



# NATIONAL NEWS

## DMORT **Disaster Mortuary Operational Response Team**

**SPRING/SUMMER 2007**

**EDITORS: SHEILA HALL AND TERRY SWANSON**

**2007 NATIONAL  
DISASTER MEDICAL  
SYSTEM (NDMS)  
CONFERENCE  
NASHVILLE,  
TENNESSEE  
March 17-21, 2007**



The NDMS National Conference was held at the **Gaylord Opryland Resort and Convention Center in Nashville, Tennessee on March 17-21, 2007.**

The following were **Conference Goals:** to deliver an understanding of the health and medical requirements generated by disasters of any origin; provide access to authorities responsible for managing these requirements; afford opportunities for the delivery of education and the exchange of ideas

necessary to the development of capabilities at the local, state, regional, national, and international levels.

**Conference Objectives** included: conveying the principles which underlie professional emergency health and medical service delivery; documenting the status of the profession as of 2006; encouraging participants to engage in continuing education, training, research, and information sharing, to enable further development of this Nation's lifesaving systems.

For those DMORT members who were unable to attend, the following is a brief recap of several featured programs.

**Pre-Conference Courses:  
Mass Fatality Response**

*Speakers:*  
*David McBath, CEM*  
*Chuck Smith, DMORT*  
*Region VI Deputy*  
*Commander*  
*Jennie Thommen, FACT*  
*Commander*

The panel of speakers at this two-day pre-conference course discussed a wide range of subjects, pertaining to a Mass Fatality Incident (MFI): components of NIMS (National Incident Management System), benefits of ICS (Incident Command System), protocols of a MFI, steps required to respond to a MFI, the roles and responsibilities of key personnel, incident morgue requirements, federal resources, and victim support plans. This course enabled participants to describe the operational process and tasks involved in conducting a response to a MFI; understand the

stresses, reactions, and stress management techniques utilized in a MFI; and evaluate the readiness of their agency and jurisdiction to execute these operations.

### **Advanced Disaster Medical Response**

*Speakers:*

*Susan Briggs, M.D.*

*Roy Alson, M.D.*

*Richard Weisman, M.D.*

*Conrad Salinas, M.D.*

*Jake Jacoby, M.D.*

This course was designed to train multidisciplinary medical response personnel in the basics of medical and public health disaster care, medical response to terrorism, weapons of mass destruction (such as radioactive agents, biological agents, and chemical agents), specific injuries (blast, crush), environmental considerations, and specific circumstances, such as mental health and the care of dead victims. An overview of Mass Casualty Incident (MCI) response, with emphasis on the basic elements of disaster medical response common to all disasters (search and rescue, triage and initial stabilization, definitive medical care and evacuation), was also thoroughly described.

### **Incident Response to Terrorist Bombings**

*Speakers:*

*Joe Doyle*

*Mark Potter*

This awareness course prepared emergency responders to react effectively during incidents of terrorism, involving energetic materials (explosives and incendiaries). The program covered the different types of terrorist groups and potential targets, defined terms and concept associated with energetic materials, discussed common explosive materials and devices, and described safe and effective response procedures in various terrorist bomb scenarios.

### **Prevention and Response to Suicide Bomber**

*Speakers:*

*Joe Doyle*

*Mark Potter*

This course provided participants with sufficient knowledge of suicide bombings, so they can become a part of their agency's overall prevention, deterrence, mitigation, and response effort to this threat. The program reviewed the definition of suicide terrorism, information regarding the three types of suicide bombings, the nine phases of an attack, knowledge in identifying

some of the common sources of counter-terrorist protective information, and guidance on recognizing pre-attack indicators. The session also identified pre- and post-blast personal protection issues.

### **Main Conference Courses:**

#### **Identification Tools and Techniques**

*Speaker:*

*LTC Louis Finelli, D.O.*

This presentation served as an introduction and overview on the use of DNA technology in the identification of deceased individuals. The session provided participants with an inside look at the various ways the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology (AFIP) along with the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory (AFDIL) identify deceased individuals. Dr. Finelli discussed the three main types of DNA (nuclear, mitochondrial, and Y-chromosome) and their uses. He also addressed the limitations in the use of DNA in the identification process, necessitating the integration of other investigative methods.

**Emergency Support Function (ESF) #6: How Do Mass Care, Housing, and Human Services Relate to the Work of NDMS and ESF #8 Public Health and Medical Services?**

*Speakers:*

*Dan Dodgen, Ph.D.*

*Carol Hall*

*CAPT Clare Helminiak, M.D.*

Following the experiences with Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, it was evident that better coordination was needed between the operations of NDMS and the American Red Cross under Emergency Support Function #6 (Mass Care, Housing, and Human Services) and Emergency Support Function #8 (Health and Medical Services). This program explored the current concept of operations for each, as well as the outstanding challenges towards collaborating among them. The American Red Cross addressed its role for coordinating mass care under ESF #6 and its support for ESF #8. There was also a discussion on how NDMS can and will be utilized by ESFs #6 and #8.

**Using NDMS/ESF #8/NRP in Response to a Major Earthquake**

*Speakers:*

*LCDR Timothy Davis, M.D., M.P.H.*

*Ann Norwood, M.D.*

*Jeffrey Rubin*

*Doug Sandy*

This presentation was a panel discussion on patient evacuation and movement in response to a major earthquake. The roles and responsibilities of NDMS, HHS, DOD, and the VA were explained, including coordination of information, deployment of personnel, disclosure of transportation/flight plans, and identification of staging areas for the evacuated people who are enroute to designated treatment facilities. The involvement of other primary and support agencies within the National Response Plan, including the effected State as a customer of these response services, was addressed.

**Building a Portable Morgue for Your Municipality**

*Speaker:*

*Larry Bedore, Region IV*

*Member*

This session explored the opportunity to create a portable morgue unit. It contains specialized equipment and supplies similar to the DMORT

DPMU, but on a somewhat smaller level. This unique asset will be available for local municipalities and will hopefully fill the gap between local response abilities and those on a Government level. Larry provided a very interesting and informational lecture regarding FEMOR's morgue in Florida.

**Field Hazards for Response Teams**

*Speakers:*

*Michael Olinger, M.D.*

*Dean Tillis, P.E.*

The field environment presents specific hazards to response teams, regardless of the type of hazard impact. Environmental as well as health hazards (PPE and food safety) were discussed in the context of response team deployment. In addition, specific material, related to structural collapse, was presented to allow the response team members to "size up" an impacted structure for its potential hazards. Team design was described, including rescue squad, structural engineers, communications, equipment, and medical components. This presentation reviewed the lessons learned regarding common threats to responder's health and welfare from actual Urban Search and Recovery (US

& R) responses to several national disasters.

### **Pandemic Flu Mass Fatality Planning**

*Speaker:*  
*Barry McLellan, M.D.*

This session detailed Mass Fatality Planning in the event of a Pandemic event in Ontario and Canada. Similar in structure to the NDMS DPMU, the Ontario Government has in place supplies and equipment at the Toronto Airport. This session was an opportunity to compare both sets of equipment and learn about our neighbors to the North and how their plan deals with this potential threatening event.

### **Fatality Management: Working Towards Best Practice**

*Speakers:*  
*Larry Bedore, Region IV Member*  
*Ann Norwood, M.D.*

A work group of local, state, and federal experts in Mass Fatalities and law enforcement investigation operations have been revising the DHS Target Capability Lists (TCL) for Fatality Management and Law Enforcement Investigations, including the Family Assistance Center, missing persons operations, and ante mortem data collection. Members are also working on an annex to the

National Response Plan to improve preparedness and response activities for all incidents. The presentation updated participants on progress and solicited input to the progress. The Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP) can be accessed via <http://hseep.dhs.gov>

### **The Morgue at Dover**

*Speaker: CMDR Craig Mallak, M.D.*

This presentation focused on the New Morgue Facility at the Dover Air Base. Items of interest included the state-of-the-art equipment within the facility and the attention to detail maintained by all of the staff. The care and handling of the deceased is certainly paramount. In the last few years, all the war dead from Iraq and Afghanistan have been processed here. The process is fascinating and pride-building, as our uniformed men and women are prepared for burial by men and women who deliver the utmost of care to their bodies and by extension, the families at home.

### **DMORT Team Meeting**

During the conference, a DMORT Team Meeting was held with representation from all ten DMORT teams, WMD, DPMU, and FACT.

Leadership informed the team that DMORT is continuing to adjust to the transition between FEMA and DHHS. A transition team has already met and discussed some of the anticipated issues, which they plan on addressing before the actual transfer occurs.

### **2007 NDMS CONFERENCE AWARDS CEREMONY Nashville, Tennessee**

*“On behalf of the partners of the National Disaster Medical System (NDMS), the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Defense, the Department of Health and Human Services, and the Department of Veterans Affairs, I wish to extend our sincere appreciation to all of you for your outstanding dedication and hard work during the extraordinary events that have taken place during the last year. Through you, we are able to fulfill our mission to serve our Nation’s citizens in times of extraordinary need. I look forward to our continued partnership as we face whatever challenges lie ahead.”*

*Jack W. Beall*  
*Director*  
*National Disaster Medical System*

## CONGRATULATIONS

The **2007 NDMS Conference Awards Ceremony** was held in Nashville on March 18, 2007. The following DMORT members were honored with the **2006 NDMS Response Team Distinguished Member of the Year Award**:

DMORT I  
**Patricia Soucie**  
DMORT II  
**Kathleen Costigan**  
DMORT III  
**John Ingle**  
DMORT IV  
**Joseph Baldwin**  
DMORT V  
**Leslie Eisenberg, Ph.D.**  
DMORT VI  
**Glenn Billings**  
DMORT VII  
**John Frasco, D.D.S.**  
DMORT VIII  
**Mike Nathe**  
DMORT IX  
**Elverne Tonn**  
DMORT X  
**Deon Strommer**  
DMORT WMD  
**Leonard Parker**  
DMORT DPMU  
**Robert Shank, Jr.**  
DMORT FACT  
**Donald Bloom**

## DISTINGUISHED MEMBERS

*Several regions and teams submitted the following:*

**John H. Ingle, D-ABMDI** was presented with the 2006 NDMS Response Team Distinguished Member of the Year Award for **Region III**. John has been a Medical Legal Investigator for the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, State of Delaware, for over 25 years. He is also the Disaster Coordinator for the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, Member of the Child Death Review Committee, State Emergency Management Task Force, and Delaware Department of Homeland Security Working Group. John is President-Elect for the Mid-Atlantic Forensic Identification Group, and he is a member of the Vidocq Society in Philadelphia, providing *pro bono* case consulting on cold case homicides.

John's impressive career includes 21 years of Combined Military Service in the U.S. Army and the Delaware Army National Guard, retiring at the rank of Major. He served in Operations Desert Shield, Desert Storm, and Desert Calm and was awarded the Bronze Star for his honorable service in these campaigns.

John joined DMORT through the National Foundation for Mortuary Care in 1995 and transitioned to DMORT under the USPHS in 1999. John has participated in many deployments: United Flight 93 Crash (Shanksville, Pennsylvania), 2001; World Trade Center Tragedy (New York City, New York), 2001; Rhode Island Station Night Club Fire (Providence, Rhode Island), 2003.

John and his wife, Joan, are the proud parents of Douglass and Susanne. Douglass currently serves in the U.S. Army and Susanne is a graduate student at Drexel University. The Region III team concurs that John Ingle well deserves the Distinguished Member of the Year Award.



**Region V** honored **Leslie Eisenberg, Ph.D.** as their team's 2006 NDMS Response Team Distinguished Member of the Year. Leslie has been an active member of DMORT Region V since 1995 as a Forensic Anthropologist. She has been an Officer of the American Board of Forensic Anthropology

and has had involvement with many other Forensic Organizations. Her many positive contributions to DMORT were noted during the Hurricane Katrina/Rita aftermath. In addition to serving as a Team Leader of the anthropologists in the morgue/lab during the hurricanes, Leslie was also active as a Team Leader searching for remains in the field. Region V is proud to have her as a member of their team.



**Region VII** was proud to nominate **John Frasco, D.D.S.** for the 2006 NDMS Response Team Distinguished Member of the Year Award at the recent 2007 NDMS Conference. Many in the NDMS DMORT system would agree that John is a most deserving candidate: he has demonstrated exceptional service over the years with his extreme dedication to DMORT and all that the team stands for. John is highly acclaimed by DMORT Region VII, accomplished in his duties as their Administrative Officer. John joined DMORT in 1995. Besides his involvement on the team and his current

leadership duties, he continues to be active on the Cook County Medical Examiner's Office Disaster Response Team (Illinois), the Cerro Gordo County Medical Examiner's Office, and the Iowa State Medical Examiner's Office. His vast knowledge and experience in forensics has qualified him to speak extensively to health care professionals, law enforcement personnel, civic groups, and forensic specialists. Region VII members are proud and honored to have him as a leader and valued member of their region.



**Region VIII** selected **Mike Nathe** as their 2006 NDMS Response Team Distinguished Member of the Year, in recognition for his efforts in organizing a multi-agency, two-day seminar in Bismarck, North Dakota. Collaborating with DMORT Region VIII Commander, **Lance Peterson**, Mike convened and served as a focal point to the participants of this mass fatality response training, involving North and South Dakota Police, Firefighters, Emergency Medical System Personnel, Public Works Employees, Coroners, National Guard, Military Support Units, CEO's, PIO's, Dispatchers,

Highway Patrol Officers, DMORT Region VIII team members from the Dakotas, and other mass fatality response organizations

Mike graduated from the University of Minnesota School of Medicine Program of Mortuary Science. He and his wife Karen moved from Minneapolis to build and operate the Bismarck Funeral Home in North Dakota. Mike's impressive career includes conducting funeral arrangements for over 3,000 families. He is very active in the Bismarck-Mandan community: he is past president of the Bismarck Kiwanas Club, past member of the Cathedral Parish Council, graduate of the Chamber of Commerce Leadership Program, and a Little League baseball coach.

Besides his profession, family, and community service, Mike is a devoted member of DMORT. He demonstrated his expertise and skills while deployed in Louisiana, following the devastation by Hurricane Katrina (2005). DMORT Region VIII considers Mike a valuable team member.

**Region X** elected Mortuary Officer, **Deon Strommer**, as their team's 2006 NDMS Response Team Distinguished Member of the Year. He

was acknowledged at the 2007 NDMS Conference in Nashville, Tennessee. Deon is a dedicated, active member of DMORT – he deployed in response to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita (Louisiana 2005), and was appointed Morgue Section Leader while in Carville; he is the Section Leader of the Search and Recovery Strike Team for DMORT Region X. Deon resides in Baker City, Oregon, where he is a funeral director. Deon is highly regarded by the DMORT Region X team.



The DMORT DPMU team selected **Robert Shank, Jr.** as the recipient of the 2006 NDMS Response Team Distinguished Member of the Year Award. Bob has been an active member of DMORT since 1992. Besides his numerous deployments, Bob's strong information resource background, enthusiasm, dedication, and strong leadership qualities led his superiors to delegate significant organizational responsibilities to him: Region V Deputy Commander (1998-2006); member of the NDMS Functional Working Group on Training and Education (2000-2006); assisted in the development of the

Victim Identification Program (VIP); Creator and Webmaster of the DMORT website; technical support for the DMORT V Newsletter and DMORT National Newsletter. Bob previously received the Distinguished Member of the Year Award as a member of Region V. Clearly, Bob Shank, Jr. is not only a valued member of the DMORT DPMU, but he is also highly regarded by all of DMORT.



The **DMORT FACT** recognized **Don Bloom** as their 2006 NDMS Response Team Distinguished Member of the Year. Before assuming his position as Deputy Commander of DMORT FACT, Don was a long time mortuary officer in DMORT Region V. He created the VIP (Victim Identification Profile) program that was first used for the Flight 427 US AIR Crash in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania (1994). The program subsequently became the standard MFI (Mass Fatality Incident) program for DMORT and other organizations. Aside from DMORT, Don is an emergency medicine specialist.



**Leonard D. Parker**, Deputy Commander of Operations for **DMORT WMD**, was chosen as the 2006 NDMS Response Team Distinguished Member of the Year at the 2007 NDMS Conference. He was chosen for this honor, based on his dedication, hard work, and commitment, demonstrated to members of the team.

Leonard began working with DMORT as a North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation Agent during the Hurricane Floyd Disaster (Tarboro, North Carolina 1999). State assistance was requested to provide forensic services in the morgue operation at Tarboro, following the cemetery washout in nearby Princeville. Leonard provided and supervised several new state agents, who assisted in providing photography services. He was also eager to work in any of the morgue areas, wherever help was needed. Soon afterward, Leonard joined the DMORT Region IV team.

Leonard's interest in DMORT was obvious, and his skills and talents were seen as a tremendous asset

to the team. Six months following his application to DMORT, Leonard received notification from the late Fred O. Berry, Jr. (at the time, Region IV Deputy Commander and former Region IV Team Commander) that he had been officially accepted as a team member. Leonard recalls: "That was a happy day when I got the letter from Fred saying I had been approved as an official team member for Region IV DMORT." Leonard later expressed an interest in becoming a part of DMORT WMD - he was accepted as a team member shortly thereafter. His knowledge and continued hard work prompted Dale Downey (DMORT WMD Team Commander) to promote Leonard: he would head the Operations Section of the team.

Leonard has excelled in his job performance over the past year, and the decision to choose him as Team Member of the Year was an easy one. The DMORT WMD team welcomes the opportunity to continue working with Leonard in the years to come, as they continue to grow in its mission of recovery and decontamination of human remains.

**REGION III TRAINING**  
**GETTYSBURG,**  
**PENNSYLVANIA**  
**March 23-25, 2007**

DMORT III welcomed 120 members and 12 candidates to its annual team training on March 23-25 in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. The theme of the training was "Explosives and Explosion Injuries," such as may be confronted in a mass fatalities event of this nature, whether accidental, natural, or criminal.

Training commenced with a comprehensive "Overview of Energetic Materials," which was followed by a forensic pathology presentation, describing explosion injuries that would be encountered upon autopsy.

For the third consecutive year, DMORT III was joined by PA-2 DMAT (NDMS Specialty Crush Injury Team) who led everyone in a hands-on review of the medical treatment of explosion injuries and treatment artifacts that would be found in those who did not survive an explosive event. The DMORT III dental team featured a day-long dental training session in "Forensic Odontology, Ante- and Post-Mortem Dental Stations" that was accredited by the Academy of General Dentistry. A Mental

Health session, sponsored by PA-2 DMAT, emphasized self-care during deployment, especially with regard to the management of anxiety. A Basic Digital Photography lecture was also offered.

The team was happy to welcome back **Paul Sledzik** of the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) and former DMORT Region III Commander, who gave a historical lecture focusing on "Disasters in Literature."

Traditional team social activities were a great success, including a pub-crawl into historical Gettysburg, a black-tie dinner, and an "old movies and popcorn" night.

The next DMORT III training event, taking place on the weekend of July 28th in Lancaster, Pennsylvania (Amish Country), will focus on team preparedness and forensic science standards. Anyone interested in joining DMORT III in this upcoming training should contact Deputy Commander, **John McGuire**, at [john.mcguire@hhs.gov](mailto:john.mcguire@hhs.gov). Members from other regions are most welcome.

**REGION V TRAINING**  
**July 19-22, 2007**

DMORT Region V will conduct a regional training July 19-22 in the Indianapolis area. Region V has been offered the newly assembled Indiana Department of Homeland Security portable morgue for this training. This training will give DMORT the opportunity to work with our state partners and practice the transition from a local to a federal operation. The focus for this training will be the New Madrid Fault and the potential hazards that are associated with this type of natural disaster. A field training exercise, along with specialized classroom discussions, will prepare the team for future deployments.

**REGION VIII TRAINING**  
**PARK CITY, UTAH**  
**June 8-10, 2007**

DMORT Region VIII will be holding their annual regional training in Park City, Utah on June 8 - 10, 2007. Sessions will include discussions on the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), Morgue Protocol, Incident Command System (ICS), Family Assistance Center (FAC) Operations, changes that have occurred with the transition from FEMA to DHHS, and Updated Administrative Processes (Travel

Vouchers and Time Sheets).

One of the days will be a full-scale field exercise in an austere environment. The objective of the exercise is to: 1) Demonstrate Human Remains (HR) Recovery operations in mountainous/wilderness terrain; 2) Exercise the team's ability to organize within National Incident Management System (NIMS) Standards – an Operations Section that will support HR Recovery strategies and tactics. This realistic drill will also utilize MRE's (Meals-Ready to Eat) and water that NDMS sends for training exercises.

The entire training should be an entertaining learning experience. Over fifty team members have registered for the training. Accommodations for the meeting will be at the Landmark Inn in Park City.

**REGION X TRAINING**  
**BOISE, IDAHO**  
**June 22-24, 2007**

DMORT X will hold their annual team training for 2007 in Boise, Idaho on June 22-24, 2007. This training will feature a field exercise (FTX) - simulating multi-fatality response - including a scene search and recovery, and morgue operations. The Idaho Bureau of Homeland

Security and Ada County Coroner's Office will also participate in this exercise. In addition to the field exercise, the DMORT command staff will provide an overview of deployment requirements and team readiness, with its focus on those team members who are new to NDMS, or have not deployed recently.

**DMORT WMD TRAINING**  
**KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE**  
**September 13-16, 2007**

Two years ago, the DMORT WMD Team introduced the most realistic and intensive training possible to its members. September 2007 will mark the third year that a hands-on training exercise of this caliber will be conducted.

The training - a combined effort between NDMS/DMORT WMD, the University of Tennessee Department Forensic Anthropology Department, and the City of Knoxville - will be held from September 13-16, 2007 in Knoxville, Tennessee. The use of cadavers and other human remains has given the DMORT WMD Team much needed experience in decontamination procedures. The team will concentrate on not only the decontamination skills needed to ensure that all

human remains are cleaned before transfer to the incident morgue, but also recovery operations of remains, with which the team has been tasked for all mass death operations.

Last year, DMORT WMD extended the invitation to their annual training event by including representation from all DMORT Regions, in an effort to better understand how the WMD Team accomplishes their mission. Several DMORT teams took advantage of the offer and sent representatives to Knoxville to participate in the exercise.

Not only did the DMORT teams benefit from the experience, but also three NMRT's (National Medical Response Teams) were represented at the training. These medical specialists have been designated as the primary back up personnel for DMORT WMD in the event of multiple deployments.

DMORT teams who would like to send team members (maximum three) to Knoxville for the exercise in September should contact one of the administrative personnel of DMORT WMD for additional information. The DMORT WMD Team looks forward to joining several regional DMORT team members at their annual training.

## REGION V NEWS

Congratulations to **Sean Oberski** (Region V Team Member) and **Dr. Jane Kaminski** (Region V Team Member), who were married on April 14, 2007 at Meadow Brook Hall in Rochester, Michigan. The wedding was elegant and well attended - Meadow Brook Hall (the former John Dodge mansion) was a wonderful place for such a celebration! **Reverend Jim Offrink** (Region V Team Member) performed the ceremony on the couple's special day.



## REGION IX NEWS

*Submitted by **John B. Linstrom**, Region IX Commander*

DMORT Region IX continues to be very busy with readiness, recruitment, and training issues.

DMORT Region IX has response jurisdiction in one of the most populous and most remote areas of the United States. 13 of the 50 most populous U.S. cities are located in Region

IX. The diversity of major urban cities such as: Los Angeles, Phoenix, Las Vegas, and San Francisco are a significant contrast to the remote Pacific communities found in American Samoa and Hawaii. The vast deserts of California and Arizona, as well as the rugged mountains of Nevada, all encompass the unique challenges found throughout federal Region IX. From a threat and vulnerability perspective, there are few disasters that are uncommon to this Region. The readiness of national level response assets, such as DMORT Region IX, must be fully deployable without compromise.

**Readiness:** Springtime brings with it a myriad of natural disasters including: fires, floods, and severe thunderstorms. These lead us into hurricane season, which moves us toward deep summer and the threat of heat waves and other heat related emergencies. The potential for man-made threats from terrorism have not diminished either. Team Readiness should always be a major focus for those of us in NDMS. This spring, DMORT Region IX is trying to focus less on the political, administrative, and bureaucratic transition issues of the past year and focus on threat,

vulnerability, and team readiness from the threats we might all encounter. It is important to note that Team Readiness starts with Personal and Family Preparedness. Many of us are guilty of not having family, business, or personal disaster plans. I would encourage you to check out two helpful websites: [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov) and [www.pandemicflu.gov](http://www.pandemicflu.gov). There are some great resources to “get you off the couch and get you in the game.”

**Recruitment:**

Our team has lost approximately 20 members over the last 18 months for a variety of reasons. The team has launched a planning process to initiate a comprehensive recruitment drive, when the application process at DHHS is reinstated. We will be looking to move from three deep at every position to four deep at every position. We have promoted four Strike Team/Squad Leaders and look forward to having the additional depth and experience in all positions.

**Training:**

Our staff has submitted a training request for DMORT Region IX to converge in Tucson, Arizona in late June for a Regional Training Conference. This Training

is consistent with the following goals: *“to lead the Nation in preventing, preparing for, and responding to the adverse health effects of public health emergencies and disasters.”* The Training will enhance DMORT Region IX in the ability to lead, prepare for, and respond to health emergencies and disasters anywhere we are called to deploy and to serve the public.

The Training will focus on multiple subjects, presentations, and exercises, specifically designed to enhance the ability of our Region’s DMORT Personnel to mobilize, deploy, perform technical forensic and mortuary services at a high level of competency, under austere disaster conditions. The Training will also enhance the development and reinforcement of standard practices involved in the location, recovery, collection, processing, identification, and disposition of human remains. In addition, the Training will focus on the standards necessary to support the logistics, safety, and information management activities required to successfully manage a mass fatality event, involving multiple federal NDMS Team deployments. Worker's Compensation processes and planning & management protocols,

consistent with ICS 300 & 400, will also be included.

**DMORT DPMU NEWS**

Congratulations to **Shannon Dotson** (DMORT DPMU) and **Paula Dotson** (Region IV Administrative Officer), who are expecting a “special delivery” from the stork in September. Best wishes to the new family from your DMORT family!

**PROPER USE OF THE GOVERNMENT CONTRACTOR- ISSUED TRAVEL CHARGE CARD**

**NDMS Travel Update**

Effective 10 April 2007, NDMS is now handling all non-disaster travel through combined effort of NDMS Financial Management and the Operations Support Center. All commercial carrier travel will continue to be booked utilizing the HHS Centrally Billed Account (CBA), however, lodging and approved rental vehicles will be billed to the traveler's Individually Billed Account (IBA).

As stated early in the transition (Fall 2006), all NDMS personnel are required to apply for a Government Contractor issued IBA credit card, based on criteria set forth in the HHS Travel Manual.

Effective 10 April 2007, those employees that have not applied for the IBA are considered non-deployable, and should be encouraged to apply for the IBA in order to maintain a deployable status. This deployable status affects both non-disaster and disaster travel.

Please be advised that NDMS receives a report highlighting every transaction related to the IBA travel card, including attempts to utilize an IBA card in an "Unauthorized Use" capacity, even if the card is in an "inactive" status.

All employees should be reminded that the IBA travel card should only be utilized for authorized purchases after an employee has been authorized to travel through the NDMS-OSC.

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