

JOURNAL OF

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OR BUG IN:**
*How to Know
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**How FEMA Could Lose
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**U.S. DEPENDENCE on
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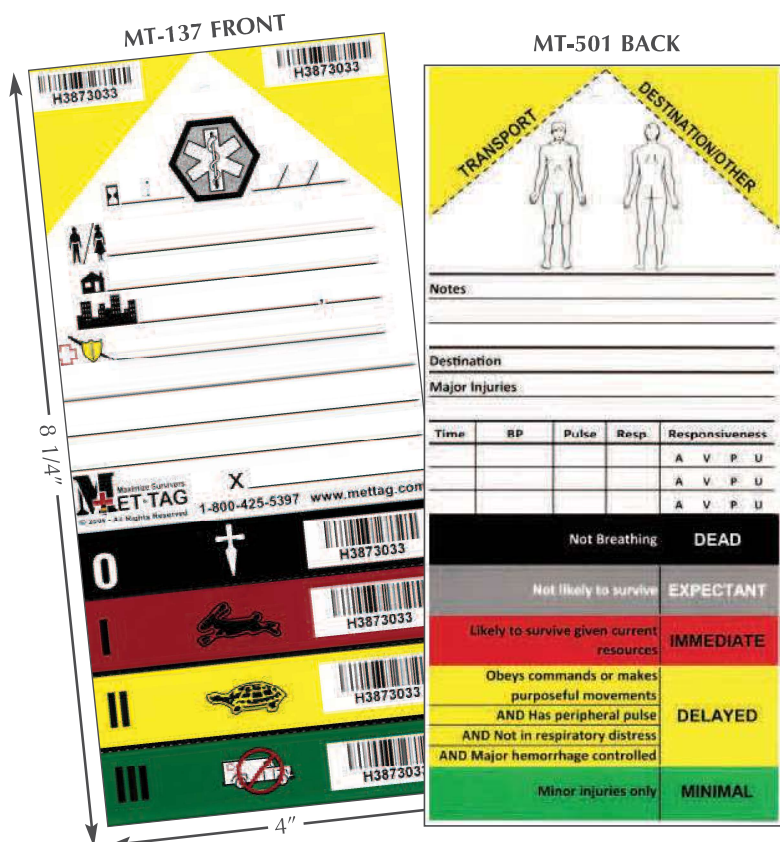
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Greetings! Congratulations on receiving this publication and taking charge of your own fate!

It is interesting how we all try to avoid considering possible unfortunate future events. For example, most people do not make arrangements for their own funerals because they are uncomfortable considering their own demise even though everyone knows that it's inevitable. Perhaps many people just procrastinate and are too busy with other interests to make their final arrangements.

You are evidently among the few that are facing the future with a rational resolve to protect yourselves against potential threats and are taking some practical steps to improve your chance of survival and avoid future pain and suffering. Your future selves will be very grateful.

Please try to spread the word and inform others about the TACDA.org website and the valuable information available for very little effort. You might want to emphasize that a relatively small investment in time, effort, and resources can have a significant positive effect on their lives in the future. You might also want to emphasize that history indicates that there will be challenges in the future. It is almost inevitable.

I wish you well in your efforts to prepare for possible unfortunate events in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jay Whimpey".

Jay Whimpey, PE
TACDA President

FROM THE EDITOR

How TACDA is Making a Difference

*By Roseanne Hassett,
TACDA Manager,
Editor, Journal of Civil Defense*

Since the 1960's, civil defense has taken a downward spiral in the attention and support that it gets from our nation's government. It was during this time that TACDA was organized in an attempt to pick up where the government left off to prepare its citizens for war and other disasters.

TACDA was a young organization at the time and was left essentially alone in promoting and preparing American citizens for emergencies and disasters. Now after 57 years of existence, TACDA is still forging on, guiding and empowering its members to survive and be self-sustaining in the event of a disaster of any kind.

TACDA has an expansive library of civil defense-based articles from our publication called the Journal of Civil Defense. It contains over 4 decades of Journals with articles written by renowned scientists, accomplished scholars, experts, and professionals. The Journal of Civil Defense is published twice a year in April and October. TACDA is also home to TACDA Academy which contains 17 chapters of the basics of civil defense including Nuclear Weapons Effects and what to do before, during, and after a disaster. A "How To" section has step-by-step instructions to help you prepare your home, stock food and supplies, protect your pets and livestock, and much more!

TACDA is the only civil defense or-
Continues on page 19

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Civil Defense Chaplaincy

By Major Steven Mathews, D.Min., Ph.D.

Deputy Wing Chaplain, North Carolina Wing, Civil Air Patrol

U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Joshua L. DeMott/Released

A Polish World War II re-enactor portrays an army chaplain with the 106th Infantry Division in the exact forest the 106th fought 70 years ago during the Battle of the Bulge, Saturday, Dec. 13, 2014.

In a civil defense scenario, professional and volunteer responders play a variety of roles. From communications and operations to logistical and tactical roles, civil defense responders are the key to getting America's communities back on their feet in the wake of natural or man-made disasters. These responders often experience the trauma of being eyewitnesses to death, carnage, and destruction. The work of civil defense is physically, mentally, and emotionally exhausting. Who takes care of civil defense responders so that the weight of helping

their neighbors is not too much to bear? Most civil defense organizations have medical or mental health personnel available to assist their responders. Some organizations have chaplains. This article discusses the unique role that a chaplain can play in disaster relief and civil defense.

Most Americans Have Faith

According to the Pew Forum's Religious Landscape Study, approximately 77% of Americans claim some religious faith. Of the remaining 23% who do not claim

to hold a specific religious faith, many people are open to exploring religion and applying spiritual principles to their lives. In times of crisis such as a civil defense scenario, a chaplain can provide much-needed spiritual support. Many responders appreciate having access to a representative of their faith community. Many others will value the support and friendship that a chaplain provides, even when they do not share the chaplain's faith.

"...most people live day-to-day with some trauma: the recent death of a loved one, the pain of a divorce, anxiety over family or money issues, or any number of other painful experiences."

Civil Defense Response is Traumatic

Civil defense situations take a toll on responders. First, there is the immediate trauma of the scene. For example, a group of Civil Air Patrol volunteers might be tasked with setting up a point of distribution for people displaced by a hurricane. They see destruction and property damage all around them, and they meet and speak with people who have lost their homes. Professional medical personnel may respond to a mass casualty event and witness unspeakable carnage and loss of life. These experiences present a first-order trauma as the responder is immersed in a situation which is disorienting, unsettling, and produces intense feelings of empathy with others who are suffering.

Additionally, most people live day-to-day with some trauma: the recent death of a loved one, the pain of a divorce, anxiety over family or money issues, or any number of other painful experiences. Most people learn to live as "walking wounded". We continue to function productively as we process through trauma and keep our emotional response to that trauma at a manageable level. However, in a crisis situation, personal trauma may "rise to the top", mingle with the trauma of the scene, and become very difficult to manage. This is second-order trauma. Being a close eyewitness to the pain and suffering of others can amplify our own pain and suffering.

What Does a Chaplain Offer?

In times like these, a chaplain can be of great benefit. Chaplains represent their faith communities, but unlike other clergy, also have training and experience working

with civil defense organizations. Chaplains offer spiritual services to all members of their organizations, while representing their unique faith perspectives. The work that a chaplain does will vary depending on the need. A chaplain might provide a listening ear or shoulder to cry on, counsel and answers to some of the moral, theological, and philosophical questions that arise during a crisis situation, or some other form of support. As a Civil Air Patrol chaplain, I have prayed with an incident commander, counseled with an emergency medical technician who was a new father, cleaned up trash after lunch, joined a search line, and conducted a Critical Incident Stress Management briefing— all within a three-hour window! Chaplains do whatever is needed to support the personnel under their care. This may be as simple as taking over a task for a few minutes so that someone can take a much-needed bathroom break, or as difficult as delivering the news of a death.

Chaplains exemplify servant leadership. Our role is to care for civil defense responders so that they are better able to care for victims of critical incidents. Chaplains also complement the work of mental health professionals to help make sure that the trauma of critical incidents are not taken home, where they can have a devastating effect on families.

Who Are Civil Defense Chaplains?

Requirements for chaplains vary widely depending on the policies of each organization. For example, chaplains in the Civil Air Patrol must meet the same educational and ordination requirements as active-duty Air Force chaplains, which includes an undergraduate degree, a three-year master's degree, ordination, and a denominational endorsement. Chaplains with the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association may be laypeople who have undergone an abbreviated training program conducted over a weekend. A local volunteer fire department may select one of their own personnel who has demonstrated a deep religious faith and a capacity for ministry as their own unofficial chaplain. In most organizations, chaplains are volunteers. Local clergy might make themselves available as chaplains for police or fire departments, for instance. In short, a civil defense chaplain may have a range of qualifications and experience, depending on the needs and policies of the organization.

“Chaplains must love people and demonstrate an open and accepting attitude toward those who do not share their faith tradition.

Chaplains must be willing to serve people whose lifestyles, attitudes, vocabularies, and values do not align with their own.”

What Makes a Strong Chaplain?

The most important qualification of a chaplain is a deep experience with his or her own faith. Chaplains represent their faith traditions in times of crisis, so it is vital that they practice, believe, and communicate that faith with clarity and integrity. Chaplains must love people and demonstrate an open and accepting attitude toward those who do not share their faith tradition. Chaplains must be willing to serve people whose lifestyles, attitudes, vocabularies, and values do not align with their own. Civil defense chaplaincy is about taking care of our nation’s responders- whoever they may be and wherever they are on their spiritual journey. Chaplains must be able to build a climate of trust, so confidentiality is paramount. Chaplains must exhibit personal integrity so that others can place confidence in their leadership. Chaplains must also be willing to accept that some people will choose not to avail themselves of a chaplain’s ministry. The first amendment protects freedom of religion, which includes freedom from religion. A chaplain is available to everyone, within the boundaries that each person sets.

Is Your Organization Ready?

Civil Defense organizations work hard to be sure they are ready for the next critical incident. They train personnel, take care of equipment, and practice scenarios. But what about the spiritual well-being of their members?

“It is often said that a chaplain should have a “ministry of presence.” I prefer to call it a “ministry of friendship.” Presence might be passive, but friendship is active.”

A chaplain should be integrated into the organization before a critical incident occurs. In order for the chaplain’s ministry to be effective, he or she must build relationships during times of calm. Then, when it hits the fan, the chaplain arrives on scene as one of the team, a

trusted friend. Chaplains should attend meetings and participate in training. It is often said that a chaplain should have a “ministry of presence.” I prefer to call it a “ministry of friendship.” Presence might be passive, but friendship is active. Chaplains take an active role in their organizations, and in the lives of the people they serve.

How can you help your organization be ready to serve the spiritual needs of its people? First, evaluate chaplain staffing. Does your organization have a chaplain program? If so, do you have chaplains? If not, help recruit chaplains. It can take time to find the right person, so start now. The best place to start is within your own organization. Some personnel may be able to speak to their own pastor, priest, or rabbi about serving as a chaplain. Invite prospective clergy to visit your organization, meet your people, and discuss the opportunities.

Second, support your local chaplain! Even if your chaplain does not share your religious convictions, he or she is a valuable part of the team. Be sure the chaplain has the training and support he or she needs. Actively promote the chaplain’s ministry so that other personnel view the chaplain in a favorable light- the time may come when the chaplain makes all the difference for a hurting member of your group.

Conclusion

America’s civil defense organizations- both professional and volunteer- stand ready to defend our nation and help our neighbors recover from devastation. Too often, civil defense personnel bear the emotional and spiritual consequences of being on the front lines in times of crisis. A chaplain can help to lighten the load, find meaning in chaos, and find peace in the aftermath of the storm. Chaplains are a vital part of the team. ●

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