



Voice OF V

The official voice of Region V



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LEARNING MORE ABOUT OUR TEAM MEMBERS

RUTH GRANT



Ruth Grant was born and raised in Lansing, Michigan: the middle, best, and most well adjusted of three girls. She was a shy child growing up and discovered a way to express her creative outlet in her love of figure skating. Ruth often traveled to Detroit and Sarnia, Ontario for figure skating practice and coaching by a former member of the Canadian Olympic team. She was always accompanied by her parents, who most likely felt the need not so much to chaperone her, but to protect others from Ruth's practical jokes.

Back in the 1960's, Michigan State University hosted a summer-long figure skating school for skaters from all over the world. It was during one of these summer camps that Ruth developed her first crush on a boy from New York City named Kenny Wang. Kenny was not nearly as serious a skater as his sister Vera, whose figure skating costumes, now designed for the U.S. Olympic team, continue to be as absolutely fabulous as the rest of her designs.

The whole academia thing didn't really fit in well with Ruth's busy high school schedule. After all, there were cello concerts to perform, marching band parties to attend, and of course, a defensive right-end position to conquer in powder-puff football.

After graduation, Ruth moved to Mackinaw Island, where she spent three summers working at the Grand Hotel. After leaving the Island, she married and lived in New Orleans. In 1974, she moved back to Lansing for the birth of her daughter, Rebecca.

In 1977, Ruth became a single parent and began working at Sparrow Hospital in Lansing, Michigan, where she took a position within the Laboratory and Forensic Pathology Department. Simultaneously, she enrolled at Michigan State University, eventually obtaining a Bachelor of Science degree in Public Administration.

As her daughter was growing up, Ruth was very involved in the Catholic Church, parochial education committees, and her daughter's athletics. Ruth currently serves as a Eucharistic minister at St. Mary's Cathedral in Lansing. In 2008, after 31 years of service, Ruth retired from Sparrow Hospital Forensic Pathology as the supervisor of forensic pathology.

Ruth first discovered DMORT through **Dr. Joyce deJong**, with whom she worked side-by-side at Sparrow Hospital for ten years. Through the encouragement of Dr. deJong, Ruth applied to DMORT and was thrilled to be accepted in 2002. Her first position was an administrative aide, then reclassified as a medicolegal investigator in 2008. Ruth's first deployment was to Gulfport, Mississippi to assist in the recovery efforts after Hurricane Katrina. She walked in as an administrative aide; however, upon arrival, her deployment position changed to Administrative Officer and then later the Planner. Panic lasted for about five minutes, then it was time to work. Ruth's next deployment was to Port-au-Prince, Haiti as the IR Section Chief. Then in May, Ruth was requested to give a presentation to the Great Lakes Homeland Security Conference regarding her experiences and deployment to the earthquake in Haiti. Lastly, in May 2011, she had the privilege of assisting in Joplin, Missouri in the Family Assistance Center after a devastating tornado.

Currently, Ruth is a contracted employee with the Michigan Department of Community Health – Office of Public Health Preparedness (OPHP) as the Pandemic Mass Fatality Planner and the Continuity of Operations Planner for the department. OPHP is grant-funded by Assistant Secretary of Preparedness Response (ASPR) and Centers for Disease Control (CDC) with projects in healthcare preparedness in hospitals, public health clinics and long term care centers. In 2007, Ruth became involved with OPHP in the creation, building and organizing of the Michigan Mortuary Response Team (MI-MORT) with the Michigan Funeral Directors Association and Michigan Dental Association. On this team, she serves as the Administrative Officer working with other fantastic Michigan-based DMORT members. MI-MORT is federally and nationally recognized as a qualified state level mass fatality resource with an established team, including a Victim Information Center (aka: Family Assistance Center) and a site recovery team.

Since April 2011, Ruth has been a member of the FEMA directed Medical and Public Health Working Group directed by RADM Ann Knebel, Deputy Director for Preparedness Planning, ASPR, in Washington, D.C. The goal of this group is to resource the type of state mass fatality teams and equipment needed for each “state to state” requested response.

For the past six years, Ruth has been a medical examiner investigator for Eaton and Ingham Counties, which surround the Lansing area. Currently, she is preparing for the American Board of Medicolegal Death Investigators board exams.

Ruth is a long-time fan of Michigan State University/Big 10 athletics and a die-hard Spartan. Though she loves to spend time in her gardens, she doesn’t claim to be a master gardener by any means...she is too often seen rescuing plants from her two golden retrievers, Oliver and Daisy. For the past three years, Ruth has become a regular Ginger Rogers, taking tap dance lessons. The spring recitals have entertained many, even on YouTube; however, this year the tap group is entering competition. Can anyone say “Dancing With the Stars?”

And she thinks her life is boring.....

Region V is proud to have Ruth as a valued member of our team.

CONGRATULATIONS

Audrey (AJ) Jarabek, RDH, RDA, CMT, of Saginaw, Michigan, was recently presented with the **2011 Sunstar Americas/RDH Magazine National Dental Hygiene Award of Distinction**, which recognizes outstanding Dental Hygienists.

AJ says that helping her patients have healthier lives comes from “having an inner personal sense of confidence, leadership and compassion.” She also has a personal mission statement for practicing dental hygiene: “As a responsive and dynamic dental hygienist, it is my aspiration to educate, inspire and support proper dental health to a diverse community in a family oriented environment. My excellence, respect, and integrity will shine through me to my team through my innovative leadership. It is my goal to display, demonstrate and teach personal excellence in oral, as well as overall health, while making each patient feel like they are as important to me as my own personal family member.”

AJ is currently back in school full time, year around, finishing her Bachelors’ degree so that she can pursue her Masters degree as soon as possible.

She currently is a registered dental hygienist for two practicing dentists in Saginaw, Michigan, while at the same time, an independent contractor.

AJ has been a member of DMORT for the past 9 years. She has also been a member of the Michigan Dental Identification Team (MDIT) for the past 18 years, along with the Michigan Mortuary Operational Response Team (MI-MORT).

We all congratulate AJ as being the recipient of this prestigious award!!



AJ with her 2 daughters, Amy (along with boyfriend, Nathan), and Ashley (and her boyfriend Andy)

“Lucky” Update

During the Hurricane Katrina deployment, AJ adopted and took home a six-week old, five pound puppy, which she named “Lucky” He is now a very well trained six-year-old, 74 pound German Shepherd/Greyhound mix. She’s done a wonderful job raising him, and saving him from a hurricane ravaged city.



AJ and “Lucky”

NEW REGION V MEMBERS



Barbara Leiber, of Joliet, Illinois, is a Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor. She has worked for the Village of Downers Grove for 23 years, where she served 18 of those years as Director of the Department of Social and Health Services. In that capacity, she worked with the police department and the fire department on issues related to domestic violence, neighborhood disputes, community oriented policing, community education and mental health related issues in the community. She has since retired.

She now teaches in the graduate Masters in Clinical Counseling Program at Benedictine University in Lisle, Illinois.

Barb joined NDMS in 2004 as a DMAT, in time to be deployed to the hurricane events in Florida that summer. She was also deployed to Biloxi, Mississippi after Hurricane Katrina, and worked with Region V at the mortuary site there. She has since joined Region V in July, 2011, due to the retirement of the DMAT IL-2 Mental Health Specialty Team.

Welcome to Region V!



Tim Hanks, of Lake Geneva, Wisconsin, has served NDMS since his first deployment to the Oklahoma Bombing. As a former member of Illinois-2 Behavior Health Strategic Response Team, he has provided or coordinated behavioral health support at commercial airline crashes, the World Trade Center, Hurricane Katrina, and in excess of a baker's dozen hurricanes.

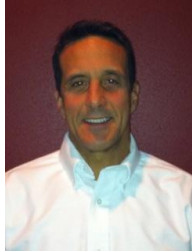
Within the journey, Timmy has frequently embedded with DMORTs and/or VMATs (AVMA). Part of his background also includes a clinical internship with the Child Fatality Serious Injury Committee, associated with both Cook County Hospital and the Cook County Medical Examiner's office in Chicago, Illinois. He works both as a licensed clinical professional counselor and as a licensed chaplain in both corporate settings (psychotherapist in Chicago) as well as serving as pastor of family counseling (Lake Geneva, Wisconsin), near where he lives.

Historically, Timmy has served several University Medical Centers, including pediatric ICU, Burn, and Trauma Life Care units at the University of Wisconsin Hospitals in Madison, Wisconsin, as well as Illinois Masonic, Northwestern Memorial and Children's Memorial in Chicago.

Timmy is a come-along-side person who plays well with others, enjoys partnering together, sharing stories, and participating as a contributing member, whether in mischief or out on a strike team expedition. Ultimately, he is captivated by capturing important moments along the way.

Timmy joined Region V in the spring of 2011, after the elimination of the IL-2 team.

We welcome Timmy to Region V.



Richard Mueller transferred from DMORT Region IX and is a Senior Planning Analyst. He enjoys the challenge of using a systems approach to ensure that all team members have what they need when they need it. Planning, teamwork and politics can be daunting tasks under "normal" circumstances, much less at disasters. His educational investments include a B.S. in Fire Service Management and a Certificate in Public Administration, many NIMS Certifications and a keen curiosity to learn how the real world works. His primary work experience includes: 31 years with the West Allis Fire Department (20 as a Battalion Chief) and 25 years teaching ICS/NIMS with Waukesha County Technical College and Gateway Technical College. He is a quality minded, hands on, professional who is looking forward to meeting Region V team members and helping the team to work seamlessly from incident deployment through incident mitigation. Richard lives in Waterford, Wisconsin on Tichigan Lake with his wife, teenage daughter and the sweetest Labrador who reminds him every day the importance of relationships. Region V welcomes Richard!!!

Jamie Hiott is an Interventional Radiographer and has been a member of DMORT since 2005. He has recently transferred from Region IX. Jamie has assisted in the American Samoa deployment. He currently live in Columbus, Ohio and is married with 2 teenage daughters still living at home. He loves photography and also makes jewelry. Welcome to Region V!

DMORT 5 Team Conference Call – November 1, 2011 @ 8:00 PM EST

Roll Call - 29 in attendance

IBA update: JPMC automatically sends out replacement cards. These cards are typically arriving the first week of the expiration month. They are being mailed in a plain, white envelope and look like junk mail. You do not have to call the customer service as the tag on the front of the card indicates. Please let Sue know if you have not received your replacement card by the second/third week of the month your card is expiring in.

DMORT National Training update: Headquarters is planning on conducting a DMORT National Training in 2012. The budget will dictate if HQ is able to conduct a training, how long it will be, and how many team employees will be allowed to attend, if approved. The training initiative is in the process of review.

VOLK update: There was an initial planning conference November 8 & 9. Last year's drill consisted of the command staff and employees who lived in Wisconsin, doing a classroom presentation on site recovery ops and two days of scenario based evolutions, consisting of an IED detonation and a nuclear device detonation. We acted in the capacity of subject matter experts and evaluators for both evolutions. Another afternoon was divided into working with the FBI ERT (Evidence Recovery Team) and playing in the weapons simulation building. Meals consisted of a hot breakfast from their mobile canteen, an MRE for lunch and on our own for dinner. We were housed in barracks with a common bathroom and showers, bunkrooms that slept one or two people, and a common day room. We anticipate our involvement next year to be even larger and want to have as many of our team participate as possible. We also anticipate this will be an unfunded training, though we will be requesting funding.

Go bag update: It's time to transition your go bag from warm weather gear to cold weather gear. Prepare for extreme conditions. It is best to stay prepared both physically and mentally. We have been deployed to areas with less than standard conditions, including tents for morgue ops and sleeping quarters. This could happen in cold weather climates as well. Stay up to date on immunizations and prescribed meds, increase your vitamin C intake and fluid intake. Keep your extremities warm and dry, and watch yourself and others for early signs of frostbite and hypothermia - pain and redness to the exposed areas (frostbite) and shivering (hypothermia). Layer your clothing, choosing a moisture wicking fabric or natural fabric as the base layer. This will draw moisture into your next layer of clothing, away from your skin, and keep you warmer. Other layers can be added or removed based on your comfort level. Thick socks, a stocking cap or other ear protecting hats, and waterproof gloves are essential. Pack a couple of bottles of water as well. You can use these to hydrate and then cut the tops and bottoms off of the bottles and insert them into wet gloves to aid in drying.

Hiring Process: All position changes will have to be advertised openly and this will be done through the PHE.gov website. All new vacancies will also be advertised through this website. Human Resources put a temporary hold on NDMS hiring, so all those who are currently "acting commanders, acting deputies" etc. will have to go through the hiring process again. These positions will have to be re-advertised on the PHE website. To date, the website has not added this link.

Uniform update: Bids for contracts are out for ordering uniforms online. Eventually there will be an online ordering process put into place to order uniforms. They will then be shipped directly to the employee. All uniforms that are provided to employees are government property and must be returned at the employee's expense upon leaving the team. They will be khaki. What the shirt to be worn under the blouse will look like, we do not know yet. There may also be a new patch and placement of the current patches may be changed. A modular parka that would serve as raingear and/or a winter jacket is being discussed. At this time, a booney cap or

khaki patrol cap is OK to wear. We are also allowed to wear our current green t-shirts for trainings and meetings.

Tim Raker has been appointed Acting Training Officer. Tim will be requesting funding for the VOLK training.

Region 4/6 training: The DMORT family group on Facebook posted an open invitation to all teams to attend the 4/6 training in New Orleans, January 20-22, 2012. A contract with the Marriott on Canal Street is being sought with a room rate of \$136.00 for single/double. No more details are available at this time. Let me know if you are planning to attend so these regions can make appropriate space arrangements.

Team composition: The DMORT and DMAT teams have been given a team model of 150 employees. A copy of this will be sent to the team so you can see what areas we need to recruit for and what our current status is.

Current call down lists will be sent out to the team.

2013 training opportunity: There may be an opportunity for us to have a team training in Ohio with donated human remains. More details to follow when available.

Our next team conference call will be scheduled for **Tuesday, December 6**. The time will be 8:00 PM EST. Check your email for specific details on the call. Submit topics of discussion to Brad so they can be added to the agenda and to give us time to find the answers, if need be. . As always, don't hesitate to contact any of the command staff should you have a question or concern. You do not have to wait until a scheduled conference call. .

IMMUNIZATION UPDATE

Jim Adams, DDS

As many of you know, the immunization protocols have changed. NDMS is following the military guidelines of "at risk". What this means is, if you are being sent to an area where a particular immunization is needed, eg.flu, you will be given the immunization prior to leaving. While it is no longer required to have a flu shot for deployment, it is still recommended. For many of us, a flu shot is required by our employer and if you do receive a flu shot, or immunization, please let us know. We are still tracking who has had one.

Bottom line: the flu shot is not required, just recommended, and if you get a vaccination, please continue to send me the record. jim@dmort.org

I hope everyone had a good and safe summer. Check your go bags, be sure your prescription medications are up to date and I hope to see you all at a training soon.

RESPONDER E-LEARN UPDATE

As stated many times in the past, the online training component of NDMS is an ongoing and developing system. Courses will be added progressively. With the release of NC-2070 '*Media Relations and Public Information Awareness*,' there are now 13 courses available for NDMS personnel in Responder e-Learn. Before we go out the door, let's all make sure we are caught up with our online learning.

NC-1000 Course Part 1 - Introduction to the Organization

NC 1010 HHS Organizational Overview

NC 1020 NDMS In Review (60 minutes)

NC 1030 ESF #8 Roles and Responsibilities

NC1040 Federal Policies and Plans

N 1050 Legal Issues and Ethics

NC 1060 National Incident Management System-NIMS

NC-2000 Course Part 2 - Response Readiness

NC 2010 - NDMS Operational Orders

NC 2020 - Administrative & Travel

NC 2030 - Home and Family Preparedness

NC 2040 - Cultural Awareness

NC 2050 - Critical Incident and Traumatic Stress Management (no longer available)

N 2060 - Personal Gear for Deployments

NEW for 2011:

NC 2051 -Psychological First Aid (this replaces NC 2050 Critical Incident and Traumatic Stress Management

NC 2070 - Media Relations and Public Information Awareness

The following **NEW** series are currently in the planning stages and may be released soon:

- NC-3000 Course Part 3 - Response Readiness
- NC-4000 Course Part 4 - Specialty Tracks

The DMORT-specific courses are well into the development stage and will be released in the near future.

Remember: you need to complete the survey to receive credit for the course and print your certificate. Please send a copy of your certificate to Sue to keep in our training records.

A few reminders for Responder eLearn:

Log In: www.Respondere-learn.com

Click on: NDMS Instructions or Login

User Name: 1st initial of first name & 1st two (2) initials of last name (ALL CAPS) and last (5) digits of social security number.

Example: (Name) John Smith (Social Security Number) 123-45-6789

JSM56789

NDMS USER Password: Same as your USER Name (you can change your password while in Blackboard).

Helpful Hint: If your exam or survey locks before you have finished, close and restart your browser. Once you have logged back on to the program and opened the exam or survey you will find that your answers have been retained and you do not need to start over.

Please submit all questions, including password resets, to usphslmssupport@inforeliance.com or NDMSTraining@hhs.gov.

PARS- A NEW ACCOUNTABILITY PROCESS

There is a new team accountability process being implemented by HQ to track where all employees are when activated. It is called “PARS” for personnel accountability reporting system and it is connected with RMS, the database HQ uses to track all teams. When rosters are created for a training or disaster, they are also available in PARS for the IRCT. The IRCT can then monitor the movement of the teams, i.e. en route, arrived, on sight, etc. If there is a delay in travel, for example, the roster will be updated to “delayed” and there is a comment box which could say something like why the traveler is delayed. Flight numbers can also be added in this comment box. A time stamp follows all entries. Currently travelers are to contact FIELD OPS (800-872-6367) while traveling and upon arrival to their destination. In the past we have called NDMS OPS (now called FIELD OPS) and recently in Joplin we checked in with a contact in Joplin. The goal is to make this an AO responsibility. The demob process shows personnel as they arrive home. The IRCT will then know who is still out in the field and who has arrived home. Once PARS is implemented, each traveler must check in with their AO while traveling if there are any issues and upon arrival to their destination, either to the training/disaster site and when they return home. More information will be shared when available.

DISTINGUISHED EMPLOYEE NOMINATION

Please send your nomination for Distinguished Employee to Brad at brad.targhetta@hhs.gov by February 1st. You will be given the opportunity to vote from the submitted list of employees. Previous Award winners (Julie Saul, Bob Shank Jr., Don Bloom, Brad Targhetta, Sue Atwood, Robert [Bubba] Stevens, Mike Gedert, Mary Fischer, Dave Hunt, Leslie Eisenberg, Jan Simons, Terry Swanson, Jim Adams, and Frank Saul) are **not** eligible.

JOPLIN October 2011

Tim Schmidt

In October 2011, my friend Charlene and I took a trip to San Antonio, Texas to help my sister and brother-in-law celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary. In planning this trip, we wanted to come home by going through Joplin, Missouri. I was deployed to Joplin in May, 2011 following the devastating tornado. I wanted to see how the recovery was going and to show Charlene where I had worked. I was not able to see all the damage in person in May. Most of what I saw was through photos that others had taken.

This time we saw the damage. We went to St John’s Hospital and although the hospital is in operation, they were not using the original building. They were operating out of temporary structures.

We saw some houses that appeared to be new. My guess is that these were the homes that were totally destroyed and rebuilt. We also saw homes that were in the process of being rebuilt or repaired. There were some lots that had been cleared, but rebuilding was not going on at this time. There were other buildings in which nothing had been done. They looked the way they did the day after the tornado.

Charlene had heard on TV that they were starting a museum in Joplin to collect things that had been found in the rubble and could not be returned to the owners. We asked about the museum, but could not find out where it was or where it will be.

We went to Missouri Southern State University so I could show Charlene where we stayed. Classes were being held, so we just drove through.

Driving from Texas to Joplin, we went through Oklahoma City. As a sort of an afterthought, we decided to stop at the Oklahoma City National Memorial and Museum. In case you don't recognize this name, it is the site of the Oklahoma City bombing. We had no idea what to expect. We didn't go into the museum, but just walked around in the memorial. This was a VERY moving experience and I thought the memorial was extremely well done. If you are ever in the vicinity, do yourself a favor and go to see it. Even if you have to go out of your way, I think you will be as impressed as I was on this trip.

ALASKAN VACATION

By: Jim Adams

Marcia and I normally take a spring vacation, but this year we waited until mid August and went to Alaska. Of the 12 days there, it rained for 8 of them, so my photos are not the quality I wanted, but we traveled nearly 3,000 miles on both bus and train, and finished the last 4 days on a cruise. We saw all kinds of wildlife, including a wolf pack. There was beautiful scenery everywhere you looked, but particularly in British Columbia. We had a great time. You may have seen the Facebook picture of Marcia and myself "drinking the toe" in Dawson. It was lots of fun.

We also took a 4 day trip to Philadelphia in September to see the St Louis Cardinals play. We loved the history there and we walked the whole city. Go Cards!!!

GO BAG PACKING LIST

- Valid U.S. Passport, if required
- DMORT ID badge on lanyard
- Vaccination card
- HERA – Health Exposure Risk Assessment (to be issued for each deployment)
- Cash - US dollars in small bills, roll of quarters for laundry
- Mosquito netting
- Sleeping bag
- Twin sheet for inside your sleeping bag
- Small pillow
- Clothes to sleep in (may be co-ed quarters)
- Sun block
- Baby wipes
- Hand sanitizer
- Flashlight
- Extra batteries, if equipment takes them
- Zip-lock bags (various sizes)
- Trash bag
- Duct tape
- Use duffle bag instead of rolling or large suitcases—what you take you may have to carry
- 30 day supply of all medications in original containers with labels
- Lighter or matches
- Pocketknife or Leather-man
- Travel size mug or cup
- Small first aid kit (pocket size)
- Unscented deodorant
- Toiletries (enough to last 3 weeks)
- Shampoo/body wash all in one
- Bug spray with DEET
- Permathone (spray your clothes before you leave)
- Rain gear
- Towel/washcloth
- Clothesline and clothespins
- Safety pins, needle and thread, extra buttons
- Powder packs (Gatorade, etc) for bottled water
- Snacks - Tuna, almonds, gum (whatever you like to snack on)
- Flip flops and swimsuit for showering

- Laundry bag
- Earplugs for communal sleeping
- Shorts with pockets
- BDU blouse x 2
- BDU pants x 3
- Compression socks
- Underwear
- Team t-shirts
- Hat
- Rain gear
- Jacket and gloves (depending on climate)
- Sunglasses
- Black boots
- Black uniform belt
- Work/leather gloves
- Casual wear for after hours, including shoes
- Laundry soap
- Thumb drive
- **DO NOT BRING VALUABLES**

The “V of V” editors wish everyone a safe and Happy Thanksgiving!!!



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