



Uniformed Services University
of the Health Sciences
4301 Jones Bridge Road
Bethesda, MD 20814-4799

Release No.10-07-56

July 15, 2010

Contact: Ken Frager, Office of External Affairs

Voice: 301-295-3981 **Cell:** 240-281-2738

Email: kenneth.frager@usuhs.mil

For Immediate Release:

NCDMPH to Assess Disaster Response Knowledge During Continuing Promise 2010

Bethesda, MD – The National Center for Disaster Medicine and Public Health’s (NCDMPH) Acting Director, Dr. Kenneth Schor, will be aboard USS Iwo Jima for three weeks at the request of the U.S. Navy Fourth Fleet surgeon CAPT James Terbush, M.D., to assess the humanitarian assistance and disaster response knowledge of U.S. medical personnel participating in Operation Continuing Promise 2010.

Dr. Schor will conduct a first time assessment of the humanitarian/disaster relief knowledge of the medical contingent, pre- and post- mission, to see if the mission is successful as a training tool. Created by Uniformed Services University Disaster Psychiatry fellow Lt. Col. (Dr.) Mike Stanley, the assessment tool is a multiple choice questionnaire being administered to the medical personnel who would be delivering humanitarian aid in a disaster situation. The assessment should yield important results for the NCDMPH’s academic joint program, which seeks to develop and propagate core education in all-hazards disaster health.

“Applying the tool to those who will be providing assistance is a critical first step in a continuous effort to improve the disaster medicine knowledge of Department of Defense responders,” said Dr. Schor prior to boarding the ship. “It also is an important action item in the NCDMPH’s progress toward establishing the academic joint program for disaster medicine. Measuring their knowledge will allow us to tailor future education competencies and standards for both domestic and international relief workers.”

NCDMPH staff and Dr. Schor will develop a report for the U.S. Southern Command Surgeon detailing the areas in which U.S medical personnel excel and the areas in which further education may be required.

For updates, visit <http://ncdmpm.usuhs.edu>.

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About NCDMPH:

Created by Presidential Directive HSPD-21 in 2008, the NCDMPH has been charged with “leading Federal efforts to develop and propagate core curricula, training and research related to medicine and public health in disaster” by serving the U.S. government as an academic home for the development and dissemination of this information. The NCDMPH is supported by the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, the nation’s only federal health sciences university.

About the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences

Located on the grounds of Bethesda’s National Naval Medical Center and across from the National Institutes of Health, USU is the nation’s federal school of medicine and graduate school of nursing. The university educates health care professionals dedicated to career service in the Department of Defense and the U.S. Public Health Service. Students are active-duty uniformed officers in the Army, Navy, Air Force and Public Health Service, who are being educated to deal with wartime casualties, natural disasters, emerging infectious diseases, and other public health emergencies. Of the 4,546 physician alumni, more than 75 percent currently serve on active duty in the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force and U.S. Public Health Service. Additionally, many alumni are assigned to provide medical support to Marine Corps and Coast Guard units.