



**MINUTES OF THE**  
***FEDERAL INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE ON EMERGENCY***  
***MEDICAL SERVICES (FICEMS)***

**DATE AND TIME:** June 5, 2003 10:30 a.m.

**LOCATION:** National Emergency Training Center, Room J-107  
16825 South Seton Avenue  
Emmitsburg, MD 21727

**MEMBER AGENCY REPRESENTATION:** **Department of Homeland Security (DHS)**  
**Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)**

Mr. William Troup, FICEMS Chairperson (Acting)  
United States Fire Administration (USFA)

Mr. John Brasko  
United States Fire Administration

Mr. Jeff Dyar  
United States Fire Administration (USFA)

Mr. Lou Bloom  
United States Fire Administration

Ms. Cheryl Phelan  
United States Fire Administration

Mr. Wayne Powell  
United States Fire Administration

Mr. Doug Williams  
United States Fire Administration

Ms. Phyllis Krietz  
United States Fire Administration

Mr. Gordon Sachs  
United States Fire Administration

**Department of Agriculture**

No Representation

**Federal Communications Commission**

No Representation

**Department of Defense (DOD)**

No Representation

**General Services Administration (GSA)**

Mr. Mel Globerman, Engineering Director

**Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)**

Ms. Nancy Romano

National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH)

Captain Mary Lambert

Office of the Surgeon General

**Department of Interior**

No Representation

**Department of Transportation (DOT)**

Mr. Drew Dawson

Ms. Susan McHenry

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA)

**Department of Veteran Affairs**

Ms. Paula Janes

**Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)**

No Representation

**Department of Labor**

No Representation

**OTHER FEDERAL  
ATTENDEES:**

**Department of Commerce (DOC)**

Ms. Jennifer Hendrickson  
Ms. Jeanette Young-Reese  
Mr. Wayne Strickland  
National Technical Information Service (NTIS)

**Department of Justice (DOJ)**

No Representation

**National Park Service (NPS)**

Mr. Randy Coffman

**OTHER ATTENDEES  
PRIVATE SECTOR:**

**CFSI, VFIS**

Mr. Rick Patrick

**American Association of Safety Engineers**

Mr. Steve Pyle

**National Volunteer Fire Council**

Mr. Joseph Robison

**Fairfax County Fire and Rescue**

Captain Christine Woodward

**NAEMSP, NASEMSD**

Dr. Robert Bass

**NATEK Incorporated**

Ms. Sandy McMinn, EMS Specialist  
Ms. Sarah Oliver  
Ms. Susan Steinruck  
Mr. Stephen Homoki

**TELEPHONE CALL-IN  
ATTENDEES:**

**American Ambulance Association (AAA)**  
Mr. Kurt Krumperman

**MTIP**

Mr. Bill Leonard

**IFSTA**

Mr. Michael Wieder

**MWCOG**

Mr. Stephen Dickstein

FICEMS Acting Chairperson William Troup called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.

**I. ANNOUNCEMENTS/HANDOUTS**

Mr. Troup welcomed all the attendees and explained Mr. Wood was off on assignment. Mr. Wood had asked him to chair the meeting.

**II. REVIEW OF PAST MEETING MINUTES**

March 6, 2003 Meeting minutes were unanimously accepted by the Members without any changes.

**III. OLD BUSINESS**

The Action Item list from the last quarterly meeting was reviewed. There were eight action assigned to various members. The dispositions are as follows:

M 1 - Mr. Troup contacted Dr. Arthur French to determine the future of the Technology Subcommittee and technical issues as the chair person is now assigned in the northwest. It was decided that individual Agencies should deal with technical issues relating to EMS and FICEMS on an ad hoc basis. This Action Item is CLOSED.

M 2 – Ms. Susan McHenry would provide information on future meeting times for NEMSIS. As the latest meeting was just a few weeks ago and the next meeting date has not been confirmed but Ms, McHenry will provide and update as soon as possible. This Action Item is CLOSED.

M 3 – Mr. Troup Briefed that the Safe Operation of Fire Tanker report has been completed those who wanted a copy can contact him and receive a report. This Action Item is CLOSED.

M 4 – Mr. Troup was to provide information to NATEK on how colleges can get information on best practices. The exact purpose of this exercise is still being

developed and therefore carried forward to the September 2003 FICEMS Meeting. This Action Item is OPEN.

M 5 – Mr. Jeff Dyar was to determine the status of a letter the Committee sent to the Surgeon General last year dealing with the implications of state laws versus federal law on the use of AEDs. The letter was in fact sent about a year ago but no response was received. The FDA considers AEDs medical devices and therefore it falls under their purview for regulation and requires medical oversight. Captain Woodward mentioned that the State of Virginia has deregulated AEDs. Mr. Globerman said that GSA has CPR training. Mr. Dyar said that most of the federal CPR training covers a brief AED overview. Mr. Dyar suggested the issue is still valid and a new attempt to send the letter for clarification is warranted. He offered a motion to have the letter redrafted and sent to the Surgeon General’s Office. This Action Item is CLOSED.

CT 6 – Ms. McHenry was to review the counter terrorism courses and provide that information to Gordon Sachs. She requested that this item be left open because some of the courses have not been finalized and she would prefer to wait until the list is updated and current. This Action Item is OPEN.

AS 7 – NATEK Incorporated was to generate an address group of all the Ambulance Safety Subcommittee and send that list to each member. This Action Item is CLOSED.

AS 8 – NATEK Incorporated was to compile a list of AS Subcommittee members and their backgrounds. A list with full contact information, telephone numbers, agency and department was compiled and sent to each member. This Action Item is CLOSED.

#### **IV. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

Counter-Terrorism - Jeff Dyar. There is a lot of flux going on. It is important that new relationships be defined and verified in the new environment. USFA capabilities in counter-terrorism have increased greatly and their mission in DHS in that role needs to be defined.

Ambulance Safety- Nancy Romano. An invitation to join the AS Subcommittee was extended to the membership at large. This is getting higher visibility every day. A recent Detroit News series regarding ambulance safety has highlighted the problem and received a lot of public attention. Once info was available people have started to show interest. Focusing on the emergency vehicle driver is one option – therefore, we need to agree on a subject and move forward.

#### **V. MEMBER AGENCY REPORTS**

##### **NHTSA**

Drew Dawson – Chief of EMS Division, NHTSA (Mr. Dawson recently assumed his current position). Mr. Dawson relayed that:

- They have brought some liaison reports for the group that they will leave here. These will show what his organization is involved with.
- They have had significant success in implementing EMS training and education for the future. A technical scope practice group has been working on this recently.
- There will be more opportunities in July for participation.
- The components of the EMS education and training for the future are:
  - i. Core content
  - ii. Scope of practice model
  - iii. EMS education standards
  - iv. Accreditation of programs
  - v. Certification of personnel
- Emphasis will be on education of EMS providers
- Reintroduction of Highway Safety Reauthorization Act (every 6 yrs it needs to be reauthorized.)
  - i. Establishment of a grant program for states to help with emergency infrastructure development among them Wireless e911 issues.
  - ii. Statutory authorization of FICEMS attached to reauthorize bill at this time Senate bill 1072.
  - iii. This would allow NHTSA and Homeland Security along with Health and human services to appoint the committee and provide staff help as well.

Susan McHenry – The NEMESIS task has met May 19 and 20 to finalize the data set and identify the basic elements for the national data set and to identify the basic elements of the system. She encouraged all interested to look at the NEMESIS website, [www.nemesis.gov](http://www.nemesis.gov). They are trying to determine:

- what would be most useful to you for policy making etc.
- the best proposed business model for establishing the national repository – this will be a long term project.
- the best way to improve the business model working with other federal agencies, several iterations of the data set have been out there for review.
- who and what agencies want to participate.
- see at what level people want to participate.
- getting lots of input from throughout the country.
- course is moving along.

The anti-terrorism course may be available in a couple of months, as most things, it was held up by the restrictions of working under a continuing resolution.

#### **NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**

Randy Coffman, Branch Chief, brought up the following issues.

- The NPS has over 500 AEDs throughout the Park system with medical oversight. In fact, NPS has had at least 6 saves attributed to the use of AEDs this year. Some have resulted in good publicity.
- The NPS is developing policies and guidelines for EMS for the NPS. These will be published in the Federal Register for comment in about 30

days. Homeland Security has intervened and slowed things down a bit – but hopefully they will be ready for publishing soon.

- Revision contains how to perform an AED needs assessment.
- One year ago, TRW was contracted with NPS to collect NPS data – they just completed the search and rescue part of this report. S&R accounts for about 4-5 thousand missions per year. Good data should be available from this database.
- NPS will be working to include EMS data collection nationally.

## **NTIS**

Jennifer Hendrickson and Wayne Strickland – NTIS

- NTIS would like to have courses as they are developed to be added to their collection and to be able to distribute them to fire departments, etc. and other interested parties.
- If you have publications or reports that may be of general knowledge or usefulness please give them to this organization so they can help distribute them.

## **NIOSH**

Nancy Romano, NIOSH

- completed sled testing – scheduled to start crash testing in Canada – side and frontal.
- all four positions plus the patient positions will be examined.
- AMR representatives came to NIOSH for an update – looked at their data – industry is coming to them now, possibly setting up a partnership.
- NIOSH will increase representation at various EMS related meetings and conferences among them the IAFF EMS conference, the Trauma EMS meeting.
- Please let her know if there are additional meetings that they might explore and participate in.

## **GSA**

Mel Globerman

- Issued the revision to Fed Specs for ambulances – lots of inquires – info available on the website.
- NETA – AMD has this on their website as well as their test standards.
- New contracts in place for purchasing ambulances.
- There are two vendors under contract for ambulances – each need to meet the same standards.
- Type 2 and 3 ambulances will be going for inspection and certification.
- Certain types of ambulances are available for contract – please contact him – only federal customers are able to contract for these ambulances.
- ASTM and voluntary standards – about 90% of the ASTM standards are verbatim off the federal specs and with only a few additional specs/standards. ASTM wanted to have their standards instituted and make federal standards voluntary.
- There are many reasons why the manufacturers feel that voluntary standards are not viable, some of them are practicality and legality.
- GSA is very interested in the sled and crash testing data.

## **USFA**

Wayne Powell, Jeff Dyar, John Brasko, Bill Troup

- Captain Mary Lambert, US Surgeons General Office, was introduced.
- New course “EMS Management of Community Health Risk” has been developed and will be ready for offering as a two-week course in October.
- Reviewing most current courses to see the effect of homeland security concerns.
- Emergency vehicle safety initiative meeting will take place in August and notices should be out in a couple of weeks.

## **DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**

Ms. Paula Janes from DAV attended her first meeting and is looking forward to further working with the group. Her primary functions involve policy, planning and preparedness.

## **DHHS/OSG MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS**

Captain Mary Lambert from the Office of the Surgeon general presented a briefing on the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC). She highlighted several aspects of the program including:

- bringing together volunteer initiatives
- Peace Corps
- Citizen Corps – existing programs (Neighborhood Watch, etc.)
- Medical Reserve Corps (under Citizen Corps)
  - i. Community based such as LEPC, Citizen Corps and others
  - ii. Feel free to contact her if interested via email or the Surgeon General’s Office
  - iii. Natural tie in with local EMS organizations and resources – and they also need to be connected with citizen corps councils – having these involvements helps in considerations for grants
  - iv. There are nearly 600 local citizen corps contacts throughout the nation.
  - v. Captain Lambert said she would enjoy being a regular member of FICEMS and will try attend in September.

Captain Lambert’s presentation slides are attached to these minutes. Handouts detailing various aspects of the program were also distributed and additional copies can be requested via E-mail at [MLambert@osophs.dhhs.gov](mailto:MLambert@osophs.dhhs.gov). Mr. Powell also identified several websites with additional information on volunteerism. They are USA Freedom Corps at [www.usafreedomcorps.gov](http://www.usafreedomcorps.gov), Corporation for National and Community Service at [www.cns.gov](http://www.cns.gov) and Citizen Corps at [www.citizencorps.gov](http://www.citizencorps.gov).

## **VI. REPORTS – OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES**

Bob Bass, NAEMSP, NASEMSD. Mr. Bass represents two organizations. The organizations have agreed to work together as an advocate for EMS. There will be several meetings held, and time and location will be disseminated in the future.

The State directors of EMS will have their meeting on July 13 and 14. Contact Bob Bass for details.

Captain Christine Woodward – Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments.

- Continuing to work on disaster management and preparedness.
- All COG members are now fully prepared to deal with contingencies.
- Obtaining funding and purchasing – supplies are coming in, waiting on units.
- Preparing for mass casualty incidents.
- She will bring pictures of Incident Command Module units fired up for the committee to see.

Mr. Joe Robison, Nation Volunteer Fire Council.

- Ocean City convention – 111<sup>th</sup> convention.

Mr. Richard Patrick, VFIS, CFSI.

- Is here to listen and pass information back to the institute.
- VFIS is the largest insurer of fire and EMS services.

Mr. Kurt Krumperman, American Ambulance Association.

- How they can relate to activities.
- Wants to understand how DHS will work.
- Trying to step up involvement in EMS safety.
- Share data and work closely with the professional standards committee.

Mr. Bill Leonard, Insurance industry and EMS from insurance point of view.

- Developing a database on ambulance crash incidents.
- In the past we discussed having a central clearing point to document the type of crashes – is there any funding available to get this started? He feels a centralized collection point/clearing house is needed.
- Several good articles on ambulance crashes have been published.
- A roundtable of members interacted discussing the above.
  - o Some felt it was a funding issue.
  - o A central clearing point will be worked by NIOSH as soon as funding is available.
  - o No one has the data on EMS personnel unless they are the patients. Patient care information is being collected.
  - o Some work is being done with state EMS directors to collect data.
  - o□ All agreed it is hard to establish policy without valid data.
- A notable fire tanker crash in Wyoming was discussed.
- Someone pointed out that human factors were the root cause.

Mike Wieder, IFSTA.

- IFSTA is the largest publisher of fire fighter information in the nation.
- It is part of Oklahoma State University.

## **VII. ACTION ITEMS REVIEW**

A new action item was added to the list. It is M 9, Refresh and redraft the letter to the Surgeon General asking for clarification of AED use and potential legal implications. Outstanding Action Items were addressed earlier as part of Old Business. See above.

#### **VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

Mel Globerman said he will be retiring from GSA and is in the process of identifying an able replacement with an automotive engineering background and with experience in the design and specifications of utility vehicles. If anyone knows someone with this resume please let him know. Mr. Globerman's retirement date will be January 2, 2004.

Jeff Dyar recognized the fact that that Drew Dawson has taken the lead at NHTSA and welcomed him to the Committee.

Subcommittee Meetings following this meeting were announced.

Ambulance Safety at 2:30

Counter-Terrorism at 1:30

#### **IX. NEXT MEETING**

September 4, 2003, 10:30 a.m., NETC, Emmitsburg, Maryland.

#### **X. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:57 a.m.