



State EMS Awards Book of Recognition



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The Director's Medal recognizes an individual for particularly noteworthy and substantial contribution to the EMS system of the State of Oregon

**Ron Hays, EMT-Paramedic
Northwest Medical Teams International**

Northwest Medical Teams International (NWMTI) was established in 1979 as a volunteer-driven disaster response organization. In the fall of 2001, NWMTI recognized the need for increasing access to emergency medical services education within developing countries and created their International EMS Training program headed by EMT-Paramedic Ron Hays. As Ron took the helm of the International EMS Training program, he used his years of experience and lists of Oregon EMS contacts and put out the call within the EMS community to assist in developing this program.

The EMS community in Oregon answered Ron's call to action. Since the inception of the program, over 35 EMTs of all levels have participated in NWMTI projects, donating over 4000 volunteers hours.

The goal of the NWMTI EMS Training program is to provide improved emergency care to sick and injured people in developing countries. The program has three major areas of focus. 1) Provide comprehensive training materials in the local language. 2) Train instructors to educate pre-hospital care providers in timely and effective delivery of emergency medical care. 3) Incorporate the training and curriculum into the country's health education system to ensure local ownership and to sustain the knowledge and provision of emergency medical services.

NWMTI personnel have traveled the globe to such locations as Uzbekistan, Honduras, Peru, Vietnam, Iraq, and Macedonia to teach EMS courses ranging from First Responder to ACLS. Stateside volunteers have helped develop and translate these curriculums as appropriate for developing countries.

Thank you to Ron Hays, Northwest Medical Teams International, and the tireless efforts of the entire Oregon EMS community who serve those who are less fortunate with the greatest need and least access.