

MINUTES

NADMAT ANNUAL MEETING

Washington, D.C.

May 11, 1999

Gary Lindbergh, FL-3, opened the meeting at 1710 hours and welcomed all to the 1999 NDMS Conference. Mr. Lindbergh explained to the general membership that Jonathan Weisel, MD, HI-1, relinquished the Chairmanship due to his work load and that John Hoyle, KY-1, 1st Vice Chairman had assumed the position. Mr. Lindbergh introduced and congratulated Mr. Hoyle and then handed over the gavel. The meeting was then declared open.

Mr. Hoyle gave a brief history of the NADMAT Association, which was formed in 1996 at the San Diego Conference. The purpose was to unite the 72 DMAT, DMORT, VMAT and Specialty Teams and their members into one body to address issues common to all teams. He then read the Mission Statement, which was prepared by the first chairman, Paul Riga, M.D. of OH-1. It is: "Committed to the sharing of information and the pursuit of common goals in preparedness and delivery of quality medical care in disasters."

One of the major accomplishments of NADMAT have been the past and present maintenance and training funds for Level 1 teams with that amount this year being \$8,000. This year permission was given to allow teams to use these funds to send members to the conference. NADMAT will continue to seek funds for the other teams.

Hoyle stressed that we are not a 'labor union' type of organization and the organization exists mainly as a mechanism for more effective communications between the teams on common issues. Nothing NADMAT does precludes any team member from directly contacting OEP if they so desire, but with teams scattered across the entire U.S. and being composed of all volunteers, communications can be difficult.

A request came from the floor to precede immediately with elections as some individuals had to catch flights. Officers must be commanders or deputy commanders of teams and are elected for a three-year term. The officers are: Chairman, 1st Vice Chairman, 2nd Vice Chairman and Past Chairman. This is done to thoroughly acquaint officers with the operation of NADMAT, OEP and also to provide depth and continuity.

Nominations were open to the floor and Mr. Hoyle was nominated for Chairman; and with the order of succession of officers this opened the 2nd Vice Chairman position. Dr. Salinas nominated, seconded by John Healey, MA-1, Kelly Burkholder-Allen, RN, Deputy Commander of OH-1. Ms Burkholder-Allen accepted the nomination. Gary Kleinman, RI-1, nominated Fran Griffin, Commander of NJ-1.

This was seconded by Steve Kastl, M.D., Commander of TX-1.

There were no further nominations. A motion to close the nominations was made by Al Vogel and seconded by Dr. Salinas. Motion carried and the candidates left the room. Upon tally of the one vote per team, cast by the Commander or their designated proxy, Ms Burkholder-Allen was nominated to the position of 2nd Vice Chairman and accepted.

A motion was made by Bill Devir, Commander of OH-5, and seconded by Dr. Salinas for Gary Lindbergh, Commander of FL-3, to remain one additional year as Past Chairman so that position would remain filled. The motion carried and Mr. Lindbergh agreed to continue serving.

OLD BUSINESS

Jonathan Weisul, M.D., HI-1, had previously suggested that each team belonging to NADMAT should sign a Letter of Commitment to the purposes of NADMAT which would strengthen the attempts of NADMAT to address common issues with NDMS. At that time two papers were distributed to the audience by Trish Steinhilber, KY-1, and Connie Bowles, RN, FL-3 which were the mission statement, goals and purpose of NADMAT, and the second was a commitment letter. Team commanders were asked to sign the letter and return them to Chairman Hoyle.

Mr. Hoyle then addressed the subject of team members not signing up to receive communications via DMAT-NEWS and that this was an excellent method of keeping teams in touch and to discuss issues, raise questions and offer help to each other. John Gaffney moved that NADMAT establish their own website and this was approved by the floor. Hoyle noted that the Communications personnel on teams make good use of this tool.

Other issues of concern to the Chairman are the development of infection control guidelines for use under field conditions as well as medical quality control in the field on disaster operations. He stated that with the immense amount of talent within the organization that these issues could be addressed.

NEW BUSINESS

Many persons in attendance complained about the delay in processing applications. Dutchess Balloon of OEP explained the problem was one of manpower shortages and the hoped for improvement.

Dr. Jacoby discussed delays in deployment and the time involved in waiting on airlift. Other teams expressed similar concerns.

Another issue brought up was the need of teams to get more information from NDMS and it was suggested that the quarterly newsletter being re-instituted could help.

Discussion was held on the new to teams of the use of the FEMA terms: Advisory, Alert and Activation and clear definitions of team responsibilities and when money was authorized to pay for mission related expenses.

Discussion was held about employers and if any teams had had members lose their jobs over a deployment. Several hands were raised indicating that this is a major concern. Mark Spradlin, GA-3, mentioned that they had also lost members due to the “up and down” nature of deployments or cancellations of mission. Gary Kleinman, RI-1, suggested that NADMAT work with NDMS to attempt to secure a “National Guard” type status to protect the jobs of team members who are activated. Cathy LaCour-, KY-1, said that it had been discussed at least once on a team conference call. Mr. Lindbergh offered to contact Kim Jack on the minutes of the call for clarification. Hoyle also suggested

having a supply of the new NDMS brochures and giving one to each team applicant to share with their employer. Most Americans have no knowledge of NDMS or our teams. He also mentioned that KY-1 also lists the home hospital of the team member in all press releases about deployments. Ed Smith, MA-1, also suggested that a letter of thanks to the team members' employer after the completion of the mission would help. Dr. Kastl suggested that a packet of information be created to explain the NDMS purpose and should also include information on the back-fill pay procedure and a letter of thanks to the employer.

Mark Spradlin, GA-3, stressed that teams should be ready to go with ground transportation as the situation in Yugoslavia is stretching airlift assets and military airlift is very uncertain. Several teams mentioned that they had had training exercises cancelled due to the Kosovo situation taking their assigned airlift.

Fran Griffin, NJ-1, expressed concern over the upcoming Y2K advisory status as many hospitals are restricting their employees time off during the same time. This could present another conflict with the employer.

Kevin Cannon, RPh, JD, FL-6, asked if anyone had ever contacted their Federal legislators or state legislators to ask for support for NDMS. Mr. Hoyle replied that it had been done by individual teams but not formally and he also suggested forming a committee to approach Congress for support. Mr. Canon, an attorney, Cathy LaCour, KY-1, and Ozto Henderson, TX-4 offered to serve on a committee to determine if there was interest among the teams in pursuing a legislative package.

Fund raising ideas were discussed by various team members some of whom had positive success while other teams did not. Once the public knows and recognizes NDMS then the job is easier but OEP does not have a Public Information Officer.

Discussion was held on tax issues and CAPT Hess, PHS-1, said that the IRS rules are available on the Internet and that he will locate them and put them on the list server for team's use. Ed Smith, MA-1 suggested that each team go for a tax-exempt status. Brian Chinn, WA-1, cautioned that teams should apply for a tax ruling as a publicly funded entity rather than a privately funded entity since there would be less scrutiny.

Mr. Hoyle raised the issue of insurance concerns that were raised at the Administrative Officers course. He asked how other teams were looking at this issue. John Gaffney, NM-1, said that his team is covered by the state. Dr. Erik Auf der Heide, GA-3, said that the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) will cover his team as temporary state workers. Mr. Canon, FL-6, stated that the team would have to execute a MOU with the state to guarantee coverage.

Since the Veterinary Medical Assistance Teams were present for the first time, Chairman Hoyle invited Barry Kellogg, VMD, to discuss VMATs. Dr. Kellogg stated that VMATs are organized along similar lines as DMATs. They are setup to provide care to domestic, farm or zoo animals as well as do public health inspections. There are four teams, 3 in the East and 1 in the West and they are ready to deploy within four hours. Some of their equipment and supplies can also be used for human patients. Dr. Kellogg also pointed out that VMATs have not received the Level 1 team funding.

Jim Fenn, OH-1, raised the issue of prophylaxis for team members. Mr. Hoyle replied that Dr. Knouss was reviewing a vaccination policy for team members.

John Gaffney, NM-1, offered his hospital's administrative facilities to act as a home base for printing, mailings etc for NADMAT. The Chairman with appreciation accepted this offer.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion by Dr. Kastl ,TX-1, with a second by John Healey, MA-1 the meeting was adjourned at 1900 hours.

Minutes were recorded and transcribed by Connie Bowles, FL-2, and Trish Steinhilber, KY-1.