiving a check in the mail.

The OSC is to be called upon arrival to your destination and again upon your safe return home. The OSC is responsible for you from the time you leave your home until your return home.

**US Bank credit card:** This government issued credit card is for the sole purpose of official travel. Use of these credit cards is monitored and those caught using their card for other purposes can be disciplined up to and including dismissal from the team.

**Contact information:** It is imperative to keep me updated with your current contact information. If you are planning on being away for several days, let me know so that if there is a call down, someone will not be spending their time trying to contact you while you are not available anyway.

**Immunizations:** TB and flu shots are the yearly requirements that most members are lacking. Be sure to keep your immunizations current and forward a copy of your proof of immunizations to Dr. Jim Adams at [jim@dmort.org](mailto:jim@dmort.org). Please direct any questions you may have regarding immunizations also to him.

**Online training:** Every member is required to complete IS-100, 200, 700 and 800. Your certificate of completion is to be sent to me for your file. I, in turn, will inform Jan Simons, our training officer, of your current status. Additional online courses will soon be added, so complete these four classes now. Any questions regarding these courses should be directed to [Janette.Simons@hhs.gov](mailto:Janette.Simons@hhs.gov).

**HHS Badges:** Most members have gone through the badging process. If you have visited a badging location and have not been notified that I have your badge, please let me know the date and location you attended so I can inquire as to your status in the badging process. Badges are being sent to me but there is no funding available yet to send them to the individual member.

**Uniforms:** Proper uniforms are mandatory for deployment. Make sure you have what you need now and don't wait until you may be contacted to deploy. Questions regarding team uniforms can be sent to [Jim@dmort.org](mailto:Jim@dmort.org).

**Licenses:** If your team position requires a professional license, then a current license must be on file at all times. Members cannot be deployed without a current license on file.

Please help me do my job as your administrative officer by doing your part.

### **DPMU UPGRADES: COMPUTER AND DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY**

*Submitted by Mike Gedert (DPMU team member)*

Over 30 laptops, digital full body x-ray, Dexis digital x-ray, digital cameras all directly connected and feeding data to one of two servers - each with 6 - 300GB hard drives, now comprise part of the cache of the DPMU. It's a long way from 8 laptops and a desktop server. Welcome to the new and improved Information Technology (IT) section of the DPMU.

It has been a long process, but over \$1,000,000.00 worth of new computer and digital equipment and software is just about ready to welcome DMORT into a new era of information technology. All of the equipment for one cache has been set up, programmed, and tested. With that test complete, the remaining two caches will now be programmed to match it.

This new equipment gives DMORT the ability to gather and store mass quantities of VIP information, x-rays, photos, and other scanned and downloaded information. The DPMU

is ready to carry out the IT needs during a mission in a more efficient way than ever before. DMORT DPMU IT Specialist **Mark Soucie** is working on a presentation to be posted on the DMORT website in the near future that will give everyone a better idea of what the new IT capabilities of the DPMU will be.

### **Congratulations**

Congratulations to our Commander, **Dr. Frank Saul**, who received a Lifetime Achievement Award from Brooklyn College of the City University of New York this past September.

### **Congratulations**



**Dr. Mary Cimrmancic** (Region V team member) was elected a Fellow of the **Aerospace Medical Association** at the 78<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Meeting in New Orleans on May 17, 2007. The Aerospace Medical Association is the largest, international professional organization in the fields of aviation, space, and environmental medicine. The Aerospace Medical Association is an umbrella group providing a forum for many different disciplines to come together and share their expertise. The Association has provided its expertise to a multitude of Federal and international agencies on a broad range of issues including aviation and space medical standards, the aging pilot, and physiological stresses of flight. AsMA's membership includes aerospace medicine specialists, flight nurses, physiologists, psychologists, human factors specialists, and researchers in this field. Fifteen scientists from 7 countries were elected this year. Dr. Cimrmancic was honored for her work in prevention, as well as teaching and research in accident investigation. She is the first dentist ever elected a fellow in the Association's history. Congratulations, Mary!



*Mary Cimrmanic (back row-far left) and the newly elected Fellows, Class of 2007*

### **Congratulations**

Region V expresses their congratulations to the **Dotson family** - Shannon, Paula, Cole, and Chase - on their newest family member - John Bryson Dotson.



*Announcing our baby boy...*

*John Bryson Dotson*

*September 18, 2007*

*8 Pounds, 3 Ounces*

*6:06 p.m., 21 inches*

*Paula and Shannon Dotson*

### **Editors Note:**

The late **Gabe Hensley**, to whom the June Annual Training was dedicated (see August 2007 V of V), should have been listed as a recipient of the **Commanders' Award for Meritorious Service to Region V**. We apologize for this oversight.

If there are is anything you would like to see included in upcoming newsletters, please feel free to contact any of us at the following email addresses:

**Terry Swanson:** [TerrySwanson@msn.com](mailto:TerrySwanson@msn.com)

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**Sheila Hall:** [halls@infantwelfare.org](mailto:halls@infantwelfare.org)