

# Connecticut Disaster Medical Assistance Team

## CT-1

CHA Headquarters

Barnes Road Wallingford, CT

Team Meeting

17 April 2003

The meeting commenced at 1900 hours with the Pledge of Allegiance. Acting Unit Commander Marge Letitia presided.

- I. Guest Speaker: Doug Glowacki, Chief Meteorologist for the State of Connecticut explained the factors that created the different environmental conditions in Baghdad, Iraq, Santiago, Chile, and Katmandu, Nepal.
- II. There was a brief recess to permit members to verify the status of individual applications. The meeting reconvened at 1745.
- III. Commander's report:

A. NDMS Update:

1. Judy Caldwell indicates that our first batch of applications have reached the 5<sup>th</sup> point in the process. Those should be given Federal status within the next 2 or 3 weeks. The team application will then move into the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and be assigned a contact person to help us become deployable. Scott Caldwell is one of our current contacts. He may be our future contact.
2. NDMS will move from Rockville, MD to the old FEMA campus in Washington, DC in July 2003. We have been warned that the paperwork could get "a little messy" during the move.
3. Commanders' call: 5 April 18, 2003
  - a . Consolidation/downsizing issues: Ten regional officer operations are being reviewed with the goal of consolidating operations.
  - b There is no decision on the disposition of 6 pay loads of equipment. There are new teams with no equipment and established teams needing replacement of 20-year old pieces. No date has been set for distribution of the existing equipment. There is discussion that teams might be able to share equipment.

B. DPH update:

1. There was a meeting on 24 March 2003 with Dr. Mario Garcia Director Public Health Preparedness, Atty. Marianne Horne and Mary Duley Bioterrorism Coordinator on the issues surrounding Team deployment

within the state. It was explained that team members would not be able to respond with the team to an incident in the member's "home" area: their first responsibility would be to their primary service area. Team members from unaffected areas might respond under the auspices of the team. A state-wide disaster would result in the deployment of an out-of-state NDMS team.

2. It was determined that the team could establish a Mobile Hospital in a first responder capacity.
3. HRSA grant applications are due in August. These are earmarked for first responders: Police, Fire, EMS and DMAT units.
  - a . We supplied a budget request of \$451,560. Line items range from tents, to clothing to equipment such as camel packs.
  - b Funds originally intended for our use are again available. We need an MOU with DPH.

C. Legislative:

1. Representative Linda Orange met briefly with M. Letitia to discuss the \$75,000 grant funds to be awarded in October. Rep. Orange also expressed an interest in meeting with team members. We will extend an invitation after elections, probably a date after the conclusion of the current session of the legislature. The Executive Board will report back next month.
2. Bill 6575:
  - a . A copy was on the registration table.
  - b This Bill addresses our need for immunity and protects us if deployed in-state.
  - c. It came out of committee and goes to the floor under the mandate that OEM must prepare a state-wide disaster plan by January 2004. It should be on the floor by 24 April and on the legislative docket by April 26th.
3. The USAR (Urban Search and Rescue) team is very interested in working cooperatively. There are separately funded by the Public Safety Division. They are assured of funds under the Horne Public Health grant.
4. Gordon Shand from OEMS has been an excellent resource and valuable ally.

IV. Membership: we will be using a sign-in sheet for meeting attendance. This is the type of documentation NDMS will expect to see when our records are inspected.

V. Candidates' forum:

A. Nominations stand as:

1. Unit Commander: R. McKeon, D. Moore, M. Zanker.
2. Deputy Unit Commander/Operations: P. Brooks

3. Deputy Unit Commander/Administration: B. Dillon, L. Guercia

4. Chief Medical Officer: M. Prete.

5. Administrative Officer: M. Letitia, B. Murphy

6. Finance Officer: D. Samuels

7. Member- at- large: L. Abbot, B. Murphy

B. The motion to close nominations carried.

C. Each candidate was given the option and opportunity to speak to the group.

D. L. Abbot reviewed the candidate qualification process, and the balloting process. Ballots must be returned by 9 May to be counted.

VI. The minutes of the March meeting were accepted on a motion by N. Cormier/R. Dillon.

VII. Branaird Field Headquarters:

A. Paul Brooks took us on a photographic tour of the building we will be sharing with the Civil Air Patrol, the USAR team and the State Police Aviation Division. The USAR Team Commander has been very accommodating. We will be given office spaces and share with the USAR team storage space, a classroom that will accommodate 100 and conference rooms that will hold 20 and 40 people. Security is via card access with wire mesh on windows. The adjacent parking lot will hold 150 cars. There is a drive-through vehicle decontamination unit. We may be asked to help maintain this by periodically driving personal vehicles through it.

The meeting adjourned on a motion by L. Guercia at 2112 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Beverly Dillon