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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NAEMT NAMES ROBERT L. DITCH, NREMT-P, EMS INSTRUCTOR/COORDINATOR OF THE YEAR
Honored as Mary Ann Talley EMS Instructor/Coordinator of the Year

Las Vegas — The National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians (NAEMT) has named **Robert L. Ditch, NREMT-P, of Yorktown, Va.**, as the recipient of the **2008 Mary Ann Talley EMS Instructor/Coordinator of the Year**. This award, which recognizes an EMS instructor who has made a significant contribution to the EMS community, is sponsored by Mosby.

Ditch received his award at the NAEMT General Membership Meeting and Awards Presentation on October 14 in Las Vegas.

Ditch is the Coordinator for EMS Emergency Management and Leadership Programs at the Center for Emergency Health Services in Williamsburg, Va. He has been an EMS educator for 25 years and an EMS practitioner for 36 years.

"Bob's unrelenting passion for excellence EMS education is contagious and his positive spin on everything is pervasive throughout every classroom setting he leads," wrote Nick Klimenko in his nomination letter. "He takes a personal interest in each student and (in his own words) attempts to 'make everything relative to everyone' and 'connect the dots with each student in the classroom.' "

Klimenko added that Ditch, a retired Air Force colonel, travels around the nation training military medics in PHTLS and other subjects to prepare them for deployment to Iraq and Afghanistan. He also offers his experience in field hospital command to military medical leaders who are preparing for overseas deployment.

Mary Ann Talley EMS Instructor/Coordinator of the Year, add 1

“He does all of this without compensation in order to give back those lessons learned and experiences he achieved from 33 years in the military and six combat tours,” Klimenko wrote.

“Noteworthy have been his efforts at providing training for our and other departments in the areas of emergency response to terrorism,” wrote Michael Player, commander of Virginia-1 Disaster Medical Assistance Team (DMAT). “Through his uncompensated efforts, all the 100-plus members of this department were trained to the awareness level in this critical area.”

Player added that Ditch serves as the planning section chief for Virginia-1 DMAT and he provides up-to-date lectures and classes on operational changes within the federal medical response.

Formed in 1975 and today nearly 25,000 members strong, NAEMT is the nation’s only organization solely dedicated to representing the professional interests of EMS practitioners, including paramedics, emergency medical technicians, first responders and other professionals working in pre-hospital emergency medicine. NAEMT members work in all sectors of EMS, including government service agencies, fire departments, hospital-based ambulance services, private companies, industrial and special operations settings, and in the military.

Each year, NAEMT recognizes excellence in various areas of prehospital medical care with the presentation of individual and organizational achievement awards. These awards honor America’s EMS practitioners and organizations that demonstrate exceptional leadership within the profession and outstanding commitment to prehospital medical care. For more information, visit the NAEMT web site at www.naemt.org.

NOTE: Digital photos of award winners are available upon request.

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