# MA-STAR

*Mortuary Affairs – Select, Train, Assist, Reset*

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

## PRE-DEPLOYMENT

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

**TRAIN**
- 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

**ASSIST**
- 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

**RESET**
- 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