

Center for the Study of Traumatic Stress
Department of Psychiatry
Uniformed Services University
www.CSTSONline.org



MA-STAR

Mortuary Affairs – Select, Train, Assist, Reset

**Leader Support for Service Members
Working with Human Remains**



PRE-DEPLOYMENT

S ELECT

- Select the team
- Assign Service Members with recent death or serious stressors to other duties if possible

T RAIN

- Explain the mission, tasks, and safety considerations
 - Prepare for the expected mission
- Tell the team:
 - » “Feeling upset because it is ugly means you are a Service Member who cares”
 - » “Try not to look at the faces and hands of the deceased”
 - » “Use masking smells or breath through your mouth to avoid the odors”

DURING DEPLOYMENT

A SSIST

- Walk around and talk with team members
- Watch for signs of distress
- Encourage unit members to support each other
- Support team members who have difficulty
- Remind the team of the value of their work

POST-DEPLOYMENT

R ESET

- Discuss and share accomplishments
- Provide resources and time for the team to support each other
- Encourage the team to complete the PDHA & PDHRA to protect their health