



# DMORT

# NATIONAL NEWS

## Disaster Mortuary Operational Response Team

### New DMORT Program Manager Appointed

Millard (Buddy) Bell III is Coordinator of Mortuary Affairs for the Department of Homeland Security in the National Disaster Medical System (NDMS). In January 2005, he was appointed Program Manager for the DMORT teams: his primary responsibilities include the development and implementation of methods, policies, and procedures that are intended to enhance existing DMORT teams' response capabilities. Mr. Bell is currently developing and reviewing federal policy, procedures, and training requirements, pertaining to DMORT.

Mr. Bell is a licensed Maryland Funeral Director and Embalmer. He attended the Catonsville Community College in Maryland, where he received a Certificate of Completion in the Mortuary Science Program. He earned his license by successfully passing both National and Maryland State Boards.

Buddy was an officer for the Maryland State Police, until retiring in 1992. His twenty-seven years on the police force gained him invaluable experience in a number of areas, including accident scene investigation, narcotic tactic operation, and medical team assignment on the police helicopter. Buddy's lengthy career with the Police Department laid the foundation for a continued future with the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).

Buddy joined the DHHS Office of Emergency Preparedness in the Field Operations Division, in the Spring of 1995. His diligent work ethic and professional knowledge led to his first activation, following the Oklahoma City Bomb Incident (April 1995).

Buddy quickly established himself as an expert on the Graves Registration Team from Fort Lee, Virginia. Since that time, he has participated on numerous deployments, serving in a variety of leadership roles - Commander, Assistant Commander, Logistics Coordinator, Transportation Officer, and Administrative Officer. Following Hurricane Floyd in North Carolina (1999), Buddy was assigned as Program Manager for the Veterinary Medical Assistance Team (VMAT). He was the Management Support Team (MST) Commander for VMAT, during the Avian Influenza Outbreak in Harrisonburg, Virginia (2002). Buddy was also instrumental in the development of programs, useful for the advancement of response capabilities of four existing VMAT teams with the NDMS, as well as twenty-three DMAT teams on the East Coast. These experiences are a tribute to his professionalism and leadership ability.

Buddy resides in Sykesville, Maryland with his wife - Helga, and daughter - Ashley. They live on a small horse farm, where they raise and show breeds of Paint and Quarter Horses, in their spare time.

### NEW DMORT FORUM AREA

*The following originally appeared in the March 2005 issue of Region V's Monthly Newsletter: "The Voice of V"*

There is a new area on the DMORT website which allows everyone (team members, leadership, and the public) a chance to keep up with what is going on within the teams and leadership of DMORT. Although these forums will allow public

membership, we are asking all team members to become registered users of the system in order to utilize all of the features and functions. At this time, **public members will** be allowed to read, post messages on the **public** forum. We now have a **private team area** that is **NOT** open to the public. We need **ALL** team members to be registered users in order to obtain permission to enter these restricted areas.

To interact fully with the forms on dmort.org, please do the following:

1. Go to [www.dmort.org](http://www.dmort.org)
2. Click on the link that says **Check out the New DMORT Discussion Forum**. This will take you to the main page for different forums. Currently, you will see only one forum, the General Forum. Once you become a verified member of DMORT, your membership status will be changed to allow you access to the private forum. When you logon with your registered and approved name, you will then see the **Private DMORT Forum** listed. This will allow you to read and post items to only DMORT members.
3. Click on the **Register** link in the upper right side of the screen.
4. You will be asked to accept the terms and conditions. Click on **I Agree to these terms....**
5. **Fill out the information request**. All fields marked with \* are required. Please set your website field to your regional team site, if you have one. You may leave all other settings on the page as they are, or modify them to your preferences.
6. Click the **SUBMIT** button at the bottom of the page to complete your signup.

After signing up, you will be taken to a screen that states your account has



## DMORT

# NATIONAL NEWS

## Disaster Mortuary Operational Response Team

2

been created and approved. You may then go to the main forum page and use the [Login link](#) in the upper right part of the screen to gain full access to the system. **Logging in will enable you to access the Private DMORT Forum, which is not available to the general public.**

After this, you will be able to read, post, and interact fully with the forum(s).

Most Forum issues are discussed in detail at the web address <http://www.dmort.org/bb/faq.php> (from the FAQ link on the forum main page). Please consult this manual BEFORE requesting assistance.

If at any time in this process you need access assistance, have comments, or want to make suggestions for improvement, please email [forums@dmort.org](mailto:forums@dmort.org).

### OHIO MORTUARY RESPONSE TEAM

*The following article originally appeared in the April issue of the Region V newsletter: "The Voice of V"*

For decades, the **Ohio Funeral Directors Association (OFDA)**, in cooperation with the **National Funeral Directors Association**, have prompted others within their profession to consider the need for proper recovery and return of victims, involved in a mass fatality incident, to their families. During the past several years, the management of mass fatality incidents has undergone dramatic changes; these modifications are based on the evolving roles of the forensic anthropologists, odontologists, pathologists and other scientists in obtaining positive victim identifications. Also, there has been an

increased focus on appropriate evidence collection and crime scene preservation, resulting from events, such as the 9/11/01 tragedy, recent disaster incidents, and the awareness of possible future terrorist activities.

Fortunately, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and National Disaster Medical System (NDMS) have enabled Disaster Mortuary Operational Response Teams (DMORT) to assist local Coroners/Medical Examiners, who have jurisdiction over victim remains.

There is an increasing possibility that multiple mass fatality incidents may require the use of local morgue/mortuary resources to augment the two federally available Disaster Portable Morgue Units (DPMUs): there may be situations where federal support is disqualified, or local personnel and resources need to be utilized, until federal assistance arrives. In response to these potential scenarios, the **Ohio Funeral Directors Association, the Ohio State Coroners Association, and the Ohio Emergency Management Agency** have created and funded an **Ohio DPMU**.

On October 9-10, 2004, the **Ohio Funeral Directors Association Mortuary Response Team (OFDA-MRT)** hosted a workshop at the Medical College of Ohio in Toledo. The workshop was designed to assist in the interaction between local authorities and state/federal agencies, in the event of the aforementioned scenarios, and also to encourage seamless transitions when appropriate. There were over forty participants, including Coroners, Medical Examiners, Funeral

Directors, Embalmers, Emergency Management Personnel, Forensic Pathologists, Anthropologists, and Odontologists.

Lecture topics featured: The New Unified Command System; A DMORT Overview; The Incident Morgue; Family Assistance and Information Resource Center, VIP and WIN ID; The Process of Identification; The Role of Forensic Anthropology; The Role of Forensic Odontology; and The Role of Fingerprinting.

On the final day, there was a morgue exercise, utilizing a completely assembled DPMU by the OFDA-MRT. The OFDA-MRT and DMORT members participated in this exercise.

Overall, this two-day workshop provided an excellent learning experience for everyone who attended, especially DMORT attendees from Indiana and Minnesota, who are in the process of establishing their own state morgues.

### INDIANA MORTUARY RESPONSE TEAM

*Donald W. Simpson and Dave Hunt*

*The following article originally appeared in the February issue of the Region V newsletter: "The Voice of V"*

Since 1994, the **Indiana State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA)** has continued to examine its ability to respond to various types of disasters. A complete state team, along with an inventory of essential equipment is required in order to meet this need.

Dave Perkins - Director of Operations for SEMA- has been working



# DMORT

# NATIONAL NEWS

## Disaster Mortuary Operational Response Team

diligently with numerous agencies, including the Indiana Funeral Directors Association, Region V DMORT Mortuary Officers (**Donald W. Simpson, Kelly P. Cissell, and Dave Hunt**), Indiana Coroners Association, Indiana National Guard, Indiana Forensic Dental Team, State Law Enforcement, and the Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) Team to form and equip a state team.

An initial cache will be purchased by SEMA, with the helpful assistance from **Shannon Dotson** (Region V DMORT and DPMU Teams). The cache will be owned by SEMA, and a State Disaster Management Team will be selected to oversee its operation.

The state-owned equipment will be utilized in situations where disasters do not warrant federal assistance, or federal assistance has not yet been requested. The cache will also be used for in-state deployments, training exercises, and assisting neighboring states. The entire portable unit will be designed to integrate with the federal system, and be adaptable to all incident response personnel, either within or outside of Indiana.

Team structure and composition are currently under development; however, it is very certain that it will be modeled after the NDMS/DMORT system.

### FEMA DEPLOYMENT

**October 19, 2004**

#### Commuter Plane Crash Kirkville, Missouri

*Mary Fischer, Region V*

*Jim Fullerton, Region VII*

*The following article originally appeared in the November issue of the Region V newsletter: "The Voice of V"*

On the evening of October 19, 2004, a commuter plane – traveling from St. Louis to Kirkville, Missouri - crashed while on approach to the Kirkville Municipal Airport. The incident killed eleven of the thirteen passengers on board, as well as two crewmembers.

DMORT was activated- thirty-five DMORT members from Region VII and a radiology technologist from Region V were deployed, along with the DPMU and the FAC team. The DPMU team set up the Morgue on October 21, and the operation commenced on October 22. FEMA, NTSB, and FAC personnel were also present.

DMORT completed their mission smoothly and expediently, considering the condition of the remains. Some victims lacked both dental and fingerprint information.

Morgue operations shut down on October 26. Victims were positively identified, with the exception of four, who had presumptive identifications, but were awaiting DNA results.

Bill Young, (Region VII Commander), with the help of Mike Henderson, (Region VII Deputy Commander), oversaw the deployment in a very efficient and organized manner.

### REGION VII

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

DMORT Region VII acknowledges the contributions of **Deputy Team Commander Mike Henderson** for his ongoing deployment to FEMA headquarters. Mike has been assisting in a variety of areas in RSB, Operations and Logistics since September, 2004. Through Mike's persistence, the Assessment Team

was formed to aid in getting NDMS member's payroll and travel reimbursement issues resolved and identify areas of concern that had contributed to the backlog.

Mike brings a fresh way of thinking and much needed support for the daily operations at headquarters. He brings with him many years of law enforcement experience as well as the opportunity to think from the private sector perspective. His untiring efforts have helped many NDMS members finally resolve their issues. Mike truly exemplifies the spirit and willingness of NDMS.

### **DMORT REGIONAL TRAINING SCHEDULE SUMMARY**

*As of 3/31/2005*

#### **REGION I**

No Information Available

#### **REGION II**

No Information Available

#### **REGION III**

Region III will hold their Annual Training Session in **Gettysburg, Pennsylvania on April 15-17, 2005.**

For more information, please see the Region III website on [www.dmort.org](http://www.dmort.org).

#### **REGIONS IV AND VI COMBINED ANNUAL TRAINING SESSION**

Regions IV and VI will be conducting a Combined Annual Training Session in **New Orleans, Louisiana on July 21-24, 2005.**

Please refer to the Region IV website on [www.dmort.org](http://www.dmort.org) for more details



# DMORT

# NATIONAL NEWS

## Disaster Mortuary Operational Response Team

4

and registration information, as they become available.

### REGION V

Region V will be holding their Annual Training Session in **Columbus, Ohio on June 3-5, 2005.**

Details and registration information are available on the Region V website - [www.dmort.org](http://www.dmort.org) - and also in this issue of the National Newsletter.

### REGION VII

Region VII will be conducting their Annual Training Session on **May 20-22, 2005, at the Lake of the Ozarks, Missouri.**

Please refer to the Region VII website at [www.dmort.org](http://www.dmort.org), or contact Dr. John Filippi (Region VII Training Officer) at [forends@aol.com](mailto:forends@aol.com) for more details and information.

### REGION VIII

Region VIII will be holding their Annual Training Session on **June 10-12, 2005, in Denver Colorado.** For more information, please contact Gary Refsland (Region VIII Executive Secretary) at [grefsland@attglobal.net](mailto:grefsland@attglobal.net).

### REGION IX

Region IX will hold their 2005 Annual Training Session on **May 26-29, at March Air Reserve Base in Riverside County, California.**

For more information, please contact Emil Moldovan (Region IX Training Officer) at [emoldovan@msn.com](mailto:emoldovan@msn.com).

### REGION X

Region X has made **tentative plans** to have their 2005 Annual Training Session in **Early June in Anchorage, Alaska.**

Details and registration information will be provided as they become available.

### REGION V ANNUAL TRAINING JUNE 3-5, 2005

**The DMORT Region V Annual Training will be held June 3-5, 2005 in Columbus, Ohio.** This session will be multi-dimensional, including both classroom training and a full-scale drill, in collaboration with multiple local, state, and federal agencies.

The classroom sessions will take place on Friday (June 3) and Sunday (June 5). Representatives from the agencies participating in the drill, as well as DMORT V specialists, will speak on a wide range of topics: a discussion of specialized forensic applications- such as digital dental x-ray support in morgue operations, forensic mission protocols, the importance of forensically obtained positive identifications while working with local coroners and medical examiners; informative updates from the NTSB, NDMS, and DMORT; a strategic planning meeting prior to the drill, followed by a complete evaluation afterwards.

The drill will take place on Saturday (June 4), at the Rickenbacker Airport in Columbus. It will be a multiple agency drill, emphasizing on the transition from a local response, to a state response, and ultimately to a federal response. This will be one of the first drills of its kind, involving agencies from every level, a fully operational mobile morgue, Family Assistance Center, and Information Resource Center.

The scenario of the drill will be a plane crash, resulting in multiple casualties and dozens of fatalities. It will progress from an initial fire and EMS response for the injured, to a state, and then federal response for the fatalities. The primary working

areas, during the drill for DMORT members, will be morgue operations, family assistance, data entry, assistance with identification, and notification of death.

Morgue operations will simulate all working areas in a functional mobile morgue. The Ohio Funeral Directors Association Mortuary Response Team (OFDA) Mobile Morgue will be utilized for the training. OFDA team members will be involved in the initial response and set-up of the morgue; they will then turn over operations to DMORT, after federal response has been requested. At that time, OFDA team members will maintain a presence in a support role, under DMORT command.

### DMORT National News

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