

## **DMATTERS**

**Vol 5. No. 2. February 1996**

### **Editorial: Is the 35-man DMAT archaic?**

Paul Rega

For years now we have been instructed by NDMS that DMATs would have a particular structure. There would be this many members, this many docs, this many support personnel, etc. Based on two deployments and on other DMATs' experiences, it seems that this concept is out-of-date. During Hurricane Andrew, first of all, we came down with over 60 TADMAT members and once we received our mission, the team was split up into 3 sections servicing three distinct patient populations. This caused a logistical problem we hadn't anticipated and in addition, it created a stress factor for TADMAT members who were stuck in less than ideal circumstances. However, with that deployment, we were our own command and control, and adapted successfully. For Hurricane Marilyn, our team faced a different scenario. Here we worked together as one team, in one location, but we had to join with another team to function as an Allied DMAT. Again we completed our mission successfully, but this created a new set of stressors. Based on our debriefings, we've established what went right and what went wrong and are planning measures to adjust to a similar situation in future deployments. However, in the future, there may be new challenges that we need to be prepared for, at least psychologically. During Marilyn, there were DMATs that were broken up into 4-5 man units to staff various sites. In fact there was at least one team that was divided so as to work on 2 of the 3 islands. This break-up of a DMAT into small, isolated groups could have a significant effect on the psychological well-being of the whole team--if the team is not prepared for that possibility. This editorial is being presented to make TADMAT, as a whole, aware of that possibility. The leadership is considering ways to adjust to this possibility so as to make the deployment as unstressful as possible (e.g. rotation system, advanced intra-TADMAT communications, regular on-site visits by TADMAT Incident Command, etc.). The concept whereby one DMAT comes in and occupies one site by itself and functions totally independently of anyone else, may be a thing of the past. We may have to join with 1 or more teams to form an Allied DMAT or we may be asked to divide into small units in order to provide the greatest good for the greatest number. Whatever the deployment, TADMAT leadership will continue to balance the needs of the team with the goals of the mission.

### **OMAT Continues On**

Paul Rega

On Jan 23, members of the Executive Committee: Barb Bilow, Churton Budd, & Paul Rega and the TADMAT EMS liaison, Donald McConnaughy traveled to Dayton for the Ohio Medical Assistance Team (OMAT) meeting. As a refresher, OMAT is the union of TADMAT, the Dayton DMAT, and the Cincinnati Medical Assistance Team for the purpose of providing disaster medical aid to the citizens of Ohio when the need arises. This union is an informal one currently, but one that we wish to make official in the near future. Through a series of meetings among ourselves and the State EMS over the past

year, an attempt has been made to create an Memorandum of Understanding between OMAT and the State to formalize this disaster response. As for the MOU--we were so close to the signing until illness and resignations reaked havoc on the EMS leadership and so it is currently on hold. In any case, OMAT is continuing to advance. The meeting on Jan. 23 re-affirmed that rain or shine there will be a Spring Drill for the three teams in Dayton on April 19 & 20. It will be an overnight drill. Although the plans are not completed as yet, the broad outline is as follows: Day 1: TADMAT deploys early in the a.m. to arrive at the Dayton V.A. grounds at 11a.m. We will set up our tents and assist the Cincinnati team with theirs since they have had no training in austere deployments. Then lunch. After lunch, there will be an OMAT meeting to introduce the leadership, explain the next day's drill, and how the teams will integrate. After dinner, there will be R&R so as to create a sense of unity among the teams. Day 2: The drill begins. The current scenario is a terrorist bomb that causes a passenger train to derail killing and injuring 300 + passengers. One team will come in to triage & treat and the other 2 teams will follow. Victims will be coming from each of the teams who will then rotate into treating roles. The medical aspects of the drill will be secondary to the primary goals of team integration, leadership integration, and communications. After the drill there will be lunch, a debriefing, and de-activation back to Toledo. The P.I.O.s (Public Information Officer) of each of the teams will be communicating with each other so as to publicize the event to the maximum. This drill, to our knowledge, has never been done before. There has never been an exercise that has incorporated advanced medical teams (joint membership: 300) from three major Ohio cities for the purpose of coordinating a sophisticated disaster response for the State of Ohio. Keep in mind, however, that OMAT has been created to complement and supplement local EMS efforts, not replace them. We would still be working under ICS with local EMS as our overall command.

### **Summer TADMAT Drill:**

The Lucas County Disaster Drill will take place Sunday, June 23. It will be approximately a 4-5 hour morning drill and will test various components of the Lucas County Disaster Plan. The particulars of the scenario are still under development, but the TADMAT Rapid Deployment Team has been asked to participate. The "Nom de Plume" of this project is entitled: TEAM EFFORT 1996. TADMAT representation for this project include Kelly Burkholder-Allen and Paul Rega. It will be their function to integrate the TADMAT RDT with local EMS in this exercise. In addition, they are also working with others to develop goals and objectives for the entire enterprise. As more information becomes available, this will be disseminated to TADMAT members able to take part in the exercise. So cross off the previous date of June 9 and write in June 23 as our summer drill date.

### **TADMAT Winter Fest --a Success:**

January 19 saw the arrival of the annual TADMAT winter party held at Paul Rega's Rec Center. Jim Fenn and Kelly Burkholder-Allen handled the planning and logistics for the occasion and did a yeoman's job. They also awarded prizes for the best costumes (Sue Strassel and hubby: Honeymoon Crash Victims) and for best party food (Mary Vance).

The party was well-attended by team members and significant others and because of the success of these gatherings, it has been decided to develop a Social Committee which will coordinate future get-togethers. The leaders of that committee will include Toni Bratt and members from the Flower branch of TADMAT.

### **Dues \$ Reminder:**

TADMAT is reminded that the annual dues are now being accepted by Deb Pfann, the TADMAT Treasurer. These dues help to reduce the number of people who are just casually interested in being a member of the TADMAT and help to assure a more serious team member. A \$10/year dues is required to remain an active member of the TADMAT and allow your participation in team training, educational events and deployments. This \$10 also goes toward supporting the cost of mailing DMATTERS to each individual and other social events for the team. The \$10 dues is accepted each year beginning January 1st. If dues remain unpaid by March 31st, the team member is placed on INACTIVE status. At this point, a reminder is mailed to each person who's dues remain unpaid and this team member is in risk of being removed from the team. On July 1st, if dues still remain unpaid, a letter is sent to NDMS and the team member is removed from the team at both the local and Federal level. After March 1st, you can renew your ACTIVE status on the team but you are required to pay a \$25 penalty in addition to your \$10 dues. It is preferred that dues be paid by check. Checks MUST be made out to "MCO Foundation / TADMAT Account". Your dues are tax deductible as we are a not-for-profit organization. Dues can be paid at any of the monthly meetings or can be mailed to: Deb Pfann, TADMAT Treasurer, MCO Emergency Dept., 3000 Arlington Ave., Toledo, OH 43699.

### **TADMAT Executive Committee Page...**

Part of DMATTERS: Each DMATTERS will now have a page devoted to the TADMAT Executive Committee meeting minutes and announcements. Any special issues the Executive Committee is working on or announcements to the team from the Executive Committee will be located on this page. The TADMAT Executive Committee was not very active during the 1995 season. We have been revitalized and have set a schedule to meet quarterly. More frequent meetings may be called as needed. All Executive Committee meetings are open to the entire team to attend. The dates for the 1996 year are: April 17, July 18 and November 21. Each meeting is at 5:30pm immediately prior to the regular TADMAT team meeting scheduled on those same dates. A list of the members of the Executive Committee can be found on the first page of DMATTERS in the side bar

### **TADMAT Executive Committee Meeting: 12/14/95**

Present: Paul Rega, Dan Mayo, Barb Billow, Kelly Burkholder-Allen, Al Geha, Jackie Hogan, Dave Lindstrom, Churton Budd

Absent: Carla Freeland, Paula Edwards, Al Swingle, Deb Pfann, Kevin Kroeger, Manny Madrazo, Denny Bradley Guest: Mike Fogel

Opening/Welcome:

Paul Rega:

As a result of a successful deployment we have become victims of our own success. This Executive Committee meeting was organized to plan for a resurgence of the team moving forward in 1996. As we have not had an Executive Committee meeting since early 1995, one of the topics on the agenda today is to revive the Executive Committee and plan for more frequent meetings.

Supply Officer Resignation:

Denny Bradley turned in his resignation as Supply Officer to the TADMAT Medical Commander in November 1995. The Executive Committee is going to make a request to Denny to meet with us in January and discuss his resignation prior to the Executive Committee accepting it. Denny will be given the opportunity to return as a non-officer of the team, as supply officer, or if he is determined to resign, his resignation will be accepted by the Executive Committee. Regardless of Denny's ultimate decision, the Exec. Committee wishes to learn the reasons for the resignation so that we can correct problems and mitigate for further stressors in the Supply Officer role. Meeting dates planned were Jan 9th (7P) or Jan 13th (9A).

Center for Disaster Medicine (CDM) Update:

Kelly, Churton & Paul have been continuing the process of developing a Center for Disaster Medicine at MCO. This process was stifled when an Administrator we were dealing with had his responsibilities shifted. We have re-presented our proposal to MCO and have received a favorable review. To date we are awaiting a final decision from MCO administration as to the level of funding, as they were very supportive of the need to create such a department. Should the proposal be accepted, the plan is to incorporate interested TADMAT members to function as researchers, educators, etc. Similarly to how we utilize the TADMAT for the UT MCI course.

Ohio Medical Assistance Teams (OMAT) Update:

This is a committee that Paul, Kelly, Churton and Don McConnoughy have been serving on as representatives of the TADMAT. It is composed of teams in Ohio that would be responsible for mass medical care at a multi-casualty incident within Ohio (TADMAT, Dayton DMAT, Cincinnati Medical Assistance Team (MAT)). After making some headway to being recognized as a response tool for Ohio EMS, the Ohio EMS administration we were dealing with either resigned or retired. A new administration has just been appointed at Ohio EMS and we will be continuing our efforts to develop an organized plan of response if/when called by the State of Ohio EMS. The OMAT has scheduled a drill for the OMAT teams that will take place in Dayton April 19th & 20th, 1996.

NDMS supply / resupply issues:

Basic and resupply loads will be given back to the teams that responded to Marilyn and we are slated by NDMS to receive a complete DMAT load (Basic and Resupply). We have also received word by one of the NDMS Operations department members that team gear that we deployed with and was left in St. Thomas during the deployment after Hurricane Marilyn will be reimbursed to the team but will return as Federal property.

Delegation of Responsibility:

Due to the team becoming more involved in a wide range of endeavors, some of the responsibility for these events will be given to various team members. Jackie Hogan has agreed to plan and execute the annual Boy Scouts Disaster Training drill. Paula Edwards has agreed to be responsible for the annual winter / cold-weather drill. Jim Fenn had agreed to organize CME credits for RN's for each of the monthly Continuing Education lectures, but it was decided that applying for CME was very labor intensive and the team would be polled as to whether RN's on the team needed to utilize the TADMAT meeting educational offering for their CME or if they already had enough CME from other sources. We are still looking for someone who will be responsible for maintenance of mechanical equipment (generators, TADMAT vehicle, etc.). We are also looking for someone to serve as Medical liaison and EMS liaison, someone who will take responsibility for planning and executing the Spring/Summer Exercises, and someone who will further develop the Home team concept and organize pre & post deployment preparations.

Report from the Ad-Hoc Committee: Mike Fogel

Mike Fogel reported that the Ad-Hoc Committee has had their first meeting which resulted in a number of recommendations / actions that would streamline the operation of the TADMAT. The following are the top recommendations: - New positions need to be established: Secretary and - Establish an Executive Committee meeting schedule Vice-Executive Officer - Replace the supply officer if Denny Bradley's Resignation - Finalizing and publishing of the TADMAT Policy & Procedure Manual is finalized - Updating active membership lists for mailing address, - Revise the Callup list / method phone #, etc. - Revise / Streamline the point system to be more equitable - Assure more than one contact person for passing of info at each hosp. and up-to-date RuthAnn Passelaqua will be keeping meeting minutes and may agree to function as the TADMAT Secretary.

An Executive Committee Meeting schedule was identified with the meetings to take place from 5:30-7pm prior to the General Team meetings quarterly. The dates are: 1/9/96 or 1/13/96, 4/17/96, 7/18/96 and 11/21/96. Incidentally, the TADMAT newsletter DMATTERS will come out quarterly, the month after the Executive Committee meeting. (Additional Executive Committee meetings will be scheduled as the need arises).

The Ad-Hoc committee suggested the following revision of the point system to be as follows:

General team meetings = 2 pts.

Drill / day = 3 pts. (must be present for 60% of the drill time to get credit)

Overnight = 2pts.

Awarding additional points or extra points will be approved of only after consulting with the Executive Committee

Executive Committee Issues:

It was unclear as to how the Executive Committee can disburse funds from the TADMAT account and how decisions are made when posed as a vote to the Committee. It was decided that the Policy and Procedure manual already has a statement to this effect and it was clarified that a majority vote of a Quorum (1/4th of the members of the committee) will suffice in action being taken. It was also agreed that a mutual decision of the Unit Commander and Executive Officer or Vice-Executive Officer is sufficient to disburse funds and make decisions that cannot wait until the Executive Committee convenes [These type of actions will be queried to the Executive Committee when possible].

#### **TADMAT Executive Committee Meeting 01/09/96**

Present: Al Geha, Paul Rega, Carla Freeland, Jackie Hogan, Barb Billow, Churton Budd, Denny Bradley, Dan Mayo

Absent: Kelly Burkholder-Allen, Al Swingle, Dave Lindstrom, Paul Johnson, Manny Madrazo, Kevin Kroeger, Paula Edwards, Jim Fenn

The minutes from the December Executive Committee meeting on 12/14/95 were presented and approved

County Wide Disaster Drill: The city of Toledo will be designing and implementing a disaster drill that will occur within the city this summer. The TADMAT has been included in the planning process and will be a participant during the drill. Other participants include the amateur radio operators, the Coroner, the FBI and other police agencies and of course city fire and EMS. Our role will probably include utilizing the RDT including a pager or phone notification of members, meeting at MCO or another location and traveling enmass to the staging area at the disaster site. The scenario and actual date remain undisclosed for purposes of an accurate evaluation of the drill.

Paul, Kelly & Churton accept training position with Air Guard:

Paul, Kelly & Churton have accepted a position with the 180th Ohio Air National Guard base. This position was developed to aid the 180th Fire dept. in training.

Subcommittee report: Mike Fogel reported to the sub-committee on his attendance at the executive committee meeting. The sub-committee will be focusing on the issues that were presented to the Executive Committee. One of the issues most recently initiated was a review and finalization of the Policy & Procedure manual. This committee will be also focusing on expanding the role of the "home team" concept.

TADMAT Supply Officer:

After Discussion with Denny, he decided to withdraw his resignation and return as the Supply Officer of the team. The Supply Officer will report to the Executive Committee on activities dealing with equipment and supply.

TADMAT Forms Workgroups:

At the January '96 meeting, the TADMAT formed a number of work groups to help maintain and/or expedite projects. These workgroups will be open to any team member that wishes to participate. Some workgroups meet all year whereas others will meet only for a few months prior to the event they are working on. Team members are encouraged to be active in these workgroups as points will be awarded to those who participate. If you are interested in being involved in any of the following workgroups, please fill in your name and send the form back to: TADMAT Committees, 2170 Aberdeen, Toledo, OH 43614.

(1) HOME TEAM / DMAT SUB-COMMITTEE: Chairman: Mike Fogel This workgroup will be year-round. It will focus on special issues identified by either the workgroup, the team in general or the Executive Committee. It reports to the executive committee. Current projects include: Reviewing & finalizing the TADMAT Policy & Procedure Manual, revising the Callup method, revising the attendance tracking method, and revising the point system utilized when team members are chosen for a deployment.

(2) Winter Drill Committee: Chairman: Paula Edwards This is a planning committee that meets a few months prior to the winter drill and plans and organizes the annual winter training event.

(3) Disaster Class Committee: Chairman: Paul Rega This committee plans and teaches the annual 3 credit hour class titled: MCI: Disaster Management for the Health Professional at the University of Toledo. It meets only part of the year.

(4) Party & Social Committee: Co-Chairmen: Tony Bratt & Roberta Hobbs This year round committee plans all parties and social events for the team

(5) Research Committee: Chairman: Churton Budd This year round committee identifies, organizes and performs all research activities for the TADMAT. Members of this committee will appear as co-authors on any research project they work on, depending on their level of participation.

(6) Supply Committee: Chairman: Denny Bradley This committee oversees all supply issues for the team including obtaining supplies, maintaining inventory control and maintenance and packaging of supplies. Members of this committee are key to the logistical operations of the TADMAT when we deploy. This is a year round committee

(7) Summer / Spring / Special Drill committee: Co-Chairmen: Paul Rega & Churton Budd This year round committee plans and executes the annual Summer and Spring drills and any special drills necessary.

(8) Clerical / Administrative Committee: Chairman: RuthAnn Passalacqua This year round committee maintains meeting minutes and other record keeping activities

(9) Executive Committee: Chairman: Paul Rega The Executive Committee is a year round committee that oversees all activities of the team. Presently the Executive committee is full. As openings become available, the team will be notified for nominations.

(10) Annual Boy Scout Drill: Chairman: Jackie Hogan This committee meets during a few months prior to the drill and plans and executes the annual boy scout training event.

(11) Fund Raising Committee: Chairman: Jackie Hogan This year round committee identifies and organizes activities for fund raising for the TADMAT

(12) CISD/CISM: Chairman: Al Swingle This committee oversees all Critical Incident Stress Management activities of the TADMAT

(13) Communications: Chairman: Al Geha, KF8JQ This committee oversees all communications activities of the team and maintains all communications equipment. This committee meets year round.