

OFDA-MRT NEWS

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Morgue Re-Pack Completed

By Mike Gedert



Twenty MRT and NCMR members worked for two days to complete a full inventory of the morgue and Push-Pak trailers, and do an organized and documented reload of the trailers. This effort will help the MRT in the future by knowing where all the equipment is located as well as having some equipment strategically located for easy off-load in the event of a Family Assistance only mission. A very big thank you goes out to all who participated.

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Joplin, MO Deployment, A Team Member's Perspective

By Becky Bayliff

A new mission, Joplin, not sure where it is but I am going and ASAP. An F-4 tornado had taken out more than six miles of the town and multiple deaths had been reported. How did they know to call us so quickly? A local funeral director is a D-Mort member. He is on the ground working within hours, and my travel orders come at 22:00 and I am on the way to the airport at 04:00.

Once on location it is a waiting game for the rest of the team to arrive. Commanders have

had travel delays and as an augmentee to the family assistance team I must wait for orders. My second contact on the ground was with one of the two coroners in charge of the event. Joplin covers the county line and both coroners are involved. He tells us they have 120 confirmed dead 3000 reported missing and have already released three to local funeral homes. During our discussion he receives a call from Anderson Cooper and does an interview right then and there,

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Joplin, MO (Con't)

and asked us to explain what D-Mort will be able to do for him. NO COMMENT we have a PIO that will be able to assist at a later time. Are you kidding, never talk to the media, I was so amazed. What an eye opener and we had just been there an hour.

The evening opens up as others arrived and a game plan is put into place. We will use the third floor of the student union at Missouri Southern State University. The ballroom will be our family center, offices will be converted to interview rooms and the conference room will be information resources and data entry.

Just as we are finishing the conversion the tornado alarm sounds and we make our way down to the shelter. Are all accounted for, do you know where your buddy is? After a time we are allowed to surface and make our way to our billeting, 25 miles away at Crowder College. Not the Hyatt but a bed and shower linens provided by our trusty logistic support team, Dolphin and Ed, they rock.

The following days multiple jobs were done: help set up records, clean, meet with families, be an escort, hall monitor, gopher and finally answer the phone and edit files. It became very clear that communication with other agencies is critical. We worked very closely with the highway patrol and at times that was a challenge.

Another challenge presented itself when a presidential visit happened. No family meetings could be held and security was heightened. In the end, all were identified, records were completed, edited and handed over. A job well done was accomplished in 10 days.



OFDA-MRT Team members who deployed with DMORT to Joplin, MO after a May tornado left many fatalities: (From left to right) Pete Minges, Don Bloom, Becky Bayliff, Tim Schmidt and Ed Babcock.



Becky Bayliff working in the Ante-mortem Data Collection area with the DMORT Family Assistance Core Team (F.A.C.T.)

Required Online NIMS Training

By Todd Grisier

Shortly after 9/11 the federal government developed the National Incident Management System trainings to assist in making disaster response better coordinated among local, state and federal responders. This training is required for both governmental and non-governmental disaster responders. It gives responders a better understanding of the Incident Command System as well clarifying the need for state and local response prior to requesting federal assistance.

As I said, this training is required for ALL disaster responders. If you have taken any of these courses already you should have copies of your completion certificates. *In the near future*, we will be asking you to scan and e-mail, or FAX, copies of your certificates to be placed in your personal file. Many of you took all but the 800b course at the office a few years ago. We have some of the certificates on file at the office. Before we ask you to send copies to us, I will send out a list of all of the people who



have certificates on file at the office so you don't have to go to the trouble of sending them again.

If you have NOT taken any of the NIMS courses yet, you may access them at this site:

<http://training.fema.gov/IS/NIMS.asp>

The following are the courses that you need to complete: IS-100b, IS-200b, IS-700 and IS-800b. As you complete each course you will earn a certificate for the course. Be sure to keep all your certificates together in a file.

Up until now, we have not enforced the requirement to take these courses, but they will be a prerequisite for the state team.

Port Columbus Airport Drill

By Mike Gedert

On September 20th the OFDA-MRT participated in a field exercise at Port Columbus Airport. The primary operational training for the team involved search and recovery of fatalities at the site of the simulated plane crash. This exercise took place on one of the runways at the airport (it was closed for the duration of the exercise). Most team members were given the opportunity to train in at least two different operational positions. Some of the positions that were utilized were: search, bagging and tagging, photography, documentation, transportation, holding area management, data entry, command post management and logistical support.

While the overall blending of the mass fatality response and fire/EMS response operations had its usual issues, the MRT operations gave team members a good opportunity to add to their skill set for possible recovery support during a Mass Fatality Incident (MFI). Columbus Fire Department provided 30 dressed mannequins

for the exercise. Each of these represented a fatality and varied from infant to adult size. Because these mannequins varied in weight from about 10 to 150 pounds, team members had a more realistic experience when trying to place remains in a disaster pouch and move remains from one location to another.

As is the case with most exercises, there were many lessons learned. We hope to build on the progress that we have made in the Site/Recovery area of operations during a classroom training after the first of the year. We will review the exercise and discuss some of the lessons learned.

Once again, many thanks to those who participated in this exercise. We realize everyone's time is valuable, so your participation is very much appreciated.

(See Photos on Page 6)

Upcoming Events...

When: Jan-Feb, 2012

What: Team Training

Where: OFDA Office

Uniforms: No

Plans are being developed for a one-day classroom training at the OFDA office. All Team members will be STRONGLY encouraged to attend for a few reasons. First, we will be processing new ID cards for all team members and would like to complete them all at once. Second, this may be one of our last team trainings before the development of the Ohio Mortuary Response Team (OMRT) that will include forensic personnel. The training will include some discussion about those changes.

The date will be finalized in the very near future so as to give everyone plenty of time to put it on your schedule. More details about the training will also be included when the date is announced.

When: March 6-7 or June 5-6, 2012

What: G-386 Mass Fatality Incident Response Course (Approved for 13 CEU's)

Where: Ohio EMA Office

Uniforms: No

This two-day program covers all aspects of Mass Fatality Response including local, state and federal roles during a disaster, discussion about all operational areas of a Mass Fatality Response, short tabletop exercises and open discussion among a diverse group of attendees. If you have not attended one of these classes, it would serve as a good review of Mass Fatality Response for you.

If you live over 45 miles away, Ohio EMA will cover the cost of a hotel room for you for two nights. There is the possibility that one of these classes will be presented at Calamityville, near Dayton. If that happens, the team will be notified about the change immediately. You can register for the program at <http://ema.ohio.gov/Training.aspx>. If you have trouble registering, call Ohio EMA Training at (614)799-3824/3680 for assistance with registration. You can check your enrollment/approval status via the Ohio EMA Training website.

This and That...

Uniform Order Form Ready at Website

Policy Board member and team Administrative Officer Todd Grisier has completed an agreement with a company and put together an order form for the BDU uniform that the team uses. The form can be printed from the team website (www.ofdamrt.org) The order form includes BDU pants, shirt/jacket, belt, name tapes, flags, M-65 field jacket (optional) and boots. You may place the order directly through the supplier. Just print the form and either call or FAX your order in. The blue team t-shirts are available during trainings, not through this company. If you have any questions, Todd's e-mail address is todd@powersupply.net

Changes in Contact Information

If you have any changes in contact information please remember to contact Diana O'Neal at the OFDA office as soon as possible. Remember, if we can't contact you, we can't deploy you in the event of an incident. Diana will pass the information along so we can update all e-mail and call down lists.

Have Questions? Get Them Answered Here!

If you have a question about something that would interest the team, send it to me and I will answer it in the newsletter. This could help clear up issues that I may not even be aware of. You may send your questions to mlgedert@gmail.com . I will try to respond to your e-mail with an immediate answer, and also publish the Q and A in the next newsletter. Your name will not have to be published.



OFDA-MRT Policy Board Contact List

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