



The CA-6 Chronicles

The latest news and information from the California Bay Area Disaster Medical Assistance Team, DMAT CA-6

— Visit us at www.dmatca6.org —

Vol. 3, No. 7

July, 2003

Caregivers to the Nation...Building a bridge between hope and despair



Founded in 1997

Mark Your Calendars

- **Jul 15 - 16** – Wildland mission at Camp Parks. Sign-ups are now closed for this event.
- **Sep** – On-call month.
- **Sep** – Moffett Field air show, local mission. Details forthcoming.
- **Oct 11 - 12** – Fleet Week in SF.
- **Oct 24 - 26** – Back to Basics field exercise.

Commander's Corner

By David Lipin, Commander

Welcome to July, entering with a whimper. We're three months into hurricane season, and the first significant hurricane is just now meandering around the Gulf. At this point last year we were into our second wildfire deployment. So far this year, nothing. Ho hum. Enjoy the r&r!

Sign up for wildfire medical work!

We still need more people to sign up for wildfire medical work this season. You must submit at application, even if you participated last year. It's quick and painless to apply, should take only 5 minutes or so to fill out the application. The missions are great fun, and flex around your work schedule. The details and application documents are available at www.emsa.ca.gov/dmatcdf.htm.

Camp Parks Wildland Fire Exercise

We are sending a few people each day to provide medical care at the Wildland 2003 fire exercise on July 15-16. Many thanks to those who signed up!

Code-of-Conduct Refresher

By David Lipin, Commander

Since we've got a bit of summer downtime on our hands, the Board thought it would be useful for us to

review CA-6 and NDMS code-of-conduct issues. We've got a set of new members who might not have seen them, and some old-timers who might like a refresher!

Here they are, slightly paraphrased to fit in the space available:

Conduct

NDMS policy: the NDMS policy appears in its entirety on our team website at www.dmatca6.org/reports/code.html. It is too long even to paraphrase, but should only take a few minutes to review!

Team supplement: team members shall be cognizant of a situation in which they are representing the team, and shall dress and conduct themselves in a manner appropriate and acceptable to the situation so as not to be considered materially or seriously prejudicial to the interests or purposes of the team.

Uniform

NDMS policy: the uniform is required to be worn on missions unless otherwise specified. The uniform may be worn during training or when otherwise specified. Pins or other unspecified insignia may not be worn on the uniform, including rank, medical insignia, mission pins, etc.

Alcohol

NDMS policy: NDMS members that are on-duty or on-call are prohibited from drinking alcoholic beverages or being under the influence of alcoholic beverages during working hours, while operating or riding in a vehicle under NDMS control, or when there is a strong possibility of recall-for-duty. The use of alcohol on property utilized by NDMS for disaster response or training is prohibited.

Team supplement: team members may not drink alcoholic beverages while in the NDMS uniform, even when off-duty or

otherwise complying with the NDMS policy.

Smoking and Tobacco Use

NDMS policy: Smoking is prohibited except in designated areas. Smoking is not permitted inside any NDMS-controlled facility or within 40' of any entrance to an NDMS-controlled facility. Smoking is prohibited in all patient care areas and all food service areas. Smoking is prohibited in all NDMS-controlled vehicles. Smoking is permitted in designated areas or private rooms where ventilation prevents others from being exposed to second-hand smoke.

Special authorization for smoking breaks is not permitted.

Smoking areas are designated by the MST Leader, or by the Team Leader if the MST Leader is not available.

Team members shall observe smoking requirements of a host facility if such requirements are more stringent than NDMS policy.

This policy extends to all tobacco products.

Drugs

Illicit drug use or possession is strictly prohibited.



Section Updates

By the DMAT CA-6 Section Chiefs

Finance/Administration Section

Thank you to all who have completed and are working on completing your immunizations. We are currently in the

process of making the database able to automatically initiate reminders to those who are due/overdue for vaccinations, PPD tests, and titers. If you have any questions on your immunization status, please contact administration.

Just a reminder that new NDMS badges are in the administration office - if you haven't sent in your expired badge already, please do so in order to receive your new badge.

I would also like to put out a reminder that the new fiscal year (2003-2004) is coming up in three months and there are still a few members who owe dues for 2002-2003. Thanks!

Logistics Section

The next workday is August 24th, 1000-1500 hours. We'll be preparing for our September inventory and cache re-organization.

Operations Section

Beth Mulcahy reports that we've got a tentative agreement with Kaiser to provide us with a pharmaceutical cache!

Last call for team members who would like to join the NDMS "expert list" of team members within the NDMS community. These "experts" would be knowledgeable and hold positions in areas such as: Administration, Communications, Logistics, Medical, Mental Health, Nursing, Pharmaceuticals, Planning and Safety. If you feel that you are an NDMS expert in one of these (or other) areas and would like to be included in our team's list of "experts", please e-mail [Sam Bradley](mailto:Sam.Bradley).

Plans Section

Policy and procedure templates and topics have been distributed to the appropriate officers for write-up. We're still on-target for completing this long-awaited project by the end of this year!

EARTHQUAKE IN THE CARPATHIAN MOUNTAINS!

By Stephen La Plante

The water was not potable. The two-inch mattress on a wooden board was great for the hips. The raw sewage spill in our room resulted in a room re-assignment. The hot water for the showers only worked half the time (ice cold showers

are real uncomfortable). BUT IT WAS A GREAT EXPERIENCE!

When the Soviet Union broke up twelve years ago, fifteen new nations were created. Through NATO and the U.S. European Command, each of these new countries was "adopted" by one of our fifty states. California selected the Ukraine to mentor through their early years of independence. During the first week of June, a delegation of 48 Californians, half military and half civilian, flew to the western Ukrainian metropolis of L'viv (pop. 830,000) to work with 50 Ukrainians on a tabletop exercise responding to a huge earthquake in the Carpathian Mountains of southern Ukraine.

The Ukrainian delegation was mostly members of the Ministry of Emergency Situations, the equivalent of our FEMA. They were highly professional and eager to learn the Incident Command System. They took to it like a baby to bath water. Each ICS section had three chiefs and deputy chiefs. In Logistics, Capt. Ivan Lisovoy was the Ukrainian chief, Maj. Victor Adame of the California Air National Guard was the American military chief, and I was the civilian chief. In Operations, Michael Petrie, our EMS Administrator and CA-6 team member, was the civilian chief. The California delegation was lead by the Chief Deputy Director of State EMSA, Dan Smiley.

The military members were mostly from the National Guard; the civilians were primarily Disaster Medical Assistance Team members from throughout California, including CA-1, CA-2, CA-4, CA-6, CA-9, and CA-11. The other member from CA-6 was Andy Swartzell, a flight nurse with Cal-Star. Since the Ukraine does not have an "aero-medical program," Andy gave them some tips about developing their own.

We were stationed on a military base twenty miles west of L'viv, just a few miles from the Polish border. It was a rural area with much poverty. The exercise focused on devising strategies for receiving humanitarian aid from the nearby countries of Moldova, Georgia, Azerbaijan and Poland. We had the tremendous help of ten L'viv University college students majoring in English literature as our interpreters. As many hurdles as there were to overcome, the

language of ICS prevailed. It was the initial exposure to ICS for the Ukrainians. All parties, especially we Californians, benefited from the ICS experience. This tabletop was a warm-up for a full field exercise back at this lonely outpost in Eastern Europe next June, 2004.

I can't wait to return to the hard work and camaraderie in the evenings. It was an exciting time.



Outreach, Public Awareness, and the 1906 Earthquake Centennial

By Fred Turner, Staff Structural Engineer, California Seismic Safety Commission

I would like to alert DMAT about two new initiatives:

The first is called the Quake '06 Campaign, sponsored by the Earthquake Engineering Research Institute, and cosponsored by FEMA, USGS, OES, ABAG and others. This campaign is establishing a health care group to help organize activities and disseminate information both within the emergency medical community and to the general public. Our goal is to commemorate the Centennial of the 1906 earthquake with heightened public awareness and activities that improve disaster preparedness and risk management involving many disciplines. This campaign is described at:

<http://www.quake06.org/quake06.html>

It is part of a larger effort [the second initiative] to coordinate public outreach, information and educational activities. [This second initiative is] described at <http://06Centennial.org>



Meeting One of Our Own: Andy Swartzell

Edited by Mary Clare Bennett, PIO

Name: Andrew J. (Andy) Swartzell, RN, BSN

Team Position: Supervisory Nurse Specialist

Certifications: Certified Flight Registered Nurse, Certified Critical Care Registered Nurse, Advanced Cardiac Life Support, Pediatric Advanced Life Support

Organizations/Memberships: Air Surface Transport Nurse Association, American Association of Critical-Care Nurses, California Association of Aeromedical Personnel (past President), Medical Advisory Committee San Mateo County EMS, UCSF Alumni Association, San Francisco Medical Air Access Project

Andy was born in Walnut Creek and grew up in South San Francisco. He graduated from the University of California San Francisco with a BS in Nursing in 1981. "I have never lived outside the Bay Area," says Andy. "I have been married for 19 years to Cindy. We met while I was working at UCSF as a student RN on the orthopedic floor. She was supposed to be my preceptor, but she gave me to someone else my first day on the job. I guess I couldn't take the rejection!" Andy and Cindy have 2 boys. Cameron is 17 and just graduated from high school and Chris is 15. Rounding out the family are two dogs, Jessie and Pepper, and a cat named Callie, who according to Andy "runs the place"!

Andy began getting involved in prehospital care as a pool and beach lifeguard in high school and volunteered with the San Mateo Co. Sheriff's Office Cliff & Water (SCUBA) Rescue Team for a few years. Andy initially entered college to study marine biology at San Francisco State College. He studied there from 1973 to 1978, all the while working

as an ambulance attendant. A friend had convinced him to take a night class at Skyline Junior College, which was a prelude course to EMT. In 1979 Andy received his diploma from the Paramedic Training Program at John Adams Community College in San Francisco, worked as an EMT ambulance attendant and later as a paramedic. He says, "I discovered I liked working with people more than dissecting sea urchins! Through my work I met some very wonderful RN friends who encouraged me to go to nursing school". Andy was in the last undergraduate RN program at UCSF and earned his BSN in 2 years. Andy briefly considered going into deep-sea medicine in the military after graduating from nursing school but found that they weren't using nurses in that area. Andy went directly to the Coronary Care Unit at San Francisco General Hospital and worked staff nurse/charge nurse there. Andy worked a brief stint as the EMS Field Coordinator for SF EMS where he wrote the first MCI plan for San Francisco, got morphine approved for SF Paramedic use, and wrote the first mutual aid policy for accidents on the bridges between SF, Marin and Alameda Counties. Andy was also a consultant on the design team that submitted the feasibility study for recommendation of a helipad at SF General Hospital.

In 1984, Andy began to work with CALSTAR as a flight nurse, and participated in program development. Andy is the only person left from the very beginning of the program. Andy says, "My background in so many different areas helps make me a better flight nurse." He also works part time at San Ramon Valley Fire Dept as the EMS QI Coordinator: helping provide EMT/paramedic classes, attending county meetings in Alameda & Contra Costa counties and the Medical Advisory, Quality Improvement, Helicopter Task Force and Trauma Audit committees. In 1997 Andy was honored to be featured in an Article in Boys Life Boy Scouts of America magazine titled "My Life's Work: Airborne Nurse". The article came out following an event experienced by a Concord Boy Scout troop that came upon the scene of a serious accident involving a mountain bike rider with severe injuries resulting from a fall. CALSTAR arrived

first and the boy scouts assisted with the rescue.

Andy's hobbies include swimming, and after a 20-year hiatus he has started scuba diving again. "I have been taking Kenpo karate lessons for several years with my sons" says Andy, "it gives them a chance to hit dad 'legally'. I also like to read science fiction/action adventure stories (Dale Brown, Stephen Coontz, Tom Clancy, etc.) My wife also 'makes' me go to the CA Shakespeare Theater every year. I am a compulsive TV channel hopper and should not be given the remote when others are watching."

Andy recalls, "I first heard about DMAT from a fellow Flight Nurse living in Santa Clara. She encouraged me to join the first CA-6 team and I sent in my application. I never was contacted and found out later the program had never really started. I got involved in our team because Cynthia Frankel-Cone from Alameda County EMS asked me to co-chair the Training Committee with her; then later became the first Training Officer. I have enjoyed every deployment I have been on and am sorry that I missed the ones I didn't participate in. Because of DMAT I have been to the Ukraine Rough & Ready exercise twice and will hopefully be back next year. The one deployment that I will never forget is when we went to the WTC after 9/11. One night Sam Bradley and I were sent by Dave into "the Pit" to stand-by in case the firefighters and police officers who were checking a void in the rubble got injured. I was very anxious at first and hoped I wouldn't be called on to do anything. When those rescuers, who had been risking their lives every day since the towers fell, thanked us for being there... the anxiety disappeared. I knew then that this kind of work is what I was meant to do and had prepared for."

When asked about his philosophy, Andy replied, "I love working as a team and there are only 2 types of people I don't get along with well (I hope): (1) People who think they are better than others, and (2) people who don't think they are good enough for others. I think people on our team share a similar philosophy and I am very grateful to have the opportunity to work with them."



Department of Public Health
City and County of San Francisco
**Employment
Opportunity**

To apply, please follow instructions stated below in announcement.

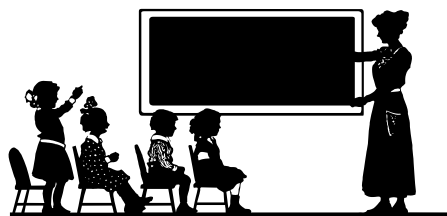
Disaster – Emergency Operations Coordinator Positions Available at San Francisco EMS Section

By Michael Petrie, San Francisco EMS

The City and County of San Francisco, Department of Public Health, EMS Section has posted a job flyer for up to 3 positions to serve as EMS Specialist, Disaster – Emergency Operations Coordinators. The posting period opens today and closes Tuesday, July 15, 2003. I would appreciate you providing the widest possible dissemination of this notice.

San Francisco, a national high-threat jurisdiction for natural and deliberate disasters, is an outstanding environment in which to coordinate EMS, disaster, emergency operations, and counter-terrorism programs. The persons selected to fill these positions will serve these exciting functions throughout the Health Department and City and County of San Francisco. The job description is at <http://www.dph.sf.ca.us/emplymnt/200CIass/2533mp2-071503.htm>. More information and a copy of the application form can be obtained at: <http://www.dph.sf.ca.us/emplymnt/genjobs.htm>

Please contact me with any questions at michael.petrie@sfdph.org or (415) 355-2609.



Training News

By Sam Bradley, Training Officer and David Lipin, Unit Commander

Online training requirements

By the end of April, you should have completed 6 of the online modules:

- Nov: Welcome (100) and NDMS In Review (111)
- Dec: DMAT Roles & Responsibilities (112)
- Jan: Personal Gear (122)
- Feb: Team Safety (124)
- Mar: Tents & Command Setup (131)
- Apr: Logistical Issues (133)
- May: Litter Bearing (136)
- June: Critical Incident Stress Management (147)
- July: Incident Management System (130)

You can check the current training completion rate in the Members Only area of the team website. If you took a course but the report says otherwise,

make sure you took the survey, and then contact one of our Training Officers for help.

WMD Training Course

The 2nd Medical Brigade, United States Army Reserve, is presenting a three-day course entitled, "Emergency Response to Weapons of Mass Destruction". The course will be held at Camp Parks (Dublin) on August 3-5. Please see the course brochure and contact information at www.batwg.org.

Save the Dates!

The California EMS Authority is reminding all medical and health care providers of the following upcoming conferences and exercises:

- 2003 Medical and Health Disaster Management Conferences (An All-Hazards Approach to Managing Emergencies) – September 30th in Oakland, October 7th in Commerce, October 9th in Temecula. Conference registration available online at www.creativeeventsolutions.net/disaster after July 1st.
- 2003 Statewide Medical and Health Disaster Exercise – November 13th, 1600-2000. The exercise guidebook will be available at www.emsa.ca.gov after July 15th.