

Maryland E·M·S

NEWSLETTER

Vol. 17, No. 4

For All Emergency Medical Care Providers

Nov. 1990

Celebrating EMS Week



Al Ward helps Jack King, from Bausch & Lomb, to prepare to descend down the 15-foot ramp of the Seat Belt Convincer, which simulates an 8 mph car crash. Mr. Ward, a CRT with the City of Cumberland Fire Department, volunteered his time to demonstrate the Convincer at numerous businesses, hospitals, colleges, and high schools in Region I during EMS Week.



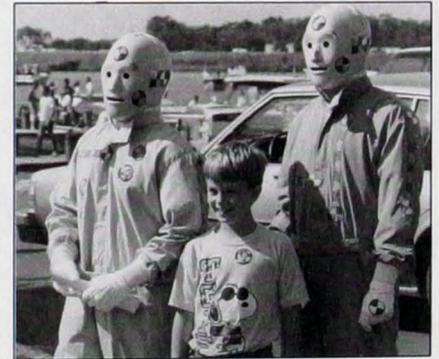
Beth Nachbar (Region III assistant administrator) at the Annapolis Fire Expo.



Members of the Frostburg Area Volunteer Ambulance Company demonstrate patient assessment at the Country Club Mall.



Signs of EMS Week...



Crash dummies Vince and Larry stressed seat belt safety on EMS Awareness Day at Sandy Point State Park.



The Maryland Natural Resources Police had a hovercraft (left) and patrol helicopter (right) on display at Sandy Point State Park on EMS Awareness Day.

Operation Homecoming at BWI

Three groups of evacuees from the Persian Gulf landed at Baltimore-Washington International Airport on September 10, 15, and 16, respectively. Each time they were greeted by hundreds of federal and state workers and volunteers who waited to provide assistance—from counseling and medical help to shelter and loans. Among this group, which included immigration officials, travel agents, social workers, bank employees, Boy Scouts, and others, were many Maryland EMS workers. Mark Friedman of the Maryland Department of Human Resources was in charge of the total operation; Chief Jack Beall of the BWI Fire/Rescue Squad was responsible for the fire department operation. A “wrap-up” meeting to discuss lessons learned was held October 3; at that meeting, the fire departments, MIEMSS, and the Maryland Critical Incident Stress Debriefing (MCISD) team were praised for their work during “Operation Homecoming.”

Below are some facts regarding EMS involvement.

September 10

Passengers: 140

Ambulance units on hand: Anne Arundel County—2 ALS and 2 BLS units; EMS 2 (Stu McNichol) and EMS 3 (Mike Connors)

Fire Surgeons: Jeffrey Anderson, MD and Roy Myers, MD (MIEMSS)

MIEMSS Staff: Ameen Ramzy, MD, state EMS director and medical director, BWI ALS; John Donohue, Region III administrator; Craig Coleman, MCISD communications coordinator

MCISD mental health counselors: Lee Ross, Mike Adams, Dan Merlis



AA County “detail” at BWI on September 16.

September 15

Passengers: 285

Ambulance units on hand: Anne Arundel County—2 ALS and 2 BLS units; EMS 3 (Mike Andersky); Harford County—1 unit from Joppa Magnolia; Carroll County—1 unit from Sykesville Freedom; Howard County—1 unit from Elkridge

Fire Surgeon: Jeffrey Anderson, MD
MIEMSS Staff: Ameen Ramzy, MD;

John Donohue; Craig Coleman; Howard Belzberg, MD (Shock Trauma Center critical care physician); Marge Epperson-SeBour (director, MCISD team); Larry West (MCISD communications coordinator)

MCISD mental health counselors: Dan Merlis, Elizabeth McBride, Caroline Graham, Ogden Rodgers, Rick Woy, Debra Mitnick, William Sterling, Christopher Moore, John O’Brien

Medical response: 2 patients transported to hospital

September 16

Passengers: 160

Ambulance units on hand: Anne Arundel County—2 ALS and 2 BLS units; EMS 1 (Roger Simonds) and EMS 3 (Mike Connors)

MIEMSS Staff: Ameen Ramzy, MD; John Donohue; Howard Belzberg, MD; Marge Epperson-SeBour; Larry West; Beth Nachbar (Region III assistant administrator)

MCISD mental health counselors: Caroline Graham, Rick Woy, Jim Clements, Elizabeth McBride

Johns Hopkins: Dave Nichols, MD (pediatric intensive care unit)

Medical response: No transports but many children assessed by pediatrician on-site

It was a “special mission assignment” that many members of Maryland’s Crisis Intervention Stress Debriefing team (MCISD) would not

forget: on September 10, 15, and 16, jets carrying those being evacuated from Kuwait and Iraq landed at Baltimore International Airport. Large

numbers of the passengers—repatriots and refugees consisting mainly of families and of women with children but without husbands—turned to the MCISD members for counseling.

The US Department of State had contacted Maryland’s Department of Health & Mental Hygiene to see if the MCISD would send a psychological support team; because of the nature of problems the evacuees were expected to have, only mental health professionals specializing in individual, family, or child counseling (not peer support personnel) were asked to respond to this special assignment. On September 10, 15, and 16, three, ten, and five MCISD team members, respectively, were at BWI to provide counseling as needed.

According to Marge Epperson-SeBour, director of the MCISD team,

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Evacuees from the Persian Gulf disembark from an airport bus at BWI Airport.

COMMENTS

The Maryland EMS Newsletter typically focuses on a broad range of topics relevant to EMS in Maryland. Our readers have suggested that we add a section on specific questions which arise from time to time around the state. In my meetings with many segments of the EMS community, questions arise and information is exchanged, which many have suggested would be of general interest to others. In this and future issues of the newsletter, we will try to respond in print to some of these inquiries.

Communications remains a primary focus of concern throughout our state. Although the design of the statewide EMS communications system is sound, it has never been possible to complete the communications system to the extent that it was planned, nor has it been possible to keep pace with needed equipment replacement. Innovative approaches to meeting these needs are being prepared.

EMS certainly does not operate in a vacuum, and factors which influence the overall society certainly impact on EMS. Both state and jurisdictional EMS programs are being impacted by budget realities, both in Maryland and in many parts of the country. All of us may be called upon to do more with less and to make difficult decisions regarding priorities of resource allocations.

Despite some budget cuts, we are moving forward in Haz Mat training for EMS providers. With the assistance of a DHMH block grant, we have distributed the ASAP (Always Suspicious Always Prepared) Hazardous Materials education program to all counties. This program will be supplemented with policies and protocols specific to Maryland as well as hands-on training in utilizing personal protective gear and in protecting prehospital vehicles and equipment. Instructor training in this EMS module, funded by a Department of Transportation grant, is currently taking place.

One of the questions which frequently arises around the state is that of the utilization of EMT-Defibrillation (EMT-D). Based on experiences in Maryland and on close reading of the published research throughout the country, we feel that EMT-D may be useful in some areas but of little or no use in others. Therefore, if a community wishes to consider EMT-D, an analysis should first be done in that community so that the expected outcomes can be anticipated before the expenditure of resources is undertaken. These resources involve not only equipment but the time for training and quality assurance reviews. We have assisted several jurisdictions in such an analysis, which is done by utilizing existing databases. These include MAIS

(ambulance runsheets) records for a jurisdiction as well as dispatch records. Using data points such as the number of cardiac arrests in a jurisdiction, the number of cases which represent ventricular fibrillation, and BLS and ALS response times, we can anticipate the utility of EMT-D in a given jurisdiction. We welcome such inquiries about implementing EMT-D and would be glad to assist jurisdictions so that a responsible and informed decision can be made.

While there is a trend in some parts of the country toward simply advocating EMT-D without any analysis, this seems to be imprudent. The negative outcomes are that if tremendous frustration is experienced in the application of EMT-D, then it may not be utilized in situations where it might actually help.

The draft Maryland Medical Protocols for EMT-As/Standards of Patient Care and a draft revision to the MAIS have recently been distributed for input. This input is expected to improve both documents, and their implementation should lead to improvements in both patient care and evaluation.

I hope this type of discussion is helpful to you and welcome your questions and suggestions.

◆ *Ameen I. Ramzy, MD*
State EMS Director

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the problems of the evacuees varied. On September 10, MCISD team members primarily offered support and reassurance to the evacuees, comprised mainly of American women and children without spouses. Except for four individuals, all had definite destinations and people who would meet them at those destinations. However, crisis intervention skills were needed on September 15 when the passenger list was comprised mainly of families and of refugees without families, friends, or destinations in the US. Most had left behind expensive homes, professional careers, and hundreds of thousands of dollars to arrive at BWI homeless and often without much money. Many faced an uncertain future with fear. There were concerns about interrupting children's schooling; feelings of inadequacy on the part of many husbands facing the reality of trying to support their families without jobs or material resources; feelings of sadness and stress over leaving family members in Kuwait (often without even being able to say good-bye and not knowing whether they would ever be reunited); and worry



MCISD mental health counselors Lee Ross, Dan Merlis, and Mike Adams at BWI.

about the exposure of their children to violence in Kuwait. Many passengers experienced a sense of ambivalence; they were safe but they were sad over lives and homes they had left in Kuwait.

Ms. Epperson-SeBour interacted with some of the children and noted that many of their concerns centered on the uncertainty of where they would live and go to school and on sadness about leaving friends without saying goodbye. MCISD members mainly listened to the refugees, helped them to problem-solve, and put them in touch with various resource people who could

meet their needs.

In addition, the MCISD team members did debriefing sessions for Red Cross volunteers and for public information officers from various agencies experiencing fatigue and stress after working long hours planning, lining up resources, and interviewing distraught families.

MCISD team members also worked with the "receiving" families (those waiting for family members being evacuated from the Persian Gulf); some "receiving" family members expressed anger and concern over the lack of information on the safety of their loved ones in Kuwait.

Although the MCISD has worked with the staff of the National Institute of Mental Health and is considered the federally designated National Disaster CISD response team, its chief function is to help Maryland emergency service workers experiencing normal stress reactions to abnormal situations or events. Their work with the Persian Gulf evacuees who landed at BWI was definitely a special assignment — but one that would not be quickly forgotten.

◆ *Beverly Sopp*

22 Honored at EMS Awards Banquet

The spotlight of the statewide EMS awards luncheon on September 19 focused on 22 individuals who embody the courage and dedication that make Maryland's EMS system so successful. It is a system where emergency care is not taken casually, State EMS Director Ameen Ramzy, MD, reminded the audience. "We value human life and measure ourselves against ourselves.... We can buy material resources but cannot buy dedication or heroism."

Fifteen Certificates of Honor and

seven Distinguished Service Awards were presented by MIEMSS Director James P.G. Flynn, MD, and Dr. Ramzy at the banquet held at the Engineering Center in Baltimore. Award recipients ranged from children to EMS providers with more than 20 years of experience. Dr. Flynn praised them for "meeting the difficult challenges" confronting them.

Certificates of Honor were awarded to both civilians and EMS/public safety personnel who saved

or attempted to save seriously injured persons at the risk of injury to themselves. The following people received this award:

- Margaret Johnson, Prince George's County: For saving a child whose clothes were on fire.
- Joseph R. Snowberger, Caroline County: For extricating a co-worker from a dump truck that was in flames after it flipped over.
- Gene "Bugs" Foutz, Allegany County: For rousing and helping to evacuate four families whose homes were on fire.
- Matthew Scott, Montgomery County: For having the presence of mind at age six to call 911 and request an ambulance when his mother had a seizure.
- Gertrude A. Kidd, RN, Harford County: For trying to gain access to and give aid to two people who had been in a head-on collision that she witnessed.



Region II: Mary Louise Hill, Melody Lee Hose, George Delaplaine, Jr., Dep. Sheriff Bruce Shafer, Dep. Sheriff Gary Granger, and Francis X. Murray, Jr.



Region IV: Paul Ennis, Jr., and Joseph Snowberger.



Region III: Gertrude Kidd, Kathleen Paez, Fire Chief Benjamin Kurtz, Battalion Chief Gary Warren, and Keith Dougherty (ambulance captain, Level Volunteer Fire Company) accepting award presented posthumously to Tom Weeks.

• Paul Ennis, Jr., EMT-A, Delmar Fire Dept.: For running to help a young girl who had stopped breathing — despite pain from foot surgery only 5 days earlier.

• Melody Lee Hose, Dennis Michael Hull, Mary Louise Hill, Washington County: For extricating a driver from his burning vehicle.

• William James Watson, Washington County: For using first-aid skills to control the bleeding of a friend who had accidentally severed an artery and tendons in his wrist. William is 12 years old.

• Corp. Stephen R. Vaughn, First Responder, and Officer F/C Brett H. Brinkley, EMT-A, Natural Resources Police: For rescuing two adults and a 6-

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year-old child whose boat had capsized in heavy seas on a day when the wind chill was minus-15 degrees.

- Deputy Sheriff Bruce A. Shafer and Deputy Sheriff Gary M. Granger, Washington County: For pulling an

accident victim away from his car just as the fuel tank had ignited and for giving first-aid until medical assistance arrived.

- James Philip Gruber, EMT-P, Montgomery County: For rescuing a swimmer in Ocean City who was

unconscious after having been knocked down by a wave.

Distinguished Service Awards were presented to members of the EMS community for outstanding leadership in problem-solving or in initiating injury or illness prevention measures. The following received this award:

- Marian Kangas, M.(ASCP), ICP, Infection Control, St. Mary's Hospital: For her efforts to inform and protect prehospital personnel regarding infectious diseases through various educational and screening programs.

- Francis X. Murray, Jr., EMT-P, Community Rescue Service: For 21 years of contributions to EMS, particularly as a member of the Community Rescue Service in Hagerstown. An EMT-A instructor, Mr. Murray was also instrumental in developing CRT and EMT-P training programs in Washington County.

- Kathleen L. Paez, MIEMSS: For more than 13 years of dedicated service in managing EMS ambulance runsheet data to meet the informational needs of the Maryland EMS community.

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Region V: Tim Burns (drowning victim rescued by Paramedic Gruber), Jeremy Gruber, Joel Buzy (911 dispatcher who spoke to Matthew Scott), Matthew Scott, Marian Kangas, Margaret Johnson, and Dr. Richard Alcorta (president, Region V EMS Advisory Council).

Pyramid '90 Conference

The second annual Pyramid '90 Conference drew 239 EMS providers to the Holiday Inn in Solomons on September 8-9. Hosted by Calvert County EMS, the conference was presented by MIEMSS and the Region V EMS Advisory Council and sponsored by Calvert County EMS, the Charles County Association of EMS, and St. Mary's County Rescue Squad Association.

Highlights included a lecture on EMS provider safety, a panel discussion on current issues in EMS, and a take-off on the Jeopardy game involving medical assessment.

Ten EMS providers were recognized at the awards ceremony and banquet on September 8.

A Certificate of Honor was presented to SCO Robert F. Osbourn of the Calvert County Control Center. He calmly and successfully conveyed resuscitation instructions to the parent of a 2-year-old child who had stopped breathing.

A Distinguished Service Award was given to the original members of Calvert County Advanced Life Support (CALS): Mary Ann Antoun, Jeffrey Goad, Larry

Patin, James Richardson, Michael Sharpe, and Leon VanHuesen. They organized and established the ALS program without outside funding; the unit and vehicle were furnished by their donations. CALS began coverage on January 1, 1990, with the original members rotating duty.

Distinguished service awards were presented to Marian Kangas, M.(ASCP), ICP, from St. Mary's Hospital, for her work in educating prehospital care providers regarding infectious diseases and to Terri Verbic, RN, for her contributions to the education and training of I.V. technicians in St. Mary's County.

Joseph Stine, CRT, received a Distinguished Service Award for his leadership and years of dedicated EMS service. Mr. Stine is captain of Company 51 of the Charles County Rescue Squad and an active member of the Charles County mobile



Dr. Richard Alcorta (president, Region V EMS Advisory Council) congratulates SCO Robert Osbourn.

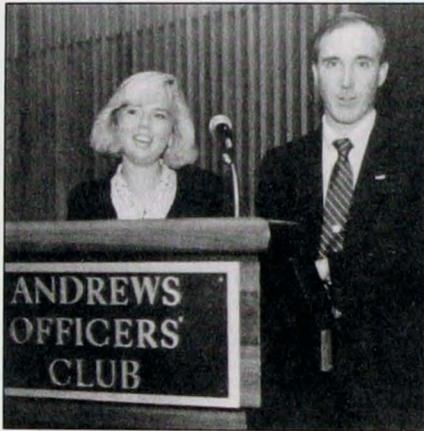


(L-r) Leon VanHuesen, Michael Sharpe, James Richardson, Jeffrey Goad, Mary Ann Antoun, Marian Kangas, Dr. Richard Alcorta, Terri Verbic, and Joseph Stine at the awards ceremony and banquet during the Pyramid '90 Conference. (Larry Patin is missing from the photo.)

PGHC Holds Trauma Patient Reunion Dinner

The Prince George's Hospital Center sponsored a reunion for its former trauma patients at Andrews Air Force Base on September 14. Twenty people who had been treated by the hospital's Shock Trauma Advanced Treatment Team (STATT) came together that evening for a dinner and program called "In Celebration of Life." They were joined by several hundred relatives, friends, and hospital staff members to celebrate their recovery.

Five former patients shared their unique personal accounts. They all echoed opening remarks by Lisa Beavers, a young woman injured in a tragic automobile accident four years ago, who provided the impetus for the evening's event: "Everyone at this reunion has a special knowledge: that



Masters of ceremonies Lisa Ann Beavers (honorary chairperson, trauma reunion committee) and Dr. Patrick P. Schimpf, (trauma surgeon, PGHC). Photo courtesy of PGHC.

knowledge is the appreciation of life." In 1986, Ms. Beavers' car was pushed across a highway by a dump truck whose brakes had failed on an incline. Ms. Beavers sustained severe head injuries; her two companions, her best friends, were killed. Her enthusiasm for the trauma unit at Prince George's Hospital Center has translated to activism in state government: she has become an advocate of enforced safety standards in Maryland's trucking industry.

Another former patient, Price Baum, sustained a liver laceration and other abdominal injuries in 1987, when his van overturned and fell 25 feet onto the Baltimore/Washington Parkway. He called himself a "double-dipper" in

the trauma system, because 10 years earlier he injured his spinal cord while diving. Mr. Baum praised the trauma center nurses who were so aggressive in helping him through his recovery.

While Jeffrey and Patricia Koch's car was stopped at a traffic light, a truck rear-ended them at high speed. Both of their necks were broken. Mr. Koch also had a thoracic spine injury and multiple rib fractures; Ms. Koch had a brain contusion and skull fracture. "The people who helped us at the hospital were extremely competent," said Mr. Koch, "and they were very nice people." Ms. Koch remembered the "small" things that hospital staff members did: the nurse in the trauma bay who patted her arm and told her that she and her husband were OK, Dr. Vincent Casibang's voice—his humor and competence, the graduate nurse who washed her hair, and the chaplain who arranged for the couple to see each other for the first time after their accident. She also remembered the terror that she and her husband felt, in their wheelchairs, on discharge day. "We're here to show you how good your work is. We now know how beautiful, precious, and short life is."

Ruth Hilliard spent 10 weeks at the hospital center in 1988 after being kicked by a horse at Bowie Racetrack. She lost half her liver as well as part of her gallbladder and spleen. A Maryland State Police helicopter was called for the transport to the hospital center in Cheverly. "Although Bowie and Cheverly seem too close to need a helicopter," stated Ms. Hilliard, "the 5 minutes it saved meant the world to me."

Jane Kostenko sustained multiple rib fractures, a clavicular fracture, and chest trauma in a vehicular crash. "Former trauma patients share something special," she noted. "We have a certain zest that brought us through our injuries. We are glad to be alive. We are here tonight to show you that."

Certificates of appreciation were presented to the ten traumatologists at the hospital center; to Joseph Collela, MD, the "backbone of the hospital's trauma program"; and to Rose Nalley, a family counselor in the hospital's emergency department.

The Shock Trauma Center at

Prince George's Hospital Center was established in 1977. It was designated as a trauma center within MIEMSS' echelons of care system that year. The facility subsequently fulfilled the criteria for Level 1 trauma centers as delineated by the American College of Surgeons' Committee on Trauma. More than 1260 patients were treated at the center last year, most of them from Prince George's, Charles, Calvert, and St. Mary's counties.

◆ Linda Kesselring

Awards Banquet

(Continued from page 5)

- Battalion Chief Gary E. Warren, Baltimore County Fire Dept.: For more than 20 years of EMS leadership on the local, state, and national levels. He is a recognized expert in the areas of incident command and haz mat safety.

- Fire Chief Benjamin W. Kurtz, Jarrettsville Volunteer Fire Company: For his outstanding contributions to Harford County EMS, where he helped to implement the county's paramedic program, formed a committee to write guidelines for EMS dispatchers, and strongly supported the county's EMS committee.

- George B. Delaplaine, Jr., Frederick: For his long-time support of Maryland's EMS system, especially in Region II and most recently for his contribution of printing "When Seconds County..." a brochure that will provide information to Maryland residents and visitors in accessing EMS.

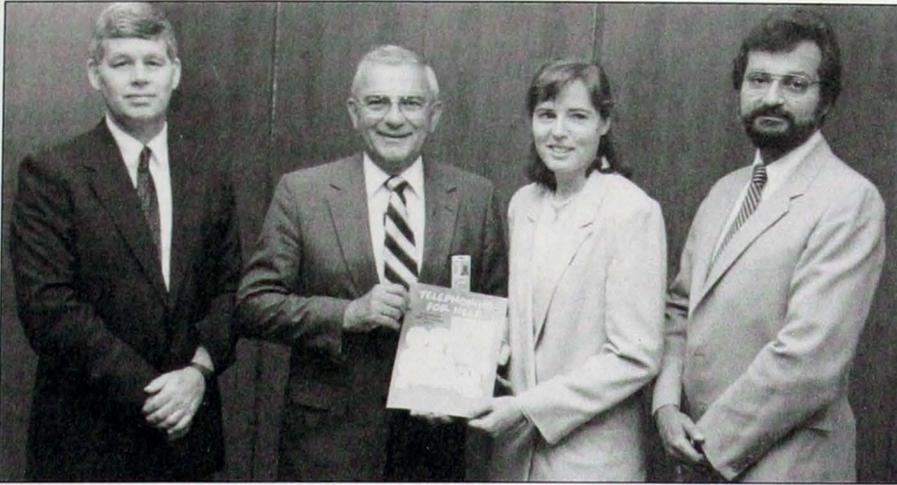
- Tom Weeks, EMT-A, Level Volunteer Fire Company: For his many contributions to Harford County EMS, especially for "Kids and 911," a program that he developed to familiarize children with ambulance equipment and procedures. Tom was killed in an auto accident on August 24 while on his way to the fire company to answer a medical call. The award was presented posthumously.

◆ Beverly Sopp

**Mark Your Calendars
EMS CARE '91**

April 26 - 28, 1991

Greenbelt Marriott Hotel



C & P Telephone of Maryland donated 10,000 coloring and activities books about telephoning for help in an emergency. The books were distributed during EMS Week to children throughout the state by the regional offices. Shown here are Dave Ramsey (MIEMSS Region I administrator), J. Henry Butta (president, C&P), Mimie Helm (account executive, C&P), and Ameen Ramzy, MD (state EMS director).



Al Ward, CRT (Region I EMS Advisory Council member) and Fran Pope, RN, CRT (Region I EMS Advisory Council president) explain the Maryland EMS System display at the Country Club Mall.



Judy Miller, RN (director of critical care, Washington County Hospital) and Gay Gilbert, RN (vice-president of nursing and patient services, WCH) present a framed photo showing every ambulance in Washington County to H. Wayne Williams, (chairman, EMS committee, Washington County Volunteer Fire-Rescue Association).



Lana Parsons, RN (Baltimore Regional Burn Center) discusses burn treatment at "Promoting Excellence in EMS" in Easton.



An EMS volleyball game in progress at Sandy Point State Park.

In Queen Anne's Co.

In preparation for EMS Week, the Queen Anne's County Ambulance Committee, in cooperation with the MIEMSS Region IV office, inspected all units in the county to bring them on line at the same time. It is the first time Region IV has had all units in a county on the same cycle. The inspection program was coordinated by Committee Chairman Charles Simmon with the help of Philip Hurlock, director of 911 communications in Queen Anne's County, and James Lewis, EMS Officer for the Queenstown Volunteer Fire Department.

The public was informed that their ambulances met or exceeded the requirements of the Maryland Voluntary Ambulance Inspection Program. In addition to upgrading the units as needed, the inspection program publicized the need for volunteer recruitment and retention. Volunteers are much needed, especially for the day shift. There are four EMT classes in progress, which will help ease the shortage in the county, but it will be several months before those students will be certified and in action. For information about volunteering, contact Philip Hurlock at 301-758-0223.



Shown at Peninsula General Hospital's trauma conference are Drs. David Walker (department of surgery, PGH), Jim Isaacs (former trauma department director, PGH), Ameen Ramzy (state EMS director), and Stephen Crawshaw (trauma department director, PGH).



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DATED MATERIAL



Ann Kellan, WJZ-TV's medical reporter, interviews a CRT from Baltimore County during EMS Week.



On behalf of the medical staff at Washington County Hospital, Dr. Kathryn Reichard (assistant medical director, WCH, ED) accepts a plaque from H. Wayne Williams. The plaque was given by the WC ambulance companies in appreciation for the professional training and support from the WCH staff.

EMS Week
1991
May 12 - 18



Presentation of the Governor's proclamation designating September 16-22 as Emergency Medical Services Week. (L-r) Thomas Mattingly (president, Maryland State Firemen's Association); Joseph M. Connell (fire administrator, Anne Arundel County; chairman, Fire Chief's Council, Baltimore Regional Council of Governments); William Stackhouse, EMT-A, Baltimore City Fire Department (Region III); Dottie Dyott, RN (management coordinator, nursing department, Memorial Hospital at Easton; chairman, Region IV EMS Advisory Council); Douglas Floccare, MD (State Aeromedical Director); Richard Alcorta, MD (Suburban Hospital Emergency Department and president, Region V EMS Advisory Council); Philip Militello, MD (Clinical Director, Shock Trauma Center); Ameen Ramzy, MD (State EMS Director); Governor William Donald Schaefer; Fran Pope, CRT (president, Region I EMS Advisory Council); Roy Lescallet, Jr., Washington County 911 dispatcher (Region II); and Trooper Dan Cornwell, EMT-P (Maryland State Police, Aviation Division).



On behalf of the Washington County EMS community, H. Wayne Williams presents a plaque to Patricia Hicks, EMT-P (Region II ALS coordinator) for her leadership in ALS.



A Maryland State Police helicopter on display at the Washington County Hospital picnic.