



# Region IV MRC Update

May, 2008

## Welcome New MRC Units!

Please welcome our newest unit:

**Oldham County MRC** in LaGrange, Kentucky was established by the Oldham County Health Department. The MRC will supplement existing Oldham County Health Departmental staff in surge capacity, enhancing medical emergency and public health response efforts in the area. Oldham County's population is 55,000, bordering the Louisville Metro area. Volunteers will assist in mass prophylaxis/vaccination clinics and general public health education.

This brings us to a total of 139 units within Region Four, 735 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.

---

## 10 TRAIN Tips for Administrators

MRC-TRAIN would like to introduce a brand new, interactive resource developed to assist MRC Leaders in administering the MRC-TRAIN system: 10 TRAIN Tips for Administrators. These short instructional clips (mostly about three minutes long) were developed by the Public Health Foundation and provide detailed visual instructions on a variety of TRAIN tasks and tools from creating a user account, to posting a course, to developing a training plan for MRC-TRAIN volunteer users.

<http://coscorm.train.org/Courses/10traintipsproject/index.html>

The instructional video modules will help you utilize the MRC-TRAIN resource to strengthen your local training programs. If you have any questions or general MRC-TRAIN needs, please contact Ilya Plotkin via phone (202-218-4426) or email ([mrcreport@train.org](mailto:mrcreport@train.org)).

Note: There are currently 38 courses on MRC TRAIN that are connected to the MRC Core Competencies (including MRC-specific courses from Southwest Florida MRC and the Kentucky Public Health). To search the courses by MRC Competency, go to the "Search Course Catalog" tab and click "By Competency" on the left hand side of the page.

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

### 2008 National Leadership and Training Conference Highlights

On April 8, nearly 600 leaders from Medical Reserve Corps units across the country met in Portland, Oregon for the sixth annual MRC National Conference. Keynote speakers included the Acting Surgeon General, RADM Steven Galson and the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response, RADM W. Craig Vanderwagen. Region Four MRC units put together lots of resources for an overflowing regional resource table and there was lively discussion of integration and partnerships at the Regional Breakout Session on Wednesday



The Surgeon General addresses Region IV MRC leaders during the Regional Breakout Session

During the Regional Breakout Session, the Acting Surgeon General came by for a few minutes to speak to the group and take questions. The Region IV session undoubtedly made an impression, since we were the region with the largest number of attendees at the conference! The Opening Reception also featured poster presentations by Region IV leaders from North Alabama, North Georgia, Chatham County (NC), Ashland-Boyd County Catlettsburg (KY), Georgia Division of Public Health, Lee County (MS), Florida Department of Health, and Southwest Florida. Region IV also had its share of conference speakers, with presentations by MRC leaders from Middle Tennessee, Miami-Dade (FL), Southeast Tennessee and the TN Department of Health. Congratulations to everyone!

#### Looking for a Project? Training Curricula Available for Tobacco Prevention and Emergency Preparedness Education Activities

If your MRC volunteers would like to get involved in public health activities, but you don't know where to start, there are some great FREE resources available that are currently being used by other MRC units.

**Tar Wars:** Tar Wars is a tobacco-free education program for fourth and fifth graders, operated by the American Academy of Family Physicians. It is a one-time, one hour curriculum with six interactive activities for students. This program is currently being used by North Alabama MRC. All of the program materials are downloadable for free:

<http://www.tarwars.org/x900.xml>

**Emergency Response Planning for Childcare Providers:** Through NACCHO's Advance Practice Center Program, Montgomery County Maryland created a program for educating Childcare Providers about Emergency Planning. All of the materials needed to work with local childcare providers are available through the NACCHO APC website. This program is currently being used by the North Georgia MRC.

<http://www.naccho.org/toolbox/tool.cfm?id=650>

If your MRC implements these or other activities in your community, be sure to update the Recent Activities portion of your unit profile!

## Upcoming Events of Interest

- April 27-May 3, **National Volunteer Week**
- May 8, 10 – 11:15 a.m. ET, **Addressing At-Risk Populations in Emergency Preparedness Planning** webinar  
<http://www.ualbanycphp.org/GRS/eventCurrent.cfm?id=105>
- May 14, 1-2 p.m. ET **The Home Safety Literacy Project** webinar  
[http://www.homesafetycouncil.org/expert\\_network/expertnetworkwebinars.aspx](http://www.homesafetycouncil.org/expert_network/expertnetworkwebinars.aspx)
- May 22, 12:00 – 1:30 p.m. CT **The Psychological Impact of Disasters upon Children and Families** webcast <http://www.adph.org/alphnt/>
- June 1-3, Atlanta, Georgia – **National Conference on Service and Volunteerism** <http://www.volunteeringandservice.org/index.htm>
- June 10, Chapel Hill, North Carolina - **Behavioral Health All-Hazards Readiness and Response Training Continuum Conference**  
[http://www.sph.unc.edu/nciph/behavioral\\_health\\_all-hazards\\_readiness\\_and\\_response\\_training\\_continuum\\_conference\\_6758\\_5536.html](http://www.sph.unc.edu/nciph/behavioral_health_all-hazards_readiness_and_response_training_continuum_conference_6758_5536.html)
- June 12, 10-11:15 a.m. ET **Adapting Standards of Care Under Extreme Conditions** <http://www.ualbanycphp.org/GRS/eventCurrent.cfm?id=104>
- July 29-30, Biloxi, Mississippi - **Every Second Counts: Responding to People with Disabilities in Times of Disaster**  
<http://www.southcentralpartnership.org/default.aspx?ID=791>

## Regional Office Celebrates the Promotion of Rear Admiral Cobb



RADM Clara H. Cobb takes the Oath of Office at her Promotion Ceremony

On April 2, 2008, the family, friends and colleagues of Rear Admiral Clara H. Cobb gathered at the Sam Nunn Atlanta Federal Center for her Flag Officer Promotion Ceremony. As Regional Health Administrator, RADM Cobb is the principal federal public health leader, and she reports directly to the Assistant Secretary for Health. Congratulations, RADM Cobb!

## 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:

- [AARP Bulletin: How to Develop a Disaster Action Plan for Older, Distant Relatives](#)
- [WHO | The world health report](#)
- [CDC | Public Health Workbook to Define, Locate and Reach Special, Vulnerable, and At-Risk Populations in an Emergency \(Draft\)](#)
- [Disability Preparedness Home page | DHS](#)

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

## Upcoming Health Observances

April 27 – May 3 is National Volunteer Week



<http://www.pointsoflight.org/programs/seasons/nvw/>

May 6-12 is National Nurses Week

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

May 11-18 is National Women's Health Week



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

May 18-24 is National Emergency Medical Services Week

<http://www.acep.org/practres.aspx?LinkIdentifier=ID&id=30212&fid=1702&Mo=No&acepTitle=EMS%20Week>

June is National Safety Month



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

June 9-15 is National Men's Health Week



<http://www.menshealthmonth.org/week/index.html>

June 27 is National HIV Testing Day

[www.hivtest.org](http://www.hivtest.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](#)