Maryland
EMS News
For All Emergency Medical Care Providers
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MIEMSS Presents Statewide Awards During EMS Week

In a two-part ceremony in Annapolis on May 17, MIEMSS honored children from across the State and also presented its annual Stars of Life Awards to honor EMS personnel, citizens, and EMS programs. Governor Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr. and First Lady Kendel Ehrlich assisted with the ceremony. Photos of the winners receiving their awards, as well as summaries of why they received them, follow. Unfortunately, several winners were unable to attend the ceremony (Mark Berry, John M. Murphy, George Linnell, Captain William R. Davis, and Lieutenant Stephen L. Grogg), so their photos were not available.

Five children were recognized for their actions which ensured that people in Maryland received "the right care when it counts," by assisting in providing a life-saving service to someone in their community. Each of the following received a "Right Care When It Counts" Award.

Matthew Driscoll (5 years old): On Friday January 13, 2006, Matthew called Baltimore County 9-1-1 Center because his mother had fallen. Matthew talked with the dispatcher and met the crew from Engine 10 at the door, taking them to his mother's side. He remained calm throughout the entire call, and both his family and the Baltimore County Fire Department are very proud of him

Leah Davis (10 years old): Leah called the Kent County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) on a number of occasions when her mother's blood sugar dropped too low. Several times Leah found her mother unconscious and followed the family emergency plan to contact 9-1-1 and stay with her mother until help arrived.

Brandon Schuler (10 years old): On February 10, 2006, Brandon called 9-1-1- when his mother had an apparent seizure. Brandon, who was home alone with his mother at the time, remained on the phone with the dispatcher until EMS providers arrived. He was calm and provided the team with essential information to help his mother.

John D. Baxter (7 years old): John is a first-grader at Damascus Elementary School who paid attention when firefighters visited his school for October's Fire Prevention Month. He brought home the message that every smoke alarm must be tested—and his family found that one of their batteries was dead. They replaced the battery, tested the alarm, and reviewed a family escape plan with John.

A few weeks later the smoke alarm awoke the family on Thanksgiving Day. The entire family escaped their burning home, went to their designated meeting place, and then dialed 9-1-1. When the fire department arrived, everyone was out of the house and safe. John, his family, and his school now plan to expand the Risk Watch program activities—with John as one of the youngest role models!

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The Governor proclaims EMS for Children Day in Maryland: May 17, 2006. *(L-r) First Lady Kendel S. Ehrlich, Donald L. DeVries, Jr., Esq. (Chairman of the Maryland EMS Board), and Dr. Robert R. Bass (MIEMSS Executive Director).*

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'Right Care When It Counts'

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Mark Berry (13 years old): On February 14, 2006, Mark and 100 of his eighth-grade classmates from Takoma Park Middle School were on a science and math trip to the Kennedy Space Center in Florida. During an evening activity at the hotel swimming pool, Mark noticed something on the bottom of the pool. An expert swimmer with Boy Scout safety training, Mark did a surface dive and found his classmate. He pulled Michael to the surface where a teacher began resuscitation efforts. Seconds later Michael opened his eyes and realized his prayers to live had been answered. Michael hopes to be able to someday be a cardiac surgeon. Mark's life is also changed forever—knowing that he has the training and the ability to respond to save the life of another person. For this summer he plans to be a lifeguard—a job he already has put into practice.

The Right Care When It Counts Award: *Award winner Matthew Driscoll with (l-r) Cynthia Wright-Johnson (Administrator for the EMS for Children Program at MIEMSS), Dr. Joseph Wright (Medical Director of the Maryland EMS for Children Program at MIEMSS), Gov. Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., First Lady Kendel S. Ehrlich, Donald L. DeVries, Jr., Esq. (Chairman of the Maryland EMS Board), Kellen and Paul Driscoll (Matthew's parents) with baby brother Alec.*

The Right Care When It Counts Award: *Award winner Leah Davis with (l-r) Cynthia Wright-Johnson (Administrator for the EMS for Children Program at MIEMSS), Dr. Joseph Wright (Medical Director of the Maryland EMS for Children Program at MIEMSS), Gov. Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., First Lady Kendel S. Ehrlich, Donald L. DeVries, Jr., Esq. (Chairman of the Maryland EMS Board), Meg and Joe Davis (Leah's parents).*

The Right Care When It Counts Award: *Award winner Brandon Schuler with (l-r) Cynthia Wright-Johnson (Administrator for the EMS for Children Program at MIEMSS), Dr. Joseph Wright (Medical Director of the Maryland EMS for Children Program at MIEMSS), Brandon's mom Laurie Schuler, Gov. Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., First Lady Kendel S. Ehrlich, Brandon's dad Brian Schuler, and Donald L. DeVries, Jr., Esq. (Chairman of the Maryland EMS Board).*

The Right Care When It Counts Award: *Award winner John Baxter with (l-r) Cynthia Wright-Johnson (Administrator for the EMS for Children Program at MIEMSS), Dr. Joseph Wright (Medical Director of the Maryland EMS for Children Program at MIEMSS), John's mom Kelly Baxter, Gov. Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., First Lady Kendel S. Ehrlich, John's dad Fred Baxter, Donald L. DeVries, Jr., Esq. (Chairman of the Maryland EMS Board), and Capt. Scott Graham (Montgomery County Fire Dept.)*

MIEMSS Presents Statewide Awards

'EMS Stars of Life Awards'

The Governor proclaims EMS Week in Maryland: May 14-20, 2006. *(L-r) Gov. Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., Donald L. DeVries, Jr., Esq. (Chairman of the Maryland EMS Board), and Dr. Robert R. Bass (MIEMSS Executive Director).*

EMS Star of Life Award

Twenty-seven individuals from Parsonsburg Volunteer Fire Department, Pittsville Volunteer Fire Department, Salisbury Fire Department, and the Maryland State Police Aviation Division received this award. See box for individual names.

On March 15, 2005, inside the Wor-Wic Community College water storage tank, a worker 120 feet above the ground fell approximately 40 feet before a narrow catwalk broke his fall. But he was still 8 stories above the ground and suffered from the pain of severe injuries.

CRT Richard Chapman of the Parsonsburg Volunteer Fire Department and Maryland State Police Flight Paramedic Captain Ron Lewis reached the young man after climbing 80 feet via 3 separate ladders attached to the inner wall of the water tower and started giving him advanced life support on the 30-inch catwalk.

Extricating the patient from the water tank was a major problem. The initial plan of Salisbury Fire Department's Special Operations Unit was to construct an anchoring and lowering system at the next level above the patient. When it was determined that the patient could not be safely moved upward to a small opening at the top of the tower and hoisted to a Med-Evac helicopter, it was decided to lower him the 80 feet to the ground.

Additional medical equipment was raised to the catwalk and the patient was fully immobilized on a backboard and placed in a stoke's basket. Captain Bragg of the Special Operations Unit was attached to the patient and the stoke's basket in order to monitor and reassure the

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EMS Star of Life Award—Individuals Cited

Engine 605, Parsonsburg Vol. Fire Dept.
Assistant Chief Steve White
Captain Vance Webster, Jr.
F/F Dean Wilkinson

Medic A6, Parsonsburg Vol. Fire Dept.
Lieutenant Leigh Tyler, Parsonsburg Vol. Fire Dept.
FF/CRT Richard Chapman, Pittsville Vol. Fire Dept.

Rescue 16, Salisbury Fire Dept.
Captain Joel McCroy
Lieutenant William Scott
FF/EMT-P Robert Frampton
FF/EMT-B Steven Dickerson
FF/EMT-B Jon Gray
FF/EMT-B Robert McCrorey

Truck 16, Salisbury Fire Dept.
Acting Lieutenant John Coleman
FF/EMT-B Joseph Andrews
FF/EMT-B David Twilley
FF/EMT-B Gerald Brinson, Jr.

Car 16, Salisbury Fire Dept.
Captain John D. Bragg
Captain James Gladwell
FF/EMT-B James Jester
FF/EMT-B K. Michael Ellingsworth

Paramedic 2, Salisbury Fire Dept.
FF/EMT-P Anthony Webster
FF/EMT-B Richard Tull
FF/EMT-P Melissa Brown

Salisbury Fire Dept.
Assistant Chief Bryan Records
Acting Deputy Chief John W. Tull

Maryland State Police Aviation Division
F/Sgt. Graham Simpson, Flight Paramedic, Trooper 4
Pete Spence, Pilot, Trooper 4
Captain Ron Lewis, Flight Paramedic, Maryland State Police

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patient during the descent. The patient was lowered approximately 60 feet to a level that contained some bracing and some flooring, was reassessed, and then lowered the remaining 20 feet to the ground. After the patient's condition was again reevaluated and found to be stable, he was transported by Med-Evac helicopter to Peninsula Regional Medical Center in Salisbury.

This was the first true incident for the Salisbury Fire Department Special Operations Unit which completed a complex extrication and safely delivered the patient to the waiting helicopter in approximately one hour and 15 minutes. The rescue was a model interagency operation, with superb work by the Parsonsburg Volunteer Fire Department, the Pittsville Volunteer Fire Department, the Salisbury Fire Department, and the Maryland State Police Aviation Division.

EMS Provider of the Year Award
Paramedic Ryan P. Killough

Paramedic Killough has made a difference in countless lives throughout his years of service as a paramedic for the city of Cambridge, and worked hard to establish a countywide AED program in Dorchester County. He is the coordinator for the Rural Access Emergency Device grants. With the support of the Mayor and the City Council of Cambridge and in collaboration with his Supervisor and EMS Director Bill Watkins, he has placed about 120 AEDs in the community in more than 25 agencies. He spent about two years collaborating with the Dorchester County Board of Education to place AEDs in each of Dorchester County's public schools. (Dorchester County was the second county in the state to equip every public school with an AED and properly trained and certified personnel.) In addition, last year Paramedic Killough and his education team certified more than 1,100 lay rescuers in CPR and the AED.

EMS-Geriatric Award
Lieutenant William F. Ullrich

Lieutenant William F. Ullrich, of the Baltimore County Fire Department, developed the Senior Emergency Needs Information and On-Scene Referral Program, otherwise known as the SENIOR Program. It has become a model of interventional programs for EMS services.

When a medic unit answers a call involving a geriatric patient and determines that the patient also has non-medical needs or quality of life

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Maryland EMS Star of Life Award: *After receiving their awards, members of the Parsonsburg Vol. Fire Dept., Pittsville Vol. Fire Dept., Salisbury Fire Dept., and the Maryland State Police Aviation Division pose with Gov. Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., First Lady Kendel S. Ehrlich, and Donald L. DeVries, Jr., Esq. (Chairman of the Maryland EMS Board).*

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issues, a member of the unit can contact one of the SENIOR Referral Specialists (a number of field paramedics specially trained by Lt. Ullrich). These specialists are trained in identifying the social, environmental, and psychological needs of an older person. The SENIOR Referral Specialist on duty at the time the call is received will respond to the scene, evaluate the patient, and obtain the necessary information so that the specialist can contact and make a referral to the appropriate county agency best equipped to provide the needed service. The agency will later provide feedback to the SENIOR Referral Specialist regarding the patient who was referred.

To date, more than 200 SENIOR referrals have been made—a successful result that grew out of Lt. Ullrich's dedication to the welfare of older people, many with special needs.

Maryland EMS for Children Award
Barbara Beckett, Safe Kids Maryland Coordinator

Ms. Beckett has worked collaboratively with MIEMSS for the past two decades in promoting safety and injury prevention for all of Maryland's citizens. When Safe Kids first started, Ms. Beckett offered to be the initial, temporary, first coordinator. That was almost 20 years ago. Today she leads a coalition of over 600 professionals from across the state to address needs for Injury Control to save children's lives—Education, Enforcement, Engineering, Enactment, and EMS. She travels the state visiting local Safe Kids coalitions and empowering the public safety community to make every effort that all 1.5 million of Maryland's youngest citizens are safe.

Emergency Medical Dispatcher of the Year Award
Benjamin P. Johnson and William A. Goddard, Sr.

Benjamin P. Johnson and William A. Goddard, Sr. work at the 9-1-1 Emergency Services Dispatch Center at the Patuxent River Naval Air Station Complex in the southern end of St. Mary's County. On the morning of October 5, 2005, Lead Dispatcher Johnson received a call from a frantic mother who lives on the base about her 20-month-old child who was not breathing and was turning blue. Because of the serious nature of the call, Dispatcher William Goddard replaced the dispatcher in training who was on the second line. When Dispatcher Johnson heard another

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EMS Provider of the Year Award: (L–r) *Cambridge EMS Director Bill Watkins, Paramedic Ryan P. Killough (award winner), Gov. Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., First Lady Kendel S. Ehrlich, and Donald L. DeVries, Jr., Esq. (Chairman of the Maryland EMS Board).*

EMS-Geriatric Award: *(L–r) Lt. William F. Ullrich (award winner), Gov. Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., First Lady Kendel S. Ehrlich, and Donald L. DeVries, Jr., Esq. (Chairman of the Maryland EMS Board).*

Emergency Medical Services for Children Award: *(L-r) Dr. Joseph Wright (Medical Director of the Maryland EMS for Children Program at MIEMSS), Gov. Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., Barbara Beckett (award winner), First Lady Kendel S. Ehrlich, Donald L. DeVries, Jr., Esq. (Chairman of the Maryland EMS Board), and Cynthia Wright-Johnson (Administrator for the EMS for Children Program at MIEMSS).*

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person (who turned out to be a next-door neighbor) in the background, he asked the mother to put her on the line.

Dispatchers Johnson and Goddard then walked the neighbor through the rescue breathing process according to their emergency medical dispatch training. After a short time, the child started coughing and breathing on his own. Both Dispatchers Johnson and Goddard stayed on the phone until the Pax River Fire & Emergency Services Teams arrived on the scene to ensure the child's condition was stable. The toddler was transported to St. Mary's Hospital by a Naval Medical Clinic ambulance. Today, thanks to the actions of Dispatchers Johnson and Goddard, the child is alive and well.

Leon W. Hayes Award for Excellence in Emergency Medical Services
Two recipients for 2006:
John M. Murphy and George Linnell

Even before he was officially employed by MIEMSS, **John Murphy** was working tirelessly to ensure that Maryland State Police med-evac helicopters would be part of the Maryland EMS System. It seems that he has always been working with and for Maryland's EMS System to ensure that anyone in Maryland would be guaranteed the best emergency medical care possible.

In 1983, he became the Chief Operating Officer of the Shock Trauma Center and trusted advisor to the late Dr. R Adams Cowley, who was the founder of the Center and the innovator behind Maryland's EMS System.

When the prehospital division of MIEMSS was threatened by severe budget cuts in the early 1990s that would have rendered the agency ineffective, Mr. Murphy worked to secure special funding for MIEMSS and other EMS agencies. Later in 1993, he implemented the re-organization of MIEMSS requested by then Governor William Donald Schaefer, and moved the agency from the University of Maryland System into the State bureaucracy. He served as administrative head of MIEMSS and the newly formed Governor's Emergency Medical Services Board. He has worked continually to improve Maryland EMS and was successful in gaining legislative support for upgraded EMS communications, Med-Evac coverage, and a new building for MIEMSS. (During the 1980s and 1990s, MIEMSS never had a permanent home, moving through six buildings on the University of Maryland campus during that period.)

Following his retirement from MIEMSS and State service, Mr. Murphy was appointed to the EMS Board on November 3, 1999 and served through August 9, 2005. Maryland EMS providers and Maryland citizens can express their gratitude to John Murphy for many things—but especially for his steadfast belief in, hard work, and dedicated support of Maryland's EMS System since its inception.

According to Chief Peter Mellits, who nominated **George Linnell** for the Leon W. Hayes Award for Excellence in EMS, he "has been the heart of the Emergency Medical Services in Landover Hills, in Prince George's County, and throughout

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Emergency Medical Dispatch Program of the Year Award: *(L–r) Richard Blotske, EMD Benjamin Johnson (award winner), EMD William A. Goddard, Sr. (award winner), Gov. Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., First Lady Kendel S. Ehrlich, Donald L. DeVries, Jr., Esq. (Chairman of the Maryland EMS Board), and Fire Chief George Kennett and Capt. Zachary Henry, Commander (both from Patuxent River Naval Air Station).*

The Leon W. Hayes Award for Excellence in EMS: *George Linnell, award recipient, was unable to attend the awards ceremony because of illness. His daughter Christina and son-in-law James Ferreria accepted the award for him. They are shown here with Gov. Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., First Lady Kendel S. Ehrlich, and Donald L. DeVries, Jr., Esq. (Chairman of the Maryland EMS Board).*

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EMS Region V for over 20 years."

A volunteer EMT-B with Landover Hills Volunteer Fire Departments, Mr. Linnell has worked tirelessly to support quality education and standards for volunteer and career EMS providers. For example, he advocated standardization of ambulance equipment, worked to win endorsement of the statewide Maryland Volunteer Ambulance Inspection Program, and then organized ambulance inspections by battalion. Nine times he served as the staff coordinator of EMS Care, a statewide continuing education conference, and also represented Prince George's County as the volunteer member of the Region 5 EMS Advisory Council for many years. In addition, as a social worker and EMS liaison at Prince George's Hospital Center, he helped create clinical opportunities at the hospital for EMT students. He also developed outreaching programs in trauma throughout Southern Maryland.

Outstanding EMS Program Award
Ocean City Beach Patrol

For the Ocean City Beach Patrol, the year 2005 was one to be celebrated—everyone who came to the beach while they were on patrol went home alive. This is quite a feat for a group of 200 lifeguards where approximately 20 percent are first-year rookies each season, and where at times, there may be 5,000 beach patrons to one lifeguard.

All the lifeguards are trained to be Surf Rescue Technicians—and their work differs significantly from other first responders. For one thing, there are no 9-1-1 calls telling them to respond; they have to remain constantly alert and identify problems as they develop and respond to them. This is especially difficult in a constantly changing environment; for example, a safe area can become a death trap as a rip current pops open, sweeping 30 non-swimmers to sea. But, like other first responders, the Beach Patrol often have to resuscitate people with CPR or the AED. Each of the 5 cardiac arrests that occurred on the beach or in the ocean last summer was successfully resuscitated. In addition, last summer the Ocean City Beach Patrol gave first aid for 1, 567 minor injuries; they worked with Ocean City Fire/EMS to treat 126 individuals who did not have life-threatening injuries but who required a paramedic response, and 105 patients with life-threatening injuries (mostly cervical spine injuries caused by body surfing or shallow water diving). Cervical spine injuries require careful stabilization and tricky extraction from the ocean, as waves continue crashing. In addition, environmental conditions are often conducive to spinal injuries, resulting in several patients with spinal cord injuries having to be rescued in quick succession.

The Ocean City Beach Patrol has developed a technique for stabilizing and removing patients from the surf when spinal cord injuries are suspected. This technique was recently

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The Outstanding EMS Program Award: *The Ocean City Beach Patrol was this year's winner. Shown here are (l–r) Lt. Edward Kovaks (Ocean City Beach Patrol), Tom Shuster (Director of Ocean City Recreation & Parks), Capt. Melbourne "Butch" Arbin (Ocean City Beach Patrol), Gov. Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., First Lady Kendel S. Ehrlich, Donald L. DeVries, Jr., Esq. (Chairman of the Maryland EMS Board), First Lt. Walter "Skip" Lee (Ocean City Beach Patrol), and Capt. Charles Barton (Ocean City Fire/EMS Division).*

MIEMSS Director's Award for Excellence in EMS: *(L-r) Chief William Herbaugh (Cumberland Fire Department) who accepted the award on behalf of Capt. William Davis & Lt. Stephen Grogg, award winners TFC Larry Levasseur, TFC Alex Kelly, and MSP Pilot David Cooper, Gov. Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., First Lady Kendel S. Ehrlich, and Donald L. DeVries, Jr., Esq. (Chairman of the Maryland EMS Board).*

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accepted as a state standard of care by MIEMSS, and the Beach Patrol has developed a video with MIEMSS to help train others in the techniques.

In addition, prevention and public education are priorities of the Beach Patrol. Safety seminars are held every Sunday for newly arriving beach visitors. Beach Patrol members often teach at schools and are currently working to develop a comprehensive, multi-agency beach safety pamphlet. Each summer they train a Junior Beach Patrol for youth 10-16 years old; last year it attracted 150 members.

MIEMSS Director's Award for Excellence in EMS
From the Maryland State Police Aviation Cumberland Section:
- Trooper First Class Alex Kelly (flight paramedic)
- Trooper First Class Larry Levasseur (flight paramedic)
- Mr. David Cooper (pilot)

From the Cumberland Fire Department, members of the Helicopter Emergency Aerial Tactical (HEAT) Team:
- Captain William R. Davis
- Lieutenant Stephen L. Grogg

The setting for this successful rescue of 3 workers stranded on a burning smokestack 1,000-feet high in West Virginia was a "worst case scenario."

In Moundsville, in the northern area of West Virginia—about 90 miles away from Cumberland —on a Saturday night in early March, an explosion occurred in a smokestack creating a raging fire that trapped 3 men on top of a wood and metal platform atop the smokestack.

The Maryland State Police Cumberland Aviation Section was called because they had the closest helicopter with the rescue equipment that was needed. In the helicopter piloted by David Cooper that night were Maryland State Police Paramedics Kelly and Levasseur, as well as Captain Davis and Lieutenant Grogg, who are 2 members of the Cumberland Fire Department's HEAT Team. (This team trains several times a year with the Maryland State Police Aviation Section; they are skilled in rappelling and are usually lowered by rescue hook when patients cannot get into the rescue basket by themselves.)

En route the five rescuers planned out how they could save the trapped men. When the helicopter arrived at the scene, the initial plan of using the HEAT Team had to be scrapped because of the deplorable, risky conditions. For example:

- There was almost complete darkness—the men were covered in soot; smoke was pouring out of the burning tower; steam was pouring out of other towers.
- They knew power lines were there but could not see them.
- A construction crane was on the tower, about 25 feet from the helicopter.
- The weather was extremely cold with 30-35 mile per hour winds.
- Sparks of fire were flying, often catching the men's clothing on fire.
- There was burning debris, as well as oxygen-acetylene tanks that were capable of exploding.

The 5 rescuers had to quickly come up with another plan—a 2-by-4-foot rescue basket would be lowered to the 3 trapped workers, and one by one, each would be hoisted up by a 295-foot cable into the helicopter.

In the rescue of the first worker, his 2 colleagues steadied the basket and helped him get inside before he was hoisted up; the second worker was rescued in much the same way, with the other worker steadying the basket. The problem came with the rescue of the third and last worker—there was no one to steady the basket. As the last worker was trying to get in, the basket fell off the edge of the platform, falling about 10 feet. But after what seemed like an eternity—but was, in fact, only a minute or two—the basket reappeared with the third worker inside—he had fallen inside it. The basket was again hoisted into the helicopter. The lives of three workers trapped in an extremely dangerous situation had been saved.

Mark Your Calendars & Plan to Attend

The 16th Annual
Peninsula Regional Medical Center Trauma Conference

Friday, September 22, 2006

Clarion Hotel
Ocean City, Maryland

This one-day conference will highlight current topics in trauma.

Brochures will be available by mid-July 2006.

Military, Civilian Disaster Drill at BWI

ON MAY 20, THE SCENARIO FOR the multi-agency disaster exercise was the following: military patients wounded in an overseas bombing incident are transported to BWI Thurgood Marshall International Airport for follow-up care in Maryland hospitals that are participating in the "National Disaster Medical System (NDMS) Military Contingency Operation."

The drill began with approximately 20 Civil Air Patrol cadets being realistically made-up as injured soldiers and transported by the Maryland Air National Guard C-130 plane from Martin State Airport to BWI. There military and civilian triage teams unloaded the patients and determined where to send them. Ambulances representing fire and rescue companies from around the state transported the patients. Four hospitals participated in the Saturday drill: Doctor's Community Hospital in Lanham, Southern Maryland Hospital in Clinton, St. Agnes Hospital in Baltimore, and the University of Maryland Medical System in Baltimore. A military service member monitored each patient's movement from BWI to the hospitals. The ability of military and civilian physicians to effectively communicate about medical conditions—essential to such operations—was also evaluated.

Among those participating in the exercise were Walter Reed Army Medical Center, MIEMSS, BWI Fire/Rescue Department, and the Maryland Emergency Management Agency (MEMA); they tested their newly revised plan to accept military patients at BWI and transport them to the Maryland NDMS hospitals, demonstrating what could occur after military health services and Veteran Affairs hospitals are at capacity. The exercise was supported by the National Study Center for Trauma and EMS at the University of Maryland School of Medicine through a grant from the U.S. Army Telemedicine and Advanced Technology Research Center (TATRC).

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Background on NDMS

What happens if a disaster overwhelms the U.S. military hospitals overseas or medical services in another part of the country? Where do the victims go and who ensures that they reach the right medical center?

Under the National Disaster Medical System (NDMS), Maryland could be the destination. The National Disaster Medical System, in existence since the early 1980s, arranges the use of civilian medical resources by the military during a mass casualty event. Statewide, 37 Maryland hospitals have agreed to accept patients from the NDMS in the event military or distant health systems become overwhelmed. If this were the case, Maryland's EMS, Fire, Emergency Management partners, Walter Reed Army Medical Center Federal Coordinating Center, Maryland National Guard, and Maryland Veterans Affairs Hospitals would prepare to transport military casualties to Maryland NDMS hospitals through a mechanism called a "NDMS Military Contingency Operation."

Military, Civilian Disaster Drill at BWI

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The exercise was a result of nearly 18 months of work to establish an updated agreement between the NDMS Federal Coordinating Center (FCC) at Walter Reed and the State of Maryland. After the two previous table-top exercises and this limited field exercise, the agreement will be finalized. In preparation for the exercise, work also began on a NIMS-compliant Incident Action Plan that is to be updated based on the experience in May. Agreements with the NDMS FCC have existed since the advent of NDMS, but there were no operational plans. A full-scale field exercise is being considered after the agreements and plans are finalized.

"Sharing military and civilian resources to provide the best possible emergency care for mass casualties is essential, critical, and timely, given the increasing threat of natural or man-made disasters," said Dr. Colin Mackenzie, former director of the National Study Center for Trauma and EMS and a clinical professor of anesthesiology at the University of Maryland School of Medicine who coordinated support for the exercise. Dr. Robert Bass, the Executive Director of MIEMSS, said: "We plan and practice everyday taking care of Maryland patients. This is our way of ensuring we can effectively participate in the response to a national disaster."

Civil Enforcement of HIPAA Regulations

REGULATIONS PROVIDING FOR CIVIL ENFORCEMENT of the HIPAA regulations took effect March 16, 2006 (the HIPAA enforcement regulations).

The HIPAA enforcement regulations apply to covered entities which fail to comply with the several sets of HIPAA operational regulations which have been promulgated over the past several years. The operational regulations to which the HIPAA enforcement regulations apply include the HIPAA privacy regulations (which provide detailed procedures regarding when, to whom, and in what form protected health information can be disclosed); the HIPAA security regulations (which provide the procedures and policies required to safeguard protected health information); HIPAA transactions and code sets regulations (which apply to how electronic data are transmitted for certain purposes); and HIPAA employer identifiers (which require covered entities to use a unique identifier).

The HIPAA enforcement regulations are civil penalties imposed by the Secretary of the United States Department of Health and Human Services. They are monetary penalties limited to a maximum of $100 per violation up to a maximum of $25,000 per year for all violations of an identical requirement. (Note there are many different requirements under the various HIPAA regulations.)

A covered entity is liable under the HIPAA enforcement regulations for the acts of its employees, volunteers, and trainees while acting within the scope of their employment or agency.

A covered entity is not liable for violations committed by a business associate if the covered entity is in compliance with the requirements for dealing with business associates which include, among other things, a proper business associate agreement.

An investigation under the HIPAA enforcement regulations into whether a covered entity is in violation of HIPAA may be triggered by a complaint or a compliance review.

A monetary civil penalty may be avoided if the Secretary is able to resolve an issue by informal means such as demonstrated compliance or a completed corrective action plan or some other agreement.

In addition to the civil penalties under the HIPAA enforcement regulations, there are separate substantial statutory criminal penalties for the improper disclosure of protected health information.

The HIPAA enforcement regulations are available online at http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/hipaa/FinalEnforcementRule06.pdf.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

EMS Educational Opportunities

September 22, 2006
PRMC 16th Annual Trauma Conference
Clarion Hotel, Ocean City
Contact: Teri Cox, RN, Trauma Nurse Coordinator, PRMC, 410-543-7328

September 26, 2006
MidAtlantic Life Safety Conference
Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Lab, Laurel
Contact: Fire Marshal's Office, 1-800-525-3124

October 5, 2006
Washington County Trauma Center Conference
Robinwood Medical Center
Contact: MIEMSS Region II Office, 301-791-2366

October 20-22, 2006
Pyramid 2006
Holiday Inn Select
Solomon's Island, MD
Contact: MIEMSS Region V Office, 301-474-1485 or 877-498-5551

January 27-28, 2007
10th Annual Winterfest
Tilghman Island
Contact: MIEMSS Region IV Office, 410-822-1799

March 16–17, 2007
5th Annual Miltenberger EMS & Trauma Conference
Contact: MIEMSS Region I Office, 301-895-5934

March 24, 2007
Public Educator's Life Safety Conference
MRFI College Park
Contact: 1-800-ASK-MFRI or www.mfri.org

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Governor Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr.
Lt. Governor Michael S. Steele

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