



# Voice OF V

*The official voice of Region V*



**EDITORS**  
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**May 2010**

**\*\*\*\*\* Jim Adams is our Distinguished Member of the Year for 2009 \*\*\*\*\***

Congratulations Jim!!

Congratulations are also due to **Don Simpson** and **Dave Walters**, who were recognized by the Team for their efforts in behalf of the victims and their families that we serve.

Region V and DMORT itself are fortunate to have these people and the rest of you as Team members!

Let us hope that the coming year will be kinder to the world than it has been so far and that we meet only at training events!

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

**ALLAN WARNICK, DDS**



**Dr. Allan Warnick** is a licensed General Dentist and Forensic Odontologist. He has a dental practice in Livonia, Michigan, where he practices with his daughter, Emily. After graduation from the University of Detroit, School of Dentistry in 1964, Allan began his career in Forensic Odontology, while serving as an Officer in the Air Force. Following his discharge in 1967, he set up a private dental practice in Livonia, Michigan. From 1967 through the early 1980's, he worked at his dental practice, while helping his wife raise their two daughters.

In 1983, while lecturing on Dental Aesthetics, Allan attended the AFIP (Armed Forces Institute of Pathology) forensic dental course in Washington, DC. From that time on, he has been very involved in the forensic sciences, which brought a welcome challenge to Allan.

Dr. Warnick is extremely active within his profession. He is a Diplomat of the American Board of Forensic Odontology, Team Leader of the Michigan Dental Association, a member of the Michigan Forensic Dental Identification Team, and a Fellow and past chairman of the Odontology Section of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences. He is also the chief forensic dental consultant for Wayne and Oakland Counties in Michigan.

Allan has worked numerous Mass Casualty Situations over the past several years with the Michigan Dental Team, which include **Northwest Flight #255** in Romulus, Michigan (1987), **Northwest Flight #1482** in Detroit, Michigan (1990), and **Comair #3272** in Monroe, Michigan (1997). He has also had the pleasure of helping to set up and train Dental Identification Teams throughout the United States.

He joined DMORT in the early 1990's, after attending a meeting in Wisconsin, where he met **Frank** and **Julie Saul**. He has also had the opportunity to work with both Frank and Julie on numerous cases at the Wayne County, Ohio Medical Examiner's Office. After joining DMORT, Allan deployed three times to work in New York City, New York, following the World Trade Center Attack (2001). He has also helped to set up dental training programs at Region V training sessions in Detroit, Michigan; Grand Rapids, Michigan; Toledo, Ohio; and Columbus, Ohio.

Allan feels strongly that all DMORTs doing this work strive for one thing: to help the families who have lost a loved one in a most tragic situation to attain some closure, in a dignified honorable way. They truly share a special moment in their lives doing this work. This was very true when his wife, Liz, passed away suddenly in August 2008. The calls, messages, notes and those attending her funeral truly brought this home to Allan.

Allan has two daughters, Emily and Melissa. Both of them are married and have given him 5 grandchildren. They keep their grandpa on the move with hockey, soccer games and music recitals.

Allan is extremely happy to say that he still enjoys going to the office twice a week. His eldest daughter, Emily is his partner, and she also runs the office. He claims that besides working there on those 2 days, he just enjoys bothering everyone.

His hobbies include photography (nature), traveling, hiking in national parks, and gardening (working on his waterscape). He also enjoys going to hockey games to watch his three grandsons play.

Region V is lucky to have a man like Allan on our team.

## **JOE MAIN IN HAITI**

### **“Rookie on the Road”**

It all started with an email from **Sue Atwood** (Region V Administrative Officer) in early March, informing our team that DMORT V was being deployed to Port-au-Prince, Haiti, in response to the earthquake that occurred in January, 2010. This would be my first “out the door” experience. Several emails followed, to assure that those responding were appropriately packed and prepared, both mentally and physically, for the unique conditions that awaited us.

The deployment began with a flight to Atlanta, where I saw several familiar faces and many new ones. I realized this would change quickly, as we would be together over the next two weeks. We were briefed on the austere conditions, and the ground work laid by those before us was explained. I’m not sure how others were feeling, but as a rookie, I was nervous and not sure what I was getting into.

On the morning of March 8<sup>th</sup>, we had a very respectful send off as our names were called and we boarded the bus to the airport to begin what was my first mission. It would prove to be very challenging and difficult at times. This was DMORT’s first international mission and would allow the opportunity to lay new foundation for future deployments. I felt proud to be a part of it.

Following the 2 ½ hour flight, we circled over the Port-au-Prince airport. We were able to view many native tent cities and what would be considered home for the next two weeks.

At this point, there was much anticipation, and for the veterans, I’m sure, anxiousness to hit the ground running. I was just hoping to feel my legs and feet upon exiting the plane. As we debarked, it felt like I was walking into a blast furnace. This would be the climate we would have to deal with during the mission. From the briefing in Atlanta we learned that one nemesis we would have to deal with was the mosquito. I proceeded to wipe myself with insect repellent, not knowing if they would strike any time soon. I realized this would be the ritual every morning and evening over the next two weeks.

Before I go any further, I must mention a terrific person that took me under his wing as a buddy. His name is **Jack Horbal**, a Region V dentist from Chicago, Illinois. As a rookie, I couldn’t have asked for a better person to help me out on my first deployment. Watching out for each other was a required task in this unfamiliar, challenging environment. Jack had insight, along

with witty jokes and smooth comebacks that exhumed much needed laughter. A friend of mine from Ohio, who had made two previous deployments to Haiti, left me a box of supplies that would allow me to escape from the routine and at times, tasty MREs. I quote from a famous movie; opening an MRE “is like a box of chocolates, you never know what you will get.”

What I would learn over the next two weeks is that teamwork was essential, and it was well displayed. We had a group of people, all possessing special skills, coming together and getting the job done. There were days when people weren’t on top of their game, but there was always someone stepping in to pick them up and carry on. If you look up the word “teamwork”, you will find DMORT.

The command staff kept us on task, the LRATs supplied us with what we needed, and the DMATs were always there reminding us to listen to our bodies and hydrate, hydrate, hydrate.

I realize that one deployment does not make a veteran, but I certainly learned some things that will help on future missions. As our two weeks concluded, there was a request to extend. Several from our group stayed on to help and I applaud them. From recovery and morgue ops to command/medical/military support, everyone came together playing a vital role in a difficult mission.

God Bless the Military, DMATs, LRATs, DMORT and most of all, God Bless America

**Joe Main**

**DMORT V**



*Joe Main “Freshman out the door”*

## MARY JOHNSON'S HAITI DEPLOYMENT

I had the privilege of working with the Family Assistance Center Team (FACT) in Miami, Florida, during the aftermath of the Haiti Earthquake. I had worked with the FACT after Hurricane Katrina, and participated in special training, but this deployment was different than most.

At first, the office setting wasn't very appealing with drab white walls, so during our down time, some of us helped to spruce the office up a bit, using recycled materials for wall art and decorations. That made it a little cheerier, like a home away from home. Of course, we had some comedians who would make us laugh with their jokes, which also helped to pass the time.

The FACT contacted the families of the victims, whose information was provided by the State Department. We obtained additional information for the Victim Identification Packets (VIP), which assisted with identification for repatriation of United States citizens. Repatriation is the return of the deceased to their home country. Most of those recovered and identified were shipped by the Department Of Defense (DOD) to Dover Air Force Base, in Dover, Delaware, where arrangements were made to ship victims to their final destinations, their homes. While we were there, most of us, including me, were trained in, and worked in Records Management. We also had to familiarize ourselves in DNA procedures, such as sending out kits for DNA sampling requests.

Although only some of the victims had been identified and were ready for repatriation early in the mission, the work was beginning to pick up close to my departure date. I was very happy that more families would finally have some closure. We also had daily briefings, which kept us informed of the mission progress in both Miami and Haiti.

We surprised **Jennie Thommen**, the Commander of FACT, with a birthday celebration one day after work. She worked so hard and tirelessly, she deserved it. **Susan Eastman**, the Administrative Officer (AO) of FACT, worked endlessly keeping up with our time and travel. The FACT team consists of some of the most pleasant people I've ever worked with on a deployment. It was a pleasure working with them. I would also like to thank **Susan Atwood**, my Region V AO, for keeping up with my time and travel.

Thanks and God bless you all for a job well done.

**Mary E.B. Johnson**

**DMORT V**

## TIM SCHMIDT IN HAITI

Everyone has heard that the deployment to Haiti was a very trying experience, and in my opinion, that is not an exaggeration. The conditions there were the worst I have ever seen.

We worked on a daily basis with the **Army's Mortuary Affairs Team**, the **OH-1 DMATs** and the **LRATS**. These units were GREAT to work with, and we all became one team, working side by side.

Most of the DMORTs there were from Region V, but there were also members from Regions VIII and IX. I was assigned to be the Morgue Ops Chief, which was a pleasant job due to the wonderful people I worked with. If I needed volunteers for anything, I would go to the group and all I would have to say was "I need ...." and everyone would jump up and ask what needed to be done. I never had to finish the sentence.

The operation of the morgue itself was different than any other deployment. Because of the tremendous heat, we would run only one station at a time. Each section would go into the morgue to do their work, and when they were done, another section would do theirs, and this process continued throughout the day. This reduced the amount of time that any one team would have to be in their Tyvek suits. The number of remains that were processed was generally small, which made it easier to work this way. The last remains had been recovered on our last and busiest day, during which we processed 4 sets of remains.

As far as the temperature goes, all I can say is that it was HOT, HOT, HOT!!! Most days, the temperature was 95 to 98 degrees during the day, and at night it might have gone down to about 85. Unfortunately, there was very little opportunity to get relief from the heat. The only air conditioning we had was in the morgue, the Command tent and the mess tent (but only during the last week). All of the sleeping tents had some sort of fan to try to keep the hot air circulating while we slept.

As far as food goes, we mostly had MREs to eat, but we did receive several cases of cookies and other snacks. Luckily, there was plenty of bottled water to keep us hydrated.

We had the opportunity to go to the Hotel Montana, where the Americans were known to be staying, and see the efforts being made to recover remains. On the way there, we saw a lot of the destruction to the buildings in the city, which was unbelievable. We also went to the US Embassy, in front of which we were able to get a Team picture. While there, we were able to grab some lunch and shop at the commissary for some much needed things, and of course, some souvenirs.

I cannot stress enough how important the teamwork was, which included everyone there. We became close to the OH-1 DMATs, the military and the LRATS. Whenever asked to volunteer, the DMATs, military, LRATS and DMORTs worked side by side.

On numerous occasions, we heard comments such as “we have a better understanding of what DMORT does”, and some of these comments came from some high ranking officers. At one point, we had a visit from a 2- star General. On Thursday, our last day of operation, the DMORTs, DMATs, LRATS and the military were addressed by Colonel Citron of the US Army, who thanked everyone for a job well done. He also presented Certificates of Achievement to show his appreciation.

All things considered, I am very glad that I was able to go on this important mission. It was great to be able to work with the DMORT members that I have come to know over the years. I truly consider each and every one a friend. Maybe family would be more accurate.

**Tim Schmidt**

**DMORT V**



*Tim Schmidt trying to keep cool*



*DMORT Team Members in Haiti*





A letter to Tom Koulouris,  
Chief Operating Officer  
Project Medishare,  
University of Miami Hospital, Haiti

March 27, 2010

Several weeks ago, a small contingent of Disaster Mortuary Operational Response Team Region V (DMORT V) personnel, along with a representative from the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) were able to tour your field hospital in Haiti.

Our duty location nearby offered us a daily glimpse at the great work being done by your staff and volunteers. Our missions, though different in scope, share a common bond in providing assistance to those affected by the earthquake. Each and every one of us were deeply moved by what we witnessed that day.

Recognizing an opportunity, members of the Region V team began hand-making and distributing para-cord bracelets to other team members, military personnel, and contractors. In return, we simply asked for a nominal donation.

Our efforts resulted in well over 100 bracelets being donated and many more being given away to locals, as a token of friendship and hope for the future.

It is with great respect and admiration that on behalf of the NDMS family and all of the DMORT teams who responded to this disaster that we present this donation of \$1100.00 to the University of Miami and Project Medishare field hospital in Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

Sincerely,

**Shawn Wilson** (Medico-legal Investigator)

**Dave Hunt** (Deputy Commander)

**Dave Walters** (Safety Officer)



*Dave Hunt, Dave Walters and Shawn Wilson*

**Brad Targhetta**, serving as Team Commander in Haiti, expresses his sincere appreciation to ALL team members for their hard work. It became very apparent that as one member became spent, two others would back them up. This was “teamwork” at its finest.

### **Congratulations**

**Dr. Frank Saul** (Region V Commander), **Julie Saul** (Regions VII & V Forensic Anthropologist) and **Dr. Mike Pratt** (Region V Forensic Anthropologist), were recently recognized by the **Ohio Attorney General’s Office** for their “loyal dedicated service” in support of the Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation (BCI&I).

The Sauls and Pratt have assisted BCI&I in many investigations, especially cold case investigations, during the past several decades.

In addition, for more than 10 years, they have taught the “**Forensic Aspects of Death Scenes**” body recovery course taken by many BCI&I Agents and other law enforcement officers at the Ohio Peace Officers Training Academy.

**Sue Atwood** became a proud grandma on Friday, January 22, 2010 to a grandson, **Dalen Tyler**. Dalen weighed in at 7.2 pounds and measured 20.5 inches in length. As you can see, he has a

full head of hair. Sue will be taking on a new part-time job, come the end of March, as his babysitter every Wednesday. Congratulations Grandma Sue!!!



*Sue Atwood's grandson, Dalen Tyler*

### Region V News

**Caroline Caliguri**, a member of Region V for many years, has transferred to an IRCT team. We wish her the best of luck with her new position.

### Condolences

Region V team members express their deepest sympathy to **Allan Warnick** and his family.

Haley Nathan (11 years old), Allan's granddaughter, passed away April 28, 2010 after a courageous five year battle with cancer.

Family and funeral information can be found at:

[http://www.irakaufman.com/funerals/index\\_listing.cfm?funeralID=3772](http://www.irakaufman.com/funerals/index_listing.cfm?funeralID=3772)

**Allan Warnick contact info:**

**Home: 248-661-0885**

**email: [wtoothdoc@aol.com](mailto:wtoothdoc@aol.com)**

**Reminders from your Administrative Officer**

*Sue Atwood*

Now is the time to make sure your contact information is current, **not** during a call down, rostering for a deployment or during training. Licenses required for your rostered position must be current and on file or you will be considered non-deployable.

If you have changed banks, be sure to update your information in myPay (<https://mypay.dfas.mil/mypas.aspx>). I also need to file a new **SF1199A** with Human Resources at Headquarters for new banking information. There are multiple databases maintained by Headquarters and all must be kept current in order to deploy you for a mission or training, and to assure you will be paid.

Please help me do my job, to make sure you are kept deployable and paid within a reasonable amount of time, by responding to my inquiries for information.

### **Training Information**

*Jan Simons*

**The 2010 Integrated Medical, Public Health, Preparedness and Response Training Summit** will be once again held at the Gaylord Opryland Hotel in Nashville, Tennessee. This training will begin at 8:30 am on Wednesday, May 12<sup>th</sup>, with the opening ceremony and keynote address, followed by general sessions. General sessions will conclude at 11:30 a.m. on Friday and workshops will begin at 1:00 p.m. They will conclude on Sunday, May 16<sup>th</sup>, at 5:00 p.m. Information is available at: <http://www.esf8trainingsummit.org>

**The 2010 National DMORT Training** will be held in Knoxville, Tennessee on May 17-21 with travel days on the 16<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>. Hotel and travel arrangements will be made for you and you will be receiving additional information with instructions very soon. Please check your email frequently so that you have the most current information. Due to the limited space, this training is by invitation only. Non-funded members will **not** be able to attend any of the training sessions.



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