Chairperson’s Message

Appreciation is extended to Martin Grillo and his committee for another excellent Volunteer EMS Recognition Dinner which has become a premier event in New York City during EMS week. A special thanks is extended to the sponsors: NY Hospital-Queens, Brookdale Hospital, Forest Hills Hospital, Maimonides Medical Center, St. John’s Queens Hospital, Wyckoff Heights Medical Center, Medtronic Emergency Response Systems, Z-Medica/QuikClot, LaGuardia Community College EMS Program and West Queens EMT Institute. Next year’s dinner is on Tuesday evening May 13, 2008.

The NYC REMSCO EMS Week recognition ceremony was well attended. Bob Smath of the West Queens EMT Institute and Glen Oaks VAC received Educator of the Year award and I was honored with the EMS Leadership Award. At the EMS Memorial Service in Albany Frank P. Libraro of Glendale VAC was remembered. Frank died 9/2/75 as a result of injuries received in an ambulance collision.

Volunteer Ambulance Workers Benefit Law coverage for VACs in NYC was the subject of a NYC Council hearing. I along with representatives from NYC REMSCO, Throggs Neck VAC and Emergency Medical Rescue testified in favor of Resolution 0785-2007 proposing a state law change to allow NYC to pick up the cost of coverage for squads in the city. If your squad has not already done so, please contact REMSCO with information on whether or not your squad has coverage and if so the particulars. Other legislation is also pending before the Council. Resolution 0700-2007 calling on the Metropolitan Transportation Authority to issue MetroCards to volunteer emergency service vehicles has been referred to the Committee on Transportation and Intro 0519-2007 proposing a Local Law to allow volunteer ambulance squads to purchase gasoline or diesel fuel from the NYPD and FDNY is with the Committee on Fire and Criminal Justice Services. Calls and letters to your elected representatives are needed to prod movement on these issues.

FDNY does not utilize mutual aid resources to help cover day-to-day needs but has decided to issue Motorola XTS 5000R 800 MHz radios to squads to replace the current MARS 800 MHz radios. There are questions from time-to-time about whether or not anyone is covering the MARS desk while FDNY continues to block any true communication between volunteer squads and 911 system EMS dispatchers on the 400 MHz band used by FDNY and voluntary hospital ambulances. We will continue to press FDNY on communications plus including VACs in local drills involving EMS resources and calling on volunteer EMS resources when mutual aid utilization is appropriate to better serve their communities. Again, calls and letters to your elected representatives can help keep our concerns on the front burner.

Ryan
PPE distribution has been completed. Volunteer squads operating two ambulances received five sets of jackets and pants and a slightly higher number of helmets. In all, 2,000 helmets were ordered. It has been indicated that REMSCO is asking the NYC Dept. of Health & Mental Hygiene to supply more grant funds for additional PPE.

Pandemic Influenza Operations Readiness Report has been completed and may be published in a medical journal. Volunteer, private and hospital based services in the city were surveyed on a number of aspects such as the call volume increase that could be could be handled with present staff, what level would trigger mutual aid requests, how long certain supplies would last and what alternative arrangements were in place. FDNY EMS and 911 system capabilities were not covered by the survey.

Global Bay Mobile Technologies, Inc. is working on developing a software system to log in and track responders during a disaster mobilization. This would be in addition to check-in, tracking and check-out done by FDNY. The barcode on a REMSCO ID card contains information about a responder such as name, level of certification, primary agency affiliation, date of birth, etc which can be scanned into a handheld device at a mobilization point or other location. Responders could then be tracked to ensure everyone is accounted for at demobilization, crews are rotated at appropriate intervals, follow-up or screening is done for exposures and so on. REMSCO plans to purchase 10 scanners and train a number of people on how to use them. Global Bay is headquartered in South Plainfield, NJ and has done work for the NYC Department of Health & Mental Hygiene on an emergency environmental monitoring system. In 2006 the company announced that Peter J. Powers, former 1st Deputy Mayor under Rudolph Giuliani, and Sal Salamone, former Director of the NYC Mayor’s Office of Information Technology Management, had joined the company’s advisory board. The company’s web site is at www.globalbay.com

REMAC

Intranasal administration of Naloxone by the EMT-Basic was proposed by FDNY as a demonstration project for the New York City region. NYC REMAC gave its approval to the proposal on 3/20/07 and passed it on to NYC REMSCO which approved it 3/27/07. It next has to be approved at the state level at SEMAC and SEMESCO meetings to be held May 1st & 2nd. If given all the necessary approvals, the project would be open to all EMS agencies in NYC able to participate and maintain QA requirements. FDNY has indicated it would share its training package with other agencies that would have to supply their own instructors.

Naloxone is a drug used to counteract the effects of opioid overdose, for example heroin or morphine overdose. It is marketed under various trademarks including Narcan, Nalone and Narcanti. Naloxone is usually injected intravenously for fastest action, acts after about two minutes and its effects may last about 45 minutes. Other routes, including intramuscular injection and intranasal injection (use of a wedge device attached to the syringe to create a mist delivering the drug to the nasal mucosa) are also be utilized, although these are more likely in the prehospital setting. Naloxone has been distributed as part of emergency kits to heroin users and their friends and family, and this has been shown to reduce rates of fatal overdose. Projects of this type are underway New York State, Baltimore, Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles, New Mexico, Philadelphia and overseas in Scotland in 2006.

BLS Protocol 407–Asthma has been revised to eliminate the age 65 upper limit and to allow a third albuterol treatment under standing orders. A REMAC Advisory announcing the changes and effective date will be issued.

TRAINING & EDUCATION

Monroe College was approved as a Training Center and is authorized to conduct Basic Life Support EMT courses in the Bronx.

Paramedic Training Centers are being encouraged to become accredited. 3 of the 7 in NYC are already accredited and their students may use the course toward a degree at some colleges.

CLARIFICATION/CORRECTIONS

We received the following e-mail from Jeffrey D. Race, MEP, Commanding Officer/Captain, Haz Tac Operations, FDNY Training Academy concerning an item in the last issue of the PULSE:

“…I would like to address one issue that was not correct regarding FDNY resources under the “Regional EMS Council of NYC”. While it is true that FDNY ambulances are outfitted with two “dosimeters”, they are not all the Canberra Ultra Radiacs. Those units are only carried by FDNY EMS Haz Tac crews. All other FDNY EMS crews are outfitted with a different model manufactured by SAIC Corporation. While this is a small issue, anyone that goes to a non-Haz Tac crew regarding these units may be surprised from what is written. FDNY EMS was not outfitted with the Canberra models due to cost and because the department had a good and available meter in its inventory at the time we first did the outfitting. The Canberra model is an outstanding unit…”
When life is on the line, trust nothing less than

LaGuardia’s Paramedic Program

Take advantage of the college that sets the standard for EMS education for New York City and beyond...

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www.lagcc.cuny.edu/paramedic
Local 3621, Uniformed EMS Officers Union has posted a notice on its web site indicating FDNY wants to discipline its members for not being able to give drills (CMEs) to all EMTs and paramedics. While the Local and its membership agreed in the last contract to support the legislation for a 5 year EMT recertification program it did not agree to do all the work without any additional compensation. The Local charges that FDNY EMS Command never established a defined schedule for the drills and has left it to individual Captains and Lieutenants to ensure that the drills have been completed. Local 3621’s Executive Board has put District Council 37 on notice that it wants to go to impact bargaining for the additional duties that have been added to its membership.

The total number of ambulances at peak periods of EMS operations is 354 ambulances split between 216 FDNY units and 138 provided by voluntary hospitals under contract to the 911 system.

Hospital Diversion policies will change a bit in September when FDNY implements a change whereby an Emergency Department will automatically be put on diversion status if three or more 911 system ambulances units have been tied up at the hospital for over 30 minutes. Diversion would end when the last ambulance becomes available. This would not involve specialty destination situations such as trauma, burn, stroke, etc. Hospitals would continue to have the option of calling in and asking to be placed on diversion for a number of hours.

78 new EMTs and 16 paramedics completed training programs at the EMS Academy and graduated at a ceremony at LaGuardia Community College on 3/15/07. On 6/1/07 an additional 72 EMTs and 38 paramedics graduated at a ceremony also held at LaGuardia Community College.

Fire Officers Union reports several Borough Commands have forwarded memos to their engine company commanders concerning an alleged disparity in the response times to structural fires vs. EMS incidents. Originally the Department was concerned about a difference in response times of over 1 minute but the new response differential that is under scrutiny is over 30 seconds.

FDNY Buildings Maintenance is in the process of installing smoke/carbon monoxide detectors in all FDNY facilities per a 5/8/07 notice.

Collisions involving FDNY EMS vehicles have risen from 611 reported incidents in 2004 to 1,000 in 2006 according to a panelist at a March 2007 EMS conference. Meanwhile, collisions involving FDNY fire trucks are down due to a combination of training and union advice to obey all department and traffic regulations when responding.

Two EMTs resigned Friday 4/25/07 rather than be fired for video taping patients and street people while on duty. A 50 minute video apparently made several years ago was mailed without a return address to FDNY officials. One EMT had been employed 17 years and had been honored at Medal Day 2005 for a pre-hospital save and also serves with Lawrence-Cedarhurst VFD in Nassau County while the other was a 13 year employee. AM New York & the NY Post reported the incident including the names of the EMTs who operated out of EMS Battalion 43 at Coney Island Hospital in Brooklyn. The head of the EMS Officers Union is quoted as saying “We do not have enough supervision in the field”.

“Rescue Medic” ambulances are operating from EMS Stations 10, 20, 23, 46 and 57. Members received 120 hours of additional training plus advanced Haz-Mat training funded through a grant provided by U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s 2005 Assistance to Firefighter Program.

At the JEMS Games in Baltimore in March the FDNY EMS team took 2nd place behind a combined team from San Diego County, CA with members from AMR, Bonita Sunnyside Fire District and San Miguel Consolidated Fire Protection District.

Thomas Eppinger, President of Local 3621 testified at a NYC Council hearing on 3/13/07 that it appears that all initiatives for FDNY EMS must be funded through grants from state and federal agencies including training and equipment. One example is the new Personal Protective Equipment that is issued to every member of FDNY EMS. The equipment was purchased through a federal grant and every member of EMS has one set of PPE issued with no replacement or spare available to the member if they become contaminated or damaged. The Local says it has been advised that the FDNY must allocate further funds from grant monies to purchase spare equipment for its members. The alternative proposed by the union is to allocate a percentage of billing revenue towards training and equipment.

Five new FDNY EMS ambulance stations will be established in the coming months in Bushwick, SE Bronx (Zerega Avenue), Sunset Park (vicinity of 52 Street & 2 Avenue), Washington Heights and Woodhaven (next to Engine 293 on 87 Street).
A comprehensive computer database system that tracks and manages the official activities of volunteer ambulance and rescue organizations.

**Product Components:**
- Call Tracking
- Human Resources
- Personnel Scheduling
- Equipment Inventory
- LOSAP Monitoring
- Vehicle Maintenance
- CME Tracking
- Donor Tracking

**Supports:**
- Field Data Entry
- PCs or Ruggedized Tablets
- Multi-User Configuration
- Full NY PCR Compatibility

“Analyzing data is a very important part of managing our service. Without good data, managers and planners cannot make good decisions. As our call volume grows year after year, utilizing a computerized data collection and reporting system is not an option, but rather a necessity. I highly recommend this system.”

— Timothy P. Egan, NREMT-P, Chief of Operations, Director of Information Technology, Rockland Paramedic Services
Queens will be getting new FDNY EMS ambulance units assigned to cover Corona, Rockaway and Woodhaven.

A Substance Abuse Policy on Drugs/Alcohol (OGP 113-02) was issued on 5/7/07. Random drug testing of FDNY EMS personnel began on 6/4/07. The policy requires termination of any employee who tests positive for illegal drugs. Employees who entered treatment for substance abuse prior to being selected for random testing will not be subject to testing for the duration of their treatment. A similar random drug testing program for fire suppression personnel was instituted in 2004.

The number of full 8 hour tours by 911 system ambulances appears to have declined. Comparing the last two years month to month, year to year has shown a decline in total average daily tours from the 940s to 920s with some 910s:

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<th>BLS Tours</th>
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<td>September</td>
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<tr>
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<td>December</td>
<td>321.4</td>
<td>602.2</td>
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2006 2007

| January | 323.4 | 608.1 | 931.6 | January | 320.2 | 612.0 | 932.3 |
| February| 322.4 | 601.7 | 924.1 | February| 319.7 | 610.1 | 929.8 |
| March   | 322.5 | 598.4 | 920.9 | March   | 320.7 | 597.0 | 917.7 |
| April   | 321.1 | 599.1 | 920.2 | April   | 319.9 | 601.3 | 921.3 |
| May     | 319.1 | 605.7 | 924.8 | May     | 321.0 | 600.4 | 921.5 |

Citywide 911 System EMS response times

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<td>5:16</td>
<td>5:14</td>
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<td>September</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td>5:17</td>
<td>5:09</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>November</td>
<td>5:13</td>
<td>5:07</td>
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<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>5:24</td>
<td>5:08</td>
<td>Lower Y to Y</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FDNY LIAISON COMMITTEE

During the two month period March 2007 through April 2007 the following squads received a total of 4 mutual aid assignments or were placed on 911 assignments after the squad called the MARS desk:

- Flatlands: 1 call in April
- Jamaica Estates-Holliswood-South Bayside VAC: 1 call in March
- North Shore Rescue Squad: 1 call in April
- Queens Village-Hollis-Bellerose VAC: 1 call in March

During the above two month period the 911 system received over 226,000 calls for emergency medical assistance.

The MARS (Mutual Aid Radio System) desk is still operational and can be reached by radio or calling (718) 422-7393.

Motorola model XTS 5000R portable radios with additional frequencies in the NYC Department of Information Technology & Telecommunications (DOITT) 800 MHz trunked radio system will be issued to volunteer ambulance squads. Letters will be sent to each squad advising them to go to their respective FDNY EMS Division to pick up a radio, belt case and charger.
timetable and deadline will be noted in the letter. Squads will have to return the old FDNY EMS issued 800 MHz radio, case and charger.

Volunteer squads should monitor the MARS channel and if needed will be advised to switch over to another channel. In/Out of Service signals should continue to be given to the squad’s Division Resource Control Center (RCC).

Channels programmed into the new MARS radio with DOITT talk group info, where known, are:

- MARS desk (MARS)
- EMS Citywide (EMS CW) DOITT Talk group 32144
- Citywide MCI (CW MCI) DOITT Talk group 32160
- Multi Casualty Incident 1 (MCI 1) DOITT Talk group 32176
- Multi Casualty Incident 2 (MCI 2) DOITT Talk group 32192
- Special Event 1 (SP EVNT 1) DOITT Talk group 32208
- Special Event 2 (SP EVNT 2) DOITT Talk group 32224
- Special Event 3 (SP EVNT 3) DOITT Talk group 32240

Disaster Mobilization portable radio caches have been established in each of the five boroughs. In the event of a disaster mobilization the borough’s on-duty FDNY EMS Division Captain would respond to the Division office to retrieve the cache and bring it to the mobilization point. Contents of each cache include:

- Sign in book to track squad name, crew names, NYS DOH numbers, etc.
- 20 Motorola XTS 3500R 400 MHz UHF portable radios.
- 40 batteries
- 20 cases with straps
- 20 laminated NYC street maps
- 20 info packets with 10-codes, hospital/ER locations & useful FDNY EMS telephone numbers

Although a 10-code list is included, squads are encouraged to use plain English in their radio transmissions pursuant NIMS policies.

FDNY staged a drill at the LIRR station in Jamaica during the early morning hours of Sunday 3/25/07. There was a simulation of the 2004 Madrid train bombings complete with smoke, 60 simulated injured victims and multiple mock-explosions at the LIRR’s main station in Jamaica. The exercise was intended to strengthen and test the unified command under which personnel from different agencies must work after terrorist attacks. 100 fire fighters and 50 emergency medical personnel participated in the exercise. The NYC REMSCO Coordination of Pre-Hospital Resources Protocol indicates "FDNY…should coordinate training in MCIs for all participating EMS agencies", however, FDNY never notified or invited the local volunteer ambulance squad to the drill. This was brought up at the March REMSCO meeting and FDNY representatives stated it was an internal drill. It was again brought up at the Liaison Committee meeting pointed out that if different agencies do not train together on a regular basis how can they be expected to work together when needed. If squads become aware of FDNY EMS drills in their area please notify District officers so we can track if FDNY is providing training.

MDT availability for VACs was an issue raised by a squad. FDNY answered that MDTs are not available to units outside the 911 system. In addition, there are significant costs. Hospitals are charged over $10,000 for the hardware, $1,500 for installation plus several thousand dollars more for portable radios and the Automatic Vehicle Locator/GPS system.

Embedded ID’s in MARS radios was asked about by a squad as it would allow for EMS dispatchers to ensure calls for additional assistance are coming from legitimate EMS sources vs. having to call 911 and having a fire truck show up first. Answer from FDNY was that ID capability only works with their 400 MHz radios and not the 800 MHz portable MARS radios supplied to VACs. Radios that are part of the five disaster caches do have internal IDs.

**RADIATION DETECTORS TRIGGER ALERTS IN NYC**

On Friday morning 4/27/07 an NYPD Lieutenant’s RadEye radiation detector alerted while he was driving to work on the Belt Parkway in Brooklyn. The officer is with the department’s counterterrorism unit and the incident occurred in the westbound lanes near Cropsey Avenue. After determining the radiation source was a nearby Mercedes the officer alerted highway units who pulled over the suspect vehicle. In the trunk was a Troxler Gauge used to measure asphalt, concrete and soil density using low-level radioactive isotopes. When not in use the device should be in its shielded container. The driver called his office in Baldwin, Nassau County and a suitable container was brought to the scene but he and his company were still given six summonses for various offenses. This is the second time the lieutenant’s detector alerted in traffic. The first was in 2002 when a car carrying medical isotopes was stopped on the FDR Drive in Manhattan.

In early June an NYPD Inspector’s radiation detector gave a reading three times above normal at a truck check point in lower Manhattan. It turned out the suspicious truck carried a bulky industrial vacuum used to clean out boilers and isotopes from soot caused the high reading.

The NYPD has at least 900 of the $1,000 pager sized RadEye radiation detectors in operation citywide. FDNY also has issued hundreds of detectors to its fire and EMS units. NYC REMSCO used NYC Department of Health & Mental Hygiene grant funds to provide dosimeters to volunteer, voluntary and private ambulance in the city. With thousands of such
personal devices in use plus those at tunnels, bridges and other locations it can be expected that there will be more and more alert activations that will have to be investigated. NYPD refused to say how many radiation alarms they've gotten so far but did acknowledge that none have been terrorist related.

A recent news article indicated the US Department of Homeland Security and cell phone companies have talked about a new generation of GPS capable cell phones that also have radiation detection capability. One can only imagine the number of alerts being sent to central monitoring sites under such a system as people cross paths with legitimate radiation sources.

NYC COUNCIL 2007-2008 MEMBER ITEM FUNDING FOR VACS & VFDS ANNOUNCED

Finding for local programs throughout the city for the 2007-2008 fiscal year which begins 7/1/07 has been announced. Each of the 51 Council members GOT a minimum of $340,000 to allocate to worthy organizations. Included in the over 1,500 grants were 27 of the city’s 38 independent VACs & VFDS who received a total of $141,357. For the first time, the public listing includes the names of sponsoring Council members.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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Squads not listed above include Aviation VFD, Bay Community VAC, Central Park Medical Unit, East Midwood VAC, Edgewater Park VFD, Flushing VAC, Hatzalah, Little Neck-Douglaston VAC, Park Slope VAC, Ridgewood VAC and Rock VAC. There are three college based VACs at Brooklyn College, Columbia and Fordham that are funded through their schools.

NYC COUNCIL MORITORIUM ON SOME NON-PROFIT CAPITAL GRANTS

For the NYC fiscal year 7/1/07 through 6/30/08 there is a one year moratorium on member item funding affecting non-profit groups situated on land not owned by the city, without a previously funded capital project and not a cultural institution. The NYC Department of Design & Construction is involved in all capital projects and there is apparently a back up in releasing money for already approved projects. Certain hospitals, senior centers, YMCAs and other agencies that meet the criteria will not be able to get Council funds set aside for new capital projects. VACs and VFDS in the city would also be covered by the one year moratorium. The freeze, agreed upon by Council Speaker Quinn and Mayor Bloomberg, will not affect the total dollar amount available to individual council members to use at their discretion which may be directed to other non profit agency projects or used for school, library and park upgrades.

PUT VALUABLES OUT OF SIGHT WHEN SECURING AMBULANCE

Jason Cohen from Assist Ambulance in Brooklyn passed on an incident from early May. They were dropping off a patient at Wyckoff Hospital ER, it was pretty busy, and there was a unit from another service parked on the sidewalk next to their unit. As he exited the ER the other crew was standing next to their vehicle which had a broken passenger side window and their GPS unit was stolen from the front window. Their bus had been secured with all the doors locked. Just a reminder
not to leave valuables in the open at any time. The amount of time it took from when they went inside until the unit was broken into was under 15 minutes!

HOSPITAL NEWS

BROOKDALE HOSPITAL filed a civil racketeering lawsuit against the Health Insurance Plan of NY, a managed care organization commonly known as HIP, charging that plan denied coverage for costs that should have been paid. News reports indicate Brookdale charged that denials often relied on inappropriate medical rationales that could not have been made by physicians and that signatures on the denials were electronically produced and were not originals. While HIP denies the allegations, it appears the NYS Attorney General’s Health Care Bureau issued a report in 2001 critical of HIP’s utilization review process for failing to adequately explain coverage denials and indicating it was often impossible to tell if the denials were properly peer reviewed as required by law. HIP covers about 20% of all city employees. JAMAICA HOSPITAL, a facility related to Brookdale, has filed a separate federal lawsuit against Oxford Health Plan charging Oxford failed to pay money owed the hospital.

CARITAS HEALTH CARE, the company formed by WYCKOFF HOSPITAL to take over MARY IMMACULATE and ST. JOHN’S HOSPITALS, was sued on 4/2/07 by ST. VINCENT’S CATHOLIC MEDICAL CENTER which alleges CARITAS reneged on terms of the sale. Allegations include CARITAS not reimbursing SVCMC for technological support and nursing registry services, not handing over about $10 million in “notes” due SVCMC and not paying $5.1 million of vendor obligations. Because of billing problems affecting cash flow, CARITAS received a $6 million NYS DOH loan to pay salaries, benefits and overdue taxes which helped avoid layoffs.

FLATLANDS VAC will be looking for assistance from other EMS agencies in September to cover the Floyd Bennett Field “Fly-In” on Saturday 9/8/07 and Sunday 9/9/07. 20,000 visitors are expected to see historic aircraft land on the old runways. Displays and exhibits will be open from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM both days. Additional info will be forthcoming.

LONG ISLAND JEWISH HOSPITAL is proceeding with a $46.5 million construction project to replace the current 16,000 squad foot Emergency Department with a 36,000 square foot ED containing 60 treatment modules including discrete programs for psychiatric emergency services. The present space was designed to accommodate 30,000 patient visits a year but is handling over 62,000 annually which is expected to rise to about 75,000 annually in the next decade. So far, site work is completed, steel erected, slabs poured, interior construction begun, layout and framing is under way and full building enclosure is expected before the end of 2007.

METHODIST HOSPITAL in Park Slope, Brooklyn has renovated and expanded its Emergency Department. The 4,200 square foot ED features a state-of-the-art 45 bed adult unit with two triage rooms and a 10 bed pediatric unit with one triage room. Increased space allows for one patient per room with up to two visitors per bedside. There are three walk-in registration desks and a patient reception desk. The hospital has implemented a system called Simple Medical Screening and Rapid Treatment (SMART) to quickly assess the severity of a patient’s illness and promptly treat and discharge those who do not need admission. SMART is staffed with a triage nurse and two physician assistants who are able to begin diagnostic assessments including lab, electrocardiogram and x-ray testing of patients.

NORTH SHORE HOSPITAL-MANHASSET is entering the last phase of a multi-year $10 million expansion and renovation of the Emergency Department. Phase IV of the project includes renovation of the triage and fast track areas and the waiting room. To better care for patients, an 11 to 12 bed observation unit is being created adjacent to the ED. This new unit will expedite certain courses of treatment and will allow the ED to see more patients on a timely basis.

OUR LADY OF MERCY MEDICAL CENTER in the Bronx filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy in March and is in the process of selling all of its assets to MONTEFIORE MEDICAL CENTER. OLMMC operates EMS ambulances in the NYC 911 system and an EMS training center.

RICHMOND UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER (formerly called St. Vincent's-Staten Island) has seen its affiliate corporation, Bayonne Medical Center, file for bankruptcy on 4/16/07. Richmond was actually purchased by Bridge Regional Health System – an entity created by Bayonne’s Board of Directors. Bayonne reportedly owes $74 million in debt - $50 million to commercial lenders and $24 million to trade creditors who have provided supplies and services to the hospital including $335,000 to McCabe Ambulance Service for non-emergency outpatient transportation services provided by the medical center to Bayonne residents free of charge. While Bayonne officials say no BMC money or assets were used in the purchase of St. Vincent’s, the web site of the Proskauer Rose legal firm put the value at $27.5 million. The same attorneys were also involved in the $40 million acquisition of Mary Immaculate Hospital and St. John’s Hospital by Caritas Health Care Plan, an affiliate of Wyckoff Hospital.
NEWS ABOUT NYC EMERGENCY SERVICE PROVIDERS

BELEROSE VILLAGE VFD and FDNY units both responded to a fire on 3/19/07 in a service station bay on the south (Nassau County) side of Jericho Turnpike between Commonwealth Blvd. and 249 Street. BV VFD called for mutual aid from Floral Park VFD and Bellerose Terrace VFD while FDNY units B-53, E-304 & L-162 transmitted a 10-75 signal bringing additional FDNY units. The dual county response is a rare occurrence. Jericho Turnpike had been a solely Nassau County address until about a year ago when local Bellerose business owners on the north side, which is in Queens, finally got Community Board 13 to go along with changing the name from Jamaica Avenue to also be Jericho Turnpike. This was supposed to help reduce confusion caused by the two street names. Evidently confusion continues to exist. It should also be noted that FDNY unions have blocked training with Nassau County VFDs calling the volunteers scabs.

HATZALAH
BORO PARK DIVISION is still looking forward to building a new garage in the area of 37 Street and 14 Avenue. The local Councilman announced in early May that the city had green lighted a $1.7 million project to improve infrastructure in the area that is a mix of residential and industrial units.

CANARSIE DIVISION first responder was involved in an intersection collision on Sunday afternoon 4/15/07 at Remsen Avenue and Avenue B in East Flatbush while reportedly responding lights and siren from Crown Heights to Canarsie. The driver of the other vehicle was transported by FDNY EMS to Brookdale Hospital while the first responder and a passenger in his vehicle were taken by a Hatzalah Flatbush Division ambulance to NY Methodist Hospital. A vehicle from Assist Ambulance was also on the scene. A parked car and fence were also damaged in the incident. Unconfirmed information on a Crown Heights area web site indicate the responder was pulled over by police two blocks before the accident scene but was allowed to proceed and entered the intersection against a red light without slowing.

CENTRAL PARK MEDICAL UNIT is donating a 15 year old Type III ambulance to Eko University of Medicine and Health Sciences in Nigeria. The vehicle will be shipped loaded with supplies and a stretcher with the receiving hospital paying for the cost of shipping. The donation will add only a third ambulance to Eko University's current fleet of two vehicles that have seen better days. Central Park's fleet is three ambulances.

JAMAICA ESTATES-HOLLISWOOD-SOUTH BAYSIDE VAC received a $5,000 grant from the AXA Foundation. The funds were provided through the foundation's 2007 Darwin Davis Award For Community Service in recognition of squad/Board member and AXA employee Phil Konigsberg's long association with the squad.

LINDENWOOD VAC has been caught up in a NY Daily News series on OFFICIAL plates which are available only for vehicles owned by government entities. The squad posted a notice on its web site indicating numerous volunteer EMS and Fire Departments within the City and neighboring counties were afforded official plates routinely, that it was unaware of any improprieties in its recent registration of a marked response vehicle and promised to fully cooperate with state officials for a swift resolution to this matter.

NORTH SHORE-LIJ EMS has placed an order for 16 new ambulances. The agency has replaced the Medtech Type II ambulance that was destroyed by fire in February with a new Demers Mirage model Type II and assigned it the same unit number as the one that was destroyed.

NYPD has taken delivery of a Pierce Breathing Air Vehicle mounted on an International IHC 4400 model chassis. It is equipped with an Eagle 24 CFM 6,000 psi compressor, cascade system, SCBA fill station, storage for 79 SCBA bottles and a 40kW Onan generator. The vehicle is similar in capabilities to what FDNY uses. So far the city has not let NYPD order any pumper or ladder trucks and except for “water cannon” capabilities of pumper has kept guns off FDNY vehicles.

PARK SLOPE VAC’s four wheel drive ambulance is out of service due to a crack in the frame. 4 X 4 ambulances are rare in New York City. Rockaway Point VFD has a 4 X 4 ambulance which gets used on sand streets and beaches on the west end of the Rockaway Peninsula.

QUEENS VILLAGE-HOLLIS-BELLEROSE VAC was mentioned in a false 10-13 signal that went out to the NYPD 105 Precinct on Friday evening 4/6/07. The crew was at Creedmore Hospital attending to a seizure patient when numerous police officers appeared. Police also responded to the squad’s headquarters on Braddock Avenue. Squad officers and NYPD are still investigating the incident.

ROCK VAC’s new Administrator is Lenwood “Terry” Smith who was one of the co-founders of the organization and it’s related EMS training center.

WEST HAMILTON BEACH VFD & AMBULANCE is seeking to acquire a boat and has received support from NYC Councilman Joseph Addabbo, Jr. in securing funding.
APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

My Service is:        BLS  ALS    (Circle all that apply)
which is                  NYS Certified   Registered

and is                  Fire-Affiliated   Independent
Commercial

and is                  Volunteer Ambulance  First Responder
Rescue Squad

and I am a:         Driver   Attendant   Dispatcher
Clerical   CPR-D  CFR  CFR-D
EMT-D   EMT-I  EMT-CC  EMT-P

** In areas of the State with active local affiliates, district dues apply. We encourage you to become active in your local district organization. District dues, where applicable, will be automatically added at renewal. FIRST YEAR SQUAD dues are prorated as follows: full annual dues for Oct 1 to Sept 30; three-quarters of annual dues for Jan 1 to Sept 30; one-half of annual dues for April 1 to Sept 30; and one-quarter of annual dues for July 1 to Sept 1.

Initial Membership Sign-up

☐ Individual Member ** $10.00
☐ Organization (Squad or Company) ** $55.00
☐ Sustaining (Corporate/Commercial) $125.00

Send this application along with a Check or Money Order payable to: NEW YORK STATE VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE & RESCUE ASSOCIATION, INC.
PERSONAL NOTES

JOSEPH A. MARCELLINO, MPH, CHE has left the NYC Office of Emergency Management to set up Health Emergency Management Solutions, an emergency management, assessment & planning consultancy firm. His address is 1817 Hendrickson Street, Brooklyn, NY 11234, (917) 250-4983, e-mail JMARCEL984@aol.com

ROBERT J. DINERSTEIN, ESQ., an attorney active with EMS issues in the state, has terminated his affiliation with Dinerstein & Lesser, P.C. and will be practicing from his home at 16 Cross Bow Lane, Commack, NY 11725.

JACK FINKELSTEIN, NREMT-P, CIC, Director of EMS & the Training Center at Wyckoff Hospital spent the last part of March on the island of Tobago along with another instructor teaching a National Registry EMT refresher course to 37 students through Universal Emergency Care Training, Inc. The island is in the western Caribbean and has a population of about 55,000. Jack reports that during his stay the 115 square mile island was served by one Mercedes Sprinter ambulance with three others as spares – the Ford didn’t work. Ambulances are staffed by two NREMTs who earn the equivalent of $13,000 annually for about a 60 hour work week with refreshers and CMEs on their own time and expense. The local hospital’s staff consisted of a triage nurse, ED nurse and one ED physician. As a follow-up, Jack is assisting in devising a proposal to continue with additional EMT classes including some at the EMT-Intermediate level in order to help provide better medical care. Anyone wanting to see pictures from the trip, comments on what iguana tastes like or for additional information can contact Jack at (718) 302-8407 or Jack47k@aol.com

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

PULSE CHECK 2007, the 52nd Annual Educational Conference & Trade Show of the NYS Volunteer Ambulance & Rescue Association will be held Thursday 10/4/07 to Sunday morning 10/7/07 at the Hudson Valley Resort, Kerhonkson, Ulster County, NY - only 90 minutes from NYC. Event features seminars, exhibits, statewide EMT/CFR team skills drill and ambulance drill competitions, memorial service and awards dinner. Information will be available soon at www.nysvara.org on: conference registration, room reservations, preliminary list of seminars, Drill application, trophy donations, golf outing and Journal ads. There will also be information on the web site about nominations for the Association’s annual awards and scholarships. If more information is needed call (877) NYSVARA or e-mail pulsecheck@NYSVARA.org

NYS VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE
AND RESCUE ASSOCIATION
PO Box 570064
Whitestone, NY 11357

District 4, NYC Region
THE PULSE
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