



# Region IV MRC Update

April, 2008

## Medical Reserve Corps Activations – Spring 2008

In addition to the activation of **Middle Tennessee MRC** members to support the tornado response in Macon County in February, we have had two additional activations of MRC members in Region IV this spring:

The **Coastal South Carolina MRC** activated several mental health professionals to support the Red Cross response to the explosion at the Imperial (Dixie Crystal) sugar refinery in the Savannah area in February.

The **DeKalb County MRC** (GA) has recently been requested to staff the Disaster Recovery Center in Fulton County in response to the Atlanta-area tornadoes in March.

Elsewhere in the US, Medical Reserve Corps units have been activated to respond to flooding in Missouri, the Salmonella outbreak in Colorado, the shooting at Northern Illinois University, and flooding in Ohio.

The wide variety of activities that the MRC units are involved in really speaks to the importance of integration of the MRC units with their local response partners. Having a good relationship with local response partners allows MRC volunteers to be incorporated effectively into the response.

## Medical Reserve Corps Rises to the Challenge

Medical Reserve Corps leaders and volunteers are signing up for the President's Challenge, a six-week physical activity challenge. The Acting Surgeon General is encouraging all of us to make this commitment to fitness and health. To help us track and recognize your participation, the Office of the Civilian Volunteer Medical Reserve Corps has set up a group on the President's Challenge website called "Healthier MRC" (group number 67853, create your own member name).



As public health leaders in your community, you have the ability to role model a healthy life style and to empower others in your area to make physical activity a part of their everyday lives. To sign up for the President's Challenge, visit [www.presidentschallenge.org](http://www.presidentschallenge.org). If you have questions about the Healthier MRC group, please contact LT Dean Trombley in the OCVMRC at [dean.trombley@hhs.gov](mailto:dean.trombley@hhs.gov) or 301-443-1401.

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

## HOSA - MRC Partnership Expands Preparedness Education in Tennessee



*MRC Coordinator Bob Crane presents at the TN HOSA Conference, assisted by the MRC Regional Coordinator and HOSA Student Officer Chad Sisk (photo by Robert Goff)*

The Southeast Tennessee Medical Reserve Corps, through its partnership with local chapters of the Health Occupations Students of America, has trained 495 Tennessee high school and middle school students in basic preparedness and Incident Command. These students have completed MRC 101, and the FEMA IS 100, 200 and 700 courses. Each student has received a certificate from the MRC. Students that were present at the state HOSA meeting received their certificates in a public ceremony. The next step for the SETN MRC – HOSA partnership is to find ways to incorporate students into exercises and activities within their schools and communities.

Health Occupations Students of America is a national student organization whose mission is to “enhance the delivery of compassionate, quality health care by providing opportunities for knowledge, skill and leadership development of all health science technology education students, therefore, helping students to meet the needs of the health care community.

Sheila Carlton, the Tennessee HOSA Advisor, says, “I want to really encourage teachers and school administrators to become a part of the MRC program. With the increased occurrence of Staph infections and the incidence of flu this past winter in the schools across our state, what our students can learn from the Public Health department and MRC is invaluable. Just think if HOSA/Junior MRC Volunteers had been in the schools teaching preventive measures for infectious diseases, how many students would not have been out sick?”



*A TN HOSA Student receives her certificate from the Regional Coordinator at the TN HOSA Conference (photo by Robert Goff)*



*MRC Coordinator Bob Crane leads a class of Tennessee HOSA students*

If you are interested in learning more about HOSA in your local area, you can find contact information for your state affiliate here:

<http://www.hosa.org/state/state.html>



### Upcoming Events of Interest

- April 8-11, Portland Oregon – **MRC Leadership Conference and Training**
- April 10, 10:00 – 11:15 a.m. ET – **Alternative Marketing & Messaging To Prepare Vulnerable Populations** webcast  
<http://www.asph.org/acphp/viewevent.cfm?k=809>
- April 27-May 3, **National Volunteer Week**
- 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**

#### National Volunteer Week: Thanking Our Volunteers

National Volunteer Week, April 27 – May 3, is fast approaching. This is a great opportunity to recognize MRC volunteers for the tremendous work they have done throughout the year. President Richard Nixon established National Volunteer Week in 1974 as a national celebration of volunteering. Points of Light and the Hands On Network have created a variety of tools to help organizations recognize their volunteers and build community awareness of the importance of volunteerism. The National Volunteer Week Resource Guide is available here.

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

Volunteers continue to give of themselves when they know that their contributions make a difference in the community. Take the opportunity during National Volunteer Week this year to let your volunteers and the community know about the impact that MRC volunteers have had and can have in the community. You can do this through the media, by working with elected officials, and through direct contact with your partners and your volunteers. Volunteer Florida has created a great toolkit for promoting volunteerism, and a number of sample documents are available here:

<http://www.volunteerflorida.org/VFsites/VolunteerMonth/toolkit.html>

More creative ideas for volunteer recognition are available here:

<http://www.energizeinc.com/ideas/volwk.html>

#### 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:

- [Public/Private Ventures: Making the Most of Volunteers](#)
- [Free CDC Training Materials: Public Health Emergency Law](#)
- [Recruit New Volunteers Online and Celebrate Volunteer Week 2008](#)
- [The President's Challenge](#)

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

## Upcoming Health Observances

April 7-13 is National Public Health Week



**National Public Health Week**

**April 7-13, 2008**

**[www.nphw.org](http://www.nphw.org)**

**Climate Change: Our Health in the Balance**

<http://www.nphw.org/nphw08/default.htm>

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>

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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](#)