



Voice OF V

The official voice of Region V



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LEARNING MORE ABOUT OUR TEAM MEMBERS

MITCHEL KEENAN MOREY, M.D.



Dr. Mitchel Keenan Morey is the Assistant Medical Examiner in the Hennepin County Medical Examiner's Office in Minneapolis, Minnesota. He has held this position since 1994. He is also an Assistant Professor in the Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology at the University of Minnesota. Additionally, Mitch is an instructor of the Neuropathology laboratory section at the University of Minnesota, School of Medicine and he teaches in the Pathology resident training program.

Dr. Morey received his Bachelor of Science degree in Biology at the University of Southern California in 1980, before attaining his Doctor of Medicine degree in 1985 from the University of California in San Diego, California. His postdoctoral training includes a research fellowship studying HIV encephalitis at the University of California in San Diego and a Forensic Pathology Fellowship at the Medical Examiner's Office in San Diego. Mitch is licensed to practice Medicine in both Minnesota and California.

Dr. Morey is an active member within his profession: he is a Diplomat of the American Board of Pathology in combined anatomic pathology and neuropathology, as well as a Diplomat of the American Board of Pathology in forensic pathology. Mitch is a member of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences, National Society for Neurotrauma and the American Association of Neuropathologists. Since 1985, he has written and contributed to many professional newsletters and journals. He is also responsible for organizing his office's mass fatality response preparation.

Dr. Morey joined DMORT Region V in 2004 and has been an active participant since that time. He has trained with DMORT and awaits his first deployment.

Dr. Morey is originally from California and now resides in Plymouth, Minnesota with his wife, Christin, and their 2 sons: William Michael (15 years) and Gregory Thomas (14 years). He has helped coach his son's football teams in the past (Gregory). He is also an assistant scoutmaster for his sons' Boy Scout troop. Last summer, he and William went to Sea Base (scout camp) in the Florida Keys. They enjoyed scuba diving until Tropical Storm Fay came along. He looks forward to backpacking at the Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico this summer with both his sons.

Dr. Morey also enjoys aeromodeling (stick and tissue), private grape growing, and winemaking.

Memorial Service for the Crash of the City of New Orleans

*By Mary Fischer
Region V Team Member*



On March 15, 1999, the Amtrak "City of New Orleans" train was traveling from Chicago, IL to New Orleans, LA. At 9:48 PM, it crashed into a semi, which was loaded with 22 tons of steel, in the village of **Bourbonnais, Illinois**. The train derailed and the sleeper car caught on fire, killing 11 people and injuring more than 100.

For a small town, this was a huge tragedy, one that Bourbonnais will never forget. The crash occurred very close to a steel factory, and several men who were working that fateful night came to the rescue of many of the passengers, ultimately saving many lives with no thought of their own safety. These men were the first responders, with police and several fire departments from the area, close behind. We also had fire departments from as far as 100 miles away come to assist. **Dave Walters** (Region V Safety Officer) was one of these firefighters, and he joined DMORT Region V following the crash.

There were countless stories of lives being saved, from a cook passing a child out a window to a woman saving her niece and sacrificing her own life.

For the past 10 years, we have mourned those who perished in this tragedy and remember those who convalesced for a time in our community before returning to their homes.

I was not a member of DMORT at the time. Actually, until then, I had never even heard of this wonderful group of people. I worked at one of the two local hospitals, and a couple days after the incident, the Deputy Coroner called my hospital, asking if an x-ray tech could come down to where they had the temporary morgue set up to take x-rays of the deceased, which I was happy to do. Up until that time, there were no x-ray techs in DMORT. Since this was the first time the Federal DPMU was deployed, and the x-ray equipment was new, there was no need for an x-ray tech until that point.

On March 15, 2009, in honor of those who lost their lives, along with the survivors, the village of Bourbonnais held a memorial service at a small park, where a memorial was erected in honor of the deceased, 3 of which were children.

It was a very moving experience, where many firefighters, police and hospital employees, along with Amtrak officials and some of the steel workers, gathered to pay their respects. One man who had lost both his parents and a sister in the crash, traveled with his family from Nebraska for the memorial service. He shared his thoughts and was able to talk to some of the steel workers who had saved so many lives.

I have been on many deployments since 1999, but this one is close to my heart, since it happened so close to my home. Seeing the man who lost 3 members of his family reminded me of the reason I joined DMORT: to use the training I have acquired to help serve families who have undergone tragic losses.

TRAINING UPDATES

*Jan Simons
Training Officer*

2009 DMORT Region V Training – Grissom ANG June 5-7

The deadline for this training has passed and we are now in the final phase of planning for this educational weekend. I would like to thank everyone who took the time to respond with your training ideas and suggestions. It is important to remember that trainings are for you and your input is invaluable.

We will once again combine classroom sessions and a morgue operation into this training and continue to build on the information from previous hands-on trainings. Members should look forward to a weekend of **twists and turns**.

You will be receiving a training packet via email that will contain the weekend agenda, maps, and additional information. Please plan to print this packet and bring it with you to the training.

Our speakers will include:

DMORT V Leadership

Dale Downey

Mike Gedert

H. Gill-King PhD

Elias Kontanis PhD

Dennis Dirkmaat, PhD

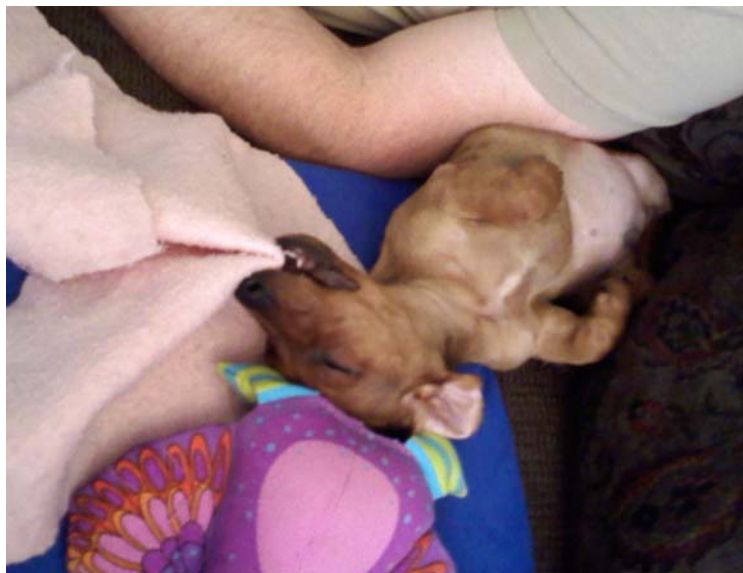
Don Bloom

Congratulations

In February 2009, **Dr. Denise Murmann** (Region V team member) was elected **President-Elect** of the **American Society of Forensic Odontology** (ASFO) in Denver, Colorado. From February 2007 until the present, Denise has served as Secretary of the ASFO. Region V congratulates and wishes her well in her new position.

Congratulations

Congratulations to **Jan Simons** and family on the new edition to their family. “**Kurtis**” arrived in March 2009 and has kept their household very busy ever since. Born on December 27, 2008 he is a miniature dachshund rescue puppy due to having only three legs. Although he was very ill the first few weeks, his pictures show how well he doing now.



Little Kurtis Simons falls asleep with his blanket in his mouth

Condolences

Region V expresses their sincere sympathy to **Mike Rortvedt** and his family. Mike's grandmother, Virgil Kathleen Pratt passed away on Thursday, March 26, 2009.

EDITOR'S NOTE: A recap of the 2009 **Integrated Medical, Public Health, Preparedness and Response Training Summit** will appear in the spring edition of the DMORT National Newsletter, which will be posted on the DMORT website www.dmort.org in May.

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