



FEMORS NewsGram

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Summer 2004



Director of Operations Message

Any doubts about your dedication and commitment as FEMORS members was laid to rest by the great turnout at this year's Annual Training. More than half of the 150 attendees were attending for the second year! It was gratifying to see new members warmly welcomed and aided by the returning team. Next year's plans are already underway for hands-on "work" that should be a rewarding experience for all.

Updates in this edition include:

- Funding Status
- Annual Training
- FAC Training
- Uniform Web-Store
- Team Appointments
- Go-Team Formation
- HRSA Grant Project
- Mass Fatality Plan
- Membership Report

Also, keep your fingers crossed! Late breaking news as this goes to print is that DOH may have found a way to allow us to purchase all the equipment needed for the disaster portable morgue unit (DPMU) – NOW! Deadline to spend the funds is August 30th, so things are happening at a frantic pace.

I'll let everyone know if it is successful by follow-up e-mail. This may be an extremely busy year if we have to marshal all that equipment and have it ready for next year's hands-on annual training program.

Larry R. Bedore

FUNDING STATUS

FY 04-05 (starting August 31st) has been approved at \$300,000. This provides sufficient funding for continuing operations and several training sessions including:

- FAC Training (January or February, 2005)
- Annual Training (March or April, 2005)
- Odontology Training (May or June, 2005)

In November, we will also participate in a limited way in the annual DMAT exercise. This will provide the Go-Team with field practice in operating under the ICS system.

ANNUAL TRAINING 2004

This year's Annual Training was held at the Radisson in Kissimmee on June 17 and 18. Nearly 2/3 of the then 245 members attended. Since then, 20 new members have joined the ranks (see Membership Report in this NewsGram).

The program was devoted to understanding the Field Operations Guide (FOG) and how each function of FEMORS would operate when activated. Several excellent suggestions were made for improvement in the FOG and will be incorporated into the next revision.

Next year's program will have a decidedly different format. Only a few lecture sessions will take place with the majority of time devoted to hands-on practice at a mock morgue set-up. Members will be assigned to the various functions (FAC, IR, morgue, etc.) to process items using actual forms.

Tentative plans include:

- Wed morning - Registration and lunch.
- Wed 1 pm to 5 pm - Intro and overview for new folks, perhaps some short topic specific lectures, followed



by planning sessions with everyone to make work assignments for table top (literally!) exercises the next day.

- Thurs 8 am-12 pm - Practical exercise for one-half of attendees (second half are observers) as ICS, managers, and teams at mock stations using real forms. This will include a Command Post, FAC section, Morgue section, Identification section and IRC.
- Thurs 1 pm to 5 pm - attendees reverse roles (participants in morning are now observers)
- Fri 8 am to 12 noon - Hot Wash (critique) and lessons learned.

Late March or early April are the target dates for 2005 to avoid Summer heat and tourist competition for lodging. For funeral service licensing, the program will include 1 CEU of AIDS refresher.

Caveat: This planning assumes we will NOT have a DPMU by the Spring. If we do, training might take place at the DPMU warehouse with stations actually set-up. A lot of set-up help will be needed.

FAC TRAINING 2004

The Family Assistance Center (FAC) Inaugural Training was held at the Radisson in Kissimmee on July 20th.

About 40 members practiced conducting interviews using the Victim Identification Program (VIP) forms



and performing a sample of the data entry work associated with that effort.



Don Bloom (right), the original author of VIP and visiting from Ohio, and Jonathan Scott (left), the IR Team Leader, coordinated



more than a dozen laptops brought by attendees. Together they will be making significant modifications to the program over

the next year as Jonathan continues to design our entire computer network scheme (more on that later).

Next year's session will focus much more on the data input and reporting aspects of VIP.

UNIFORMS WEB-STORE

Phil and Virginia (Gini) of Global DocuGraphiX were on hand at this year's Annual Training to market the FEMORS uniform shirts, pants, patches and related items.

They have now completed development of a web-store exclusively for FEMORS members.



The link to the store is through the members' area of www.FEMORS.org so you will need your username and password to access it. When creating an account to order goods, members may use their existing username and password.

For those of you who ordered uniforms but have not yet received them you can contact them at (904) 296-7788.

Standard apparel available includes:

- Long Sleeve Shirt (all except FAC Core Team).



- Navy blue button down collar with one pocket.
- FEMORS logo over right chest.
- FEMORS name on back of collar.
- Optional monogrammed name over left chest.
- Men's and women's sizes in S to XXXL.

- Short Sleeve Shirt



- Navy blue polo type with no pockets.
- FEMORS logo over right chest.
- Collar is Khaki with FEMORS on back.

- Sleeve hems are Khaki with FEMORS printed on outside edges.
- Optional monogrammed name over left chest.
- Men's and women's sizing in S to XXL.

- Trousers



- Tactical style (Royal Robbins 5.11).
- Men's and women's sizes (waist and inseam).

Khaki BDU trousers are also acceptable. The tactical type may be more functional and do not have the cuff ties found on BDU types.

FAC Team uniforms (not available yet at the web-store) consist of:

- Long Sleeve White Shirt (FAC Core Team only used with blue blazer jacket).
 - White button down collar with one pocket.
 - FEMORS logo over right chest.
 - Optional monogrammed name over left chest.
 - Men's and women's sizes in S to XXXL.

For now, any white shirt will do and clipping a patch (available from the web-store) to a blue blazer will suffice. Khaki dress slacks complete the outfit.



DNA Specialists on the FAC Team will generally use white lab coats (over a uniform shirt) with a patch clipped to the chest pocket as they will be meeting privately with families to collect DNA specimens. This provides the family with a comforting sense of the medical nature of that work.

TEAM APPOINTMENTS

Paul Taylor is FEMORS' Deputy Commander now that he has *retired* after about 40 years in the funeral services field.



Retired, however, is a term loosely applied as Paul has already found enough new challenges in his new home in the Ocala area to more than occupy his time.

Paul has been involved in disaster preparedness work and training, especially FEMA's Mass Fatality Course, for decades and is well-known throughout the national disaster community.

Gary Daugherty, because of his responsibilities as the de facto FAC Team Leader for DMORT, and the years of experience dealing with the myriad issues of FAC, serves as the FAC Team Leader. His likelihood of being readily available for FEMORS in the event multiple national disasters occur is, therefore, slim thus his deputy needs to be ready to step in.



Sheri Blanton, Forensic Coordinator for the Medical Examiner's office in Orlando (District 9), will serve as our Deputy FAC Team Leader to Team Leader Gary Daugherty.



Sheri has been very instrumental in totally revamping the level of preparedness for the Orlando office and has worked with Gary extensively to create and exercise a FAC program as part of those plans.

Jonathan Scott is serving as our Information Resources Team leader. He is busy with database design and networking configuration issues.



Members who possess strong PC skills are needed as IR Computer Specialists to staff FAC, Identification Center, and IR Center technical support positions. Members with such skills and interested in serving in this capacity should contact Jonathan at jscott70@Netpass.com.

Charles Badger, DNA Analyst with the Orlando FDLE



laboratory, serves as the DNA Team Leader and is spearheading efforts to better coordinate DNA related issues such as identifying laboratories that may be capable of handling a surge in ante-mortem and post-mortem testing. He is also working on an instructional brochure to accompany buccal swab kits that must be mailed to families for reference collection.

GO-TEAM MAKE-UP

The first contact FEMORS has with a disaster-affected medical examiner will likely be with FEMORS members nearest to the impacted area. These members will help the medical examiner assess the situation and explain the range of services FEMORS can provide.

An initial meeting of Go-Team members was held the evening before the Annual training. The current team members and their original specialties by region are:

Region 1

Klimetz, Gregory MRTO
Wentz, Rachel ANTN

Region 2

Falsetti, Anthony ANTF
Walsh-Haney, Heather ANTN

Region 3

Blanton, Sheri MEDI
Brewer, Charles MRTO
Byrd, Jason MEDI
Daugherty, Gary FACL
Lipton, Barry ODNF
Money, Jeff MHLO
Perry, Rick MRTO
Thomas-Dewitt, Gail MRTO

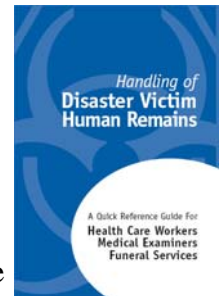
Region 4

Burt, Martha PATF
Chisholm, Russell MRTO
Fallon, Peter ODNF
Kassoff, Norman MEDI
Ralph, Thomas MRTO
Recca, Lori MRTA
Taylor, Paul MRTO

HRSA GRANT PROJECT

In early June, DOH asked FEMORS to manage a project under the existing Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) grant. With a deadline of August 15th, FEMORS developed an informational brochure titled: "Handling of Disaster Victim Human Remains".

The target audience for this mass mailing is 1,200 health care, medical examiner and funeral service establishments.



The mailing is scheduled for August 13th or sooner and a printable version will be posted

at www.FEMORS.com as a public service.

As follow-up, FEMORS will be hosting public service presentations of the topic throughout Florida between September and December. One session will be hosted in each of the seven RDSTF regions.

As soon as the tentative schedule with dates, times, and locations is set it, too, will be posted at the web-site.

All members are welcome to attend, especially to help increase the public's awareness of the FEMORS' team-focused approach and to demonstrate community support. The more often members can meet face-to-face with the decision makers in their communities, the more likely it is they will encounter opportunities of mutual benefit.

MASS FATALITY PLAN

Since the first meeting of the Mass Fatality Plan Task Group on April 28, 2004 in Orlando, two milestones have been met. First, all medical examiner districts have been surveyed about how many deaths might trigger them to request assistance. Second, a draft Mass Fatality Plan, to serve as an annex to the Florida Comprehensive Emergency Plan (CEMP) has been developed.

The Task Group will meet again two days before the Medical Examiners Commission (MEC) holds its August meeting in

Miami (during the Annual Conference) to make final changes to the first draft. Together with the survey results, the draft will be submitted to the MEC for review and potential distribution to all district medical examiners for comment and input.

Following that process, other reviews will be conducted through the RDSTF system as it moves toward its completion deadline of August 2005.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

FEMORS now has 265 members. The vast majority of those are at Applicant status (completed user profile). A table with breakdown by region and assigned section follows.

To date only 66 members have completed the full application package to reach Provisional status (awaiting background checks and DOH processing).

All members who are state employees (FDLE Laboratory, university, etc.) will need to process a dual employment form, have it completed by appropriate levels of supervision, and submit it for inclusion in the full application package. Each agency processes dual employment forms a little differently. If FEMORS information is required, feel free to contact Kelly House or Larry Bedore for assistance.

COMMENTS/SUGGESTIONS

Members can still reach FEMORS staff at the following numbers:

Larry Bedore
727-560-3276 (Cell)
161*31212*1 (NexTel Direct Connect)
Lbedore1@tampabay.rr.com

Kelly House
352-265-0680, Ext. 72047
housekm@pathology.ufl.edu

Dr. Bruce Goldberger
352-265-0680, Ext. 72001
888-443-2911 (pager)
bruce-goldberger@ufl.edu

FEMORS is supported through Department of Health funding (Contract COBA8) made available through the CDC Bioterrorism Preparedness Grant number U90/CCU417006.

MEMBERSHIP STATUS

Using the existing Classification Plan for preliminary assignment, FEMORS has a registered base of 265 applicant or provisional members (as of July 29, 2004) with the following breakdown by region.

FEMORS Membership Report Based on Preliminary Classification (as of July 29, 2004)

Categories: Title		Total	Region					
			1	2	3	4	?	
ADFI	Administrative Officer	1		1				0%
ADSP	Administrative Specialist	5	1	1	3			2%
ANTF	Anthropologist, Forensic (+1 as RGTL)	2	1		1			1%
ANTN	Anthropologist, Non-Forensic (2 as RGTL)	0						0%
AUTT	Autopsy Technician	13		2	9	2		5%
CHAP	Chaplin	0						0%
DENA	Dental Assistant	6	1		3	2		2%
DNAS	DNA Specialist	8			7	1		3%
EVSP	Evidence Specialist	21	2	1	8	10		8%
FACL	Family Assistance Core Team Leader	1			1			0%
FACS	FAC Specialist	8		3	4	1		3%
FCMD	FEMORS Commander	1			1			0%
FORS	Forensic Specialist	18	5	2	9	2		7%
FPTS	Fingerprint Specialist	15			6	9		6%
IRCS	IR Computer Specialist	3			3			1%
IRDE	IR Data Entry	0						0%
MEDI	Medical Investigator (+3 as RGTL)	29	3	7	9	10		11%
MHLO	Mental Health Officer (+1 as RGTL)	1			1			0%
MRTA	Mortuary Assistant (+1 as RGTL)	13	1	4	6	2		5%
MRTO	Mortuary Officer (+7 as RGTL) [1 Georgia]	67	6	7	20	33	1	25%
ODNF	Odontologist, Forensic (2 serve as RGTL)	19		1	5	13		7%
ODNN	Odontologist, Non-Forensic	3		1		2		1%
PATF	Pathologist, Forensic (1 serves as RGTL)	8	1	3	1	3		3%
PATN	Pathologist, Non-Forensic (1 resident)	3		3				1%
PHOT	Photographer	2			1	1		1%
RGTL	Regional Team Leader (Go Team)	15	2	2	6	5		6%
SAFO	Safety Officer (+1 as RGTL)	2			1	1		1%
	FEMORS Program Director	1		1				0%
Applicant and Provisional Members:		265	23	39	105	97	1	100%
Associate Members		11						
Inactive Members		12						
Total Membership		288						