



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

VA Coordinated National Disaster Medical System Exercise

OMAHA, Neb., Sept. 4, 2014 — Omaha's VA Medical Center Hospital Incident Command team coordinated a National Disaster Medical System exercise Sept. 4.

The overall purpose of NDMS is to establish a single national medical response capability for assisting state and local authorities in dealing with the medical and public health effects of major peacetime disasters; and providing support to the military medical system in caring for casualties resulting from overseas armed conflicts.

The Omaha VA Medical Center is the regional Federal Coordinating Center for NDMS.

The mission of an FCC is to receive, triage, stage, track and transport inpatients, affected by a disaster or national emergency, to a participating NDMS inpatient hospital capable of providing the required definitive care. An FCC also has the potential to receive military patients should the Department of Defense (DoD) Health System be overwhelmed during a military contingency.

An FCC is defined as a federal facility (DoD or VA) located in a metropolitan area of the United States and/or Puerto Rico, responsible for day to day coordination of planning and operations in one or more assigned geographic NDMS Patient Reception Areas (PRA).

Offutt Air Force Base is the local patient reception area. During the exercise or a real-world event, patients would be airlifted into Offutt AFB and then the VA medical center would coordinate transport of patients to the VA and other local participating hospitals.

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About VA Nebraska-Western Iowa Health Care System

The VA Nebraska-Western Iowa Health Care System's mission is to honor America's Veterans by providing exceptional health care that improves their health and well-being. VA NWIHCS employees serve more than 161,000 Veterans in Nebraska, western Iowa and portions of Kansas and Missouri. The system includes a tertiary medical center in Omaha and a Community Living Center in Grand Island, Neb. Community-based outpatient clinics are located in Lincoln, Grand Island, North Platte, Norfolk, and Bellevue, Neb., and Shenandoah, Iowa; and a contract outreach clinic in O'Neill, Neb. For more information, visit <http://www.nebraska.va.gov>

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