

# DISASTERCOM



DERA Newsletter

42 Years of Service

June 2004



## DERA member killed in auto crash

Dr Shrikant Jichkar, a scholar-politician in India and vice-chair of NIAR receives DERA award from Board Chair Bob Dockery (left) in 2000 at Dayton, Ohio.

*(See full story inside)*

## EIIP hosts "Changes to the EAS"

DERA partner organization, EIIP, (the Emergency Information Infrastructure Partnership) was pleased to host an interactive Q&A session, June 16, 2004. Their topic was changes to the Emergency Alert System (EAS) event codes that will more fully permit the broadcast of emergency messages originating with state and local emergency managers. In addition, a new automated system called HazCollect is being planned to streamline communications through existing National Weather Service (NWS) infrastructure.

*(visit [emforum.org](http://emforum.org) to view transcript )*

## Wes Biggs is new DERA Board Chairman



**Wesley and Tina Biggs**

Lt. Col. Wesley R. Biggs, Sr. ready to begin his official 2 year term as of July 1, 2004.

*(New Chairman's Column inside)*

## Salvation Army in Iraq

The Salvation Army International Emergency Team has embarked on US\$1.2 million support program for families returning to Iraq.

The new program, in partnership with UNHCR, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees began in May, 2004.

The eight-month support program will assist around 10,000 families primarily surrounding the town of Al Amarah.

*(See full story on Page 6)*

## DERA members provide medical supplies to Dominica



Gaynell Larsen, of the Foundation for Amateur International Radio Service (FAIRS) , poses with friends in Dominica

*(Details on page 6)*

## Hispanola Tragedy surfaces medical report

Washington, D.C.

Fears that dead bodies would cause widespread infection following a natural disaster are largely baseless and often lead to mistreatment of the bodies that unnecessarily adds to the suffering of the surviving friends and family members of victims, according to a scientific article that provides the first-ever comprehensive review of this subject. *(Continued on Page 4)*

**DisasterCom** is the quarterly newsletter of DERA International. News items and articles are always welcome.

ISSN 1521-1592

Editor: Catherine Lawhun

Membership in this Nonprofit Association is open to all who share our commitment to effective disaster preparedness and response.

See Back Page for Membership Application

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## **DERA International**

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DERA is a Nonprofit, U.S. IRS 501(c)(3)  
Disaster Service and Professional Association  
Established in 1962  
Incorporated in the State of Wisconsin.  
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### **Officers**

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(Vacant)

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E I I P



## **Chairman's Column**

By Wesley R. Biggs, Sr.  
DERA Chairman of the Board

I want to start off by thanking the Trustees for the confidence they placed in me, by electing me to the Chairman position. I'm looking forward to serving the DERA membership for the next two years.

I would like to share with you some of my short term goals for our organization. I would like see the organization grow. I would like to increase DERA's public relations and get more information about the organization out to the disaster response communities and the general public. I plan to get more information about DERA and our members out to you, OUR members and offer DERA training and networking opportunities for our membership. Last but not least, I will work to find resources to assure the financial future of the organization.

Let me tell you a little about myself. I have been on the DERA Board since 2000. I have been a first responder as a firefighter with the Blue Summit Fire District (Jackson County, MO) and I have been an active member of the Missouri Wing of Civil Air Patrol since December 1984. I have volunteered with the Grater Kansas City Chapter of Red Cross as a Disaster Team responder and a disaster trainer.

I come to my new position knowing we are at a critical time in our nation. After the horrendous events of September 11th, 2001 and with the threat of terrorism still upon the US and other allied countries. I feel, we in the first response and disaster relief fields need to be at a heighten state of readiness. I feel DERA is in a position where we should help educate our members and the public. To this end, I will encourage the board and the Trustees to find ways we can achieve this goal.

I want to take this opportune to thank a few DERA members. First I would like to thank Jay Wilson, without his leadership and tireless efforts our organization would not be in the great position we are in today. Thanks Jay for all you do! I offer thanks to my predecessor, Bob Dockery, the work you have done and board you assembled under your leadership is outstanding. This will make the next two years much easy for me. Again, last but not least is Catherine Lawhun, our newsletter editor. Catherine is doing a great job in a tuff position. Sometimes editing a newsletter is a thankless job. On Catherine's behalf, I encourage members to send her news

articles about the disaster work you and your organizations are doing around the world.

I plan to have a Chairman's Column in each newsletter. I plan to showcase in the column what your board is doing on your behalf and highlight some of our resources.

If you wish to contact me at anytime please e-mail me at [chair@disasters.org](mailto:chair@disasters.org).

So until next time... Be safe and may God watch over you and protect us all.

### **Special Invitation** *from your Editor*

DERA has been invited to exhibit at the READY Conference in Washington, DC July 27-29, 2004. Please see the write up about this event on page 5. This looks like it will be a very large event put together by an extremely influential advisory board.

Please come by and visit our booth. For session schedule see:  
[www.eshow2000.com/ready/sessions.cfm](http://www.eshow2000.com/ready/sessions.cfm)

I look forward to seeing you there.

-Catherine Lawhun  
*President of Many Waters Resource Network, Inc. providing volunteer engineering professionals for disaster response nationwide. 888-570-1344*

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## 2004 NVOAD CONFERENCE

Compliments of New Member  
Candace Carman, Corporate  
Communications Officer, American  
Disaster Reserve

The National Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster's [NVOAD] national conference was held May 18-21 in Louisville, Kentucky. This year's theme 'We're off and winning together' successfully showcased the attitudes of collaboration, cooperation and coordination which are hallmarks of our individual groups working together to deal with the effects of all-hazard disasters. The conference focused more closely on the increasing use of computerized and internet-mediated support for first responders, VOADs and state and federal agencies.

As the disaster response community's environment continues to change to reflect a greater accountability and responsibility for homeland security, software specifically designed to meet these needs are being considered for wider implementation or, if not currently existing, being researched and discussed. Two examples of this were the American Disaster Reserve's Virtual Emergency Operations Center which has been active in disasters for several years and will see greater use in the coming year and the new Coordinated Assistance Network otherwise known as CAN for dealing with post disaster needs which is being researched and tested primarily in California. As well, there were various workshops and discussions on computerized inventory and mass donation software, grants and funding, volunteer management, education and training for volunteers.

FEMA's VALS representing each of the respective FEMA regions were active and accessible. With the increasing involvement of the Department of Homeland Security in the activities of VOADs, their presence and information were very rewarding.

It's easy to forget our partners out in the Pacific so it was with great pleasure that several special guests were introduced. Marilyn Shigetani and Wayne Gillespie from GUAM VOAD, Havinne Anderson, Aloha United Way, Florence Sabuto from CNMI VOAD and the Rev Sam Tialavea from the American Samoa VOAD brought warm wishes from the Pacific Islands. It is important to note that our American territories and partners in the Pacific get more than the average typhoons and other natural disasters.

On the last day of the conference, we were introduced to the president of Japan's Nippon NVOAD Mr. Tanaka and Dr. Atsumi, Associate Professor at Osaka University and one of his graduate students, Ms. Takano who all helped give a very interesting presentation. Their topics illuminated some aspects of Japan's current views towards disaster and the challenges associated with developing a non-profit in a country that did not recognize non-profit organizations of any sort. Presenting a third cash gift to a New York based organization working with the families of people killed in 911, they took the time to thank NVOAD for nurturing their non-profit disaster group over these last ten years.

There are many criteria with which people will judge a conference. My criteria tends to relate to flow and usefulness of the event. The conference and workshops were well-planned, sharply focused and relevant to the concerns of the community. Since one of the major goals of the conference was to encourage networking, there was ample time built into the workshop schedule to meet, talk and involve oneself in the complex business of building relationships. Will I go again next year? Undoubtedly yes. I would recommend to all who work in the disaster response community to consider attending next year's conference.

### AWARDS for EARTHQUAKE RISK REDUCTION

The 2004 National Earthquake Conference Awards of Excellence will be given to individuals, organizations, educational institutions, or agencies that have significantly contributed to reducing earthquake risk in the US. The Awards of Excellence Program is a key part of the National Earthquake Conference ([www.earthquakeconference.org](http://www.earthquakeconference.org)), which will be held in St. Louis, Mo., on September 26-30, 2004.

"These awards are open to individuals, government agencies, non-profits, businesses, and educational institutions," says Elaine Clyburn, awards committee chairman. "Nominations can be for programs, projects, or products."

For more information about the National Earthquake Conference Awards of Excellence, please contact Kerri Hall at [khall@cusec.org](mailto:khall@cusec.org).



## New Member Roster

**David A. McGlothlin**  
Timmonsville, SC

**Andrew Pfeifer**  
Knoxville, KY

**Sarone A. Kennedy, Sr**  
Marsh Harbor, Bahamas

**Gurkan Ozel**  
EMT-P, Lakewood, CO

**Candace Carman**  
Flagstaff, AZ

**J.D. Burke**  
KCØMWB, Lafayette, CO

**John I. Oram**  
Hilton Head Island, SC

**Kelley Donovan**  
Cheyenne, WY

**Bryan D. Gumm**  
Glen Ellyn, IL

**Keith McMahon**  
Limerick, Ireland

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Welcome to DERA!

It is our sincere aim to help you  
achieve your professional and personal  
goals



You are cordially invited to the **2004 National Earthquake Conference**, a national forum for dialog among earthquake professionals, government and businesses that builds common ground and leads to actions that reduce social and economic losses from earthquakes.

**WHEN:** September 26-30, 2004

**WHERE:** Adam's Mark Hotel—St. Louis, Missouri

For more information, visit  
[www.earthquakeconference.org](http://www.earthquakeconference.org)

## Epidemics caused by dead bodies: a disaster myth that does not want to die

"There is no evidence that, following a natural disaster, dead bodies pose a risk of epidemics," says the article, which was written by Oliver Morgan, who is a research degree student with the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and who has worked with the disaster-assistance groups Oxfam and Médecins Sans Frontières (Doctors Without Borders) in Latin America, India, Africa, and the Balkans.

Historically, epidemics resulting in mass fatalities have only occurred from a few diseases, including plague, cholera, typhoid, tuberculosis, anthrax, and smallpox. However, such infections are no more likely to be present in disaster victims than in the general population. In addition, while some of these diseases are highly contagious, they are unable to survive for long in the human body after death occurs. It is therefore unlikely that such epidemics will result from contact with a cadaver. Instead, notes the article, "it is far more likely that survivors will be a source of disease outbreaks."

For the review article, Morgan conducted a thorough search for previous articles relating to natural disasters, the possibility of dangers to survivors and to persons who handle cadavers, and the proper care and disposal of bodies.

While the risks for rescue workers who handle dead bodies are higher than for the survivors of a disaster, those risks can be limited through a set of simple measures. Appropriate precautions include training military personnel and others who might have to provide assistance after a disaster, vaccinating those persons against hepatitis B and tuberculosis, using body bags and disposable gloves, washing hands after handling cadavers, and disinfecting stretchers and vehicles that have been used to transport bodies.

Unjustified worries about the infectiousness of bodies can lead to the rapid, unplanned disposal of the dead, sometimes before proper identification of the victim has been made, as well as to taking needless "precautions" such as burying the deceased in common graves and adding chlorinated lime as a "disinfectant."

Disposal of bodies should respect local custom and practice where

possible. When there are large numbers of victims, burial is likely to be the most appropriate method of disposal. There is little evidence that proper burial of bodies poses a threat to groundwater that serves as a source of drinking water.

There are various explanations for why unnecessary steps are taken after natural disasters, according to an English-language editorial that accompanies the article. While respect for the dead is a value deeply ingrained in all cultures and religions, "it can be difficult to separate respect for the deceased from the deep fear of death itself that is common to all human beings," the editorial notes.

Sometimes feeling pressured by misleading media reports on the supposed dangers from cadavers, public officials take unwarranted measures that leave survivors with doubts concerning the whereabouts of a family member and make it harder for survivors to mourn their loss. When bodies are not identified, a surviving spouse or child can be left in a legal limbo.

"The problem," says the editorial, "is not anymore and perhaps has never been one of a lack of knowledge by epidemiologists and scientists. The issue is how those informed health professionals can and should stand up to the pressure of public opinion and protect the rights of the survivors when fears of the unknown are running rampant and officials seek an easy way to alleviate them."

The editorial was written by Claude de Ville de Goyet, an international health consultant who directed the Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Relief Program of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) for 25 years.

The full text review article and of the editorial can be viewed for free at (<http://publications.paho.org>).

The "Revista Panamericana de Salud Pública/Pan American Journal of Public Health" is the main scientific and technical periodical of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO). PAHO, which also serves as the Regional Office for the Americas of the World Health Organization, was established in 1902. PAHO Member States include all 35 countries in the Americas. Puerto Rico is an Associate Member. France, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland are Participating States, and Portugal and Spain are Observer States.

## Memoirs of Dr. Shrikant Jichkar

(Mumbai - "Bombay" - Mid-Day News)  
June 2, 2004

Dr Shrikant Jichkar (49), former minister and a brilliant parliamentarian who died in a road accident in Nagpur yesterday, will be remembered for his love affair with academics and his miraculous fight with cancer.

Often regarded as the most educated politician — he had 18 degrees ranging from MBBS to Bachelor in Journalism — Jichkar always swam against the tide.

When every Vidarbha leader pushed the cause of a separate state for the region, Jichkar opposed the idea and said it would be suicidal. His argument was never without facts and figures, which he would remember by heart and would render many a pro-Vidarbha politician, speechless. He was blunt and straight forward, something a politician shouldn't be and had to suffer for being one.

He wasn't bothered with being popular with the masses. "My job is to educate my people, not seek popularity ratings," he would say.

His drive for education was intense and the number of degrees he achieved, attained legendary status. Some said he had over 20 postgraduate degrees, some believed he had over 20, while some said it was 14. His affidavit in the polls should rest the debate — it mentioned that he had 18 degrees.

But his fight against cancer was his greatest battle. In September 2000, he was diagnosed with cancer of the adrenal glands and was told by US doctors he had only 15 days to live.

"I was shell-shocked and didn't know what to do. But I decided to take up the challenge and went into battle headlong," he said after he was fully cured. It was his will power and mental strength that saw him through the rigours of chemotherapy.

"It was really tough," he would say. He turned vegetarian after the cancer diagnosis and was considered a role model for cancer patients. He made it a point to meet as many of them as he could — to motivate them in their fight against the dreaded disease.

After his success against cancer, Jichkar had renewed his zest for political career. He lost the 2004 Lok Sabha polls by a narrow margin — just 3,000 votes. Had

he been elected, he would have been in Delhi on June 2, not in Nagpur, waiting to be killed in a headlong collision with a truck.

A man of letters, his obsession for degrees attained legendary status. Listed here are 18 separate degrees which Dr. Jichker held.

- BA: Nagpur Univ, 1974
- MBBS: Nagpur Univ, 1976
- BJourn: Nagpur Univ, '76
- LLB: Nagpur Univ, 1978
- DBM: Nagpur Univ, 1977
- MA (Public Administration): Nagpur Univ, 1979
- MD: Nagpur Univ, 1980
- MA (Sociology): Nagpur University, 1981
- MA (Economics): Nagpur University, 1982
- LLM: (International Law), Nagpur University, 1983
- MA (Sanskrit): Nagpur University, 1984
- MA (History): Nagpur University, 1984
- MBA: Nagpur University, 1985
- MA (Eng. Lit): Nagpur University, 1986
- MA (Philosophy): Nagpur University, 1987
- MA (Pol. Science): Nagpur University, 1988
- MA (Ancient Indian History, Culture and Archaeology): Nagpur University, 1989
- DLitt (Sanskrit): Nagpur, '94

He was holder of amateur radio license VU2SJA in India, and was also Co-Chairman of the National Institute of Amateur Radio (NIAR) in India, one of our principal partnership organizations. Dr. Shrikant Jichkar had worked closely with DERA for many years on international projects.

DERA wishes to formally extend our condolences to all those family and friends who knew, loved and respected this strong and vibrant example of character among us.

## Update on India's Echolink Node

Our members in India report, "We have been consistently working to convince Government of India for promoting Amateur Radio in India for over a year now.

We have been informed that our proposal has been accepted for implementation in the year 2004-05 as a pilot project in the country.

The project envisages to establish Amateur Radio Centers in 10 places initially and train over 300 volunteers. We wish to bring all the latest technologies including Digital communication and network these centers."

Mr. S. Suri, Chairman of NIAR indicates that the new government of India continues to be most interested in the NIAR Echolink demonstration projects, sponsored by VU2NRO.

## Civil Air Patrol Missouri Wing holds PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER'S workshop



NORTH KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI -- Seven Senior Members and two Cadets from Missouri and Kansas Wings attended the Missouri Wing's Public Affairs Officers (PAO) Workshop on Saturday, April 24, 2004. The all day workshop was held at the North Kansas City Hospital Conference Center and was hosted by the Missouri Wing's Platte Valley Composite Squadron.

The workshop featured Ms. Paula Schumacher proprietor of Fundraising with Paula, Kansas City, Missouri. Ms. Schumacher is a former owner and publishers of the Platte County Gazette a weekly newspaper that serviced southern Platte County. Ms. Schumacher presented "Building Press Relationships that Work".

(Group Photo) Missouri Wing PAO workshop Attendees.

Front row left to right: 2Lt. Michael Walsh, Major Dennis Pearson, Cadet David Fuller and Cadet Dakota Maddox. Back row: Sr. Mbr. Dale Dobkins, Col. Joe E. Casler, 2Lt. James Huffman and Capt. Pete Michael.

Lt. Col. Wesley R. Biggs, Sr., Assistant Public Affairs Officers for Missouri Wing and PAO with the Platte Valley Squadron was the workshop manager.



Lt. Col. Wes Biggs, Sr. presents Ms. Paula Schumacher with a Certificate of Appreciation for her support of the Missouri Wing.

## READY!– The Emergency Preparedness and Response Conference and Exposition

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## FIRE OFFICIALS SELECTED FOR HARVARD SENIOR EXECUTIVES IN STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROGRAM

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announced today the names of eight senior fire officials who have been awarded fellowships to attend Harvard

University's 2004 Senior Executives in State and Local Government Program at the John F. Kennedy School of Government. This 19-day program for senior state and local government leaders focuses on exploring the interrelationships between citizens and government, analyzing policy options, and examining the ethical and professional responsibilities of leadership.

Tuition costs are being provided by FEMA and the International Association of Fire Chiefs, the International Fire Service Training Association and the National Fire Protection Association. Each organization funds two fellows. These organizations and former program participants served as a nominating panel. FEMA's U.S. Fire Administration administered the competitive selection process.

Those selected are:

**\*Division Chief Ruben D. Almaguer**, Miami-Dade Fire Rescue, Miami, Fla.

**\*Deputy Chief Paul J. Berardi**, Kansas City Fire Department, Kansas City, Mo.

**\*District Chief Kim M. Berryman-Dages**, Gainesville Fire Rescue, Gainesville, Fla.

**\*Fire Chief Ira David Daniels**, Fulton County Fire Department, Atlanta, Ga.

**\*Deputy Chief Sandra K. Schiess**, Independence Fire Department, Independence, Mo.

**\*Deputy Chief/Operations Officer August B. Schwarz**, City of Hoboken, Division of Fire, Hoboken, N.J.

**\*Mr. Adam K. Thiel**, Executive Director, Virginia Department of Fire Programs, Richmond, Va.

**\*Deputy Chief Terry S. Welker**, City of Clearwater Fire & Rescue, Clearwater, Fla.

## **DERA Members provide Medical Supplies to Dominica**

DERA members Gay and David Larsen have delivered 48 boxes of items for the Ministry of Health in Dominica. This was an effort by the members of the Floyd United Methodist church and Dave and Gaynell Larsen of FAIRS (Foundation for Amateur International Radio Service, LTD.)

Some of the donations included wound dressings, surgical gloves, infant resuscitators, elastic gauze bandages, medical books, antibiotics, computers and even an EKG machine (compliments of Moses Cone Hospital in North

Carolina) This totaled 1980 pounds of contributions which arrived by ship toward the end of March, 2004.

On a visit to the island earlier this year the Larsen's were told by a pharmacist in the capital of Roseau about the need for a computer and an EKG machine, "There was no EKG machine for the whole island", Gaynell said.

Thankfully, these supplies reached the island in late March.

The Larsen's plan to return to the island by the end of the year or in January, 2005.

## **Meet our new Chairman** *(from page 1)*

Wesley R. Biggs, Sr., 38 year old devoted father and his wife, Tina, will be expecting a new addition to their family in December. Wes will then be a father of four children spanning ages from 17 through newborn.

Wes is self-employed in Consulting for Security and Safety as well as running a delivery business. Wes joined the Civil Air Patrol in 1983, at age 17, as a cadet, drawn in by the military aspects of the organization not because he was a pilot. Today, Wes holds the grade of Lieutenant Colonel. He has participated in disaster relief and numerous search & rescue efforts with CAP but says he "Hates to fly". He has functioned as a Public Affairs Officer for CAP since 1985 when he became a senior member. Lt. Col Biggs is also Past Commander of the Frontier Composite Squadron and Group One Headquarters in the Missouri Wing. Wes Jr., his 14-year-old son, is following in his father's footsteps as an active CAP cadet. Wes, Sr. also served 9 years in the Army National Guard.

In the early 90's Wes was involved with the Red Cross as both a responder and as Director of Training. He loves to teach and is a wonderful public speaker.

He has also served 2 years as the Public Information Officer for the Blue Summit Fire District, Kansas City, and as a volunteer firefighter.

Wes also serves on the Advisory Board for KCPT TV 19, an active Public Broadcasting Station in Kansas City. He offers guidance on matters involving public relations and community events.

He has been a very active member of DERA since 1997 and has been a Board

member since 2000. Wesley was nominated as Chairman of the DERA Board and unanimously approved to begin his official 2 year term as of July 1. The entire membership extends its gratitude for both his past service with us as well as his acceptance of this nomination. The goal oriented approach and expertise in Public Relations he brings now to the respected office of Chairman of the Board will serve to propel our organization into realizing the fullness of it's potential, strength and purpose.

Thank you Wes!!!

## **Salvation Army International Emergency Team aid to Iraq**

(May 2004) The Salvation Army International Emergency Team has embarked upon a US\$1.2 million support program for families returning to Iraq.

A report published this week includes information supplied by Iraq's new Ministry of Displacement and Migration. The official figures are disturbing:

- 500,000 refugees and asylum seekers are expected to return to Iraq
- 290,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) live in central and southern Iraq and a greater number in the north
- Up to 150,000 IDPs may seek to move back to their communities in coming months
- Hundreds of thousands of people, mostly Kurds and Arab Shiites, have been left stateless from regulations passed by the ousted regime
- The ministry 'openly admits it does not have the capacity to deal with the issues without the full support of the international community'

Specifically, The Salvation Army will be responsible for:

- Providing shelter to 425 returning families, by providing 350 traditional (transitional) dwellings and extensions to 75 host family homes
- Providing safe, potable water to 5,000 families by rehabilitating water pumping stations
- Constructing or refurbishing five primary health clinics to serve 4,000 families
- Constructing or renovating 12 schools to provide education for 4,500 schoolchildren
- Constructing three youth/community centers and employing managers to develop community activity programs
- Providing vocational training through the establishment of 15 sewing workshops and three community training

centers

- Supporting and promoting self-sustainability through an agriculture and livestock program.

Captain Bruce Coffey, a New Zealand Salvation Army Officer says, 'We are delighted to be playing a major role in helping returnee families in Meysin. Their communities are keen to welcome them home but this places great stress upon already under-resourced services. This program will provide support to the whole community.'

## “STRYKER” Beyond the HUMMER



DERA interviews U.S. Army Specialist Alexander Levy, Stryker forward forces driver just back from a tour in Iraq

In November of 2000, the U.S. Army awarded a joint venture between General Motors and General Dynamics Land Systems, a six-year requirements contract with an estimated total value of \$4 billion to equip its new Brigade Combat Teams with an eight-wheeled armored vehicle. These vehicles are now available for Military deployment to Disaster Response scenarios involving Medical Evacuation, Fire Support and NBC Reconnaissance.

The Stryker is a 19-ton wheeled armored vehicle with 10 different variations. These vehicles have can travel at speeds of about 60 miles per hour, have self-recovery abilities and a central tire inflation system.

United States Army Specialist Alexander Levy, related that the reason he thought the Stryker was such an important addition to their team's equipment was because, "if it hadn't been for this vehicle, my buddy wouldn't be alive right now. It gave us the protection and tools we needed to save his life".

Each of the 10 specialty types of vehicles can ford up to 53 inches of water, cross 78 inch wide ditches and have such a smooth ride that, "you can start IV's while driving", Levy said. They are temperature controlled in order to stabilize the patients during transport and have a thermal screen for night driving.

Their tires share a central inflation system, enabling a vehicle to continue on its mission or evacuate in spite of damage to one or more of it's 8 tires.

The Nuclear, Biological, Chemical Reconnaissance Vehicle (NBCRV) provides on the move and remote near-real-time nuclear, biological and chemical detection and surveillance to supply battlefield visualization of NBC hazards. It boasts a set of interior gas masks that are connected to an interior filtration system as well as test equipment and giger counters.

The Medical Evacuation Vehicle (MEV) is the Battalion Aid Station for brigade units, providing treatment for serious injury and advanced trauma cases.

The Commander's Vehicle (CV) provides the brigade with the means to receive information and data, analyze, prepare and transmit data, and control the forces/functions carrying out combat missions. It is a mobile emergency command center with both satellite and FM communications redundancy.

## American Red Cross Hurricane Zane Exercise

The Florida Capital Area Chapter of the American Red Cross conducted a Hurricane Exercise called "ZANE" on Saturday May 22 2004. 143 Disaster Services Volunteers and several of the chapter's partner organizations participated in the five (5) hour exercise which saw the chapter opening and staffing ten (10) shelters along with establishing a Government Liaison presence at eight (8) county Emergency Operations Centers.



Big Bend Disaster Animal Response Team members brief Roberta Maddox Assistant Disaster Relief Operations Director (center) on their capabilities. Strengthening partnerships was one of the major reasons for the Hurricane Zane Exercise.

## Update on Broadband over Power Line (BPL)

### Issue FROM ARRL

Thanks in large measure to the work Gary Pearce and several other hams monitoring Progress Energy's Raleigh trials, public officials are now more cognizant that BPL impacts not just amateur radio, but other services using the 2 MHz to 80 MHz spectrum. Keep in mind that amateur radio does not oppose BPL itself. In fact, there is at least one BPL system which works in the 2 GHz. range that is not causing interference. The issue remains one of interference from BPL systems, and not BPL itself. To become versed in BPL matters, Gary Pearce has worked closely with the editors of CQ VHF magazine to develop a website on BPL: <http://www.cq-vhf.com/BPL.html>

## Indiana Skywarn

Peggy McNary (N9QT) is the SATERN Coordinator for Indiana. On May 30, 2004 the Hendrix County SKYWARN NET was activated and tracking a tornado. When it appeared the storm was heading towards a certain section of Plainfield, Indiana, Peggy alerted her children with updates from SKYWARN Net. Her children and grandchildren were able to protect themselves from the storm before it struck their home and surrounding area.

Megan, Peggy's daughter writes, "The noise and shuddering lasted only a few seconds. We were so thankful to be unharmed and have our home intact, but going outside for the first time was a huge shock..."



This barn is part of the golf course maintenance complex next door. The roof and top story are gone. The barn is only 100 yards from our house.

Pretty scary!

## ***Membership Invitation***



Established in 1962

### **MISSION**

#### **Preparedness - Response - Education**

*DERA is a Nonprofit Disaster Service and Professional Organization.*

***Our members work together as a world-wide professional network of disaster researchers, response and recovery specialists, trainers, consultants, technical experts, and project managers.***

We help disaster victims by improving communications and logistics, reducing risks and mitigating hazards, conducting community preparedness workshops, and by sponsoring preparedness and response projects.

***We sponsor a school awards program that encourages students to study the effects of disasters and conduct projects to reduce hazards and improve community preparedness.***

As a prominent international professional association, our membership is composed of key leaders in the field of emergency management from around the world, including government officials, volunteers, consultants, business managers, researchers, educators, students and charitable groups.

***Our quarterly newsletter, DisasterCom, brings current information about developments in emergency management and reports on the activities of our global membership.***

We sponsor research projects and the publication of emergency management guides, case studies, technical assessments, and preparedness materials.

***If you share our vision of commitment and service, we would welcome you as a member.***

*Please complete the application that follows or contact us for further information.*

**DERA  
P.O. Box 797  
Longmont, CO 80502**

*Also, visit our World Wide Web Site at <http://www.disasters.org>*

Professional Affiliation  
**Membership Application**



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP/Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Country, if not USA or Canada: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please Select Membership Classification**  
**Enclose Check, Purchase Order, or Charge Card Authorization for Dues**

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Radio Callsign: \_\_\_\_\_

**Professional / Technical / Academic**  
\$50.00 per year  
\$25.00 for Volunteer, Student, Retired

**Nonprofit Organizations**  
\$75.00 per year

**Executive / Management**  
\$75.00 per year

**Gov't Agency or Small Business**  
\$100.00 per year

**Lifetime Individual**  
\$450.00

**Corporate Membership**  
\$250.00 per year

*Amounts are in U.S. Dollars. Foreign currency and drafts are credited at commercial exchange rates. All checks must be payable through a U.S. bank.  
Add \$5 per year if you wish newsletter sent by Airmail, or \$20 for Global Priority Mail.*

06-2004

**CHARGE AUTHORIZATION**

*I authorize DERA-MTC Management Service Center to charge the following account for membership dues as marked above:*

**Please Check:**     VISA     MasterCard     Gov't Charge Card     Purchase Order Attached

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Expires: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_  
Month                      Year

Authorized Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_

MAIL APPLICATION TO:

**DERA - Membership**  
**P.O. Box 797**  
**Longmont, CO 80502-0797**