



# Voice OF V

*The official voice of Region V*



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

**DONALD SIMPSON, CFSP**



**Donald W. Simpson** is a licensed Funeral Director from Evansville, Indiana. He first became interested in the funeral business while still in grade school, after exposure to his uncle's funeral home. He went on his first death call at the early age of 16. Don worked at the funeral home on weekends during high school, and after graduation, he moved into the funeral home. He went to Indiana College of Mortuary Science, graduated in 1970, and then proceeded to take a position as a funeral director at Alexander Funeral Homes, where he still works today.

Not only did he have a passion for funeral service, but Don was also very interested in emergency medicine. In 1973, he completed the basic EMT course at Indiana Vocational

Technical College, and served on the EMT steering committee for Vanderburgh County. He served as an EMT at Alexander's from that time until 1992, when the ambulance service was sold. Alexander's had partnered with two local hospitals and pioneered High Risk Infant Transports from outlying hospitals to special Neo-natal units. He continued his training as a funeral director by finishing the National Foundation Funeral Service basic management course in 1975. In 1989, he became a State Qualified Mortuary Disaster Coordinator (FEMA/NFPA) for the state of Indiana. In the mid 1990's, he continued his disaster training by taking the EMI Train-the-Trainer course. Currently, he serves as the manager for Alexander North Chapel.

Don's experiences with disaster response include working recovery for the US AIR crash in Shelby County Indiana (1969); the University of Evansville's basketball team crash in Evansville (1977); the Kentucky Air National Guard C-130 crash (1992); and the American Eagle crash in Newton County, where he served as team leader for the Indiana Funeral Directors Association (1992). He also responded to the Vanderburgh/Warrick County Tornado which was the deadliest tornado of 2005.

Don joined DMORT in 1992 as a Mortuary Officer. He has been deployed to the September 11<sup>th</sup> attack on the World Trade Center (2001) and the Katrina/Rita hurricanes, serving at both St. Gabriel and Carville, Louisiana (2005).

Don finds great pleasure and honor in giving back to his community in several ways. He enjoys speaking to high school and college students, as well as civic groups, about funeral service and disaster preparedness. He has also been active in educating local hospitals on premature and infant death, a much needed service, as he is a Resolve through Sharing Counselor. In 1998, he participated in the planning of a video produced by Alexander Funeral Homes, and marked by Batesville BMS called "*Because Life Was Lived*".

He proudly serves on the Indiana Mortuary Emergency Response Team Advisory Team and the Southern Indiana CISD team. Don also instructs a course on Mass Fatality for the Indiana Department of Homeland Security, and acts as the chairman for both the Evansville/Vanderburgh County EMA Mortuary Task Force, along with the Indiana Funeral Directors Association's Disaster Committee. He is also a Vincennes University Funeral Service Education Advisory Board member.

Don is very active within his community. He serves as a Trustee/Board member of Trinity Wesleyan Church, District Board of Administration member for the Indiana South District of the Wesleyan Church, Gideons International, Academy of Professional Funeral Service Practice, and past trustee for the National Foundation for Mortuary Care.

He is married to Dorothy A. Simpson, who is an obstetrics nurse. They have one daughter, Sara Ann Smock, PhD., who is an assistant professor in Addictive Disorders and Recovery Studies at Texas Tech University. Some of his hobbies include listening to music, watching movies and attending sporting events.

We're very proud to have this "very busy" volunteer in Region V.

## CONGRATULATIONS

### NEWS RELEASE

It is with great pleasure to announce that **David Hunt**, Montgomery County Coroner and DMORT Region V Deputy Commander has been appointed by Governor Mitch Daniels to sit on the Indiana State Coroners Training Board.

The Indiana State Coroner's Training Board was established by the Indiana General Assembly in 1994. The Training Board was created to establish a certification training course and continuing education course for coroners and their deputies. The Training Board was established at the request of coroners throughout Indiana to provide more professionalism to the office and to make sure all death investigations collectively were conducted in a uniform manner. The Training Board is made up of six persons, The Chairman of the Indiana State Department of Health (or designee), The Superintendent of the Indiana State Police (or designee) and four elected Coroner's appointed by the Governor. The Training Board has two employees, the Executive Director and the Director of Training. The two of them oversee the daily business of the board; conduct the certification trainings and in-service trainings.

Between 1994 and 1997 the training board worked to create a curriculum and a certification test. The curriculum that was designed was done to national standards for death investigators and the test was designed based on the curriculum. The test was then validated by utilizing death investigators from around the country; those same persons were used as instructors in the beginning to conduct the training. After the core curriculum and test were created the Coroner's Training Board then added two sections to both, one being a section on Indiana Law as it pertains to the coroner and the second being an externship program.

Congratulations Dave, you honor us all!

Congratulations also go to **Ruth Grant** for recently becoming a Medicolegal Investigator on our team.

## REMINDERS FROM YOUR ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

*Sue Atwood*

Santa may be checking his list twice but I have multiple lists and I need your help in order to check you off each list.

If you hold a position on the team which requires a license, you must **register with CredentialSmart and send me a copy of the license** as well. CredentialSmart applies to everyone except mortuary officers. Mortuary officers will need to just send me their current license.

I am collecting **copies of passports** to upload into HQ's database (RMS). Please either scan and email or snail mail your copy to me as those coming through via fax are illegible. Current licenses must always be on file and these are also uploaded into RMS.

**Immunizations** are tracked via RMS so make sure you are sending updated records to **Jim Adams** at [jim@dmort.org](mailto:jim@dmort.org).

If you move, **change a contact number or change banks**, there are forms which must be filed with HQ. This information is also tracked in RMS. Rosters are generated in RMS and unless it is kept current you will be considered nondeployable.

**Responder e-Learn certificates** are being added to RMS but currently are not required as the ICS courses are (100, 200, 700 and 800b).

We've had a very quiet year but let's stay prepared and ready to go, if needed.

## **NATIONAL DMORT TRAINING**

**May 16-22, 2010  
Knoxville, Tennessee**

The first full-system DMORT hands-on training is in the planning stages and should be a reality by the scheduled May date in Knoxville, TN.

The training will involve all 10 regional DMORT teams, DMORT WMD, FACT and the DPMU. All segments of the training are being designed to create a realistic deployment situation for the DMORT attendees. The training is planned to follow the NDMS Summit in Nashville next year. The planned dates for the upcoming training in Knoxville are Sunday, May 16 through Saturday May 22, 2010, with Sunday and Saturday being travel days.

The training is intended to allow DMORT team members, especially those who have never been deployed, to experience a mass fatality disaster in a controlled, training environment. The experience gained during this training exercise should prepare DMORT members to be better equipped when deployed and to gain the insight of working inside the mobile morgue, with the FACT and the DMORT WMD Team.

The training will involve classroom as well as morgue and decontamination operations over a five-day period.

DMORT members will work with cadavers and other disassociated human remains. This will allow those who have not worked with human remains on a routine basis, the opportunity to experience what they may face during a real deployment.

The DMORT WMD Team has trained for three consecutive years in this simulated real-world environment and the results for team members has been extremely positive.

The scenario will begin with a disaster incident involving mass death and resulting in contaminated human remains. The remains will initially be taken through the decontamination process with DMORT WMD and then be transported to another venue where the mobile morgue will be set up. The remains will be taken through the various forensic stations. The Family Assistance Team (FACT) members will also train working with victims' family members, who will be volunteers in the exercise.

All DMORT team members will have the chance during their rotations to learn and experience all sections of the DMORT system.

The training is being made possible with the assistance of the City of Knoxville, Tennessee, the Knoxville Fire Department, the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, and the University of Tennessee Forensic Anthropology Department.

The number of DMORT members deployed to this training has not been determined, pending the release of the 2009-2010 fiscal budget. Those selected to attend this training will be determined by each team's command staff.

The planning and resolving of logistic issues will continue over the next several months. The plan is to ensure this training will be the best learning experience possible. It will help provide every DMORT team member who attends to be prepared when the next deployment call comes.

### Link

The following link is an article regarding DMORT and the American Samoa deployment:  
<http://www.enterpriseneews.com/lifestyle/x1579578112/Member-of-national-morgue-unit-always-ready-for-disaster>



***The Region V Leadership Team and the "Voice of V" Newsletter Editors wish everyone a safe and happy Holiday Season.***

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