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MIGHTY DERRINGER EXERCISE

TO: V. Witherill, Director N.T.S.O. 6 December 1986
FROM: M. Rogers, NEST Paramedic Coordinator
SUBJECT: MIGHTY DERRINGER, MEDICAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE

The MIGHTY DERRINGER exercise includes personnel from a variety of organizations, many of whom are unfamiliar with their present working environment. To avoid confusion in the event of an actual emergency, it is necessary to delineate areas of responsibility and identify those assets available, both personnel and material. For the purpose of this plan, only potentially serious medical emergencies requiring definitive treatment in Las Vegas hospitals will be addressed. This plan is for utilization in a "real world" situation, though its elements could be utilized in a role playing scenario if desired.

SITUATION

The MIGHTY DERRINGER exercise is being enacted in A-25 of the Nevada Test Site, approximately 90 road miles from the nearest definitive care hospital. Approximately 450 personnel will be working and residing within the DOE area of responsibility during the course of the exercise. The majority of these people will be working long hours, under considerable stress, to support a critical mission. This factor, combined with exercise elements that include several potentially hazardous activities, produce a situation with a greater than routine potential for serious illness or injury. To effectively address this situation, firm guidelines for Command and Control and utilization of resources must be enacted.

MISSION

To comply with current national standards for prehospital care, it is essential that any victim of life threatening trauma be delivered to a definitive care facility within one hour from time of injury. While this goal is difficult to attain in the relatively remote environs of N.T.S., effective utilization of key components of the N.T.S. emergency medical response plan will minimize this critical time period.

These key elements are:

Effective Dispatch of Emergency Assets - In this context, the REECO/NEST paramedics will be the primary respondents. Ground transport via ambulance is the expected method, as helicopter availability is yet to be determined and is weather dependent. Paramedics are available 24 hours a day for the duration of the exercise and can be accessed immediately on Net 14 or the exercise net, frequency D-2.

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Evaluation and Communication - This is the single most important phase in the evolution of an emergency response. Upon arrival at the scene, the paramedics will assess and prioritize all victims and rapidly communicate the total number of victims, their treatment priorities and any additional transport, personnel, or material required. The assessment phase should require approximately 30 seconds per victim with communication following immediately.

Command and Control - In the event of a multiple casualty incident, an effective centralized Command and Control structure is imperative for rapid resolution of the problem. The Command and Control element for MIGHTY DERRINGER is ideal for cutting across jurisdictional boundaries and maximizing utilization of all resources. It is essential that the incident commander, the senior paramedic, have direct communication with the Command and Control element to avoid dilution or misinterpretation of vital information. The incident commander will request all assets necessary for an ideal response, and will realize that any compromises are the result of a cognizant decision and not expediency.

Transportation - All conventional N.T.S. transport will be available as well as military helicopters as dictated by their mission. It is suggested that a REECo/NEST paramedic, familiar with Las Vegas hospitals and staff, accompany any critical injury during transport to avoid any inadvertent disclosure of sensitive information and to present the patient as a victim of routine activities.

Resources

Personnel

- Area 25 - 1 NEST MD, Dr. McIndoe
- 2 REECo/NEST paramedics
- 1 REECo support paramedics, "Q" cleared

- Mercury - 3 REECo paramedics
- N.T.S. Fire Department

Equipment

- Area 25 - Advanced life support equipment
 - o Cardiac Monitor/Defibrillator
 - o Endotracheal Intubation and ventilatory support equipment and oxygen
 - o Complete inventory of essential cardiac drugs
 - o Intravenous crystalloid volume expanders
 - o Spinal immobilization apparatus

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- Area 25 -
- o Complete inventory of splints, dressings, and bandages
 - (continued) o Military Anti-Shock Trousers (MAST suit)
 - o Portable tracheal suction equipment
 - o A limited amount of rescue equipment is carried by REECo/NEST paramedics
 - o One ambulance

CAPABILITIES

REECo/NEST paramedics operating under protocols for the N.T.S. are authorized to perform all procedures and techniques concurrent with national standards for Advanced Cardiac Life Support and Advanced Trauma Life Support. The paramedics assigned to this mission are trained and experienced in all phases of rescue anticipated in this environment and are experienced multiple-casualty incident commanders.

Military Assets - yet to be determined.

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