



September 10, 2004

**NOTICE OF MEDIA OPPORTUNITY**

**Observe Simulated Move, Assess, Sort and Send (MASS) Triage Exercise**  
as part of 'BORDERS ALERT AND READY' Medical Emergency and Disaster Preparedness Training

**DATE:** Friday, September 17, 2004

**PLACE:** Camp Grafton of the North Dakota Army National Guard  
Devils Lake, N.D.  
Armory Building 6400

**TIME:** 10 a.m. News Conference  
10:30 a.m. MASS Triage Hands-on Exercise

**WHAT:** **Simulated MASS Triage Hands-on Exercise** taking place on the final day of a three-day medical emergency and disaster preparedness training program aimed at preparing health professionals to respond to a mass casualty incident. This is the first of its kind in the state for medical personnel. The event is part of a comprehensive training program offered through BORDERS Alert and Ready, a federally funded disaster preparedness project offered through the University of North Dakota (UND) School of Medicine and Health Sciences.

During the training on Friday, Sept. 17, members of the media are invited to observe training participants as they take part in a MASS triage hands-on exercise. Role players and manikins will be utilized as victims as teams of health professionals test their skills in dealing with a simulated mass casualty incident involving an explosion at an outdoor public concert.

The event will be preceded by a brief news conference that will include an overview of BORDERS Alert and Ready program and set the stage for observing the training exercise.

**POINT OF INTEREST:**

Other events include demonstrations by the Grand Forks Fire Department of its Decontamination and Personal Protection Equipment, and presentations by Arrow-Tech, Inc., a Rolla, N.D., company providing nuclear, biological and chemical detection equipment, and the Canadian Public Health Laboratory Network.

**BORDERS**, which stands for Biochemical Organic Radioactive Disaster Educational Response System, is being developed by the UND medical school in partnership with the North Dakota Department of Health through a \$820,000 grant received a year ago from the federal Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA).

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