



Team Matters

FEMA MASSACHUSETTS TASK FORCE 1 URBAN SEARCH & RESCUE

Volume 1 Number 2 Winter 2003

Director's Corner

This fall's training schedule has been very successful. We hosted a national FEMA Canine Certification Test, coordinated and programmed an eight-day Rescue Systems II Structural Collapse Technician course, and conducted a Canine Emergency Medicine course. Prior to the eight-day course we completed work on the new Medical & Bunk House building. Approximately 25 of the 49 course attendees stayed over at the new facility.

We are using some of last year's funds as well as some State funding to purchase a new training building. The building will be located just as you enter the site in the area where we formerly stored our small trailers. The 60'x28' classroom will have comfortable chairs as well as desks to accommodate a total of 50 students. The building will also include dedicated office space for training.

The new building will be a key component for next year's training schedule. In order to meet a July 1, 2003 target date for MATF-01 to be WMD (Weapons of Mass Destruction) capable, we'll need to conduct a minimum of 8-hours training for all Task Force personnel and an additional 16-hours of training for HazMat and Medical Specialists.

In order to be WMD qualified we'll need to expand the number of HazMat Specialist positions on the team from 6 to 30. The current plan is to maintain the number of specific HazMat Specialists to 6 and cross-train a minimum of 24 other team members as HazMat Specialists. When deploying as a WMD team, two of the HazMat Specialists will become HazMat Team Managers and the remaining slots will be filled with HazMat Specialists and cross-trained HazMat Techs.

Our December 7th training date is MATF-01's Annual Team Meeting and Chinese lunch. At this meeting we'll review the year's accomplishments and plan for the year ahead. We'll also conduct small-group discussions in order to reach consensus on training and purchase of new cache items.

Mark Foster, Program Manager

MATF-01 Invited to Speak at Rotary Club

Mark Aliberti, Canine Search Specialist for MATF-01 will be the featured speaker at the Rotary Club of Boston luncheon on Wednesday, December 11th at the Park Plaza Hotel. Following the publication of the article about search and rescue dogs in the *Christian Science Monitor* (28 August 2002), which featured FEMA pre-test evaluations conducted at MATF-01, Rotary Club President Susana Brown contacted the article's author in order to make contact with us. Aliberti will speak about the selection and training of dogs, the FEMA evaluation and certification process, his personal experience and the variety of personal investments made by the handlers. He'll also speak to MATF-01's experience at Ground Zero and will be accompanied by Moxie.

British Delegation Visits Beverly Training Site

A delegation of members from the United Kingdom Fire Service Search & Rescue Team (UKFSSART) recently visited MATF-01 on Monday, November 11th as part of a subject matter visit to various U.S. search and rescue teams. In addition to FEMA MATF-01 the delegation also visited the New York State Regional Response Team in Albany and the Fairfax County FEMA US&R Team. UKFSSART is the official resource of the United Kingdom Government when it chooses to respond to overseas disasters such as the Turkish or Indian earthquakes of recent years.

Since September 11th the U.K. Government has extended the mission of UKFSSART to respond to domestic U.K. disasters and to become involved in improving the training in urban search and rescue work to the entire British Fire Service. Their visit to the United States provided an opportunity to assess training programs and training facilities that could be developed in the United Kingdom.

**Holiday Party - December 21st
RSVP by December 9th**

Canine Emergency Medicine Course

MATF-01's Medical and Search Teams recently hosted a canine emergency medical training course on Saturday, November 16th at the cache. Dr. Lori Gordon from VMAT provided lecture and hands-on training to the Task Force members. Training included basic first-aid along with anatomy, medical emergencies, poisoning, intubation, IV access and a variety of other topics. A resusci-dog was used for intubation and CPR practice, while the team dogs patiently allowed us to bandage and splint them. The training was initiated because VMAT isn't always handy to provide immediate response. MATF-01's doctors and medics must be prepared and ready to treat the team's canines for almost any emergency.

In addition, handlers may find themselves alone with their dog when an injury occurs and require basic skills to provide immediate care. MATF-01 has been enhancing our relationship with VMAT and looks forward to its continued growth. VMAT provided veterinary coverage for the FEMA Canine Test this past September and they've provided great assistance in refining our veterinary cache. The efforts of Anita and others have provided us with an important resource.

The Search Team is also proud to announce that Mark Dawson and Lee Prentiss are the fathers of two newly recertified advanced canines. Congratulations to Elvis and Tara!

Mark Lynch, Search Team Manager

Logistics Update

In an effort to better serve the team and efficiently maintain the cache inventory the Logistics Team is presently reviewing its computer program and expects changes to be in place by the beginning of the new year. Once the computer system update is complete Logistics will begin its annual inventory cache review. Logistics' goal is to update equipment for deployment and transfer excess equipment out of the cache and dedicate it to a training cache.

Work will continue on the newest building so it can soon be completed, and the cache will be open more frequently during the week so please watch your email for updates and scheduled work days.

Ed Seligman, Logistics Manager

Public Affairs News

Anita Arnum recently participated in a conference at UNH Manchester on November 8th. Arnum was a panelist for the 3rd Annual Women in Science & Technology Forum, a day-long conference focused on encouraging young women to pursue careers in the science and technology fields. Approximately 300 high school girls attended the forum from all regions of the country.

In an effort to maximize public awareness of the team and provide support, Task Force members are requested to please alert Mark Foster or Paula Galvin to any speaking engagements undertaken on behalf of the team.

All team members need to be sure that their files are updated with their current driver's license and CPR/EMT cards as many have expired. Please be sure to submit each card on a separate piece of paper (only exception is if cards have the exact same expiration date!) Also, FEMA has asked that resumes be available - please be sure an updated copy is submitted for your file.

(Planning News continued from page 4)

Mat Specs, so if someone wants to be considered for the Haz-Mat slots, whether primary or alternate, they need to take that training. (The exact dates for the training have not been set as this time). We will probably not be able to identify enough people within the team to fill all the needed positions and intend to seek new people from outside the team for some of the primary positions. If you know someone who is qualified and is interested in being a Haz-Mat Specialist, this is the time for them to submit an application. We will probably take four to six new-to-the-team people and they will have a high likelihood of being deployed the first time we go out as a WMD team. Get ready for an interesting year in 2003.

Alan Fisher, Planning Team Manager

Team Matters will be published quarterly. The next issue will be March/April/May. Please direct comments to Paula Galvin at pgalvin@ci.beverly.ma.us or 978-922-5680.

Holiday Party!

The second annual MATF-01 Holiday party will be held on Friday, December 20th at the King's Grant Inn in Danvers. A traditional buffet will be served to include appetizer, salad bar, meat, fish, chicken, and dessert. Dance music will be provided by a DJ Joe Flynn (word on the street is he's good). The party begins at 6:00 PM and ends at 11:00 PM. For those of you who don't want to drive home after the party, rooms are available at the King's Grant Inn at \$80.00 or \$90.00 per room plus tax. Cost per person for the Holiday Party is \$25.00 or \$50.00 per couple. Please make checks out to **NESAR** and mail to MATF-01, 13 Morningside Drive, Beverly, MA 01915 **by Monday, December 9th.**

Structural Collapse Technician Course "Graduates" Forty-Nine

Forty-nine MATF-01 Task Force members successfully completed the FEMA Structural Collapse Technician Course held October 20th through 27th at the Beverly training site. Participants put in ten-hour days in unseasonably cold conditions. Heavy rain and light snow made the intensive Rescue Systems II program even more challenging for the students. The program consisted of three rotating two-day modules that included; shoring, breaking, breaching, cutting, and burning as well as lifting and rigging. In addition to the hands-on component the course also included classroom lectures from Task Force Engineers providing explanations on structural collapse and why structures fail. The course concluded with a 100-question written exam covering all program components.

Delivery of the FEMA program was done entirely by Task Force members who are qualified and credentialed FEMA instructors. Planning and preparation for providing the course took six months and was made possible by the cooperation of Mark Foster and the tireless efforts of the instructor cadre and several team members who offered their support during the delivery of the course. Rescue Team Managers Gerry Giunta and Bob Better deserve special thanks for their support in preparation for and delivery of the course which included 12-hour days and well-appreciated roles as cooks and dishwashers! Additional thanks go to Pat O'Connor, while recovering from a shoulder injury and unable to participate in the course as a student was instrumental in procuring a lot of the materials used in the course. Day to day support of the program was facilitated by Anita Arnum, Karen Fleury, Larry Holt, Dave Clements, Ed Seligman and Paula Galvin. The instructor cadre included Alan Fisher, Tim Lynch, and Bernie Rouliard from Engineering; Mike Bates, Paul Doughty, Steve Fay, Dennis Levasseur, Tom Kenney, Mike Gomes, Dennis Macedo, and program coordinator Chuck Flanagan from Rescue.

Dan Craig, FEMA Region I Director took time from his busy schedule to visit and observe the course as the team members progressed near the end of the week. The program received corporate support from Stanley, Milwaukee, as well as several other vendors including Shea Concrete and Air Shore International, Modern Continental and Iron Workers Local 7.

New People

The "non-deployable" Public Affairs Team welcomes its first new member. Kerrie McDermot, a senior communications major at UNH Manchester will work with the team as a student intern. Her official internship begins in January for the duration of the spring semester, but she's already started familiarizing herself with the Task Force and will attend the January 11th orientation. Kerrie is enthusiastic and looks forward to working with the team. She'll provide great assistance in building a sound public affairs foundation for the team.

Dr. Lori Gordon, DVM, a member of VMAT will be attending team activities as of January 2003. Dr. Gordon recently conducted a day-long training on canine emergency medicine for the team and she also participated with providing veterinary coverage for our recent Canine Pre-test and Evaluation this past fall. She is from Atkinson, NH and has her own practice of Veterinary Surgical Care, Inc. She specializes in Orthopedic, Neurologic and Soft Tissue Surgery of Small Animals and Exotics.

**Preliminary Training
Schedule
January-July 2003**

January 11th
MATF/FEMA Orientation

February 7th & 8th
Cold Weather Exercise

March 12th
Search

April 19th & May 16th
WMD Orientation

June 14th
WMD/HazMat

July 14th
Ropes

Planning News

2003 will be the year that our team becomes WMD capable. This will mean a lot of new training and equipment are coming our way. The team will be scheduling training for full WMD compliance by July 1, 2003. As might be expected the biggest impacts will be to the Haz-Mat contingent, although every member will be actively affected by the team being WMD capable.

At this time it is unclear the exact extent of the impacts that WMD will have on the overall team. One likely major change is that the Haz-Mat specialists will be grouped into a new Haz-Mat Team separate from the Planning Team. This will mean the creation of two new manager slots, Haz-Mat Team Managers, that will report directly to the Task Force Leader, similar to the other managers such as the Search Team Managers, etc.

Part of being a WMD qualified team will include rostering eight Haz-Mat Specialists in addition to the two Managers, an increase from the current two positions to ten positions. This will mean that we will need to increase dramatically the number of people who are capable of filling these slots. Our preference would be to fill all the slots from within the ranks of current team members, but no one will be required to switch specialties. If someone is qualified to be rostered as a Haz-Mat Specialist they can switch to Haz-Mat as their primary skill position, or they can submit their name to be considered as an alternate. Alternates will have a high probability of deployment as a Haz-Mat Spec if not deployed as a Rescue Spec.

There will be an additional eight hour training class for WMD Haz-

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**Team
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WINTER 2003**

**FEMA US&R MATF-01
13 Morningside Drive
Beverly, MA 01915**