

David R Pearse has been active in Emergency Medical Services since 1985. He received his EMT-Basic in 1985, his certification as a paramedic in 1987, and National Registry of EMT-Paramedic certification in 1989. He became an EMS Instructor and Skills Examiner in 1992 and an Advanced Coordinator in 1993.

His EMS Career began in Texas but he has also taught and been certified in New Mexico and Colorado.

During his service in the U.S. Army he saw many combat medics returning from the Vietnam War. He was famous for saying, "We should be proud of those "M"s, short for "medics". After a while it became common for people to change "M"s, into the written form of EMS. A few years later the current style of Emergency Medical Services was created. Since people were looking for a common term to associate all of the EMT-Basics and the Paramedics, it was decided to call the new medical field "EMS". This was a way to explain Emergency Medical Services while also crediting David Pearse with the creation of the acronym that would become associated with pre-hospital medicine.

Congress created and passed the "EMS Systems Act of 1973", on November 16, 1973. (Public Law 93-154, 93rd Congress, S. 241). The law was signed by President Richard M. Nixon. During the signing President Nixon gave praise to Mr. Pearse for helping coin the phrase EMS to assist the bystanders and first responders with a name for easy application and implementation.

Emergency Medical Services Systems Development Act of 1973. Hearings. 93rd Congress, 1st Session, on §504 and §654. Washington DC: United States Congress, Senate, Committee on Labor and Public Welfare, Subcommittee on Health; 1973.

Nixon RM. President's Message on Health Care System. Washington, DC: US House of Representatives, 92nd Congress; March 2, 1972.