

Implications of Hurricane Katrina for Public Health Preparedness

Call #1: Preparedness and Response Plans

Speaker Biographies

Colonel Terry Ebbert, USMC, Retired

Director, Office of Homeland Security and Public Safety
City of New Orleans

Colonel Ebbert has over 35 years of experience in professional leadership positions. He is a distinguished twice wounded combat veteran who was awarded the Navy Cross, the United States second highest award for valor. Currently, serving as The Director of Homeland Security for New Orleans, he is assigned the operational and planning responsibility for the Police Department, Fire Department and the Office of Emergency Preparedness.

Other major leadership positions include: Executive Director of the New Orleans Police Foundation: Worked in partnership with the business community to assist in developing the New Orleans Police Department into one of the nation's most efficient crime reduction organizations in the nation.

Director of Security United States Strategic Petroleum Reserve: Responsible for security and fire protection of The United States oil reserves located throughout The U.S. Gulf Coast. Commanding Officer United States Marine Corps Basic School: Responsible for initial training of all new USMC Officers. Head of Ground Officer Assignments: Responsible for Marine Corps wide unit staffing and assignments for all non aviation officers.

Military Secretary for Commandant of United States Marine Corps: Responsible for Commandants personal security, daily schedule and coordination of personal staff. Security Officer United States Pacific Fleet: Responsible for all naval base and ship security in California, Hawaii, Alaska, Guam, Philippines, Japan and Diego Garcia. This included control of both Military and Civilian Police Forces tasked with the mission of base and nuclear weapons security. Infantry Combat Commander: Served as Company Commander in the Republic of Vietnam.

Captain Ali S. Khan, MD, MPH (USPHS)

Deputy Director (Acting)
National Center for Zoonotic, Vector-borne, and Enteric Diseases (proposed)
Coordinating Center for Infectious Diseases, DHHS/CDC

Dr. Ali S. Khan is currently the acting Deputy Director of the National Center for Zoonotic, Vector-borne, and Enteric Diseases, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [CDC], Department of Health and Human Services. He joined CDC and the US Public Health Service Commissioned Corps in 1991 as an Epidemic Intelligence Service officer and over the past decade has responded to and led numerous high profile domestic and international public health emergencies including hantavirus pulmonary syndrome, Ebola hemorrhagic fever, monkeypox, avian influenza, Rift Valley fever, avian influenza, severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS), the Asian Tsunami, and the initial public health response to Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans.

Captain Ali S. Khan, MD, MPH (USPHS), continued

In 1999, he served as one of the main architects of CDC's public health bioterrorism preparedness program which upgraded local, state, and national public health systems to detect and rapidly respond to bioterrorism. As Deputy Director of this new program he created the Critical Agent list, which has remained the basis for all biological terrorism preparedness; published the first national public health preparedness plan; initiated syndrome-based surveillance; and designed the key focus areas to improve local and state capacities. These preparedness efforts were crucial in limiting the scope of the first anthrax attack during which he directed the CDC operational response in Washington, D.C.

Dr. Khan's professional career has focused on bioterrorism, global health and emerging infectious diseases. While serving as the interim Director for CDC's global infectious disease activities he designed CDC's joint field epidemiology and laboratory training program and launched the second International Emerging Infections Center in Kenya. Most recently he has helped design and implement the President's new \$1.2 billion 5-year African Malaria Initiative while being engaged in guinea worm eradication activities in Sudan.

Dr. Khan received his MD from Downstate Medical Center in his hometown of Brooklyn, NY and completed a joint residency in Internal Medicine and Pediatrics at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor before joining CDC. He has since completed a Masters of Public Health from Emory University's Rollins School of Public Health where he now holds an adjunct Professor appointment. He has over 150 peer-reviewed publications, textbook chapters, editorials, and brief communiqués. He has consulted intensively for multiple US organizations including NASA, Ministries of Health, and the World Health Organization.

Jimmy Guidry, MD

State Health Officer & Medical Director
Louisiana Department of Health & Hospitals

Jimmy Guidry, M.D., is currently the State Health Officer of Louisiana, and also serves as the Medical Director for the Department of Health & Hospitals (DHH). Prior to this, Dr. Guidry served as the Assistant Secretary for the Office of Public Health from October, 1996 through January, 2000, and as Medical Director of the Acadian Region from April 1990 through April, 1991. In addition, Dr. Guidry served as Director of Adolescent Services at LSU School of Medicine, Pediatric Department, Earl K. Long Hospital from January 1985 to March, 1990. He also worked in Pediatric Private Practice from July, 1981 through December, 1984.

Dr. Guidry presently chairs various task forces, including the DHH Obesity Task Force, the Child Death Review Panel, and the Governor's Task Force on Tuberculosis. He has received numerous awards and honors. In 1997, Guidry was named the LPHA Award Recipient. He is well respected among his peers, and is sought-after for many speaking engagements. He also represents the state of Louisiana at many medical and environmental engagements across the country.

He received his Bachelors of Science from the University of Southwestern in 1974, earned his doctorate from the Louisiana State University School of Medicine in 1978, and completed his residency at Earl K. Long Hospital in 1981. He has been Board Certified since 1984 and is a Fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics.