



DMORT NATIONAL NEWS

Disaster Mortuary Operational Response Team

SPRING 2008

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2008 NATIONAL DISASTER MEDICAL SYSTEM (NDMS) TRAINING SUMMIT **“ESF #8 PARTNERS CARING FOR OUR NATION”**

The NDMS National Training Summit was held at the **Gaylord Opryland Resort and Convention Center in Nashville, Tennessee on March 15-19, 2008.**

The following were **Training Summit 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.

Training Summit Objectives included: conveying the principles which underlie professional emergency health and medical service delivery; documenting the status of the profession as of 2007/2008; 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.

DMORT Standard Operating Procedures for Mass Fatality Incidents

Chuck Smith (Region VI Deputy Commander) gave an overview of the purpose of this training, which is to review and understand the new (tentative) DMORT SOP’s (Standard Operating Procedures). These SOP’s were developed in order to provide a comprehensive reference that describes the standard approach to mass fatality management by members of DMORT.

The SOP explains “the Rules of the Game”, which is given to and signed by the local Medical Examiner/Coroner (ME/C).

Uniform Update

Chuck Smith provided the DMORT team members with the latest news on uniforms. There are NO uniform SOP’s at this time. We are to remove all FEMA patches. On deployments, we are to wear our uniforms, look presentable, and portray a proper image.

Steve Allen suggested forming a committee and submitting ideas for emblems and uniforms for DHHS approval.

When uniforms are approved, the notice will appear on the NDMS website.

Travel Update

As part of integrating NDMS operations into the overall operations of ESF-8 and the Office of Preparedness and Emergency Operations, effective March 28, 2008, the NDMS Operations Support Center (OSC) will cease operations. Situational awareness and other activities conducted on a 24/7 basis will be transitioned to the Secretary’s Operations Center (SOC). During emergency responses requiring NDMS involvement, NDMS staff will provide 24-hour support, as needed (202-619-7800). All deployment travel will be handled by the Administrative Officer of each region.

NTSB

*Speakers: Paul Sledzik
Sharon Bryson*

Paul Sledzik (NTSB Manager of Victim Recovery and Identification) discussed the legislative background of the NTSB and the responsibilities of the NTSB under the Aviation Disaster Family Assistance Act of 1996 (ADFAA) to coordinate Federal and local resources following an aviation disaster. He reviewed several accidents which took place in the last few years. The NTSB Office of Transportation Disaster Assistance (TDA) coordinates the federal and local resources, including the NDMS/DMORT response for victim identification. The NTSB does not pay for victim identification.

Sharon Bryson explained to the team who is financially responsible for victim identification during a deployment. Accidents fall into two categories: Legislated and Non-legislated. **Legislated accidents** are those involving major air carriers that fall under the ADFAA and reasonable costs for victim identification costs are covered by the air carrier underwriter. For **non-legislated accidents**, such as general aviation, railway, highway, and marine accidents, the ADFAA does not apply and payment for victim identification costs is not guaranteed. The local Medical Examiner/Coroner can request

DMORT, but the costs may be incurred by the Medical Examiner/Coroner in the local jurisdiction. Sharon also discussed a new NTSB Personal Effects Protocol and the Unified Victim Identification System (UVIS) which is used in New York City to manage the collection and management of mass fatality data.

DMPU (IT Equipment and New Technology)

Speaker: Mark Soucie

Mark Soucie (Information Technology (IT) Training Officer for DPMU team) described all the new computer equipment that DMORT has acquired over the past two years. He informed us of the number and types of laptops acquired and the uses for each one.

He described how the servers and laptops will work together to better serve our purpose, with much more speed and efficiency than we have had previously. These computers will be located both within the morgue and at the Family Assistance Center (FAC).

There are many levels of security needed, and confidentiality remains a key aspect with this new computer system.

Victim Identification in Mass Disasters

Speaker: Cotton Howell

Cotton Howell (Region IV Commander) gave an introduction and overview of the Victim Identification Process, from the responsibility of the DMORT team members working in the morgue to the final identification by the Medical Examiner/Coroner (ME/C).

He explained that the ME/C is the legal authority for conducting victim identification. No federal agency can appropriate these responsibilities, but the DMORT team provides support to the ME/C when requested.

He explained the jurisdictional responsibility and Federal Support needed for disasters, the DMORT role in family briefings, and Fatality Management considerations.

He also described the process of:

- Human Remains Retrieval
- Field Safety Briefing
- Temporary/Holding Morgue
- Transport of Remains to Incident Morgue

WMD Team Update

*Speakers: Steve Tinder
Leonard Parker*

Steve Tinder (DMORT WMD Deputy Commander) and **Leonard Parker** (DMORT WMD Deputy Commander) gave an update on the DMORT WMD Team (Weapons of Mass Destruction). They explained the decontamination process of the human remains during a mass disaster, in which there is a high probability that the remains have been contaminated by chemical, biological or radiological agents.

There are now over 75 members of the DMORT WMD Team, which is based out of Rock Hill, SC. The team has one of their yearly trainings in Knoxville, TN., where team members participate in a hands-on exercise with cadavers and other human remains. The team has their own cache of equipment which travels with them upon a deployment. The team is designed to be able to be self sufficient for 72 hours after being deployed.

The team is there for the safety of all DMORT team members working in the morgue. The DMORT WMD team will always attempt to decontaminate the human remains to a level that is safe and will not pose a hazardous effect on DMORT team members. If the remains can't be effectively cleaned, then they will not be released into the incident morgue and other procedures will be used to process the remains.

Photography

Speaker: Don Carter

Don Carter (Region VI Deputy Commander) discussed the different aspects of the Photography section of the morgue. He explained the different angles and projections needed for proper documentation of the remains and personal effects.

He explained the benefits of using digital cameras instead of film. The digital process helps in efficiency and confidentiality. He also stated that photos taken by any individual inside the morgue is strictly forbidden.

Casketing, Cremation, Funeral Home Contact Information and Transportation of Decedent from Morgue

Speaker: Dave Hunt

Dave Hunt (DMORT Region V Deputy Commander) explained the casketing process, whether it be a casket or other type of container, the log reflecting the disposition of the

body, and the manner in which the decedent is shipped. He also talked about the authorization of next of kin to have the remains cremated.

He discussed Funeral Home contact information and the various methods of transportation from the morgue, the needed documentation, and the type of vehicle which transports the decedent.

He also described a Post Identification Process Flow Chart, which showed the process the decedent follows once an identification has been made.

Radiology

Speaker: Mary Fischer

Mary Fischer RT (R) CV (Region V Team Member) explained the procedures that the Radiology section will perform during a deployment. Besides performing x-rays of all remains, whether they are entire bodies or partial remains, the x-ray technologist must perform duties such as addressing safety issues, radiation dosage monitoring, accountability of the technologists, documentation of all x-rays taken, and the correct positioning of the remains.

She described the new digital x-ray equipment and the ways in which it will enhance the workflow in the morgue, noting the ability of other sections to view the images in their own stations.

Odontology

Speaker: Dr. Bob Barsley

Bob Barsley (Region VI Team Member) described the needs of the dental section, from the number of dentists needed in each dental station to the Dexis digital x-ray equipment. Dental personnel may also be asked to support the retrieval of dental remains at the incident site.

He reviewed the three dental sections: Antemortem, Postmortem, and Comparison. He also explained how the WIN ID program works to help in victim identification.

Pathology

Speaker: Dr. Corinne Stern

Corinne Stern (Region VI Team Member) described how the DMORT pathologists can provide detailed information assisting in identification, defining injury, and determining causes and possible manner of death. They are available to assist the ME/C as needed. At the triage station, the pathologist will assess the remains and document such. During the pathologist's further examination, they will document physical characteristics, scars, tattoos, injuries and traumas. They may also be needed in recovering DNA samples.

Anthropology

Speaker: Dr. Frank Saul

Frank Saul (Region V Commander) gave an overview of the anthropology section. Because forensic anthropologists "know" the skeleton inside and out, and in fragmentary condition, they are useful at the scene and in the morgue of a disaster. They assist with location and recovery of remains, sorting in the triage area, and provide comprehensive documentation of remains within the morgue, starting with a description of the unit itself. They create a biological profile for each unit of remains - sex, approximate age, ancestry, stature, any unique characteristics - including pathology and trauma. They assist pathology, odontology and radiology in various aspects of their responsibilities.

Family Assistance Center

Speaker: Don Bloom

Don Bloom (Family Assistance Center Team Deputy Commander) explained how the FACT (Family Assistance Center Team) works during a deployment. They are usually the first DMORT team members to arrive at an incident. Occasionally, if the local authorities choose to use their own personnel and equipment for the identification process, the FAC team may be the only DMORT team requested to perform the interviews with the families. In this case, the FACT equipment alone will be unloaded from the DPMU cache and sent to the incident site. He explained the possible locations where the FAC may be set up, the needed distance from the morgue, and the differences in the types of interviews performed, dependent on the different types of disasters. The interview may be done either in person or over the telephone.

Documentation

Speaker: Dr. Corinne Stern

Corinne Stern (Region VI Team Member) demonstrated a standard Morgue Flow Chart, showing the order of the different stations which are set up in the morgue, beginning with “Unprocessed Remains Storage, and Radiography of Remains container, through Triage, Initial Documentation, Forensic Examination, FAC, ID stations, to Release of Remains to the Funeral Home.

She also explained the importance of maintaining the proper Chain of Custody for personal effects.

She described the responsibility of the forensic pathologist during a deployment, and some of the procedures of the identification process.

She also discussed various methods of DNA collection, how it is collected and when it is used.

The numbering system was also explained, as it is a very important aspect of the morgue flow. It should be simple and use whole numbers.

Identification Procedures

Speaker: Dr. Corinne Stern

Corinne Stern (Region VI Team Member) emphasized that positive identification is necessary for notification of the next of kin, resolving estate issues and criminal/civil litigation, and the issuance of death certificates.

Presumptive identification is only a preliminary step, and true confirmatory identification is needed by accepted forensic science standards, such as:

- Prints (fingerprints, handprints, etc)
- Odontology
- Radiology
- DNA analysis
- Permanently installed medical devices with recorded serial numbers
- Distinctive physical characteristics (ears, scars, tattoos, etc), but only when compared to appropriate ante mortem documentation

The identification documentation team will consist of Pathology, Anthropology, Odontology, Prints, DNA, ME/C and the DMORT Commander.

Death Certification and Death Notification **Final Preparation and Disposition of Remains**

Speaker: Brad Targhetta

Brad Targhetta F-ABMDI (Region V Deputy Commander) described the documentation of the identification, the cause and manner of death and final disposition as it is required by law.

He explained the process by which the next of kin is notified by the local ME/C.

He also discussed:

- Final Preparation and Disposition of Remains
- Post-Identification Holding in the Incident Morgue
- Re-association of Remains
- Identification Documentation
- Embalming Section

Data Management

Speaker: Mike Gedert

Mike Gedert (DPMU Deputy Commander) explained how the Information Resource Center (IRC) was created for the collection, recording and storage of ante-mortem and post-mortem information.

The VIP (Victim Identification Packet) database manages this information, using the information given by family members and the documentation reported by the forensic specialists in the morgue.

All records are secure, confidential, and only authorized personnel are permitted in the area.

Back-ups are performed at least twice daily and copied on a CD or other removable media and stored away from the server for the safety and security of the data.

Incident Morgue Operations

Speaker: Shannon Dotson

Shannon Dotson (DPMU Commander) explained many interesting facts about the DPMU (Disaster Portable Morgue Unit).

There are three identical morgues staged in the US. They are to be located in Maryland, Texas and California. Shannon explained the various means of transportation used to mobilize each of the caches.

There are many criteria for the site selection, site requirements and different types of buildings that can be used for the morgue. The site must be 10,000-12,000 square feet in order to accommodate all the different stations that comprise the morgue, and the over 10,000 pieces of equipment stored in the DPMU cache.

He described the fairly new process by which equipment will be transferred from one person to another and documented on a Hand Receipt/Property Custody Receipt. These forms will alleviate any question as to responsibility for and/or ownership of any piece of equipment.

He also described special equipment needs, the morgue flow, safety measures needed in the morgue and how the inventory process is utilized by the DPMU team.

Incident Morgue Demobilization

*Speakers: Shannon Dotson
Mike Gedert*

Together, **Shannon Dotson** and **Mike Gedert** described the process by which the DPMU is demobilized. They explained that the cleaning process is to be done by ALL sections before personnel go home.

Inventory is to be kept by ALL section leaders, with the assistance of a DPMU member, making sure all the equipment and tools are accounted for.

They described the loading of the equipment back into the trailer in which they are stored. Also, the refrigerated trucks must be decontaminated completely at the end of the mission.

Shannon and Mike again explained the need for the use of forms such as the Property Hand Receipt, Supply Request Form and Report of Survey Form. Accountability for all DPMU property will be the norm on all future missions.

After Action Report

Speaker: Lance Peterson

Lance Peterson (Region VIII Commander) wrapped up the weekend with a friendly game of Family Feud, in which members of Region IV and Region VI competed for valuable prizes.

The audience was encouraged to participate, helping both teams recall the various aspects of the demobilization process of the DPMU and the steps of completing the After Action Reports. A good time was had by all.

2008 NDMS TRAINING SUMMIT AWARDS CEREMONY
Nashville, Tennessee

“On behalf of the partners of the National Disaster Medical System (NDMS), the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Defense, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and the Department of Homeland Security, I wish to extend our sincere appreciation to all of you for your outstanding dedication and hard work. I look forward to our continued partnership as we face whatever challenges lie ahead.”

*Kevin Yeskey, M.D.
Deputy Assistant Secretary
National Disaster Medical System*

CONGRATULATIONS

The **2008 NDMS Conference Awards Ceremony** was held in Nashville on March 16.
The following DMORT members were honored with the
2007 NDMS Response Team Distinguished Member of the Year Award:

DMORT I
Robert Plante
DMORT II
John Carey
DMORT III
Dorothy Harris
DMORT IV
Jason Byrd
DMORT V
Janette Simons
DMORT VI
Corinne Stern, D.O.
DMORT VII
John E. Filippi, D.D.S.
DMORT VIII
Margaret LaRocca
DMORT IX
Ron Foster
DMORT X
Stephanie Swyter, D.D.S.
DMORT DPMU
Joseph T. Jones
DMORT FACT
Arbie Goings
DMORT WMD
N. Steve Tinder

DISTINGUISHED MEMBERS

Several of the DMORT Teams submitted the following:



DMORT Region III announced their 2007 Distinguished Member of the year is **Dorothy Harris**, who has recently been appointed to an Administrative Officer position. She is a DMORT veteran and longtime active member of Region III. Dorothy is an educator by profession, and is currently the Science Department Chairman at Quince Orchard High School in Gaithersburg Maryland. She has been teaching science at the secondary school level for 30 years and has written and piloted two courses, *Biological Anthropology and Archaeology* and *Forensic Science* which are both now widely taught in her school district. She has taught a variety of science courses including anatomy, applied science, biology, chemistry, environmental science, laboratory science, and physics.

Ms. Harris has worked as a volunteer for 11 years at the Uniform University of Health Sciences in the Anatomical Teaching Lab, Bethesda Naval Hospital, Bethesda, Maryland. She is also the recipient of the 2001 *Patricia Seitz Memorial Teacher of the Year Award* from the Archaeological Society of Maryland, the 2002 *Agnes Meyer Outstanding Teacher of the Year* from the Washington Post, and the *Champions of Children Honors 2002* from the Montgomery County Board of Education, Council of PTAs, and the Montgomery County Business Roundtable for Education in the state of Maryland.



DMORT Region IV selected **Dr. Jason H Byrd, PhD** as their 2007 Distinguished Member of the year. Dr. Byrd is a Board Certified Forensic Entomologist and Diplomate of the American Board of Forensic Entomology. He is past Chairman of the American Board of Forensic Entomology, where he currently serves as their Executive Secretary. He is also President-elect of the North American Forensic Entomology Association.

Dr. Byrd is a Bureau Chief with the Florida Division of Agriculture and Consumer Services, and the Director of Development at the William R. Maples Center for Forensic Medicine, University of Florida College of Medicine. He is a professor at the University of Florida's nationally recognized Hume Honors College, instructing forensic science courses.

Outside of academics Dr. Byrd is also the Logistics Chief for the Florida Emergency Mortuary Operations Response Team. Dr. Byrd has combined his formal academic training in Entomology and Forensic Science to participate as a consultant and educator in both criminal and civil-legal investigations throughout the United States and Internationally. Dr. Byrd specializes in the education of law enforcement officials,

medical examiners, coroners, attorneys, and other death investigators on the use and application of arthropods in legal investigations. He has published numerous scientific articles regarding forensic entomology, and has two book publications on the use of insects in legal investigations.



DMORT Region V selected **Jan Simons** as their 2007 NDMS Response Team Distinguished Member of the year Award recipient.

Jan's compassion and personal drive led her to join DMORT in February 2003. She was deployed in response to Hurricane Katrina (Gulfport, Mississippi 2005), where she served as the DMORT East Safety Officer. Currently, Jan serves as Region V's Training Officer and has worked diligently in this position since her appointment in 2006.

Jan is a nationally certified paramedic and trained firefighter. She resides in Brownsburg, Indiana with her husband - Hew, and their children: Kyle and Kalyn.

The Region V team is grateful that Jan is one of their leaders and a respected member of their team.

DMORT Region VI is proud to announce **Dr. Corinne E. Stern** as their 2007 Distinguished Member of the year. Dr. Stern has served as a forensic pathologist with DMORT Region VI since 2000. She has responded to many disasters including the World Trade Centers following 911, the Space Shuttle Columbia and Hurricane Katrina. She also participated in TOPOFF II Chicago. She has lectured at numerous regional trainings and at the DMORT National Training held in Nashville, Tennessee in 2008.

Dr. Stern is the Chief Medical Examiner of Webb County, Texas, servicing not only Webb County but many additional counties in South Texas. Prior to moving to Laredo, she was the former Chief Medical Examiner of El Paso County, Texas.

Dr. Stern is a member of the National Association of Medical Examiners in which she holds the position of co-chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee on Mass Fatality Management. She is also a member of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences. Her most recent publication is "Unauthorized Border Crossings and Migrant Deaths in Arizona, New Mexico and El Paso, Texas" co-authored with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and published in the American Journal of Public Health in August of 2006. She has presented numerous scientific papers and lectures in colleges and high schools regularly. In 2006 she was nominated and selected to participate in the SUIDI National Training Academy at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta.

Dr. Stern received her Doctorate in Osteopathic Medicine from the University of North Texas Health Science Center in Fort Worth, Texas and after a residency in pathology and a fellowship in surgical pathology, she completed her fellowship in forensic medicine with the Office of the Armed Forces Medical Examiner, a division of the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology in Washington D.C.

Dr. Stern has a 19-year-old son, Michael and enjoys running and tending to their farm animals in her spare time.



DMORT Region VII is proud to announce the Distinguished Member of the Year Award for 2007 was presented to **Dr. John E. Filippi** at the NDMS Training Summit in Nashville, TN on Sunday, March 16, 2008.

John has been active in NDMS/DMORT VII since the inception of DMORT in 1991. He has been deployed to the Hardin County Cemetery floods in 1993, Albany, Georgia Cemetery floods in 1994, KAL Flight 801 air crash in Guam in 1997, World Trade Center attack in 2001, American Airlines Flight #587 air crash in 2001, American Airlines Flight #5966 in Kirksville, MO in 2004 and Hurricane Katrina/Rita in 2005. In 2004 he was appointed the Training Officer for DMORT VII and has done a remarkable job at developing and coordinating the team trainings. John is affectionately known as 'doc' by members of Region VII and his email 'blasts' are known and loved by the entire team for their poignant content mixed with unique wit.

John has served and continues to provide the Douglas County Coroner's Office and surrounding areas with Forensic Dental Identification services, has lectured extensively throughout the United States. He is a Diplomate of the American Board of Forensic Odontology, a Fellow of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences, a member of the American Society of Forensic Odontology and a member of the Nebraska Division of the International Association of Identification. He is a founding member and was the Team Leader of the Nebraska Dental Identification Team from 1991 to 2001. John was recently appointed to the National Dental Imaging Repository Review Panel for the FBI-CJIS Division.

John and his wife Karen live in Omaha and have two grown sons and one daughter. He retired from General Dentistry in 2001 and is currently an Investment Broker.



DMORT Region IX is pleased to present **Ron Foster** as their 2007 Distinguished Member of the year. He has successfully completed a major effort to improve the ability for **DMORT Region IX's** communications capabilities in both trainings and deployments. He has used his vast experience and knowledge, his local and state contacts, along with assistance from the WPFRI (Western Pacific Forensic Response Institute) in order to improve the safety and efficiency of this response team.

Ron has displayed a great attitude and has exemplified the core values of DMORT IX: ***“Commitment: United in our Mission, Teamwork: Leave it better than you found it, and Professionalism: Our work speaks for all of us.”*** His actions have brought favor on all members of DMORT IX. We are proud to have him on our team and we congratulate him for his commendation.



DMORT Region X selected **Stephanie Swyter, DMD** to receive the 2007 Distinguished Member of the year award for their region. Stephanie has been a member of Region X since 1998 and has participated in several deployments since that time: Operation Provide Refuge, World Trade Center Attack, and Hurricane Katrina. She currently serves as the Deputy Commander for Region X. She resides and practices dentistry in Portland, Oregon.

The Region X team is proud to have Stephanie as a leader and valued member of their region.



The **DMORT DPMU** team selected **Joseph (Bart) Jones** as the recipient of the 2007 NDMS Response Team Distinguished Member of the Year Award. Bart joined DMORT in 2003 and became a member of the DMORT DPMU in 2006, where in addition to other roles, he serves as the Administrative Officer for the team. He is a fourth generation funeral director, residing in Jacksonville, NC with his wife Joy and 2 sons: Cameron (7) and Carson (5). Bart is considered a valuable asset to the DMORT DPMU team.



The **Family Assistance Core Team (FACT)** proudly voted **Mr. Arbie Goings** as their 2007 Distinguished Member of the year. Arbie serves as the Administrative Officer for the team. He is considered the “Heart” of the team by his Acting Commander and is the person who keeps the life line for the team operating.

Arbie began his career in Funeral Service in 1981. He worked at Rabenhorst Funeral Home in Baton Rouge until 2006. He earned his Associates Degree in Funeral Service at Delgado Community College in New Orleans. Currently, Arbie owns his own consulting company (Goings Consulting Services, LLC), specializing in funeral home, family assistance and disaster consulting. He still works part time at Rabenhorst when time allows. Arbie joined DMORT Region VI in 1998, where he remained a member until transferring to the FACT in 2006 when they became a specialty team. During his years as a DMORT member, he has been a part of the following deployments: 911 attack in New York; Flight 587 Air Crash; Columbia Space Shuttle Crash; Katrina/Rita Hurricanes, and most recently, the Comair 5191 Crash.

Arbie is highly regarded and valued by all of the DMORT FACT.



Steve Tinder was presented with the 2007 NDMS Response Team Distinguished Member of the year award for **DMORT WMD**. Over the past years, Steve has worked hard in developing and setting up the DMORT WMD intensive hands-on training in Knoxville, TN. Here, the WMD Team trains in decontamination procedures and recovery operations with cadavers and other human remains. The training is also designed to allow members of the three NMRT teams across the United States to be involved in the operation and prepare to supplement DMORT WMD personnel to deploy to multiple incidents at the same time - if the need arises. The training allows regional DMORTs to attend and participate in the hands-on operations and become more familiar with how DMORT WMD performs the decontamination process. The training has been conducted for the past three years and plans are to continue with the operations each year.

After having a professional career in law enforcement for 33 years with the Knoxville, TN. Police Department, Steve retired on January 1, 2008. Currently, Steve is an instructor for FEMA’s Mass Fatality Incident Response Course. He has presented this course for many years in Tennessee and various locations throughout the United States.

Steve was selected to join DMORT by Fred O. Berry, Jr. (one of the original DMORT Commanders) in 1995 as a member of the Region IV team. His first deployment was to Guam in 1997 for the Korean Airline crash. Since that time he has been involved in numerous deployments. Steve is currently the Deputy Commander of the DMORT WMD

team. As part of DMORT WMD, Steve has the distinction of being able to test products, which are proposed for DMORT use, on cadavers donated for research at the University of Tennessee Forensic Research Center (The Body Farm).

Steve resides in Knoxville, TN with his wife, Janet. They have been married 31 years.

DMORT WMD Team members are proud and honored to have him as a leader and valued member of their region.

THE THOMAS SHEPARDSON LEADERSHIP AWARD

Submitted by William L. Devir (Commander DMAT OH-5)



***Teddy Rogers, Commander TN-1, receives the first
Thomas Shepardson Leadership Award
from NDMS***

Upon the announcement of this new award, **Mr. Jack Beall** stated: *“This new award is named for the founder of the Disaster Mortuary Operational Response Team DMORT, Thomas J. Shepardson, whose legacy is the respectful treatment of the living and the dead and the timely identification of those who perish in natural and man-made disasters. This award may be bestowed annually on an NDMS team member who exhibits the leadership, vision, service and commitment to the living and the dead as exemplified by the DMORT’s founder.”*

The following excerpts from Mr. Rogers’ nomination recognized these traits.

Leadership

“Mr. Rogers exemplifies the leadership style that collaborative leaders of today strive to emulate. His style is rooted in genuine, unwavering care for his team and for all others whom he serves. One of his guiding principles is, *Be humble, be teachable.*”

Vision

“Teddy refers to himself as the “guardian of the culture” for TN-1. With respect to vision, there can be no more important task than to protect, foster, and encourage the positive culture of an organization. Teddy Rogers has displayed visionary leadership in recognition of this principle from the formation of TN-1.”

Service

“In every decision, Mr. Rogers seeks out the best way to serve others. For example, during my deployment with Teddy for Katrina, while at the Tent City another team joined TN-1 (already sleeping in their cots) in one of the tents. They were coming in after a mission in the field. It was very late. Despite Teddy having little or no sleep, he arose to greet the incoming team commander and assist the team into the tent for the night. As he did so, other team members rose from their cots to assist the incoming team. Within minutes, the majority of TN-1 was outside helping the incoming team into the tent, finding blankets and pillows for them, etc. Teddy consistently leads TN-1, who follows willingly, in service to others in countless other examples.”

Commitment

“While on deployment, I have personally witnessed Teddy Rogers back his words with his actions, displaying tireless, unwavering commitment to the NDMS mission at hand. Teddy always remained ready to accept a mission while in holding at LSU during Hurricane Katrina, and due directly to Teddy Rogers commitment to the mission, TN-1 was in a constant state of readiness for any assigned tasks. As a rule with rare exception, while our team has been in the field before a mission came, TN-1 under Teddy Rogers’ leadership remained ready to move within 30 minutes of notification. This constant state of readiness is a direct reflection of Teddy Rogers’ commitment to his duties as commander and any mission we may receive.”

“In summary, as someone who is a founding member of TN-1, I have had the privilege to work with Teddy Rogers for many years and have been on many deployments with other teams. I can think of no greater privilege than to continue to serve with Teddy Rogers. He is a personal friend, a confidant, and unquestionably one of the strongest, most compassionate, and most dedicated visionary leaders whom I have ever met.”

Mr. Rogers is not a stranger to public service. He is a Paramedic, with a degree in Allied Health, EMS Management. He also has a BS in Organizational Management and a Master of Science degree in Administration & Leadership. He currently serves as the City Manager and Chief Administrative Officer for the City of Collegedale, TN (near Chattanooga). Mr. Rogers has also served his community since 1981 through his participation in the Fire Service. Mr. Rogers is currently the Deputy Chief of Fire-Rescue Operations and Administration for the Tri-Community Fire-Rescue Department, Collegedale, TN.

Please join us in expressing our appreciation to Mr. Rogers, his wife Becky and son Caleb for all he has done to serve his patients, his community, NDMS and the nation. His leadership certainly embodies the spirit of the Thomas Shepardson Leadership Award.

Main Conference Courses:

Complementary Programs to Support ESF #8

Speakers: Jack Beall (HHS/ASPR/OPEO/NDMS); James Gregory (DHS/FEMA); Jennifer Hannah (HHS/ASPR); Rev. Earl Johnson, MDiv, BCC (American Red Cross); RADM David Rutstein, MD, MPH, USPHS (Office of the Surgeon General, Office of Force Readiness & Deployment); CAPT James Sayers, USPHS; CAPT Robert Tosatto, RPh, MPH, MBA, USPHS (HHS/Office of the Surgeon General)

When responding to an emergency or disaster, Public Health Medical Services and Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) partners provide the mechanism for coordinated Federal government support and assistance. These response teams supplement State, local, and tribal resources, and include healthcare providers, pharmacists, environmental health providers, counselors, social workers, chaplains, morticians, and veterinary health providers when appropriate. The presenters provided updates about their programs, discussed the similarities and differences between the programs, and shared ideas on how they collaborate with each other.

Mass Fatality Management for Non-DMORT Response Teams

Speaker: David McBath, CEM

All response teams, including physicians, nurses, EMT's/paramedics, and other healthcare providers, have the ability to become involved with deceased victims following a Mass Disaster. The decomposition process, biohazard risk potential, evidence preservation, local/State management mechanisms for processing the deceased, and processes used to identify the deceased are all critical factors to consider. DMORT's role in the Mass Disaster response effort was also discussed.

Mass Fatality Forensic Dentistry

Speaker: John Filippi, DDS D-ABFO

This presentation described the application of Forensic Dentistry in a Mass Fatality Incident. It was tailored to Non-DMORT audiences. Dr. Filippi thoroughly explained the steps used by the forensic dental team in order to obtain positive identifications through dental evidence. He discussed the utilization of specialty techniques, dental equipment, and the importance of attaining good ante mortem and post mortem dental records, to assist the families of these victims in obtaining a positive identification.

Code Blue: Cold Weather Deployments

Speaker: Mark Libby, RN

The ability for healthcare providers and DMORTs/NVRTs to safely and effectively perform emergency public health and medical operations in cold weather environments is critical to the NDMS all-hazards mission. Cold weather, ice, and snow complicate response requirements, increase risk factors, and place demands on staff, logistics, and equipment. Thoughtful pre-planning and experience-based practices are the best mechanisms for identifying and managing risks.

Cold weather and winter conditions can create primary response requirements - for example, an ice storm with widespread electrical power interruptions, or a structure collapse due to snow loading. Winter weather can also complicate routine emergency operations, such as a commercial airplane crash. Physiologic difficulties include: effects of cold on staff and patients; health effects, such as exposure, dehydration, and injuries due to motor vehicle crashes, falls, or carbon monoxide exposure; and increased physical effort to accomplish tasks. Logistic problems may involve roads that are impassable by snow, ice, or downed trees and power lines; limitations of tents as shelters; availability of cold weather clothing; food service, billeting, showers, and bathroom facilities; vehicle maintenance and protection of diesel fuel from jelling.

Strategies in training, equipment, and job assignments were presented to identify risks and propose a range of solutions for each of these issues.

Minnesota Bridge Collapse

*Speakers: Robert Allen
Bill Heegaard, MD
John Hick, MD*

Nearing the close of rush hour traffic on August 1, 2007, the main span of Interstate 35 Bridge in Minneapolis collapsed into the Mississippi River. Thirteen people died and approximately 100 more were injured. Over 70 response and recovery agencies, including private resources, responded to the incident. The speakers, representing law enforcement, pre-hospital emergency medical services and hospital clinical care, discussed the intricate response issues, and offered critical insight into coordinated, multidisciplinary, multi-jurisdictional emergency planning.

Mass Fatalities: Medical Examiner and Coroner's Perspective and Morgue Operations

Speaker: Joyce deJong, DO

Mass Fatality Incidents fall under the jurisdiction of the local Coroner and/or Medical Examiner. Depending upon the type of incident, it is the decision of the local Coroner/Medical Examiner whether or not to autopsy the victims and if so, how many, and what type to perform. This session explained the process of making those decisions and showed examples of various procedures performed by the Forensic Pathologist.

History of Deployable Portable Morgue Unit

Speaker: Shannon Dotson

One of the latest “stand-alone” teams with the DMORT system is the Deployable Portable Morgue Unit (DPMU). NDMS has three fully stocked DPMUs containing state-of-the-art equipment. The mission is to provide equipment needed to identify and return the deceased victims of a disaster to their families for funeral ceremonies and burial rituals. Each DPMU contains thousands of pieces of equipment to assist the DMORTs in completing each mission. This session introduced the DPMUs and the individuals who maintain them. It also addressed DPMU transport and set-up, as well as the interaction of the DPMU, the DPMU team, and DMORTs while on deployment.

Caring for the Dead in a Pandemic

Speaker: Deborah Orecki

Pandemic Flu Planning is sweeping the Nation. Hospitals are preparing for enormous amounts of sick people that will overwhelm the Health Care System. For many healthcare providers, this is the first time that discussions have turned toward the end of an incident. Who will take care of the dead during and after this event and how will they handle the mass fatalities? The importance of planning for an incident, establishing who's in charge, and steps needed for an efficient operation on the local level were discussed.

TOPOFF 4: Three Communities Approach to a Radiological Dispersion Device

*Speakers: Jonathan Jui, MD
Merritt Schreiber, PhD
CAPT Andrew Stevermer, MSN, USPHS*

TOPOFF 4 was a large terrorism exercise conducted in Phoenix, AZ; Portland, OR; and Guam. The week-long exercise involved over 15,000 players, and tested the local, state/territory, and Federal government's ability to respond to an attack with a Radiological Dispersion Device (RDD). This session discussed the unique health and medical challenges that are created from the use of a RDD. It also identified some of the lessons learned from the exercise and discussed solutions for improving health and medical response to RDD in the future.

Legal Implications of Medical Disaster Response

Speaker: David Canton, DO, MD, JD

This presentation reviewed Privacy, Tort and Employment law issues. Applicable Federal laws were reviewed and issues of patient abandonment and terminal care were discussed. The legal implications of Tort law to include malpractice and duty of care were addressed, as well as the legal implications of OSHA regulations and worker's compensation.

Military Medicine: Leading Developments in Trauma Care

Speaker: COL John Holcomb, MD, USA

This session described and epidemiological profile of the United States military involvement in the Iraq conflict. It identified some of the advances in patient assessment, rescue, stabilization, battlefield treatment, evacuation, in flight medical care, and rehabilitation of the injured. It also discussed how these advancements are re-shaping health care delivery in the United States.

2009 NDMS Training Summit

Plans are underway for the next summit. It appears that the site will be Dallas, TX, as Mr. Beall mentioned at the closing session. The exact dates are to be determined.

REORGANIZATION OF NDMS HEADQUARTERS

Within the last year NDMS has been transferred back to the **Department of Health and Human Services** from Homeland Security, specifically FEMA. It has been a year of numerous changes and obstacles for our staff as well as with our teams. We continue to proceed through the transition. Throughout the transition, a common theme became obvious; we needed to do a better job to serve our team members. We needed to address issues in a holistic and standardized approach.

In response to this issue, NDMS headquarters staff has been re-organized. The goal of this re-organization is to serve teams with one voice and be a resource for issues and concerns that you may have. Having a team to work on your issues should provide a prompt and correct answer to any questions you may have.

The teams have been divided into three sections: **East (Red)**, **Central (Blue)**, and **West (Green)**. Each section has a team of three to support your requirements.

Program Development Branch: The areas of responsibilities consist of:

- Training - assessment, assist in planning, implementation and evaluation
- Development of new programs in NDMS
- Development of new teams within NDMS
- NDMS Training Summit
- Training Officer point of contact
- Online training
- Training website

Human Resource Branch in NDMS: The areas of responsibilities consist of:

- EEO issues
- Ethics issues
- Application process for existing and new team members
- Termination, Hiring and Suspension issues for team members
- Conflict of interest issues on teams
- Work with Administrative Officers to maintain correct and efficient database

Operations Branch in NDMS: The areas of responsibilities consist of:

- Day to Day operational issues on the teams
- Any logistical issues or concerns
- Request for purchasing or renting equipment or supplies for day to day requirements
- Warehouse issues
- Issues regarding deployability of team or team members
- Communication equipment requirements or issues

As members, you should direct your inquiries/concerns to your officers.

REGION III TRAINING

Gettysburg, Pennsylvania

March 27-30, 2008

DMORT Region III hosted team training at The Eisenhower Inn and Conference Center in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, on March 27 - 30. This annual event kicked off with dinner Thursday evening at The Historic 1776 Dobbin House Tavern, Gettysburg's oldest and most historic home. The theme for this year's training was Forensic Anthropology, and the entire team participated in a Basic Forensic Anthropology Workshop presented by team member **Donna Boyd, PhD**, Eminent Professor of Anthropology, and Co-Director, Radford University Forensic Science Institute. Dr. Boyd was assisted by **Dr. Cliff Boyd**, who discussed principles of Forensic Archaeology, and by the DMORT III team anthropologists.

The team conducted an anthropology "dig" outdoors at a barn located on the grounds of The Eisenhower, next to the historic Gettysburg battlefields, and some interesting findings were unearthed. After a day outdoors, Friday night's traditional "Drop on By" social, hosted by Deputy Commander **John McGuire** and featuring old movie clips and popular old television and cartoon shorts, provided a welcome gathering for the team.

Continuing the focus on Forensic Anthropology and the search and retrieval of human remains, Deputy Commander **Jack Ingle**, Senior Medicolegal Investigator for the State of Delaware Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, spoke on "The Identification of Exhumed Remains." This was followed by a lecture on "Autopsy of Skeletonized Remains," offered by **Zhongxue Hua, MD, PhD**, Regional Medical Examiner of Newark, New Jersey. The identification of dental remains was also covered in a Forensic Odontology session on "Digital Disaster Management" hosted by **John Nase, DDS**, Associate Professor, Temple University School of Dentistry, for the team's forensic dentists.

The PA-2 DMAT team (attending as the Special Medical Response Team (SMRT) of South Western Pennsylvania), led by Commander **Rodney Shabbick, EMT-P**, gave a comprehensive, hands-on lecture and practicum covering the diagnosis and treatment of injuries and infections sustained in the field. This dovetailed well with the weekend's focus on Forensic Anthropology. The SMRT team also gave a lecture on sustaining mental well being while deployed, focusing on stress-reduction techniques. DMORT III Commander **Pat Kauffman, MD**, forensic pathologist, gave a presentation on the Rhode Island Nightclub Fire, commemorating its fifth anniversary (February 2008) and DMORT III's nine members who participated in that mission. Assisting her was **Daryl Sensenig**, Training Officer, DMORT-WMD and Battalion Chief, ret., Anne Arundel County Maryland Fire Department, who spoke on the technical aspects of this fire, the fourth deadliest nightclub fire in U.S. history.

Special break-out sessions were held on Saturday for the 16 DMORT III members who are on the Region III IRCT-A team, and for interested candidates who attended the training. Spouses, significant others, and adult children of team members were in attendance throughout the weekend. The high point of the exercise was the annual Saturday night team banquet and awards ceremony at The Eisenhower, a DMORT III tradition. The Mid-Atlantic Forensic Identification Group (MAFIG) helped host the weekend's activities.

DMORT III's next training event in 2008 will take place in three months on Chincoteague Island, Virginia, the weekend of June 7, 2008. All are welcome. Any DMORT or NDMS members who are interested in attending may contact Training Officer Patrick Murray at pmurraydds@aol.com

REGION V NEWS

The leadership of DMORT Region V would like to thank all of the Region V members who attended the first DMORT National Training Summit. We would especially like to thank all of the members who attended without funding and recognize your commitment to training and to DMORT. During this two day training we had several members who presented various sections of the DMORT SOP's and we would like to thank them for their time as they prepared and presented this information. We hope that this successful training will prompt future National trainings as we continue to work towards standardization. If you didn't have the chance to complete the online survey, please take a few minutes and do so. You will find the online survey at <http://ndms2008.evicenter.com/>

Congratulations

Congratulations to **Gary Berman, DDS**, who was recently elected as the "Chairperson" of the Odontology Section of the American Academy of Forensic Science (AAFS).

Congratulations are also due to **John Williams, DDS**, **Chuck Berner, DDS**, and **Gary Berman, DDS**, who will be receiving the Assistant Director's award of the FBI Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) for Exceptional Public Service on April 17, 2008.

REGION VII TRAINING

DMORT Region VII will have a non-paid Regional training on Saturday **June 28, 2008 in Cedar Rapids, Iowa**. This training will review the 2008 DMORT SOP's and procedures, the DPMU changes and improvements, and issues concerning deployability, such as the IS courses and immunizations. NDMS team websites will be discussed, and help will be available to team members so they may become more familiar with these websites

Condolence

Dean Snow passed away Saturday, March 29, 2008. He was the Commander of DMORT VII prior to his retirement from DMORT Command in 2002. Dean was also the NDMS/DMORT Deputy National Commander setting the groundwork with **Tom Shepardson** for development of the DMORT component of NDMS.



Dean was a graduate of Dallas Institute of Funeral Service in Dallas, Texas. He was a Funeral Director and Embalmer by profession. He purchased Gowing-Snow Funeral Home in Richmond, MO in 1987 and then operated Snow Funeral Home in Richmond for over 20 years. He also owned and operated the Snow Funeral Home in Wellington for several years. He served as National Deputy Commander of DMORT under Tom Shepardson and was former commander of DMORT Region VII, where he was still an active member. Dean served as Ray County Coroner for 24 years and was a member of the Missouri Medical Examiners and Coroners Association and had served on the board. He was a member of the Missouri Funeral Directors and Embalmers Association for many years. He was a Rotarian where he had received the Paul Harris Award. Dean was a founder, former president, and served on the board of Ideal Industries, Richmond, MO, was a member and a past president of the Richmond Chamber of Commerce, was one of the founders of the Richmond Mushroom Festival, served on the Ray County Fair Board for many years, served on the Board for the Ray County Fellowship Center, and was a board member of Ducks Unlimited for many years. Dean served on many other service organizations and performed many acts of community service over the years.

Funeral Services were held on April 2, 2008 at the Richmond United Methodist Church in Richmond, MO. The service was well attended. According to Dean's wishes, the following Region VII team members served as Pallbearers: **Bill Young, Mike Henderson, John Frasco, John Filippi, Mark Maupin, Cal Corson, Mike Phillips, and Darrel Carmichael.**

The family of Dean Snow and the Region VII team would like to thank all DMORT members for their condolences, emails, and flowers.

CURRENT DMORT LEADERSHIP

Updated March 2008

DMORT I Officers

Commander: Michael O'Neil
Deputy Commander: Joseph Allen
Deputy Commander: Byron Kelly
Administrative Officer:
 Robert (Zeke) Plante
Deputy Administrative Officer:
 Camille Byers
Training Officer: Patricia V. Soucie

DMORT II Officers

Commander: Kevin T. Costigan
Deputy Commander: Robert Golden
Deputy Commander: Roy Sonkin
Administrative Officer:
 Kathy Costigan
Training Officer: Scott Schmidt

DMORT III Officers

Commander: Patricia Kauffman, MD
Deputy Commander: John McGuire
Deputy Commander: Jack Ingle
Acting Deputy Commander:
 John Carson, DDS
Administrative Officer: Richard Rapp
Administrative Officer: Dorothy Harris
Administrative Officer: Todd Wolfe
Training Officer: Patrick Murray, DDS

DMORT IV Officers

Commander: Cotton Howell
Deputy Commander: Paul Taylor
Administrative Officer: Kim Plunk
Administrative Officer:
 Paula Dotson
Administrative Officer:
 Jason H. Byrd, PhD
Training Officer: Gail Works

DMORT V Officers

Commander: Frank Saul, PhD
Deputy Commander: Brad Targhetta
Deputy Commander: David Hunt
Administrative Officer: Sue Atwood
Training Officer: Jan Simons
Safety Officer: Dave Walters
Logistics Officer: Jim Adams, DDS

DMORT VI Officers

Commander: Todd Ellis
Deputy Commander: Terry Edwards
Deputy Commander: Chuck Smith
Deputy Commander: Don Carter
Administrative Officer: Cindy Mathews
Assistant Administrative Officer:
 Jamie Hawthorne
Training Officer: Vickie Atchley

DMORT VII Officers

Commander: William H. (Bill) Young
Deputy Commander:
 Michael L. Henderson
Deputy Commander (Acting):
 Michael L. Phillips
Administrative Officer:
 John Frasco, DDS
Deputy Administrative Officer:
 Nadine McNeal
Training Officer: John E. Filippi, DDS

DMORT VIII Officers

Commander: Lance Peterson
Deputy Commander: Alan Siddoway
Deputy Commander: Julie Stringer
Deputy Commander: Chuck Bowman
Administrative Officer: Rich Lipich
Administrative Officer: Margie Larocca
Administrative Officer: Gary Refsland
Training Officer: Jeff Zealley

DMORT IX Officers

Commander: John Linstrom
Deputy Commander (Primary):
 Robert Vigil
Deputy Commander:
 Robert “Rocky” Shaw
Deputy Commander (Acting):
 Anthony “Tony” Manoukian, MD
Administrative Officer (Primary):
 Barbara Salazar
Deputy Administrative Officer:
 Melinda “Mindy” Latta-Roberts
Deputy Administrative Officer (Acting):
 Tricia Saunders
Training Officer: Michael Iliescu

DMORT X Officers

Commander: Duane Bigoni
Deputy Commander:
 Stephanie Swyter, DDS
Deputy Commander: Frank Sebastian
Administrative Officer: Penny Englert
Training Officer: John Courtney

FAMILY ASSISTANCE CORE

TEAM Officers

Commander (Acting): Jennie Thommen
Deputy Commander: Don Bloom
Administrative Officer: Arbie Goings
Training Officer: John Turner

WMD TEAM Officers

Commander: Dale Downey
Deputy Commander (Administration):
 Steve Tinder
Deputy Commander (Operations):
 Leonard Parker
Deputy Commander (Special
Operations): Lee Sweat
Administrative Officer:
 Melissa Moeckel
Assistant Administrative Officer:
 Andrea Couch
Assistant Administrative Officer:
 Tami Schroder
Training Officer: Daryl Sensenig
Medical Director: Joe White, MD
Logistics Chief: Doug (Digger) Nobles
Communications Chief: Jerry Vehaun

DPMU Officers

Commander: Shannon Dotson
Deputy Commander: Mike Gedert
Deputy Commander: Bob Shank Jr.
Administrative Officer:
 Joseph (Bart) Jones
Logistics Chief: Robert Stevens
Safety Officer: Mark Stewart
Training Officer (IT): Mark Soucie
Communications: Josh Gore

DMORT Polo Shirts

Jim Adams will be placing an order for the green polo style DMORT shirt –complete with DMORT logo, name, and region embroidered on the shirts. Please contact Jim at jim@dmort.org to place an order. The cost is \$31.00 plus postage.

DMORT NATIONAL NEWSLETTER EDITORS

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DMORT team members gather for some relaxation after hours



Dave Hunt and Marilyn London congratulate Jan Simons (center) following the Awards Ceremony



Jim Fullerton and Mary Phillips (Region VII)



Region V dentists gather during the Dental breakout session