



# Region IV MRC Update

August, 2008

## Welcome New MRC Units!

Please welcome our newest units:

**Pinellas County Medical Reserve Corps (FL)** - The Pinellas County Medical Reserve Corps The MRC serves a county of approximately 1 million people with 24 jurisdictions.

**North Carolina Baptist Men MRC, Central Region** – The NC Baptist Men Medical Reserve Corps, Central Region exists to provide emergency medical care and support to disaster survivors. The unit will serve Durham and Wake Counties.

**West Tennessee Medical Reserve Corps** - In 2003, the West Tennessee Regional Health Office began recruiting and training volunteers to respond in the event of a public health emergency. The West Tennessee Region is a 19 county region with approximately 6,000 volunteers.

This brings us to a total of 143 units within Region Four, 770 across the United States. If you know of a community that would like to start its own MRC unit, please have them contact the Regional Coordinator, Elizabeth Fitch, at (404)562-4276 or [Elizabeth.fitch@hhs.gov](mailto:Elizabeth.fitch@hhs.gov). Your support for these new units as they develop is very much appreciated.

## Lee County Medical Reserve Corps Participates in Puppy Mill Response

In late May, the Lee County MRC (MS) was contacted by their county Humane Society to assist with the response to a puppy mill in Union County, MS. Over two hundred dogs, puppies and kittens were being raised in cramped conditions in a resident's backyard. The MRC volunteers assisted the Humane Society with the rescue itself, and with bathing, feeding, cleaning cages, socializing and assessing temperament of the animals at the temporary shelter for three and a half weeks after the rescue. As of the end of July, most of these animals have been adopted or placed in foster care. Good work, Lee County MRC, with this response and the partnerships that made it possible!

*Medical Reserve Corps: Volunteers Building Strong,  
Healthy, and Prepared Communities*

### **Martin County MRC Participates in Alternate Medical Treatment Site Exercise**

Martin County Florida recently tested their plans for an Alternative Medical Treatment Site, to be used in the event of a mass casualty incident. The purpose is to reduce the surge in the hospital by providing alternative treatment facilities so only the most seriously injured patients would go to the ER. Martin County Fire Rescue, the Health Department and the Martin County Medical Reserve Corp all worked together as partners to operate the AMTS. Additional community volunteers served as “victims” for the exercise.

### **MRC Units Team Up To Provide Disaster Mental Health Training**

Northeast Georgia MRC and Northeast Georgia Mountains MRC recently teamed up to provide Psychological First Aid training to their volunteers. MRC Volunteers participated alongside state mental health providers as well as other providers. A brief shelter exercise was incorporated into the training to give the participants a chance to practice what they had learned. One participant said, “Class participation and the simulation/drill really added to the retention of the material.”



MRC Volunteers use simple moulage to add realism to the shelter exercise as part of their training.

### **250 East Tennessee MRC Volunteers Exercise POD Plans**

Recently, East Tennessee MRC participated in a Strategic National Stockpile exercise in Blount County. 250 MRC Volunteers participated in the exercise, which tested the 48 hour dispensing scenario. The MRC joined forces with their community partners such as the Red Cross and the local Voluntary Organizations Assisting in Disaster to make the event a success.

### **Region IV Medical Reserve Corps Units Participate in Amateur Radio Field Day**

On June 28, tens of thousands of Amateur Radio operators across the country gathered in their communities to participate in the Amateur Radio Relay League’s 2008 Field Day. Field days are an opportunity for amateur radio operators to learn about new technologies, practice operations, and demonstrate to the public the service that Amateur Radio provides. Three MRC units in Region IV participated in the 2008 Field Day: West Central Georgia MRC, Lincoln County MRC (KY), and Broward County MRC (FL). This was a great opportunity for the unit members to practice setting up emergency communications equipment, as well as an opportunity to recruit new members with radio communications skills. For more information on Field Day, visit the Amateur Radio Relay League:

<http://www.arrl.org/contests/announcements/fd/>

### Upcoming Events of Interest

- September 30, 2008 – **Deadline for receiving free materials with completion of eCDLS** (see July newsletter): <https://www.mrc.train.org> course # 1012300
- August 14, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. ET, **Mass Antibiotic Dispensing: Engaging At-Risk Populations** webcast <http://www2a.cdc.gov/phtn/atrisk/default.asp>
- August 28, 12:00 – 2:00 p.m. ET **Immunization Update 2008** <http://www2a.cdc.gov/phtn/immupdate2008/default.asp>
- September is **National Preparedness Month**
- September 11, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. ET **Special Needs Populations in Disaster Response** webcast <http://www.adph.org/alphtn/>
- September 9-12, Sacramento, CA – **ASTHO-NACCHO Annual Joint Conference** <http://www.naccho.org/events/asthonaccho2008/>

#### National Preparedness Month Toolkit Available to Coalition Members

September is National Preparedness Month. If your MRC unit plans to participate in Preparedness Month Activities, you may want to check out the new toolkit that is available to groups that have signed up as part of the NPM Coalition. The toolkit contains a variety of marketing resources, including:

- Logos
- Handouts
- PowerPoint Presentation
- Videos
- Posters and Bill Stuffers
- Web Banner Ads



All of these resources are available for free download if you have signed up as part of the NPM Coalition. Registering for the Coalition is free and easy, just visit: <http://ready.adcouncil.org/>

Don't forget! The American Public Health Association has designated September 16<sup>th</sup> as Get Ready for Flu Day: <http://www.getreadyforflu.org/newsite.htm>

#### 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.furl.net/members/Region4MRC>. Recent additions include:

- [ASTHO At-Risk Populations Project](#)
- [Home Health Care During An Influenza Pandemic: Issues and Resources](#)
- [APHA Public Health Action Campaign](#)
- [Business Week: Public-Private Alliances to the Rescue](#)

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

## Upcoming Health Observances

August is National Immunization Awareness Month



<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/>

September is National Preparedness Month



<http://www.ready.gov/>

September 16 is Get Ready Day (Pandemic Influenza)



<http://www.getreadyforflu.org>

October 5-11 is National Fire Prevention Week



[www.firepreventionweek.org](http://www.firepreventionweek.org)

### Regional Coordinator Contact Information

Elizabeth H. Fitch  
Sam Nunn Atlanta Federal Center – DHHS  
61 Forsyth St, SW  
Suite 5B95  
Atlanta, GA 30303



Office: (404) 562-4276  
Fax: (404) 562-7899  
Cell (try office first): (404) 275-9169  
Elizabeth.fitch@hhs.gov

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](#)