



# FEMORS NewsGram

## Vol. 10, No. 1

Summer 2012



### Commander's Message



Perhaps a chief development this past year was the announcement of my impending retirement in January, 2013 and the passing of the reins to Jason Byrd. I plan to be stepping back to a supporting role as Jason leads us on for the next decade or more (Wow! What a thought!).

FEMORS celebrated its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year - a true milestone! The Annual Training Session in Orlando, with 60% of our membership present, recognized the contributions of many of the 49 members who were part of the original charter membership in 2002 with a commemorative 10 Year Service pin. Five-Year Service pins were also awarded to many of the 60 other members who have achieved that distinction.

As I have stressed from the beginning, representing *you* - the heart and soul of the FEMORS program - has been my greatest fortune. I have merely been the most public face of the more than 580 people who have contributed to developing what has been referred to by many as the Gold Standard for state-level fatality management preparedness. Today we maintain over 180 active members who continue to demonstrate that great volunteer attitude to selflessly help a fellow citizen in time of disaster.

Aside from that, other issues detailed in the pages that follow have arisen since the last NewsGram which we addressed at the 2012 Annual Training sessions. Many of those will be incorporated into the next revision (6<sup>th</sup> Edition) of the FOG. My goal is to have that revision ready by Thanksgiving at the latest.

As for FEMORS' future, it is my fervent conviction that this family will continue to show the caring compassion for each other and the families we serve that has become the hallmark of FEMORS' way of doing things.

*Larry*

### DEPT. OF HEALTH VIDEO – 10 YEARS SINCE 911

The Department of Health produced a high quality video of Florida's many preparedness efforts since 911. This is the result of the work done by DOH videographer Beau Hester who spent days with several DOH units including FEMORS during the full scale drill in August 2011.



Beau Hester videotaping the busy Drill

FEMORS plays a prominent role in that video starting at minute 13:40 and ending about 6 minutes later. The full 19 minute video can be found on YouTube at <http://youtu.be/Kh-f2FMVpXM>.

Beau was able to extract out only the 6 minute FEMORS portion so that has been placed on the FEMORS home page (to replace the older 2.5 minute overview version). It is at [http://youtu.be/enI\\_6FXjgpc](http://youtu.be/enI_6FXjgpc).

### VIC/MIC TEAM TRAINING 2012

The Ninth Annual Training for the Victim Information Center (VIC) Team together with several Morgue Identification Center (MIC) members was held Friday, March 16<sup>th</sup>. Bringing VIC and MIC together for training was a key recommendation from the 2012 Drill evaluations.



VIC-MIC 2012 Training Participants

Thirty-three (33) members participated in hands-on practice with the interview process and data entry into the VIP database program. This was staged at the SLRC warehouse where the computer network equipment was set up. Several of FEMORS' Odontologists took part to enhance their learning of VIP's capability to conduct searches of potential matching data (other than from dental records).

**ODONTOLOGY TEAM TRAINING 2012**

The Eighth Annual Odontology Training was held the following day on Saturday, March 17<sup>th</sup> with twenty-four (24) Odontologists and Dental Assistants attending. This was also staged at the SLRC warehouse where the dental computer network equipment was set up.



Odont Team 2012 Training Participants

With the focus on dental procedures and equipment only, several glitches were identified including the discovery of broken scanner equipment. Drs. Lipton and Kurtz (*FEMORS' very own "Tooth Barry's"*) accepted the challenge to work out equipment kinks prior to the Annual Training set for June. They succeeded quite well!

**ANNUAL TRAINING 2012 LESSONS LEARNED**

The Tenth Annual Training session was held Thursday, June 7<sup>th</sup> to Saturday, June 9<sup>th</sup>. Sixty percent of active members (108 of 181 members) participated in classroom and workshop activities. An in-depth review of lessons learned from the 2011 Drill was the focus of the classroom sessions.



FEMORS 10<sup>th</sup> Annual 2012 Training Participants



Participants packed the hotel meeting space.



Late arrivals and the "Little Teapot" Award!

Friday afternoon was spent in breakout workshops focused on three topics:

1. Computer practice with the VIP program,
2. Dental equipment refresher, and
3. Manikin preparation for simulating "victims" for the 2013 drill.

**2013 TRAINING PROGRAMS**

Registration forms for the 2013 programs will again be coming out after the New Year. All members will receive notice and instructions for the on-line registration process.

**Note Well:** the prerequisites for *registering* for FEMORS training continue to be both the:

1. basic 4 NIMS courses, and
2. completed application package.

All Inactive members are strongly encouraged to complete the prerequisites early so that they may register to attend and regain Active status.

While it may seem at times that training gets repetitive, the benefits are myriad. New members get to work with veterans who practice skills in a setting far removed from their daily routines. There is an old adage that "We play like we practice" so, the more the practice the better prepared all will be when the first true challenge for FEMORS services arises - calm and efficient processing to identify the dead.

### **VIC-MIC TRAINING 2013- SAVE THE DATE**

The Tenth Annual Victim Information Center (VIC) and Morgue Identification Center (MIC) Training will be held **Friday, March 15<sup>th</sup>**. Host hotel will once again be the Embassy Suites Hotel on Jamaican Court, off of International Drive in Orlando.

Hands-on training sessions will take place at the SLRC where all the computer network equipment will be set up.

Members interested in joining the VIC or MIC Team are welcome to participate. Both procedure refresher training and practical hands-on use of the computer systems including the Victim Identification Program (VIP) will be among the major goals as a refresher session in advance of the June Drill.

### **ODONT TRAINING 2013- SAVE THE DATE**

The Ninth annual Odontology Training will be held **Saturday, March 16<sup>th</sup>**. Host hotel will once again be the Embassy Suites Hotel on Jamaican Court, off of International Drive in Orlando.

Hands-on training sessions will take place at the SLRC where all the dental and computer network equipment will be set up.

This session is open to all Odontologists and dental assistants. Both procedure refresher training and practical hands-on use of the computer systems including the DEXIS/WinID and the Victim Identification Program (VIP) will be among the major goals.

### **ANNUAL TRAINING 2013 - SAVE THE DATE**

The Eleventh Annual Training session will be held **Wednesday, June 5<sup>th</sup> to Saturday, June 8<sup>th</sup>**. The venue will include both **Wednesday** afternoon sessions for team leaders to meet with their groups and physical drill sessions Thursday and Friday at the Department of Emergency Management's State Logistics Response Center (SLRC) in Orlando. Saturday will again be the wrap-up and feedback sessions at the hotel.

The overview of the June 2013 schedule includes:

- Monday Jun 3<sup>rd</sup>, DPMU Team Check-In and begin set-up
- Tuesday Jun 4<sup>th</sup>, DPMU Team Set-Up portable morgue, VIC and MIC at SLRC
- Wednesday Jun 5<sup>th</sup> (morning) Check-In
- Wednesday Jun 5<sup>th</sup> (1:00 – 4:00 pm) Drill Briefing Sessions at SLRC
- Thursday Jun 6<sup>th</sup>, (8:00 am – 4:00 pm) Drill begins at SLRC
- Friday Jun 7<sup>th</sup>, (8:00 am – 4:00 pm) Drill Terminates; DPMU Team repacks equipment
- Saturday, Jun 8<sup>th</sup> (9 to noon) Sessions at hotel

The 4 hour group sessions on Wednesday are the result of feedback from the 2011 Drill in which leaders identified a lack of sufficient time following the drill briefing to meet with those for whom they would be responsible.

### **"TYPING" OF FATALITY MANAGEMENT TEAMS**

Now for "The Rest of the Story".

#### Background:

In May 2011, the Field Operations Guide (FOG) was revised to the then current understanding of "Fatality Management" response team typing definitions developed by the Medical and Public Health Working Group. (*Coordinated by FEMA, it is one of several working groups making up the National Integration Center Strategic Resources Group (NIC-SRG) and charged with developing both Resource Typing and Position Qualification definitions.*) That definition was the basis upon which the 2011 Drill was planned (originally set for June but postponed to August). A **final** draft of typing for FM teams had to be submitted by Nov 30, 2011.

Typing resulted in the following:

1. FM Advance Team
2. FM DPMU Unit
3. Human Remains Recovery Unit
4. Victim Information Center (VIC) Unit
5. Morgue Processing Unit
6. Morgue Forensic Unit
7. Morgue Identification Center (MIC) Unit

The last NewsGram detailed much of that labor.

#### Present Situation:

The evolution of defining what constitutes FM teams continued during 2011 and 2012. So, apparently that Nov 30<sup>th</sup> draft was not so final after all. Further work continued in June and July 2012 to once again identify the various "team positions" that make up a robust FM response capability. Refining the position titles also affected use of those titles in the previously designed team typing drafts. Remember, this is intended to help governors who make state-to-state requests for assistance so consistency of the terminology is important.

More significantly, work progressed on various elements of the Position Qualification definitions. The NIC-SRG worked hard to ensure some level of standardization of language for knowledge, skills, and abilities across all capability teams (FM, EMS, Law Enforcement, etc.). This focused on required education, training, experience, fitness, currency, and professional licensure/certification. The net result was a consolidation of some titles that will reduce some of the bulk of the next edition of the FOG. Thus, it will make it easier for members to find applicable information for the position to which they may be assigned.



Int'l Mass Fatality Management Conference and Workshop, Office of Chief Medical Examiner, New York City	4/25/2012	200
Fatality Management Issues Meeting, District 17 Medical Examiner's Office, Ft. Lauderdale, FL	5/7/2012	3
Fatality Management Issues Meeting, District 15 Medical Examiner's Office, West Palm Beach, FL	5/7/2012	6
Fatality Management Issues Meeting, District 11 Medical Examiner's Office, Miami, FL	5/8/2012	2
Fatality Management Issues Meeting, District 20 Medical Examiner's Office, Naples, FL	5/9/2012	4
Fatality Management Issues Meeting, District 16 Medical Examiner's Office, Marathon, FL	5/27/2012	3
Fatality Management Issues Meeting, District 21 Medical Examiner's Ft. Myers, FL	7/2/2012	4
Presentation on the I-75 Crashes at the Florida Association of Medical Examiners (FAME) Meeting - Clearwater, FL	7/13/2012	100
Fatality Management Revisit, District 17 Medical Examiner's Office, Ft. Lauderdale, FL (to orient newly hired Medical Examiner)	7/26/2012	6

### COMMENTS/SUGGESTIONS

Member feedback and suggestions are always welcome and can be delivered to FEMORS staff via any of the following contact methods:

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### SMILE FOR THE DAY!



### GOVERNMENT AT ITS FINEST!

The European Commission has just announced an agreement whereby English will be the official language of the European Union rather than German, which was the other possibility.

As part of the negotiations, the British Government conceded that English spelling had some room for improvement and has accepted a 5- year phase-in plan that would become known as "Euro-English".

In the first year, "s" will replace the soft "c".. Certainly, this will make the sivil servants jump with joy. The hard "c" will be dropped in favour of "k". This should klear up konfursion, and keyboards kan have one less letter.

There will be growing publik enthusiasm in the sekond year when the troublesome "ph" will be replaced with "f". This will make words like fotograf 20% shorter.

In the 3rd year, publik akseptanse of the new spelling kan be expekted to reach the stage where more komplikated changes are possible.

Governments will enkourage the removal of double letters which have always ben a deterrent to akurate speling.

Also, al wil agre that the horibl mes of the silent "e" in the languag is disgrasful and it should go away.

By the 4th yer people wil be reseptiv to steps such as replasing "th" with "z" and "w" with "v".

During ze fifz yer, ze unesesary "o" kan be dropd from vordskontaining "ou" and after ziz fifz yer, ve vil hav a reil sensibl riten styl.

Zer vil be no mor trubl or difikultis and evrivun vil find it ezi TU understand ech oza. Ze drem of a united urop vil finali kum tru.

*Und efter ze fifz yer, ve vil al be speking German like zey vunted in ze forst plas.*

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