

# The CA-6 Chronicles

The latest news and information

from the California Bay Area Disaster Medical Assistance Team, DMAT CA-6

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Vol. 6, No. 4

April, 2006

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



Founded in 1997

## Mark Your Calendars

- **04-07 May** – Rough & Ready '06, Moffett Field. Sign-ups now closed. Information to follow.
- **13 May** – Rough & Ready '06 unload & cleanup, Menlo Park & Moffett warehouses, 1000 – 1500 hrs. Sign-ups required!!! See Logistics Update below for more information.
- **20 May** – Clinician's Group mtg @ Terry Holbrook's, 0900 hrs.
- **06 Jun** – Operations Section Meeting @ Terry Holbrook's, 1830 hrs.
- **17 Jun** – Team Meeting @ Menlo Park Ops Center, 1000 – 1500 hrs; Clinician's Mtg 0830 – 1000 hrs; New Member Orientation 0900 – 1000 hrs.

## Commander's Corner

*By David Lipin, Commander*

Well, we couldn't have cut this much closer! I guess it's a good thing we're getting the newsletter out late, because we've had some last-minute changes to the Rough & Ready information.

About half the team is attending this exercise, so we've put the requisite details in the newsletter.

There are also important changes to our uniforms, the implementation of a new respiratory program, and other important information contained in this newsletter.

*Please read it carefully and thoroughly!*

### **Respiratory Program**

NDMS is finally beginning a real respiratory protection program, to help mitigate and manage the health hazards of some of the

environments into which we deploy. NDMS has hired several staff members whose sole focus is respiratory protection and PPE.

As a result, we are implementing a new, mandatory FEMA respiratory program. All deployable team members must participate in this program. For starters, it will consist of a respiratory questionnaire, a medical screening for selected members based on answers to the questionnaire, and an N-95 fit test.

An explanatory letter is available at [www.dmatca6.org/uploads2/RespiratoryProgramLetter.pdf](http://www.dmatca6.org/uploads2/RespiratoryProgramLetter.pdf). After reading this letter, you can download the questionnaire from [www.dmatca6.org/uploads2/FOH2-2-RespiratorQuestionnaire.pdf](http://www.dmatca6.org/uploads2/FOH2-2-RespiratorQuestionnaire.pdf), or a smaller Word version from [www.dmatca6.org/uploads2/FOH2-2-RespiratorQuestionnaire.doc](http://www.dmatca6.org/uploads2/FOH2-2-RespiratorQuestionnaire.doc).

For those attending Rough & Ready, please complete the survey and bring it in a sealed envelope to the exercise. For all others, please mail the survey as instructed in the letter by May 15<sup>th</sup>.

The deadline is close on this, so please help us out by being diligent!

### **Team Uniform Cleaning Fee**

We allowed people to take team-owned uniforms home for cleaning following our Katrina missions, and had a significant problem re-collecting them. We received some as late as last month, and we're still missing some.

So we'll be making some changes, including a deposit program and a cleaning fee. We'll re-collect uniforms – dirty or not – at the end of the mission or exercise, and we'll charge \$5 per piece for cleaning. We'll give you a receipt which you can use for travel

reimbursement (federal missions) or for a tax deduction (non-federal missions).

So if you plan to sign-out a team-owned uniform for Rough & Ready, be prepared to pay the cleaning fee.

More on the deposit program in next month's newsletter.

### **Online Mental Health Course**

One of our new applicants, Kate Amatruda, wants to let everyone know about her online course:

A Field Guide to Disaster Mental Health: The Very Big Wave and the Mean Old Storm (Welcome to Chaos!). It can be accessed at:

[http://www.psychceu.com/disasterr esponse/field\\_guide.asp](http://www.psychceu.com/disasterr esponse/field_guide.asp).

If you want CEUs, e-mail Kate at [admin@psychceu.com](mailto:admin@psychceu.com).

### **Message from FEMA Pharmacy**

Can you please notify all your team Physician's, Nurse Practitioners Pharmacists, and anyone else with prescribing or prescription filling authority that Pseudoephedrine in all forms has been removed from the DMAT Pharmacy Cache due to the new Federal Regulations. The Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee has made this decision because each state in the United States is treating this over-the-counter medication as a class 4 or 5. There are logbooks that would need to be kept, tracking of who received how much and in what time frame which in what our teams do would be very time consuming. Pharmacy Logistics is currently removing all the Pseudoephedrine from all of the pharmacy caches. If anyone has questions, please contact [your team commander, who will put you in touch with us.]



## Uniform Conversion

By David Lipin, Commander

We've finally received the new FEMA patches for converting existing uniforms, so we're ready to begin the conversion process.

The changes are straight-forward:

- The team patch moves from the left shoulder to the right-front pocket (and changes to a new, round patch – see image at the start of this article). This patch becomes optional, but we strongly recommend it.
- A new DHS/FEMA patch plus DMAT rocker goes on the left shoulder.
- The service tape changes from “NDMS” to “DMAT CA-6”.

We will convert all of the team-owned uniforms from our NDMS budget. We will convert member-owned uniforms at member expense (\$12 per blouse or jacket). You'll be able to purchase new patches (Velcro-backed or not) as soon as they're available; we estimate \$5-\$7 each.

This is a mandatory conversion. If you choose to not convert your uniform, then you cannot wear it for DMAT purposes after July 1<sup>st</sup>, and you must return your NDMS patch.

Remember, you can always sign out a team uniform at deployment time.

The team patch is optional, but you'll only save about \$2 per uniform by not converting the pocket. Talk with the Uniform Unit folks when you turn in your uniforms if you'd prefer to do this.

Since we'll have over half of the team members at the upcoming

Rough & Ready exercise, we'd like to begin the conversion process by collecting member-owned uniforms at the end of the exercise. So please bring all of your uniforms and jackets, and a check or cash for \$12 each.

If you're not attending Rough & Ready, you can bring your uniforms to the May 13 workday or the June 20 meeting. You can also bring your uniforms to the warehouse during business hours (e-mail David Lipin if you'd like to do this). The Uniform Unit will also provide an East Bay collection point and a mail-in option. Stay tuned for an update on this.

## Section Updates

By the DMAT CA-6 Section Chiefs

### **Administration/Finance Section (Bonnie Atencio)**

If you attended the NDMS Conference as a federally-funded team member, you should have received a Travel Voucher Worksheet by now. Please complete it and return it to me ASAP if you want to be reimbursed for food, mileage, etc. I will use your Worksheet to create a Travel Voucher that I will e-mail back to you. You'll then print it, sign it, and mail it back to me with all of the receipts. So hang onto your receipts!

### **Operations Section (Terry Holbrook)**

Wow...how did this time fly so quickly? Things are still happening at a pretty fast pace on the Ops Section agenda. Thank Goodness. I look on every thing started, midway, or actually done as a huge accomplishment, and am so thankful for all the great section members who are willing to help make this happen.

A short synopsis: The Respiratory program, headed in the Ops portion by Leanne Andrews has all of its work under us sketched out...you will all be hearing about it very soon, and we are here to act as the

cheerleaders. It is not only an important program, but is a required one, so when you are notified of the need to do your questionnaire, please don't dally!!! Fit testing times will be announced soon by Walt Sanders, who will be running that part of the show.

The medical equipment check-off book has been completed by Brandon Bond, and it is just wonderful....a real reference book, easy to use and valuable. But there is a catch. We have to remember to look for it on workdays and then do what is needed.

Iris Tam has agreed to be the lead in the Pharmacy Unit, and will be trying to get a good look at both the Kaiser cache and the Local Response caches....they all need updating, clearing, and general polishing. She will be discussing the Kaiser arrangement, and our place in the process of updating it, should they want our participation. They will also oversee our team medical kit for us. Thanks to her for accepting this big job, and to the other pharmacists for the work I know they will be doing on our two local caches.

LeNai Dohr has accepted the job of being the lead for descriptions of medical standards for deployment and general fitness. This is new ground for us, having it right there in black and white, and she is anxious to do this important job in her usual efficient and clear way. She is also still finishing up the Skills check-off sheets in collaboration with Cris Benner....they are almost completed. Great job!

The EMT-P statewide accreditation in times of emergency is being discussed between several agencies including DMATs, LEMSAs and EMSA, and is coming along well. We hope to have this agreed upon by the summer, so DMAT participants are covered in a more concrete way by the fire season.

The Immunization program headed by Bobbie Johnson is humming

right along. An FOH nurse will be at Rough and Ready to catch people up as needed, and there are lots of you! Thanks to Bobbie for her work on this.

Last but not least, the Clinician's Group had a killer meeting, and there are so many things being handled by them I can't remember them all. Perhaps Barbara Morita will fill you in under a different column. But it is a heroic effort...so many things in the wind, and such a lot of work getting it all organized is huge...so many thanks to her, and to Brian Blaisch, and the rest of the participants.

I'm sure there is more to tell you, but I'm darned if I can think of what it is. The next Ops meeting is Tuesday, June 6<sup>th</sup> (moved forward a week because of vacations), my house, still 6:30 p.m., and still a potluck. You are all so welcome...we could really use your experience and willing hands to help with all of this stuff.

The next Clinician's Group meeting is also here, at my house, on Saturday, May 20 at 9:00 a.m. ... Join us!!!!

### **Clinicians Group**

The clinicians committee is filling a role we never realized we had but is now extremely valuable. We began a year ago meeting only before the regular team meetings largely to debrief on our occasional CDF deployments and kick around issues of interest to the clinicians.

We now are meeting every other month pursuing training/ skills/ scope of practice issues and debriefing on our many deployments.

We have defined "clinician" broadly and meetings everyone is welcome who provides patient care.

Topics we are looking at include: How do I prepare to manage things I see on deployment that I do not see in my regular job?; balancing medical team composition & skills;

disaster triage; clinician operations in a SEMS structure; preparing new clinicians for "austere medicine" and austere living; death protocols; team medical equipment and all aspects of training, skills development, skills check off.

We want your input!

Next meeting is Saturday May 20, 9:00 a.m. at Terry Holbrook's [see details above].

We will also continue to meet at 8:30 a.m. before each team meeting. Contact Barbara Morita [Moritaiko@comcast.net](mailto:Moritaiko@comcast.net) for questions or to add agenda items.

### **Logistics Section (Bill Bush)**

There are many stories in this City, this is just one of them. My name is Friday. I wear a badge...um...er, never mind.

Greetings Pilgrims! April's here and so is our cache!!!! Supply Section leader Kevin Sankey's been hard at work at the Moffett warehouse detailing what we have, what box it's in, and making sure we've got what we're supposed to have. Kevin could probably use a hand every now and again in setting up stuff to make sure it's functional and operational. He also needs to get into and check out the equipment we have in the trailer at the Menlo Park warehouse, and get an accurate accounting of that. If you want to help, drop him a line at [burwellsankey@earthlink.net](mailto:burwellsankey@earthlink.net).

Meanwhile, back at the ranch, Lassie is looking for Timmy.....oh yeah. DMAT....um, OK. Did I tell you about Kevin and the cache? I did? Oh...hmmm

Rough and Ready will soon be upon us, and we've got some huge issues to deal in regards to uniforms and personal gear after the exercise. Chris Burgardt is our Uniform Officer, but will be on hiatus while he completes the Fremont Fire Academy. In his stead will be Chris Yee and Randall Hunter (MR. HUNTER, to his friends).

JJ Becker's working hard with our fleet, and we may soon inherit another ambulance, so he definitely can use a helping hand.

Brandon Bond's got the job of dealing with our medical equipment, and is being aided by Stan Tomlinson. I'm sure they could use some help also. (OK, stop clapping...)

Don't be shy folks. Step up, lend a hand and get involved. See you at Rough & Ready. This year's gonna be a fun ride, so hang on folks!!!!

As always, bye bye and Buy Bonds...

### **Plans Section (Kathy Burgardt)**

Our energized and growing Plans Section met April 17. Our main topic of discussion was planning the MobEx for Rough and Ready on May 4. We learned from the last two deployments and we are looking forward to evaluating our new and somewhat improved process. Don't worry, veterans, the experience will seem familiar, but, we hope, more efficient. Cheryl Tomlinson and DeAnn McAllan are in training for planning future mobilizations and Kevin Montegrando has designed an improved parking system when cars are left at Tyco. Brandon Bond has devised procedures for both an automated notification and a manual notification. You'll be hearing from us soon.

Annie Bustin is moving forward with gathering information for the Policy and Procedure manual. Section Leaders, I know you will welcome her call for information. Dan Guerra, assistant section chief, will head up Home Team duties with the able assistance of Patrick Champeau. Ron Buckhout is leading the Intelligence Unit and promises to make sure that Lynn Fox knows as much as Ron. We are very intrigued by Ron's Intelligence reports. It is not too late to help Stasha wrestle with the MOUs and contracts that keep us going in times of disaster, so give us a call if that's your cup of tea.

Next meetings are August 17 and November 16, both from 1900 hrs to 2100 hrs. Join us via conference call from the comfort of your own computer desk. Email Kathy for details: [plans@dmatca6.org](mailto:plans@dmatca6.org).



## Rough & Ready '06

Compiled by David Lipin, Commander

Here is the information that you'll need for the upcoming Rough & Ready field training exercise (FTX).

### **Mobilization**

We will be conducting a full Mobilization Exercise (MobEx) in conjunction with Rough & Ready.

All R&R participants should report to our Menlo Park operations center between 1300 hrs and 1315 hrs on Thursday, 04 May. Don't be late!

Some members (possibly including non-R&R participants) will be asked to report earlier to assist with mobilization stations. If you are not one of these individuals, we ask that you remain outside the building until 1300 hrs.

After mobilization is complete, we will carpool *as a group* to the FTX at Moffett.

### **Demobilization**

We will be demobilizing at the FTX itself. Be prepared to turn in all of your uniform blouses and jackets on Sunday for us to convert. (See information elsewhere in this newsletter.) This means that you should bring something else to wear on top of your team t-shirt if you need to.

We will demobilize "by carpool", so that after demobilizing, you can

drive in your carpool back to the Menlo Park operations center to pick up your vehicles and head home. We expect to depart the FTX no later than 1300 hrs, 07 May.

### **USERRA Coverage**

This is a USERRA-covered FTX. If you need orders to present to your employer, contact David Lipin. Please do so only if you really need them; it is somewhat time-consuming to cut orders, and we'd prefer to focus as much time as possible on the FTX itself.

### **Meals**

Meals from Friday breakfast through Sunday breakfast will be provided.

*You must bring your own sack dinner for Thursday evening.*

### **Facilities & Billeting**

We will be sleeping on cots in tents. Portable restrooms and a shower trailer will be available outside.

The inside of the facility will be cool (55°F – 65°F), and relatively constant day & night. Come prepared to sleep and operate in this environment.

### **Itinerary**

*Thursday, 04 May:* MobEx, travel to Moffett, set up camp

*Friday, 05 May:* all-day didactic training; immunizations for those who need them. Some individuals may participate in a Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) exercise.

*Saturday, 06 May:* Each person will participate in one of four exercise venues: patient movement, patient reception, SNS packaging, SNS distribution (offsite, Fremont). Participation assignments will be given out on Friday.

*Sunday, 07 May:* break down camp, demobilize.

Additional information will be provided at the MobEx briefing on Thursday.

### **Personal Gear Required**

Here's the modified personal gear list for the FTX. If you don't have any of these items, you can sign them out during mobilization:

#### **On Person**

- Uniform (items from the list below)
- Boots (per team spec)
- Driver's license
- Watch
- Documentation from the list below
- Sack dinner for Thu, 04 May

#### **Paperwork & Documentation**

- Immunization card (PHS-731), and all other immunization documentation not yet transcribed into the card
- Respiratory questionnaire, completed (see other article in this newsletter issue)
- Cash or check for any R&R t-shirts you ordered
- Cash or check for any back dues you owe
- Cash or check for uniform conversion (see other article in this newsletter issue)

#### **Ready Bag**

- Work gloves
- Personal meds
- Toiletries
- Flashlight or headlamp
- Knife
- Insect repellent
- Sunscreen
- Sunglasses
- Lip balm
- Notebook
- Pen
- Goggles
- First aid kit (personal)
- Ear plugs (aircraft, sleeping)
- Paracord, 25' (optional)
- Water, 2L (optional; bottled water will be provided)

- Camera (optional)
- Cell phone, charger (optional)
- Carabineer (optional)
- Bandana (optional)
- Light stick (optional)
- Whistle (optional)

#### **Gear Bag**

- Underwear (2 pr)
- Socks (2 pr)
- Lock/cable set
- Wire hangar (optional)
- Rain gear
- Cold-weather clothing (jacket, fleece, long underwear, cap, gloves, etc.)
- Sleeping bag
- Sleeping pad
- Shower shoes
- Towel
- Civilian clothes (1 set)

#### ***Uniform Requirements***

Here's the minimum uniform spec for the FTX. If you don't have any of these items, you can sign them out during mobilization:

- Team t-shirt (2)
- BDU blouse (1)
- BDU pants (2)
- BDU belt (1)
- NDMS service tape (1)
- US Flag patch, per spec (1)
- NDMS patch (1)
- DMAT CA-6 patch (1)
- Name Tape (1)

**IMPORTANT:** bring all of your BDU blouses and M-65 jackets for uniform conversion. See Uniform Conversion article above for more information.