

### Pathfinders Task Force: A Replicable Resource that Combines Civil/Military into a Cohesive, Logical, Response Unit

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In just 14 days, Pathfinders Task Force (PTF) Katrina combined 1,500 military and civilian responders into a Unified Command that delivered relief supplies to 126,000 homebound survivors, while searching for and working to resolve the unmet special needs identified as a result of that rapid grid search. This replicable resource is sponsored by the State of Florida for the US Department of Homeland Security to accelerate approval for a three-day "Train-the-Trainer" (TTT) course, followed by a basic, volunteer course where the TTT graduates lead a Pathfinders Task Force for one-day mission. National Guard operations in the US also are scheduling trainings as this force multiplier concept relies upon local survivor volunteers who are recruited, rapidly trained, background checked, and then merged with military forces to conduct mass-care operations. This model has been used repeatedly in major disasters with increasing effectiveness.

The Workshop session will have 100 military specialists, GPS cellular telephones for hands-on learning (technology designed to work with no cellular towers), internet infrastructure, etc. The simple, flip cellular telephones performed seamlessly in Hurricane Ike where no normal infrastructure remained.

**Keywords:** civilian; cooperation; incident command; military; training

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### Volunteers—An Effective Force Multiplier for Mass-Care Operations

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Unaffiliated, local volunteers can be assimilated into disaster operations as an effective force multiplier. Using modern technology, Pathfinders requires training, strives to be National Incident Management System (NIMS) compliant, relies upon a Volunteer Receiving Area, and maps and tracks volunteer hours. The Workshop session will have 100 military-specific, global positioning system (GPS) cellular telephones for hands-on learning of technology designed to work with no cellular towers, Internet infrastructure, etc. The focus of this mission is to deliver relief supplies to the homebound survivors while seeking and working to resolve the unmet needs of the vulnerable populations during a disaster. This model has been tested in major disasters in the United States and Caribbean for 10 years and repeatedly has improved its methodology with an unprecedented capacity for emergency relief operations.

**Keywords:** civilian; mass-casualty incident; volunteer

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### Israeli Medical Corps Intervention

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Events such as floods, earthquakes, wildfires, chemical disasters, and disasters resulting from regional strife, cause serious damage to medical services. Casualties in these and similar situations often are deprived of even the most basic services.

There are a number of organizations that provide assistance in such cases, but the initiative usually is taken by individuals for whom this is not their main field of activity.

In times of war and during disasters caused by natural hazards, international assistance may be required. Organizations trained in providing emergency medical treatment, such as armies and medical corps, play a major role in establishing mobile and temporary facilities.

These facilities usually are not equipped to treat civilian populations in developing countries. Without appropriate preparation, the medical staff and administration of the field hospital are likely to face unfamiliar problems that they are not qualified to solve.

In cases of disasters caused by natural hazards, damage to the infrastructure often includes the collapse of communication systems. This creates difficulties in the transmission of vital information required to prepare field hospital staff and equipment.

Israel has a great deal of experience in providing humanitarian assistance based on the medical corps and field hospitals staffed by professionals in the regular army and reserves. The lessons learned by the various delegations have resulted in improved operational efficiency. In addition, these lessons have been consolidated into written procedures proven to be invaluable in the preparation and functioning of the hospital and immediate recruitment of various experts sent on such humanitarian missions, and operate under extremely difficult conditions.

**Keywords:** disaster; field hospital; international assistance; Israel Medical Corps

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### Preparing a Hospital for an Unconventional Mass-Casualty Event

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**Introduction:** Preparing a hospital for an unconventional mass-casualty event (MCE) in times of war is a complex task that requires full collaboration between various hospital departments. The main challenge is that the nature of each event requires a different operational approach. Drills and simulations are expensive and require thorough planning.

**Objective:** The objective is to prepare a hospital for an unconventional MCE.

**Methods:** Preparing a hospital for an unconventional MCE requires:

1. Providing the best treatment to the casualties while ensuring the safety of personnel;
2. Maximizing the readiness of personnel and the equipment;
3. Familiarity with the treatments required when presented with injuries caused by chemical weapons;