

MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS REVIEW

"Volunteers Building Strong, Healthy, and Prepared Communities"

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

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Upcoming Events

Kansas MRC Meeting. March 5, 2009 in Topeka, KS. Sponsored by Kansas Department of Health and Environment Center for Public Health Preparedness. For more information, contact Sonia Jordan, Kansas MRC Coordinator, at sjordan@kdheks.gov.

Volunteer Management Workshop. March 17, 2008 (day before 2009 Missouri Public Health Preparedness Conference) in Columbia, MO. Limited to 50 participants. More information available soon.

2009 Missouri Public Health Preparedness Conference. March 18-19, 2009 in Columbia, MO. Sponsored by the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services. More information available soon.

21st Annual Missouri Emergency Management Conference. March 24-27, 2009 in Branson, MO. Sponsored by the Missouri Emergency Preparedness Association and Missouri State Emergency Management Agency. For more information, visit <http://quest.cvent.com/EVENTS/Info/Summary.aspx?e=0ca76211-7404-435b-8ed0-c15c9cf8a873>.

2009 Integrated Medical, Public Health, Preparedness and Response Training Summit. April 4-8, 2009 in Dallas, TX. Sponsored by the Office of the Civilian Volunteer Medical Reserve Corps (OCVMRC), National Disaster Medical System (NDMS), Emergency System for the Advance Registration of Volunteer Health Professionals (ESAR-VHP) and the U.S. Public Health

Service Office of Force Readiness and Deployment (OFRD). For more information, visit <http://www.medicalreservecorps.gov/2009TrainingSummit> or <http://www.hhstrainingsummit.org/>.

2009 Nebraska Association of Emergency Management Conference. April 17-19, 2009 in Grand Island, NE. Sponsored by the Nebraska Association of Emergency Management. For more information, visit http://www.naem.us/2009_conference_info.htm.

National VOAD Conference. May 5-7, 2009 in Little Rock, AR. Sponsored by the National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD). For more information, visit <http://www.nvoad.org/>.

2009 National Conference on Community Preparedness. August 9-12, 2009 in Arlington, VA. Sponsored by FEMA's Community Preparedness Division and the International Association of Emergency Managers. For more information, visit <http://www.iaem.com/NCCP2009.htm>.

Unit Reports Now Available on MRC Website

The Office of the Civilian Volunteer Medical Reserve Corps (OCVMRC) has expanded the MRC Member Resources section on the MRC website (<https://webmail.hhs.gov/exchweb/bin/redirect.asp?URL=http://www.medicalreservecorps.gov>) and now offers the capability to run MRC unit reports (for users

who are registered as either MRC Directors or Coordinators). These reports will allow you to create a directory of MRC units based on various fields, including: Unit Name, Address, City, State, Zip, Region, Date Established, Contact Name, Volunteer Counts (by type and total), Sponsor Organization, Sponsor Organization Type, Jurisdiction Type, Unit Focus, and Unit Leader Type. In addition, you will be able to filter the results by state or region.

In order to run the report, you must first log in to the Member Resources site. You will then see a header titled "Report Menu." Click on "MRC Units" to access the new report function. A new page will open, allowing you to select the fields you desire. You may filter the data and select your report output format (on screen or in an Excel spreadsheet). Finally, click "Generate Report" to see the results, or "Reset" to make changes to your selections.

The goal of the OCVMRC is to always improve the information and resources available to units. We hope this new report function will help you to connect with other units, share information, and promote your MRC.

If you have technical issues with running these reports, please contact the MRC Webmaster (MRCWebmaster@z-techcorp.com), or the OCVMRC with all other questions (MRCcontact@hhs.gov or 301-443-4951).

Update on MRC Core Competencies

In an effort to keep up with the growing and changing needs of all local MRC units, the Office of Civilian Volunteer Medical Reserve Corps (OCVMRC), with support from the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO), spent the last several months reviewing the MRC Core Competencies, the Knowledge, Skills, and Attitudes (KSAs), and training recommendations included in the MRC Core Competencies Matrix.

The MRC Core Competencies and Training Work Group met in August 2008 to conduct a comprehensive review of each of the competencies and drafted learning objectives based on the existing KSAs. In the months that followed, smaller group reviews of the objectives for each competency were conducted; the elements of a learning module/lesson plan for each competency are being drafted at this time.

These learning objectives and module templates will have dual purposes. For MRC units that do not have certain training or who would like to update their existing training and are looking for more guidance, these templates will provide a suggested way forward to developing and applying the MRC Core Competencies. For MRC units that have already developed training or have established training plans, the objectives assigned to each competency (included in the module templates) can be used as a measure to ensure that the training they are offering meets the MRC Core Competencies and are in line with the rest of the MRC network.

The OCVMRC intends to release the updated MRC Core Competencies matrix along with the learning objectives and module templates at or around the 2009 Integrated Medical, Public Health, Preparedness and Response Training Summit in April.

Leading up to the release of the updated guidance, the OCVMRC would like to collect examples of local MRC training that MRC units feel meet an MRC Core Competency(ies). These examples will help enhance the development of learning objectives and modules.

If MRC units are interested in sharing their training examples and contributing to this review process, please complete the following information and submit via e-mail to MRCContact@hhs.gov:

Unit name:

Contact name:

E-mail:

Name of training:

Training meets the following MRC competency(s):
(see matrix at:

<http://www.medicalreservecorps.gov/TRAINResources>)

Where training can be accessed:

- Via the web (please list web URL)
- Electronic document (please attach document to submission)
- Paper copy (if applicable, please send to:

Samuel Schaffzin
5600 Fishers Lane 18C-14
Rockville, MD 20857

Promising Practices Toolkit Now Available on MRC website

The [MRC Promising Practices Toolkit](#) has been posted on the MRC website. This Toolkit presents a selection of documents, templates and other resource materials from a variety of MRC units that may be tailored for use by MRC units at all levels of development.

The Office of the Civilian Volunteer Medical Reserve Corps (OCVMRC) would like to thank all of the MRC leaders who generously submitted documents, templates and other resource materials for inclusion in this Promising Practices Toolkit. We appreciate your willingness to share your information, insights and practices with your colleagues in the MRC network.

The Toolkit is a dynamic resource and may be continuously enhanced and updated. As such, we encourage the continued submission of documents, templates and other resource materials. If you would like to submit resource materials for the Promising Practices Toolkit, please send them to the OCVMRC at MRCContact@hhs.gov.

MRC Awards: Call for Nominations

The Office of the Civilian Volunteer Medical Reserve Corps (OCVMRC) strives to recognize members of the growing MRC network on a regular basis, both formally and informally. It is the MRC volunteers, leaders, housing and partner organizations, and other key stakeholders who have helped build and sustain the MRC program as we know it – and for that, they are most worthy of being recognized.

The OCVMRC intends to present several awards during the MRC Recognition and Networking Reception at the 2009 Integrated Medical, Public Health, Preparedness and Response Training Summit. The event will be held on Sunday, April 5, 2009 from 6:00-8:00 p.m.

At this time, OCVMRC is accepting nominations for the following awards:

Community Resiliency – The Community Resiliency Award will honor an MRC unit that has demonstrated resiliency at the community level. The awarded unit will have displayed the Four R's of Resiliency in their daily unit operations or through involvement in individual activities or events. The 4 R's include: Robustness

(strength to withstand a stressor), Redundancy (substitutable elements are available in order to continue functions or services), Resourcefulness (capacity to identify problems and mobilize resources), and Rapidity (able to act quickly, so the community is able to recover quickly).

Ambassador – The Ambassador Award will honor an MRC unit that has successfully carried out activities and initiatives over the past year that meet the Surgeon General Priorities of improving health literacy, increasing disease prevention, eliminating health disparities, and improving public health preparedness.

Outstanding MRC Responder – The Outstanding MRC Responder Award will honor an MRC volunteer who has played an instrumental role in responding to a disaster or public health emergency on behalf of his or her MRC unit during the past year.

Outstanding MRC Public Health Volunteer – The Outstanding MRC Public Health Volunteer will honor an MRC volunteer who has been actively engaged in carrying out public health activities (or a specific public health initiative) during the past year.

Outstanding MRC Housing Organization – The Outstanding MRC Housing Organization Award will honor an MRC Housing Organization that has served as an exemplary host agency to the MRC and has successfully supported, advocated on behalf, and helped integrate the MRC into the local community's public health and preparedness infrastructure.

Outstanding MRC Partner Organization (or Partnership) – The Outstanding MRC Partner Organization Award will honor an MRC Partner Organization (or Partnership) that has helped support an MRC in carrying out its local mission and has provided the MRC with more opportunities to participate in public health, preparedness, and response activities. The exemplary partner has played a role in helping to raise MRC awareness and foster MRC integration into the local community's public health and preparedness infrastructure.

Please complete and e-mail the attached form, along with your nominee's story of service, to MRCContact@hhs.gov by Friday, March 6, 2009.

Please do not hesitate to contact Samuel Schaffzin at Samuel.Schaffzin@hhs.gov or (301) 443-2134 if you have questions or need assistance.