

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 Sys-

tem. 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

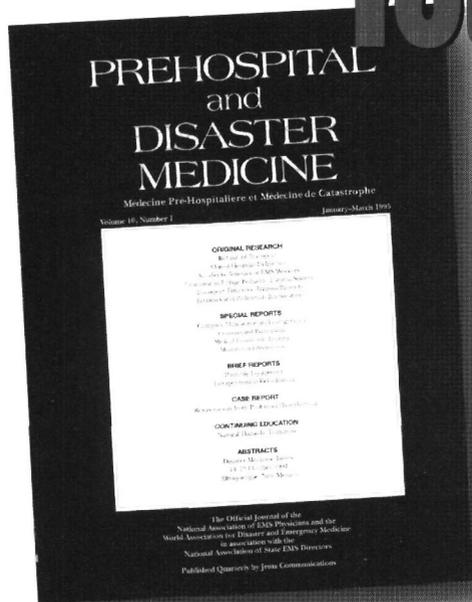
In a letter to the editor in Volume 10, Number 4 of *Prehospital and Disaster Medicine*, the name Katharina Koetter was incorrectly published as Ratharina Roetter. *Prehospital and Disaster Medicine* regrets the error.

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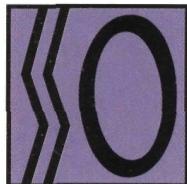
For more information, please call:

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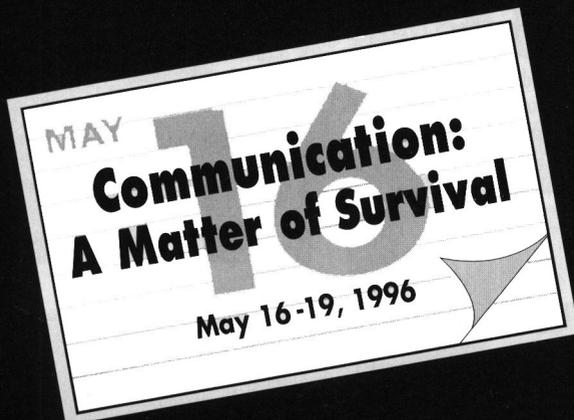


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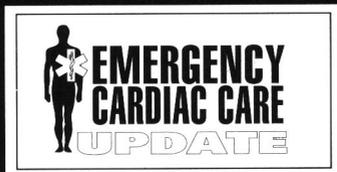


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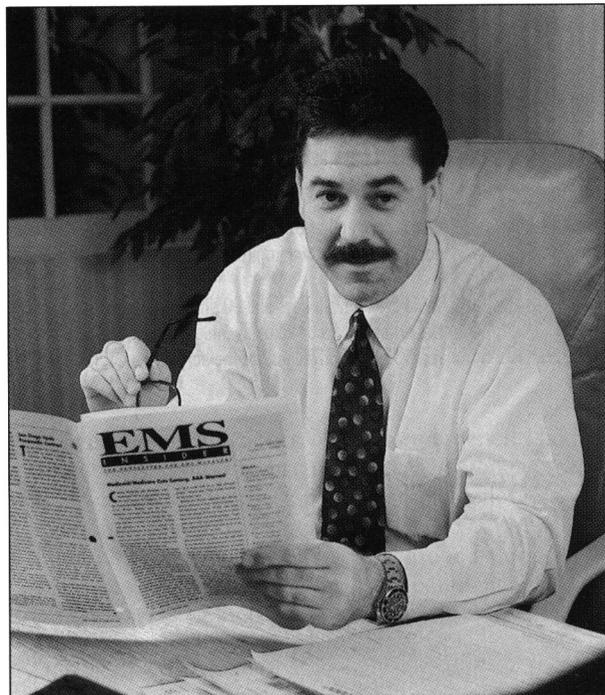
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