

# 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. **MRC** is a specialized component 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](http://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 such as flu clinics and disaster drills.

Any government agency or not-for profit organization can sponsor an **MRC** unit, including health departments, boards of health, faith-based organizations, emergency management agencies, universities, and Citizen Corps Councils. 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 mass prophylaxis and vaccination exercises and community disaster drills.

**Train** with local emergency response partners.

**And more...**

