

Chinese police tours Hunter's Ambulance

By Jesse Buchanan
Record-Journal staff

MERIDEN — A group of police from China toured Hunter's Ambulance and the police station on Friday, learning techniques used by American emergency workers.

The city was one many stops, including Washington D.C. and New York City, for about 20 officers from Sichuan province, China. The men and women had all been involved with heroic rescues in the aftermath of an earthquake last year that left about 90,000 dead or missing.

The officers are taking classes at the University of New Haven on rescue methods and emergency preparedness, said university spokeswoman Julie Winkel.

World renowned forensic expert Henry Lee, a UNH professor, contacted former police chief Robert Kosienski to arrange tours of Hunter's Ambulance and the police station. Lee was director of the Connecticut State Police Crime

Laboratory in Meriden for many years.

Kosienski, who now works for Hunter's, said he was glad to help and added that Friday's tour gave an opportunity for cross-cultural education.

"We are brothers and sisters in law enforcement," he said.

The Chinese officers ate at Hunter's Ambulance, located on West Main Street, and through a translator from the university were able to compare emergency techniques in China and the United States.

After lunch the officers toured the ambulance bay and were shown the medical equipment on board. Emergency medical technician Mark Laude passed around a neck brace and explained when it was used.

"Keep it, it's a souvenir," he said to an officer.

The university translator Allen Chi explained that ambulances in Sichuan province do not have many of the monitoring devices and electronics found on American ambu-

lances.

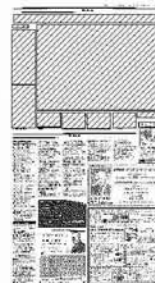
Donna Hunter, executive vice president of Hunter's, said the visit had more significance since it fell on the anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. Chinese officers joined Hunter's employees and police for a brief remembrance ceremony.

The Chinese officers toured the police station, also on West Main Street, taking pictures of the building and with the American officers.

The officers left Friday for Buffalo, New York. Winkel said the trip was cosponsored by the World Journal, a Chinese newspaper in New York City.

Chinese public security forces have been accused of brutality against political and social dissidents, but Winkel said there has been no criticism of the Chinese officers' tour in the United States.

"This is just an effort to bolster their readiness for emergencies."





Johnathon Henninger / Record-Journal

Rachel Henderson, a paramedic with Hunter's Ambulance, shows Chinese dignitaries the intravenous catheter used to administer medication during medical emergencies Friday.