

Norwood, Ann (HHS/OS)

From: Austin, Brad (HHS/OS)
Sent: Sunday, September 04, 2005 1:57 PM
To: Norwood, Ann (HHS/OS); [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Status and Recommendation on Mortuary Affairs Response to Katrina Relief.

Would you like me to call him today to see if he can come in? Or, call him and suggest he come in tomorrow? What's your pleasure?

CDR Brad Austin, USPHS
Office of Public Health Emergency Preparedness U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
[REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

From: Norwood, Ann (HHS/OS)
Sent: Sunday, September 04, 2005 1:55 PM
To: Austin, Brad (HHS/OS); 'paul.sledzik@'
Subject: Re: Status and Recommendation on Mortuary Affairs Response to Katrina Relief.

The major thing is to work on helping set up a coordinated way to collect and share information. I'm ccing Paul Sledzik who I hope will be able to come over to HHH and help me and the DHS rep. He's got a great grasp of what needs to be done. His cell is [REDACTED]

Sent from my Blackberry Wireless Handheld

-----Original Message-----

From: Austin, Brad (HHS/OS) <Brad.Austin@ [REDACTED]>
To: Norwood, Ann (HHS/OS) <Ann.Norwood@ [REDACTED]>
Sent: Sun Sep 04 13:10:12 2005
Subject: Re: Status and Recommendation on Mortuary Affairs Response to Katrina Relief.

Thank you!

Currently, Bob Jevix and another person from FEMA/NDMS are here. The first subject is how to create an integrated ESF8 response. Evidently, Buddy has been deployed.

Bob Claypool has given me a few questions that we might want to see if we can address today. Can you think of overarching questions/subjects that you'd like us to work on today?

-----Original Message-----

From: Norwood, Ann (HHS/OS) < [REDACTED]>
To: Austin, Brad (HHS/OS) < [REDACTED]>
Sent: Sun Sep 04 12:59:32 2005
Subject: Fw: Status and Recommendation on Mortuary Affairs Response to Katrina Relief.

Fyi

Sent from my Blackberry Wireless Handheld

-----Original Message-----

From: Nesler John T Contractor CIV JTFCS J4 [REDACTED]
 To: Millard.Bell [REDACTED] <Millard.Bell [REDACTED]>
 CC: Fdp1959 [REDACTED] <Fdp1959 [REDACTED]>; Craig.Mallak [REDACTED]
 <Craig.Mallak [REDACTED]>; Norwood, Ann (HHS/OS) <Ann.Norwood [REDACTED]>;
 Joyce.dejong [REDACTED] <Joyce.dejong [REDACTED]>; DDowney100 [REDACTED]
 [REDACTED]; Marcella.fierro [REDACTED] <Marcella.fierro [REDACTED]>; jfitch [REDACTED]
 <jfitch [REDACTED]>; Lori.Hardin [REDACTED] <Lori.Hardin [REDACTED]>; Kautz Donald W
 GS-12 NORAD USNORTHCOM J4P (NORTHCOM) <Donald.Kautz [REDACTED]>;
 lisaladue [REDACTED] <lisaladue [REDACTED]>; mcchief [REDACTED] <mcchief [REDACTED]>;
 knolte [REDACTED] <knolte [REDACTED]>; Shiya [REDACTED];
 Paul.sledzik [REDACTED]
 Sent: Sun Sep 04 12:56:50 2005
 Subject: Status and Recommendation on Mortuary Affairs Response to Katrina Relief.

Dear Buddy Bell,

I am writing this letter in response to analysis of the quickly developing mass fatality crisis from Hurricane Katrina. After several days of daily contact with numerous subject matter experts in the fields of mass fatality management and logistics I am coming up with the following facts and assumptions:

- * It appears the local and State government mortuary affairs officials have been significantly affected to where they can not provide effective mass fatality assets to conduct operations, guidance and assistance oversight.
- * HHS has in practicality transferred operational responsibility to DMORT in managing and conducting the mortuary affairs mission.
- * The DHS NDMS DMORT's were not developed for and generally not capable of conducting long-term search and recovery operations.
- * This mission is likely going to expend most of the deployable DMORT personnel pool for one term in less than 45 days.
- * It will likely be several months before the majority of the fatalities are found and recovered.
- * Identification of many of these remains will be difficult. Finger print and dental comparisons will be unlikely leaving DNA analysis as the primary means of identification.
- * There is little evidence of the development of an integrated missing persons/family assistance centers. Delays in the establishment of this operation will significant impact the timely identification of the dead.

If this analysis is correct, it's not if, but when and how DOD will be asked to assist in the mortuary affairs response. JTF KATRINA – JTF-CS is currently developing potential plans on what kinds of requirements will be needed and how DOD can provide response support. Currently we have identified the potential missions of search and recovery, remains transport to established human remains collection points, and assistance with DNA capture and analysis.

I would like to recommend the following:

· Have a council of mortuary affairs SME from the government and commercial sectors to develop a master plan for the mortuary affairs operations under the authorized state representatives. Members to this planning group could include:

- o Selected ME/C from states that have volunteered or have unique experience like NYC with DNA gathering and analysis.
- o Commercial entities like Kenyon International, BioSeal, Global, and GE
- o DOD experts like the Armed Forces Medical Examiner, Mortuary Affairs Center Director, Cynthia Gavin, writer of the Mortuary Affairs Capstone Document
- o The top mortuary affairs officials that can represent and make decisions for the two States (LA& MS)
- o The Federal leaders from DHS, HHS, FEMA and DMORT.

This meeting should be conducted immediately with the purpose of creating the operational mortuary affairs plan. It is imperative that we get this right early. Again, NYC can be valuable in sharing their experience and insights.

· Starting today USNORTHCOM and JTF KATRINA conduct daily telephonic meetings with you (DMORT PM or designated rep) to synchronize anticipated DOD mortuary affairs requirements.

Buddy, thank you and thank the men and women of DMORT for your sacrifice and effort. Please let me know if I can be of assistance. I will call you in the next hour.

VR

John Nesler

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