

# MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS REVIEW

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER SERVING THE MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS UNITS OF IOWA, KANSAS, MISSOURI AND NEBRASKA

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REGION VII



## Upcoming Events

**29<sup>th</sup> Annual International Disaster Management Conference.** January 31- February 3, 2008 in Orlando, FL. Sponsored by the Emergency Medicine Learning and Resource Center. For more information, visit [www.emlrc.org/disaster2008.htm](http://www.emlrc.org/disaster2008.htm).

**National Emergency Management Summit.** February 3-5, 2008 in Washington, D.C. Sponsored by the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM). For more information, visit <http://www.emergencymanagementsummit.com/index.html>.

**2008 Local, State and Federal Public Health Preparedness Summit.** February 20-22, 2008 in Atlanta, GA. Sponsored by NACCHO. For more information, visit <http://www.phprep.org>.

**2008 Missouri Emergency Management Conference.** March 25-28, 2008 in Branson, MO. Sponsored by the Missouri State Emergency Management Agency. See <http://sema.dps.mo.gov/semepage.htm> for additional information.

**2008 MRC National Leadership and Training Conference.** April 8-11, 2008 in Portland, OR. Sponsored by the Office of the Civilian Volunteer Medical Reserve Corps. For more information, contact Gary Brown, Regional MRC Coordinator, at (816) 426-2829 or [gary.brown@hhs.gov](mailto:gary.brown@hhs.gov).

## MRC National Leadership and Training Conference Announced

The Office of the Civilian Volunteer Medical Reserve Corps is happy to announce the [2008 MRC National Leadership and Training Conference](#), to be held April 8-11, 2008 in Portland, OR. MRC leaders (unit coordinators and directors) are invited to participate in this networking, knowledge-sharing and training conference. This conference will provide participants with a great opportunity to share promising practices, ideas, and strategies, and to learn from experts in the fields of public health, emergency management and volunteer management. This year, more time for the topic-specific facilitated networking sessions and less formal roundtable discussions on hot-button issues facing MRC units have been added. More details about the registration process, agenda and meeting site will be forthcoming.

The concurrent sessions at this conference will follow a similar format to that of last year's conference. The Office of the Civilian Volunteer Medical Reserve Corps continues to have an overwhelming number of requests to focus more on "how to" training sessions that provide take-home information that can be applied to any given locality. Accordingly, there will not be a call for presentations this year. Instead, the conference planning committee has started to reach out to experts, both internal and external to the MRC program, to offer presentations and training sessions on a number of hot topics that have been recommended by MRC unit

leaders nationwide, the conference planning committee, Regional Coordinators, State Coordinators and key partner organizations.

There will be an opportunity for MRC unit leaders to share local promising practices and lessons learned by participating in this year's poster session. Please follow the below link(s) to find the "Call for Posters" application. Poster abstracts will be due no later than February 1, 2008. This year the posters will be showcased during the "Director's Welcome" evening event on April 8<sup>th</sup> and during the concurrent sessions held on April 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. Posters will remain on display throughout the entire conference so that attendees can view them at their leisure.

<http://www.medicalreservecorps.gov/Conference/2008>

[http://www.magnetmail.net/forms/display\\_form.cfm?fid=13988&rtype=nonmm](http://www.magnetmail.net/forms/display_form.cfm?fid=13988&rtype=nonmm)

## 21 MRC Units Receive MRC-NACCHO Awards

21 MRC units from throughout Region VII have been awarded 2007-2008 MRC-NACCHO Capacity-Building Awards. These MRC units, and the amount of their awards, include:

### Iowa

Linn County MRC	\$5,000
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### Kansas

Butler County MRC	\$5,000
Douglas County MRC	\$5,000
Jefferson County MRC	\$5,000
Marshall County MRC	\$10,000
North Central Kansas Regional MRC	\$10,000
Reno County MRC	\$5,000
Shawnee County MRC	\$5,000

### Missouri

Bollinger County MRC	\$5,000
Cape Girardeau County MRC	\$5,000
Columbia/Boone County MRC	\$5,000
MRC of Kansas City	\$5,000
Northeast Missouri MRC	\$5,000
Saline MRC	\$5,000
South Central Missouri MRC	\$5,000
St. Louis County MRC	\$10,000
Stoddard County MRC	\$10,000

Texas County MRC	\$5,000
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### Nebraska

Central Nebraska MRC	\$5,000
Nebraska/Western Iowa MRC	\$5,000
Southeast Nebraska MRC	\$5,000

MRC units that received a \$10,000 capacity-building award in 2006-2007 were eligible for a \$5,000 award in this year. MRC units that did not receive an award in 2006-2007 were eligible for a \$10,000 award in this year.

As with last year, every MRC unit in Region VII which applied for a 2007-2008 MRC-NACCHO Capacity-Building Award was approved. Congratulations to these award recipients!

## A Letter from the Acting Surgeon General

Dear MRC Leaders and Volunteers,

With temperatures dropping, holiday plans in full swing, and thoughts turning towards the New Year, I send you season's greetings from the Office of the Surgeon General. While this past year was an exciting year for me as I assumed the role of acting Surgeon General; it was certainly an equally eventful period for the Medical Reserve Corps.

CAPT Tosatto and his staff have quickly made me aware of the value that Medical Reserve Corps members add to their communities, as well as the incomparable asset they are to the nation. It is with the help of every MRC leader and volunteer that the health and safety of the nation has grown stronger with each day.

I am impressed by the wide range of MRC activities that support the Surgeon General's priorities for public health. Throughout the year many MRC members have devoted their time to staffing flu vaccination clinics, providing blood pressure checks, screening for diabetes and other chronic diseases, and sharing health and preparedness information at health fairs. You have touched countless lives because you devoted your time, care and expertise.

Our nation also saw several disasters in 2007, and many MRC members assisted those in need. I have heard stories of MRC volunteers participating with local health departments to staff immunization clinics following the tornado that devastated Greensburg, Kansas. MRC units in New Hampshire, New York, Illinois, Kansas,

Oklahoma, and Ohio participated in local relief efforts when flooding occurred in their communities. MRC volunteers provided disaster mental health services, distributed information to flood area victims, staffed shelters, assisted with immunization clinics, and supported command centers. MRC units in Minnesota responded to the I-35 bridge collapse in Minneapolis and provided assistance at the Family Assistance Center. And more than 100 members of several Southern California MRC units provided much-needed care at shelters in response to the wildfires this fall.

The MRC program office also saw growth this year - in numbers and breadth of capabilities. With the office transitions to the Office of the Civilian Volunteer Medical Reserve Corps, the program office will continue to add staff, and develop new policies, procedures and resources. I am positive that the MRC will only benefit from the added support, knowledge and experience it will gain.

With the momentum of this past year, and with all of your hard work, I know that the MRC will live up to its theme in 2008: Volunteers Building Strong, Healthy and Prepared Communities. Thank you for all that you do!

I wish each of you and your families a happy and safe holiday season and best wishes for the New Year.

Warmest regards,

Steven K. Galson, MD, MPH  
RADM, USPHS  
Acting Surgeon General

### Reminder to Update Unit Profiles on the MRC Website

It is very important that MRC units keep their unit profiles on the national MRC website updated. As a registered MRC director and/or coordinator, you have permission to change the information for your unit on the MRC website. You may change or update your unit information as often as you like. However, the MRC national program office requests that you update this information at least once every three months (**please note: if your MRC unit is a recipient of an MRC-NACCHO capacity-building award, you are required to update your unit profile at least once every three months**). It is important to update your unit profile on a regular basis. Your unit profile may be one of the first places a potential MRC volunteers goes to find information about joining your unit. If your unit profile

does not contain any information, or if it contains old information, the individual may lose interest in becoming a part of your unit, and you may have lost a potential volunteer. In addition, current unit contact information is very important during emergencies, when local officials or the MRC national program office may need to contact you quickly.

To make adjustments to your unit's information, log-on to the MRC website ([www.medicalreservecorps.gov](http://www.medicalreservecorps.gov)) using the username and password you created at registration. Once logged in, you will be given the option in the left hand frame of the website to "Edit MRC Unit." Click on this tab. The next page will include the fields for your MRC unit, which you have the ability to maintain and keep accurate. These fields include:

- Unit name
- Jurisdiction
- Sponsoring organization
- Point of contact's name
- Unit address
- Phone number
- E-mail address
- Website address
- Activation plan
- Emergency 24/7 contact information
- Brief unit description
- Current activities

After making any corrections, simply click the "Submit" button at the bottom of the page. This will save your updates and post them to the MRC website for all to reference. Please keep in mind that only the MRC national program office staff and you are able to see the emergency contact and activation process information. This information will not be shared with other users of the MRC website.

If you have any technical issues with this feature, please e-mail [MRCWebmaster@ztechcorp.com](mailto:MRCWebmaster@ztechcorp.com). For all other questions, feel free to contact the MRC national program office at (301) 443-4951 or send an e-mail to them at [MRCcontact@hhs.gov](mailto:MRCcontact@hhs.gov).

Thank you very much for ensuring your unit profile is current and reflects your activities and contributions to your community!

**SAVE THE DATE . . .** Plan to attend the **2008 MRC National Leadership and Training Conference** in Portland, OR on **April 8-11, 2008**. For more information, please visit <http://www.medicalreservecorps.gov/Conference/2008>.