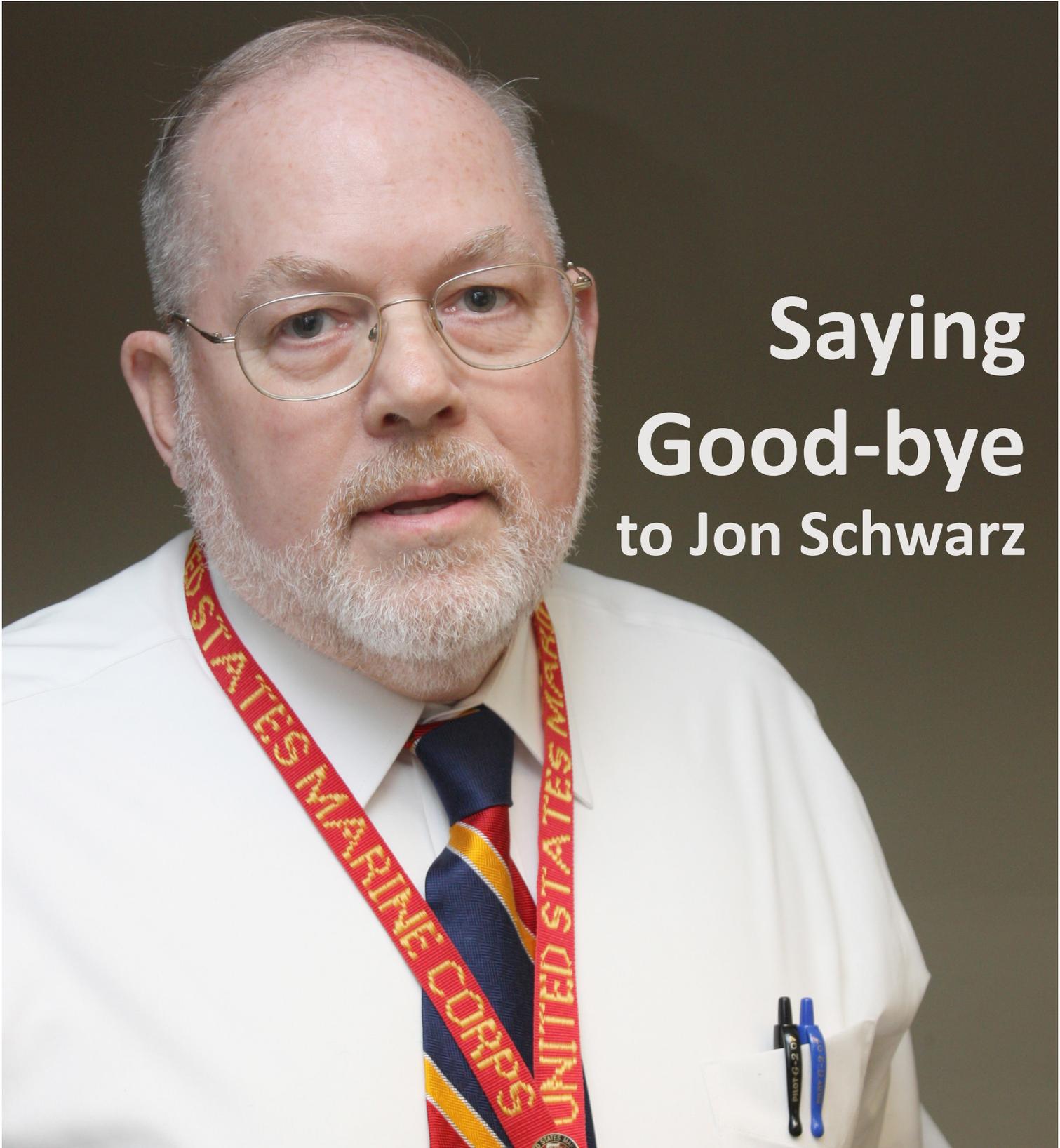




July 15, 2016

The Beacon

Nebraska Emergency Management Agency



Saying Good-bye to Jon Schwarz



*A Message from
NEMA Assistant Director*

Bryan Tuma

We envision safer, less vulnerable communities in Nebraska made possible through effective collaborative partnerships committed to saving lives and reducing the impact of disasters.

Our mission is to coordinate, support and serve Nebraska through an effective and relevant emergency management agency.

It's with a heavy heart that I share the sad news of the untimely passing of Jon Schwarz, our technical hazards manager. Jon joined Nebraska Emergency Management Agency in 1996 after a 23-year career in the United States Marines. Jon, who was 63, died July 6, at Bryan Medical Center after suffering a stroke.

In his more than 20 years with NEMA, Jon led NEMA's radiological emergency preparedness staff in their effort to ensure the citizens of the State of Nebraska were prepared for any type of nuclear disaster. He was meticulous in his planning efforts, making sure every contingency was covered. NEMA was consistently graded positively during Federal Emergency Management Agency exercises at the state's nuclear power plants thanks to Jon and his staff.

Jon was an enthusiastic, detailed, dedicated and passionate proponent of planning for all disasters. He frequently wrote incident action plans for actual disasters, helping with the framework that allowed us to respond effectively to disasters.

Jon cared a great deal about his section and NEMA. He was an expert in his field and a good friend to NEMA staff, local emergency managers, state agency colleagues and nuclear power plant staff.

We will miss his smile, his jokes and his kindness as much as his expertise in radiological emergency preparedness and other technical hazards.

To his family and friends who grieve his passing, the entire staff at NEMA extends its sympathy. Know that we too grieve his loss. He was an influencing and important part of our family here at work.

Rest in Peace, Jon.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "B. Tuma".



Jon Schwarz (third from left in both pictures) with his technical hazards section staff.



Always a Marine, Jon Schwarz Also Made His Mark at NEMA

NEMA lost an integral part of its team on July 6, when Jon Schwarz, technical hazards section manager died after suffering a stroke.

He was active in the agency as well as in a variety of organizations during his career at NEMA.

Nationally, Jon worked with the Western Governor's Association (WGA) and the Council of State Governments (CSG). He also served on the Midwestern Radioactive Materials Transportation Committee.

"I had the opportunity to travel to Orlando to the CSG national conference with Jon and see him with his national counterparts," said **Tonya Ngotel**, State Emergency Response Commission coordinator. "Having worked the last seven years under Jon, I knew he had incredible talents, but to see him in his element with people that he had interacted with for years was amazing. The hugs, the smiles, the radiation jokes that only Jon got – really moved me."

Locally he was a part of the Nebraska Association of Emergency Management and the state emergency response team.



Pictured here during his military service, Jon Schwarz was a Marine through and through. On Nov. 10, every year, he brought a cake to share with his coworkers in honor of the Marine Corps birthday. His birthday was 12 days later, but he celebrated the Marine birthday rather than his own. He proudly wore a Marine Corps lanyard displaying his NEMA identification.

He was a Modular Emergency Response Radiological Transportation Training trainer, did TRANSCOM training and radiological safety officer training.

"Jon actively promoted crisis communication training for Nebraskan's,"

said **Jodie Fawl**, NEMA public information officer. "He brought in nationally recognized speakers on many occasions. He had a real passion for making sure everyone had the tools to get the job done."



Jon Schwarz served as the governor's authorized representative (GAR) at a recent Cooper Nuclear Station exercise.



Jon Schwarz frequently provided training for Nebraskans on a variety of topics.



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NEMA Director

Major General Daryl Bohac

Assistant Director

Bryan Tuma

NEMA is charged by Nebraska statute to reduce the vulnerabilities of the people and communities of Nebraska in terms of injury, loss of life and property damage resulting from natural, technological or man-made disasters and emergencies.

NEMA is responsible for coordinating the state response in any major emergency or disaster including the support of local governments as needed or requested, and coordinating assistance with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and other federal partners.

The Beacon

The Beacon is published six times a year and includes emergency management news and activities from across the state. Please forward story ideas or photos for inclusion to:

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Mike Loftis, NEMA's radiological systems manager, worked for Jon for nearly 12 years.

"Jon had the ability to bring the best out of people," Loftis said. "He could make you mad in one part of a sentence and have you laughing at the end of it. You just wanted to perform well for him."

Please check out full obituaries about him online at [Lincoln Journal Star](#) and at [Lincoln Memorial Funeral Home and Cemetery](#).



NEMA's **Tonya Ngotel** posted on Jon Schwarz's Facebook time line. "Your service to our country and state was recognized in an amazing display of both in your pictures and in the military honors that were bestowed on you today at your service. Always a man of honor, your memory will live on as so."

NEMA Technical Hazards Section Manager
U.S. Marine Corps Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Officer (Retired)
Former Criminal Investigative Division at Okinawa, Japan
Former Criminal Investigator at MCRD, San Diego California
Former Military Police (MP) Investigator at Camp H.M. Smith, Hawaii
Studied Criminal Justice at Chaminade University of Honolulu, Hawaii
Studied Psychology at Kearney State College (UNK)
Went to Eustis-Farnam High School and Parkston High School



Jon Schwarz, pictured at left, with his daughter, Jennifer Crawford of Buckeye, Ariz.; center with his wife of nearly 43 years, Carolyn of Lincoln; and at right with his son, Jeremy, also of Lincoln.