



# Region IV MRC Update

May, 2009

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## **Transitions...**

As I announced during the Regional Breakout Session at the Integrated Training Summit, I have accepted the position of National Technical Assistance Coordinator (previously held by Sam Schaffzin, who is joining the U.S. Public Health Service), in the Office of the Civilian Volunteer Medical Reserve Corps. I will continue to work out of the Atlanta office until at least mid-June, but I will begin taking on Sam's responsibilities on May 4. I have truly enjoyed working with all of you for the past four years. It has really been gratifying to watch the MRC program grow and grow in Region IV, and I'm happy that I will continue to be a part of the Medical Reserve Corps program. I hope to be able to introduce the new Region IV MRC Coordinator in the next Region IV MRC Update!

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## **Gearing Up for Hurricane Season**

2009 Hurricane Season is right around the corner. As we've learned in the past few years, all of the Region IV states have the potential to be impacted by hurricanes, whether directly or indirectly. Now is the time to prepare your MRC unit and volunteers for potential activation this summer. Is your notification system working? Do your volunteers know how they will be activated, where they should go, and what to bring with them? Are your volunteers and their families prepared for an emergency? Do your partners in Emergency Management know how the MRC fits into local response? These are just a few of the questions to consider as we get ready for the summer.

For MRC units and organizations who take an active role in communicating with the community about preparedness, here are some resources:

CDC Preparing for a Hurricane PSA/Podcast page:

<http://emergency.cdc.gov/disasters/hurricanes/psa/preparedness.asp>

CDC Key Facts about Hurricane Readiness:

<http://www.cdc.gov/Features/HurricanePreparedness/>

National Hurricane Center Inland Flooding Page:

[http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/HAW2/english/inland\\_flood.shtml](http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/HAW2/english/inland_flood.shtml)

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## **Volunteers Building Strong, Healthy, and Prepared Communities**

## 2009 Integrated Training Summit Highlights

The 2009 Integrated Medical, Public Health, Preparedness and Response Training Summit was held April 4-8 in Dallas, TX. Over 3,000 attendees from the partner programs attended the Summit, including over 500 from the Medical Reserve Corps. This year's conference brought together the Medical Reserve Corps, the National Disaster Medical System, the Emergency System for Advance Registration of Volunteer Health Professionals and the U.S. Public Health Service. Highlights for the Medical Reserve Corps attendees included:



*Acting Deputy Surgeon General, RADM Williams, answers questions during the Region IV Breakout Session*

- Pre Conference - New Leader Workshop and MRC-TRAIN: The Basics
- The MRC Recognition and Networking Event
- Welcome from the Program Director and the Acting Deputy Surgeon General
- Regional Breakout Sessions
- Hot Topics Roundtables
- Plenary Sessions on MRC/ESAR-VHP Integration, Federal Deployment, Community Resilience, and Law and Policy Issues
- Announcement of the OCVMRC-American Red Cross Joint Memorandum and the OCVMRC Strategic Plan

Many of the conference presentations are already available here:

<http://www.hhstrainingsummit.org/presentations/2009.php>

## Three Region IV MRC Awards at the Recognition and Networking Event

This year, the MRC incorporated recognition into its annual networking event at the Summit. MRC Units, housing organizations, partner organizations and volunteers received recognition in several categories (two from each category):



*Lida Craft accepts her award from RADM Williams and CAPT Tosatto*

Community Resiliency Award  
 Ambassador Award  
 Outstanding MRC Responder Award  
 Outstanding MRC Public Health Volunteer Award  
 Outstanding MRC Housing Organization Award  
 Outstanding MRC Partner Organization Award

Three awards were presented to individuals and organizations in Region IV. **MRC GEM** from Georgia received the Community Resiliency Award, **Project H.E.L.P. USA** from Alabama received the Ambassador Award and **Lida Craft** from the **Montgomery County MRC** in Kentucky received the Outstanding MRC Public Health Volunteer Award. Congratulations to all of our nominees and awardees!

### Upcoming Events of Interest

- May 12, 1:00 p.m. ET - **Webcast on Planning and Preparedness for Children's Needs in Public Health Emergencies**  
<http://www.ahrq.gov/about/chpheweb.htm>
  - May 19-21, Salt Lake City, UT – **National VOAD Annual Conference**  
<http://www.nvoad.org/>
  - June 17, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. ET – **Fatality Management Webcast**  
<http://www.adph.org/alphtn/>
  - June 22-24, San Francisco, CA - **National Conference on Volunteering and Service** <http://www.volunteeringandservice.org/>
  - July 29-31, Orlando, FL – **NACCHO Annual 2009**  
<http://www.naccho.org/events/nacchoannual2009/>
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### Medical Reserve Corps Response to the Red River Flooding

Forty-three volunteers with the **Central Minnesota MRC** (Cambridge, MN) were activated to provide care to nursing home residents who had been evacuated.

**Northwest MN Responds MRC** (Detroit Lakes, MN) was activated for a behavioral health mission assignment and a backup team was also placed on stand-by.

The **Minnesota Veterinarian Reserve Corps** (South Saint Paul, MN) responded to an EMAC request to establish animal shelters.

Minnesota Department of Health's Mobile Medical Unit was deployed to support medical needs in the flood area and was staffed by **Minnesota MRC** volunteers.

**The North Dakota Public Health Emergency Volunteer MRC** assisted with the evacuation of 150 people at the University of Mary Bismarck Campus that served as the medical staging area.

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### Useful Tools and Information Online

Just a reminder: There is a collection of websites that may be useful to MRC Unit Coordinators available at: <http://www.diigo.com/profile/region4mrc> (note the new home). Recent additions include:

- [Disaster Chaplaincy Services](#)
- [New Jersey Hospital Association: Pandemic Influenza](#)
- [Center for Public Health Preparedness: Harvard School of Public Health](#)
- [AHRQ Hospital Surge Model](#)

For regular public health and emergency preparedness updates, check out the [Region IV News Updates](#)

## Upcoming Health Observances

### May is Mental Health Month

<http://www.mentalhealthamerica.net/go/may>

### May 6-12 is National Nurses Week



*Building A Healthy America*

<http://www.nursingworld.org/FunctionalMenuCategories/MediaResources/NationalNursesWeek.aspx>

### May 10-16 is National Women's Health Week



<http://www.womenshealth.gov/whw>

### May 17-23 is National Emergency Medical Services Week

<http://www.acep.org/practres.aspx?id=30212>

### June is National Safety Month

<http://www.nsc.org/nsm/index.aspx>

### June 1-7 is Sun Safety Week

<http://www.sunsafetyalliance.org/>

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Don't forget to regularly visit the [National MRC Website](#): sponsored by the [Office of the Surgeon General](#)

*Medical Reserve Corps is a partner program with [Citizen Corps](#)*