

NCEMSF NEWS

Inside this issue:

President's Message	1
Alumni Corner: Reliving NCEMSF Memories	2
Membership Drive is Here	2
Professor Squirrel	3
Product Review: Skyscape's 5MCC	4
Conference 2005	4
Regional News	5
Sponsors and Benefits	5
Collegiate EMS Advantage	6
Observations from the Wandering EMT: Australian EMS	7
Publication Information	7
NCEMSF Calendar	8

"Every indicator points towards continued growth as an organization."

Message from the President

Dr. George J. Koenig, Jr., NCEMSF President

The beginning of the academic year not only heralds the end of summer but also signals change. For the incoming class, it is the start of new experiences, new opportunities, and new friendships. For those returning, it is the joy of reuniting with friends that you have not seen for several months. For me, it is witnessing the arrival of the new Interns and no longer residing at the bottom of the food chain.

Amidst this change, I feel that the end of summer provides the perfect opportunity to review the past year and to set goals for the upcoming year. This past year we saw a steady rise in our membership numbers. We approached nearly 500 attendees at our annual conference. And thanks to Eric MaryEa, Director at Large, we received a commitment from Healthcare Providers Service Organization (HPSO) to be our first platinum sponsor. For more information about our partnerships and about the benefits that you can receive as a NCEMSF member visit our sponsor page at

<http://www.ncemsf.org/sponsors/>

Every indicator points towards continued growth as an organization.

During the summer we have made considerable progress with planning our 12th Annual NCEMSF Conference. Hosted in conjunction with Villanova University's Emergency Medical Service (VEMS) and Ursinus College's Student Emergency Response Volunteers (SERV), the conference will be held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on the weekend of February 25-27th. More information regarding our conference can be found on page 4 of this newsletter and also on our website at

<http://www.ncemsf.org/about/conf2005/>

I am also very pleased to report that we have had some changes in our leadership structure. Joshua Marks, the previous National Coordinator, has been promoted to the

position of Secretary to fill a vacancy. Kelly Schirmer, the previous Mid-Atlantic Regional Coordinator, has been promoted to National Coordinator. David Bacall has filled the position of Startup Coordinator. We are confident that these changes will lead to a stronger organization. However, we still have several vacancies that need to be filled. If you are interested in taking on a leadership role, please contact us at board@ncemsf.org.

We are also in the process of revising our NCEMSF EMS Week packet. For the third year in a row, Tim McMichael has agreed to chair our EMS Week committee. Collegiate EMS Week is a week (November 8-14, 2004) dedicated towards promoting the service that you provide to your community and towards recognizing your organization for the excellent work that it does. Our Collegiate EMS Week packet should be available on-line for download in mid-October. If you are interested in helping with the creation of this year's EMS Week packet, please email us at emsweek@ncemsf.org.

As the memories of summer fade, I hope that you take a moment to review the past year and set goals for yourself and your organization for the upcoming year. Continue to push your organization to be the best organization that it possibly can be and continue to provide the highest quality of care. Should you need any assistance in meeting your goals, remember that we will be there for you every step of the way.

Best of luck and best wishes for a great year,



George J. Koenig Jr. M.S., D.O.
President NCEMSF



Reliving NCEMSF Memories through Continued Involvement

David I. Bacall, NCEMSF Startup Coordinator (and former NCEMSF Alumni Coordinator)

Just two months ago many of you donned a cap and gown and walked into the unknown. Perhaps you were unsure about the ever-changing world that still had not offered you a job. For those of you who have joined us in the "working world," welcome and good luck. Whatever you do, don't look to the movie "Office Space" for inspiration.

Rest assured, your old college squad already misses you, and NCEMSF still is happy to have you. NCEMSF is home to many alumni. For example, most of our extended board members are alumni. A

growing number of our conference speakers are also alumni. NCEMSF is more than just a once-a-year event; it is a lifetime of education and sharing.

Alumni who stay involved in NCEMSF continue a legacy by passing on traditions to newer members. Start to plan now to relive the past by attending next year's conference in Philadelphia. If you would like to get more involved with the conference, we are always looking for speakers and other assistance.

Lastly, a short good-bye. Many of you

have known me for several years as *The Alumni Guy*. I have enjoyed the opportunity to spearhead the successful incorporation of alumni back into NCEMSF. This year, I too have graduated in a sense, and have been asked to take on the role of Startup Coordinator. In my new position I will be assisting campuses across the country in forming new EMS organizations. If you would like to contact me about a new organization, send email to startup@ncemfsf.org. Otherwise, see you in February in Philadelphia!



The 2004-2005 Membership Drive is Here!

Karolina A. Schabses, NCEMSF Membership Coordinator

That time of year is upon us once again! We're cranking up the NCEMSF membership drive for the 2004-2005 academic year.

We won't badger you with breaks from our regularly scheduled programming every 10 minutes like public television does during their fund drives. We won't even make you sit through inane commercials before the feature presentation like many movie theaters now do.

All we ask is that you visit the NCEMSF Web site and renew your commitment to the Foundation and all we stand for. We know your time is valuable. That's why there are no paper forms to fill out - and there's nothing to mail in unless you want to pay by check.

Personal Membership

The renewal process for personal members takes less than two minutes. All we ask for is an update of your address and contact information if you've moved. Then tell us how you'd like to pay for your membership. A few clicks later and you're done! It's really that simple. Over the years we have streamlined the process to make it easier on everybody.

If you've never been a personal member of NCEMSF, we welcome you to join today.

The benefits of personal membership are ever growing. Beyond NCEMSF internet services and newsletters, members

receive a free one-year subscription to EMS Magazine, reduced conference registration fees, and discounts at select vendors of interest. Check the NCEMSF web site for a complete list and check back often as the list is constantly expanding. Signing up now allows you to enjoy these benefits longer, as membership automatically expires at the end of the academic year.

Despite external pressure to increase personal membership dues, the Foundation leadership recently overwhelmingly decided to keep personal membership dues the same as last year. That means that for just \$10 currently-enrolled students can enjoy member benefits for an entire academic year. (Tip: depending on when you register for the upcoming 2005 Annual Conference, you may save as much \$25 in conference registration fees just by being a personal member of NCEMSF!) Non-students pay just \$20 for their NCEMSF personal membership.

Instead you may consider purchasing personal life membership at a rate of \$75 for students and \$150 for non-students and avoid the hassle of renewing yearly. We also offer a special discount rate for personal life membership for campus EMS alumni: only \$100.

Institutional Membership

Having your organization listed in the NCEMSF database is just half of your obligation. Sending in your NCEMSF institutional dues sends the signal that you believe strongly in collegiate EMS.

Institutional members enjoy such benefits as free EMS consulting from the NCEMSF leadership team. With more than fifty combined years of collegiate EMS leadership experience in our ranks, that alone is an invaluable benefit.

Institutional membership also entitles your organization to reap the benefits of such programs as Collegiate EMS Week, and our Striving for Excellence recognition program. In fact, only dues paying institutions are eligible to receive recognition awards at our annual conferences.

At \$25 institutional membership is already a bargain. However, we offer an even better deal called an Institutional Value Pack. For \$100 you receive institutional membership and up to ten personal memberships. That's like buying ten personal memberships and getting institutional membership for free!

To reaffirm your support in NCEMSF, please renew your organization's institutional membership by visiting the membership portion of our Web site at <http://www.ncemfsf.org/membership/>. You'll need your group's access code, which we can e-mail to you from the Web site if you've misplaced it.

If you have membership questions, please contact me at membership@ncemfsf.org. I'll be happy to help you!



Professor Squirrel

Serious Campus EMS Advice from a Nut

Professor squirrel has an overflowing mail bag of nuts he accumulated over the summer. We distracted him just long enough to get his nutty responses to three questions.

Dear Professor Squirrel,

I'm a first year student. I just arrived on campus. I was involved with my home EMS corps throughout all of high school and am interested in getting involved at school too. I met the crew at the activities fair and the organization seems great but its members seem to dedicate a lot of time and I'm not sure I have that much to give. They are eager for new members, especially ones with experience, but are looking for a real commitment from the start and I just don't know. This whole experience is new to me and quite scary yet extremely exciting all at once. There is so much I want to do and explore. I'm nervous about my studies too. What advice do you have for budgeting my time and doing it all? Should I get involved in EMS on campus or just stay focused on my classes at least 'til I'm acclimated?

You ask an excellent question. Unfortunately I have seen a few students become so wrapped up in EMS that they forgot what they came to school for — to get a degree. A lot of campus squads have realized this and have GPA requirements that you have to maintain to stay active. They may have informal study groups set up with other members since many times EMTs are in similar majors and take the same classes. If you join, you could take the initiative to poll your fellow first years and organize a study group. Often the older members will have study notes to share from when they took the classes. Some squads even have mentors that they assign to new members just like the fraternities have big brothers and big sisters. The campus EMS squad is a great way to meet other students who have similar interests. When you interview, ask them these questions and find out what they have to offer for support. I have even seen a few times when students have taken a leave of absence from the squad because they had an especially heavy academic load or took the semester off to write their honors thesis. They were always supported in their decisions by the squad. Never be afraid to ask for help along the way if you need it. As an EMS provider you give a lot to your campus community, but you get a lot back in return too. And remember to give the squirrels some of your lunch, and we'll give you back ... well ... we won't give you back anything.

Dear Professor Squirrel,

Obviously it is illegal to drink while on call and in the hours prior, but if my friends are having a party on a night that I'm on call, is it appropriate for me to be there even if I'm not drinking? Does it send the wrong message? If I have the Corps' vehicle parked out front does that make things better or worse?

It's all about image. What do you want your campus community to think about your organization? Most squads have written policies about alcohol or any substance that may impair your judgment, and that's not image, that's liability and professionalism. You understand that part, so what kind of policies does a squad need regarding your question? Many squads do not permit anyone in uniform or wearing

organizational clothing to be in a public place that serves alcohol whether they are on duty or off (except while answering a call of course). So what about getting dinner while on duty at a place that also serves alcohol? You many need to define what is the difference between a restaurant that serves alcohol and a bar that serves food. Parties in a private residence are a different story. If you are there and you are in uniform or wearing organizational clothing you are representing your organization. Also, I have never gathered nuts outside of a student party that wasn't so loud that you could hear your pager go off anyway. I think there is a difference between going to a cookout or softball game with the squad and going to a party where anyone is shouting, "I see Blue, he looks glorious!" If you are asking the question, "Does being here send the wrong message?" then it probably does.

Dear Professor Squirrel,

We want to attend the 2005 NCEMS Conference in Philadelphia, but our administrator won't approve the expense until she sees a conference syllabus. Can you help us out? Who will be speaking this year? Does anyone know? I hope you'll have something posted by Thanksgiving. That would be really great!

I'm not in charge of the conference schedule, but you can visit the NCEMS web site and review the programs for past conferences. A quick look through the window at the conference planning whiteboard and I see the conference committee intends to post a preliminary schedule and list of workshop topics on the Web site by November 1.

I realize that often organizational budgets are due in the fall for student organizations before the NCEMS conference speakers are confirmed and finalized. You can submit with your budget request copies of the prior year's conference schedule as an example of what to expect.

Each year since 1994 the conference has grown in both attendance and program. The conference is oriented to campus EMS organizations' issues and interests. You can expect the next conference to be bigger and better once again. Now if only I can convince the NCEMS president to include a workshop on the healthy feeding of campus rodents.

See you around campus!
Professor Squirrel



Professor Squirrel has been hanging out on campus begging for food from students and keeping an eye on campus EMS for many years. Send your questions to the Professor at professor@ncemsf.org. The Professor will answer the best ones in the NCEMS newsletter and on the NCEMS General-L list. Your name and school will be kept confidential.

Product Review: Skyscape's 5MCC

Eric MaryEa, NCEMSF Director at Large

Have you ever been in the back of the ambulance attempting to obtain a patient history when the person you're assessing utters an illness you've never heard of? Sure, you could pull out that little pocket guide that most EMS providers tend to carry around with them, but chances are you won't find it in there either. About one year ago, after refusing to succumb to the pocket PC craze that most of my co-workers fell victim to, I gave in and purchased a new PDA. Of course, now that I had the hardware, I found myself in search of software that I would find useful in the field. After months of searching, I decided that Skyscape offered the best variety of programs that appeared to tailor to the needs of EMS professionals the most, so I downloaded Skyscape's 5-Minute Clinical Consult (5MCC). The description for the product was somewhat compelling, boasting the inclusion of over 1,000 medical and surgical conditions and over 7,500 terms and medications.

I obtained the full version just two weeks after downloading the trial and was amazed at the ease of use and content, which far surpassed my expectations. Under each disease process, 5MCC lists things such as basic descriptions about

the illness, its prevalence in the US, signs and symptoms, what demographic is more likely to contract the disease, causes, differential diagnoses, treatment modalities, what medications are available for the condition, and any additional miscellaneous information. In most cases, especially those such as cellulitis, syphilis, and Crohn's disease, the miscellaneous section also includes multiple color photos of the signs you might see in such patients.

If that had not been enough reason to sell me on their product, my mind was definitely made up when I read about and tested Skyscape's smARTlink technology, which enables each Skyscape product to link to one another. Through smARTlink, 5MCC can be cross-linked with another product made by Skyscape called A2Z Drugs which allows the user to research thousands of medications, including the medication's indications, contraindications, mechanisms of action, interactions, adverse reactions, brand names, administration, overdose treatments, patient education, and more. Therefore, if you're in the back of the ambulance treating a patient who states they have

Crohn's disease and take Mesalamine, the EMS provider can look up Crohn's disease, view the list of medications, click on the 'Link' button, select Mesalamine, and view all of the drug's information.

Overall, Skyscape's 5-Minute Clinical Consult is an excellent product. It is because of this product and the others that Skyscape offers specifically tailored to the needs of EMS providers, such as Pocket EMT and Pocket Responder, that inspired NCEMSF's drive to establish an affiliation with Skyscape and provide their products at discounted rates to our members. You may view and download trial versions of 5MCC and other Skyscape products at <http://www.skyscape.com/ncemsf> where all NCEMSF members are entitled to a 20% discount off their total purchase.

I hope that you enjoy using their products as much as I have. If you have any feedback on this or any other product by Skyscape, please write me at sponsor@ncemsf.org.



Conference 2005 - Philadelphia Freedom

Rachel Nagourney and John Wenzel, Conference 2005 Committee

Villanova EMS and Ursinus College SERV are honored to have been selected as co-hosts for the 12th annual 2005 NCEMSF Conference on February 25-27, 2005 in Philadelphia.

This is Ursinus' first time hosting the conference, but Villanova hosted the second annual NCEMSF conference on their campus in 1995. A great deal has changed since then with the growth of NCEMSF and many of its collegiate squads. Both host squads are excited to bring their different perspectives to the Conference 2005 experience.

Philadelphia is home to an abundance of EMS and health care resources including several university medical centers, world renowned hospitals and trauma centers, the Philadelphia Fire Department., and several air ambulance providers. We will be leveraging these resources for the benefit of the expected larger-than-ever conference attendance.

While you are not engaged in lectures or other conference activities, Philadelphia boasts an endless list of entertainment and night life for conference attendees. The city is full of restaurants, clubs, bars, historical landmarks, museums, arts, and cultural activities, most of which are within reach of the conference's home, the Sheraton Society Hill. There promises to never be a dull moment!

Watch for conference updates in the next few months, and definitely plan early to be in attendance. VEMS, SERV, and NCEMSF are striving to bring you all the best conference yet!

About the Conference Hosts

Villanova EMS is a Pennsylvania licensed BLS ambulance squad for Villanova University, set in the quiet suburbs of Philadelphia. VEMS was founded in 1989, gaining QRS certification in 1995. VEMS became a BLS service in 1997 with its 1996 McCoy

Miller Type III ambulance. Today, VEMS finds its home in the new university Health Services Building, with almost 50 members, a 2003 Horton Type III ambulance, and two AEDs in service.

Ursinus College Student Emergency Response Volunteers (SERV) is a campus based first response team in Collegeville, PA, approximately 30 miles from Philadelphia. Founded in 1988, it currently operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week while classes are in session. In recent years, SERV has brought an EMT class to campus and now utilizes a Jeep Grand Cherokee for faster response. While not responding to campus emergencies, SERV attempts to educate and excite the community about the emergency services industry.



From the Southeast Region: Duke EMS Purchases Vehicle

David Strauss, Director of Duke University EMS

Duke EMS recently purchased a 2004 Chevy Trailblazer that has been detailed, equipped, and certified by the North Carolina Office of EMS as a Non-Transporting EMS Vehicle. While Duke EMS members have been responding to 911-initiated EMS calls for the past 10 years, until now members responded on foot or waited for Duke Police to provide transportation. With the addition of the new vehicle Duke EMS hopes to decrease response time, acquire a central base and eventually increase its level of care from EMT-Basic to EMT-Intermediate (a level that many members

have already attained). During the 2003-2004 academic year the squad's 25 members responded to 361 EMS calls throughout Duke's campus and extensive medical center. In addition to providing 24/7 coverage the squad sponsors an EMT-Basic class and leads public health education programs. Heightened awareness and interest in Duke EMS has already been indicated by seventy-two applicants for last spring's EMT class and 120 showing interest for the current class. The squad is looking forward to a great year!



David Strauss shown with Duke EMS' new vehicle, a 2004 Chevy Trailblazer.



From the Northeast Region

Robert T. Hart, NCEMSF Northeast Regional Coordinator

Hello Everyone! Welcome back for another fun year of classes, exams, parties and most importantly EMS! I'm sure many of you have been working hard with your Commanding Officers getting your corps polished up for the Fall Semester and I know all of you are eager to put on your radios and respond to calls. This year should be one of the best, NCEMSF has a strong membership roster comprised of schools from around the country, members are still inspired from our great conference in Baltimore

and you've all made connections with other schools to ensure a banner year. This is your semester to start new projects, attain goals and excel as Collegiate EMS Professionals!

For the past few weeks myself and my fellow regional coordinators have been contacting the schools in our regions to find out what you are up to so that we can brag about all your good work. We know you are busy, but please let us know what you are doing in your

community, NCEMSF is here to share ideas and achievements and we need your input. Whenever you have something you need help with, or want the group to know about, send your RC an email and we will let the group know.

Have a fantastic fall semester, be safe, have fun and keep up all your good work! looking forward to the next conference!



From the Midwest Region

Reagan Kelly, NCEMSF Midwest Regional Coordinator

Welcome back after what I hope was a restful and relaxing summer. The school year has begun again and call volumes are on the rise. This is going to be an exciting year. Conference preparations are already underway, and I hope to see everyone in Philadelphia in February.

This year is also shaping up to be an exciting one for the Midwest region. Students at **Case Western Reserve University** in Cleveland are working towards starting up a student-run EMS group. They are awaiting final approval from their administration and have begun looking into the state approval process.

Indiana University – Bloomington is currently working towards becoming a transporting agency that will cover all BLS calls on the IU campus. This should be happening some time this year.



As always, please send me any questions or comments you may have about the events in the Midwest at midwest-rc@ncemsf.org. I hope everyone has a safe and productive school year.



SPONSORS and MEMBER BENEFITS



Please welcome our newest sponsor:



The Collegiate EMS Advantage

Joshua A. Marks, NCEMSF Secretary

I have written and lectured many times before on why Collegiate EMS exists, and why it is critical that Collegiate EMS continue to grow. The general argument touts the benefits Collegiate EMS offers to those that participate in it. For example, Collegiate EMS teaches self-confidence, interpersonal skills, teamwork, leadership, organization skills, responsibility, decision-making, and critical problem solving. Pre-hospital medicine really just provides an avenue for the acquisition of these life skills.

Recently though I was involved in training a group of first year medical students in CPR and I started to think, "What is the Collegiate EMS advantage to those that continue on in healthcare and specifically medical school (statistically less than 30% of Collegiate EMS participants)? Is the advantage to medical students any different than it is to other participants that pursue other careers? Certainly all the same lessons apply, but how far does the prior exposure to pre-hospital emergency medicine and direct patient care carry new medical students?

It is known that EMS certification alone does not help in entrance to medical school. Holding a certification card may demonstrate interest in medicine and some degree of commitment to the profession, however, becoming an EMT has become quite commonplace and it no longer stands out as something unique or overly impressive. There are of course some exceptions depending on what one does with the certification or if there exists a particular life defining experience gained through EMS that the person is able to write and talk about.

Therefore, while the presence of EMS certification on a resume does not necessarily add anything to the application, I think the exposure to EMS is a great advantage to applicants once they are accepted and have begun their actual formal medical education. EMS is one of the few things, if not the only thing, that teenagers and young adults can do to be formally involved in direct patient care prior to medical school itself. As EMS providers, individuals are completely responsible for the evaluation and treatment of a patient. In the time prior to delivery of a patient to definitive care, there are no physicians or higher qualified medical personnel on scene (at least we generally hope there are not any). The EMS provider is it! As a result, EMS providers turned medical students are already comfortable talking to patients and doing an assessment and physical exam. Certainly there is more to learn in medical school as those skills are further developed and refined, but EMS providers have an unquestionable leg up on their classmates and have that much of an easier time adjusting to the many pressures of medical school. Simply stated, not everything is foreign and new. There is a preexisting comfort level.

Additionally, EMS providers that enter medical school are comfortable talking about medicine. They are familiar with the language and the thought process. They are used to presenting patients to other healthcare providers in a succinct, direct

manner. They are accustomed to the concept of peer review and consultation. Again, these things are learned in medical school and those without an EMS background are not at a disadvantage, but the advantage to those with an EMS background is evident.

Those that continue in EMS while in medical school also have the advantage of being able to apply some of what they learn as they progress through their education as opposed to having to wait until their third year when they officially enter the wards. EMS provides them with a constant patient population on which to further hone their skills.

Having delineated what I believe the advantages of EMS prior to medical school entry to be, I would be remiss if I did not also comment on what I perceive the potential disadvantages to be. First, there is a potential for a false sense of confidence and unwillingness/inability to keep an open mind to new and different ways of doing things. EMS providers may have a set way of conducting a patient interview and exam. A physician's assessment and exam has similar components but is often different in scope and objective. EMS providers turned medical students should avoid tuning anything out because they "already know it." A physician's instruction on something even as mundane as CPR can be enlightening and change a person's perspective. Second, and more importantly, EMS experience can lead to the premature and inappropriate development of cynicism. The statistics on this are mind-boggling. The majority of first year medical students when surveyed are determined to be extremely empathic and have far reaching goals of healing the world. Studies on provider empathy show that there is a precipitous decline in empathy with acquisition of knowledge and experience and the decline seems to begin in the second year of medical school and is downhill from there. It is quite ironic and counter intuitive that in learning to become a physician one's empathy towards patients in fact decreases and cynicism increases. Those that enter medical school with previous patient care experiences are on an accelerated track towards cynicism if not already loaded with it. It should not be that way and there are things individuals can do to change the trend (a subject of several lectures and exercises presented by the dean of my school upon our orientation to second year – in a nutshell the solution involves commitments to "constant professionalism" and "personal humility").

Good luck to those currently in the midst of the medical school application process (I do not envy you – it is at times a long, tedious course). Think about some of the above issues if you plan on discussing your EMS experience in your upcoming interviews. More importantly, enjoy your senior year to the fullest extent possible, especially if you plan on entering medical school immediately next fall. Your brain will need the rest and relaxation!



NCEMSF is still looking for a few dedicated members to take on expanded roles within the Foundation's leadership. Interested parties should email board@ncemf.org for details and application requirements.

“In the unlikely event of an ambulance roll-over, supplies in the patient compartment will not be turned into projectiles...”

About This Publication

NCEMSF NEWS is an official publication of the National Collegiate Emergency Medical Services Foundation (NCEMSF). This newsletter is published as a service to the foundation's members and the national EMS community.

Opinions expressed in articles in NCEMSF NEWS are those of the authors, and not necessarily those of NCEMSF. Information contained in NCEMSF NEWS is not intended as medical advice. Contact your medical director before changing medical protocol. NCEMSF hereby grants permission to reprint materials herein for the non-commercial purpose of dissemination of information to the EMS community. Any reprinted material must contain the following credit line: “Reprinted by permission of the National Collegiate Emergency Medical Services Foundation and NCEMSF NEWS (www.ncemsf.org),” and should include the volume and issue of the article's original publication. Any other use without the expressed consent of the NCEMSF is prohibited.

Copyright © 2004, National Collegiate EMS Foundation

*Send articles to be considered for publication on diskette (common PC formats) to:
NCEMSF
PO Box 93
West Sand Lake, NY 12196*

*Or e-mail your articles to
info@ncemsf.org*

Australian for EMS, Mate!

Dr. Scott C. Savett, NCEMSF Vice President

Regular readers of this newsletter know that I travel quite a bit since many of my stories are about my experiences on the road. While I thought that I'd never top my 1998 4,000 mile trip across the US, I was recently on the road trip to trump all others: literally around the world. With the good fortune of a consulting engagement in mainland China, I took the opportunity to vacation in London, Hong Kong, Australia, and New Zealand along the way. Some 26,000 miles later I have lots of stories, some of which are about EMS.

Australia has traditionally been a tough nut to crack for NCEMSF. While we have a regional coordinator, Buck Reed, at the helm down under, he currently has no sheep in his flock. While visiting the Sydney area on my worldwide trip, I took the opportunity to finally meet Buck in person and have him show me around a suburban ambulance station.

We arrived at the Penrith station of the New South Wales (NSW) Ambulance Service to find just one ambulance. The others were out on the road. Thankfully, the remaining crew at the station was more than happy to show us their ambulance.

Ambulances in NSW are all state-run. This includes both emergency ambulances and non-emergent patient transport units. This allows NSW Ambulance personnel to focus their efforts on one thing: providing the best possible patient care to one patient at a time.

That isn't to say that they can't handle a mass casualty incident. To the contrary: their mutual aid plan is built right into the system. All ambulances in the state fall under one jurisdiction. As such, additional resources are just a radio call away. Imagine 6.2 million people (equal to Philadelphia metro area) in an area of 308,000 square miles (comparable to the American eastern seaboard from Maine to North Carolina) — all served by a unified organization with 1100 ambulances.

The NSW crews in suburban areas use ambulances based on a European-looking Mercedes Benz Sprinter van chassis. You may recognize the size and shape as American FedEx vans. While there are American ambulances based on the same style of chassis, the Australian interior layout is completely different, lacking our typical bench seat, but incorporating a sunroof!

When stocking their ambulances, it seems that American EMS personnel ask themselves “Who knows when a multi-car pileup might

require that I have enough supplies to start six IVs at the same time?” As a result, we stuff every available inch of space with extra supplies. In opposition to that, the suburban NSW crews work mainly from of their first-in bags. Backup supplies are certainly available on the ambulance, but with mutual aid readily available, the prospect that they need the extra supplies seems remote. The additional supplies they do carry onboard are neatly stored in nylon pouches in clearly marked overhead storage bins like you'd find on an airplane. This system accomplishes two things: 1) supplies are easy to restock since the medics are typically working from their first-in bags; 2) in the unlikely event of an ambulance roll-over, supplies in the patient compartment will not be turned into projectiles. Personally, the second aspect is especially attractive as I look around the potential hazards in my squad's type-II (van) ambulance.

Despite the differences in philosophy between American and Australian ambulance services, I can only hope that some of the ergonomic design features of these well-built Aussie vehicles find their way into American ambulances in the near future.



NSW Mercedes Benz Sprinter Ambulance.
Photo courtesy Eric Scaresbrook.



A NSW Ambulance officer checks equipment.
Photo is facing forward from the rear doors.

Note Our New Address!

NCEMSF Executive Officers
President
George J. Koenig, Jr., D.O.

Vice-President
Scott C. Savett, Ph.D.

Secretary
Joshua A. Marks

Treasurer
Michael S. Wiederhold, MPH,MS

Directors-at-Large
Mark E. Milliron, MS, MPA
Eric MaryEa, NREMT-P

Division Chairs
Membership Coordinator
Karolina A. Schabses, MPH

Startup Coordinator
David I. Bacall

National Coordinator
Kelly Schirmer

EMS Week Coordinator
Timothy J. McMichael

Contact Information:
Phone / Fax: 208-728-7342
Email: info@ncemsf.org
Web: <http://www.ncemsf.org>



***This year's
Collegiate EMS
Week is
November 8-14.***

***An EMS Week
information
packet will be
available for
download from the
NCEMSF Web site
beginning
October 15.***

National Collegiate EMS Foundation
PO Box 93
West Sand Lake, NY 12196-0093

***Did YOU move? Please visit the Membership section of the
NCEMSF Web site to update your mailing address.***

Mark your calendar for upcoming NCEMSF events:

September: Renew NCEMSF personal & institution membership. Re-establish communication with your NCEMSF regional coordinator. Apply for funding to your student activities board for the NCEMSF Conference.

October: Plan Campus EMS Week events after downloading the packet.

November 8-14: Campus EMS Week. Celebrate your collegiate EMS group with activities, demonstrations, and other fun events.

December: Finals and vacation. Stay safe.

January: Register for NCEMSF conference. Make travel plans for the conference. Submit NCEMSF award applications and *Striving for Excellence* packets.

February 25-27: Attend NCEMSF Conference at the Sheraton Society Hill in Philadelphia, PA.

