To the Editor:

This letter is in response to the article, "Patient-Data Collection System Used During Medical Operations After the 1994 San Fernando Valley-Northridge Earthquake," published in the July–September 1995 issue of *Prehospital and Disaster Medicine*. Certain information concerning the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) was inaccurate. I submit the following:

The authors report that "19 disaster assistance centers (DACs) were staffed by local VA physicians and nurses." Actually, more than 30 DACs were staffed by 230 health-care providers from 82 VA medical centers.

Table 2 shows that the DAC sites were discontinued on 30 January 1994, and 2,741 patients had received medical care. The VA staff provided medical care to 17,883 patients at the DACs from 26 January to 26 February 1994.

The authors conclude that "more than 11,000 patients were seen by disaster medical assistance teams (DMATs) in 12 days..." This 11,000+ figure reported in Table 2 includes patients not seen by DMATs (i.e., 2,741 at VA-staffed DACs and 801 at VA mobile health clinics). The table should report that DMATs treated 7,479 patients.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this information. The medical care provided by VA in the Northridge, California incident was in response to Federal Emergency Management Agency tasking under Emergency Support Function #8 of the Federal Response Plan. The VA health-care providers were not functioning as a DMAT under the National Disaster Medical System. If you or the authors require additional information concerning these observations, please contact me at 317/226-5033.

David Teeter
Manager, Clinical Training
U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs
Indianapolis, Indiana USA

Correction

In a letter to the editor in Volume 10, Number 4 of *Prehospital and Disaster Medicine*, the name Katharina Koetter was incorrectly published as Ratharina Roetter. *Prehospital and Disaster Medicine* regrets the error.

Organizations affiliated with the World Association for Disaster and Emergency Medicine include:

- American College of Emergency Physicians
- Association de Medicine Liberaux Sapeur
- Japanese Medical Team for Disaster Relief
- Mediterranean Club for Burns and Fire Disasters
- Nordic Society for Disaster Medicine
- Society for Academic Emergency Medicine
- Society of Emergency Medicine–Singapore
- Swedish Society of Disaster Medicine
We Challenge You!

The future of EMS will rely on research—being able to prove that what we do makes a difference. Although the statistics aren’t always easy, they are at the heart of the matter. Take the challenge! Subscribe to PREHOSPITAL AND DISASTER MEDICINE. You’ll get the best scientific research available to the EMS community and be a part of the future!

Try it—risk free!

Return the enclosed card for a one-year subscription (4 issues) for only $39. This is a risk-free subscription. You can cancel at any time for a full refund.

If card is missing, call (800) 266-JEMS.
Join Us At EMS Today In The Land Of Enchantment

In March 13, 1996, more than 2,500 of your colleagues from throughout the United States and from more than a dozen other countries will convene in beautiful Albuquerque, New Mexico for an unforgettable four days of education and inspiration at the 14th Annual EMS Today Conference and Exposition.

There are four full days and 80 different sessions and workshops to choose from. You can register for one, two or three days or take advantage of our Gold Passport, which entitles you to attend all four days, plus receive special privileges, for the bargain rate of less than $99 per day!

Register Early & Save Money!

What Can You Expect From The Educational Program This Year?

Here are just a few highlights:

Rick Tate, the most sought-after and praised motivational speaker, national expert, and author, will present the opening session titled “Leadership and the Customer Service Revolution”

Jack Stout, adviser to the Business Council at Med Trans, will lead a discussion on “EMS at the Crossroads: Mobile Health Care in America”

Baxter Larmon, associate director of the University of California at Los Angeles Center for Prehospital Care, will present a special workshop entitled “Demystifying Prehospital Research”

New for 1996: the Master’s Series featuring “What’s Hot and What’s Not in 1996”

Also

James O. Page, JD & Mark S. Brown, EMT-P, “EMS in America: The First 30 Years”

Mike Smith, REMT-P, “Drugs on the Street Where You Live!”

Douglas A. Garretson, BA, REMT-P, “First on the Scene: EMS Incident Command”

John Sinclair & Lynn Klein “When the Unthinkable Happens: Death in the Line of EMS Duty”

PLUS Experience the most extensive exhibit hall of any conference in our industry—90,000 square feet of the latest innovations in ambulances, patient care equipment, communications devices, computer software, personal items, training aids, and more.

You can’t afford to miss this unique and prestigious conference.

Fill out the coupon below and mail it today. You’ll receive the complete EMS Today brochure with conference schedule and sessions, and registration information.

☑ YES, I’m interested in attending EMS Today!

Name ____________________________ Organization ____________________________
Address ____________________________ City ___________________ State _____ Zip ______
Telephone ( ) Fax ( )

The above is my: ______ Work ______ Home Address

For more information, call (800) 266-JEMS

Complete this form and mail to Jems Communications

P.O. Box 2789
Carlsbad, CA 92018-2789

or FAX to (619) 431-8135

CJBA16
Mark your Calendar...

MAY 16

Communication: A Matter of Survival
May 16-19, 1996

Who should attend:
EMS personnel • laypersons
dispatchers • health care
educators • BLS and ACLS
instructors • physicians • nurses
and anyone interested in
improving the quality of
emergency cardiac care

Feature Topics:
• CPR in perspective
• CPR training
• Acute MI
• Stroke
• Psycho-social aspects of CPR
• Changing trends in public care

Montreal
For information
please call (619) 431-9797

YOU need to KNOW!

You're an EMS administrator.
It's your job to know what's going on in the industry.
Not just the how-tos but the legislation, decisions
and policy changes that affect your staff every day.
Since our field changes daily, the quicker you
receive information, the quicker your staff can
react to the changes. Wouldn't you like to receive
the best inside information every month without
spending your time compiling it?
Now you can.

EMS INSIDER
THE NEWSLETTER FOR EMS MANAGERS

To subscribe, use the card found in this issue
or call 800/266-5367