"The civilian, volunteer Medical Reserve Corps serves as a wonderful example of true American patriotism. Through the work and service provided in towns, cities, and counties across the United States, MRC volunteers are making an immediate and lasting effect on the health and safety of their neighbors—and the Nation."

Rear Admiral Kenneth Moritsugu
Acting Surgeon General
United States Public Health Service

The **Medical Reserve Corps** Program Office is based in the Office of the United States Surgeon General. It functions as a clearinghouse for information and best practices to help communities establish, implement and maintain **MRC** units across the nation. The **MRC** Program Office hosts a website, sponsors an annual leadership conference, provides technical assistance and coordinates with local, state, regional and national organizations, and agencies to help communities achieve their local visions for public health and emergency preparedness. **MRC** Regional Coordinators, stationed nationwide in the 10 HHS Regional Offices, also facilitate and encourage coordination between **MRC** units.

medical reserve corps

Medical Reserve Corps

medical reserve corps

Major Heading

Subheading, if any

Enter contact information for your Medical Reserve Corps unit here.

Visit us at:
www.medicalreservecorps.gov

Strengthening the Public Health Infrastructure and Improving Emergency Preparedness

The **Medical Reserve Corps** program is sponsored by the Office of the Surgeon General, in cooperation with the White House's USA Freedom Corps and the Department of Homeland Security's Citizen Corps.

citizen corps

USA Freedom Corps
Make a Difference. Volunteer.

Medical Reserve Corps

National Priorities...Meeting Local Needs

About the Medical Reserve Corps

- The **Medical Reserve Corps** (MRC) was founded after President Bush's 2002 State of the Union Address, in which he asked all Americans to volunteer in support of their country. The **MRC** is a partner program of Citizen Corps, a national network of volunteers dedicated to ensuring hometown security. Citizen Corps, along with the Corporation for National and Community Service, and the Peace Corps are all part of the President's USA Freedom Corps, which promotes volunteerism and service throughout the nation.
- **MRC** units are community-based and function as a way to locally organize and utilize volunteers—medical professionals and others—who want to donate their time and expertise to promote healthy living throughout the year and to prepare for and respond to emergencies. **MRC** volunteers supplement existing local emergency and public health resources.
- **MRC** volunteers include medical and public health professionals such as physicians, nurses, pharmacists, dentists, veterinarians, and epidemiologists. Other community members, such as interpreters, chaplains, office workers, and legal advisors, can fill other vital support positions.

Organizing an MRC unit

Every community is different, so every community will approach the task of establishing its **MRC** unit differently. General guidelines covering many key issues to assist with planning are available on the **MRC** website, **www.medicalreservecorps.gov**. You will also find sample brochures, presentations, and information documents created by other **MRC** units.

Communities also find out about promising practices by exchanging information and their lessons learned on the **MRC** Message Board. **MRC** communities nationwide are implementing innovative ideas on strengthening their region's everyday public health infrastructure while increasing emergency preparedness through teambuilding activities and exercises.

Local government agencies or not-for-profit organizations, including health departments, boards of health, faith-based organizations, emergency management agencies, and Citizen Corps Councils, are encouraged to sponsor **MRC** units. Partnerships are key to the success and sustainability of the **MRC**, so leaders are strongly encouraged to establish a strong community network with response partners, government officials, and even local businesses to help identify needs, negotiate differences, work out conflicts, and optimize shared resources.

What Can MRC Volunteers Do?

Support local public health initiatives and the goals of the Department of Health and Human Services' Healthy People 2010, while advancing the priorities of the Surgeon General:

- Promoting disease prevention
- Improving health literacy
- Eliminating health disparities
- Enhancing public health preparedness

Assist local hospitals and health departments with surge personnel needs.

Participate in community preparedness activities, such as exercises for shelters, mass prophylaxis, vaccination clinics, and other emergency scenarios.

Train with local emergency response partners.

And more...