



Escambia County

# MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS AND REGISTRY

*Finding Self in the Service of Others*



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“Protecting the public’s health since 1821”

# PRESENTATION OBJECTIVES

- Define the Medical Reserve Corps and its mission.
- Identify the functions and responsibilities of the MRC.
- Describe Risk Vulnerabilities pertaining to Esc. County
- Identify community benefits with an MRC.
- Identify the job tasks assigned to MRC unit members.



# MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS? SO YOU'VE NEVER HEARD OF ONE? LET'S ANSWER SOME QUESTIONS.

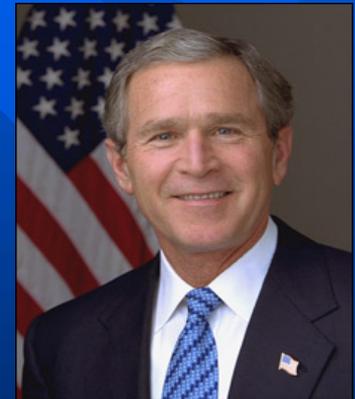


- Where did it come from?
- What is an MRC?
- Where did we get one?
- What does an MRC do?
- Where are we going with it?
- What does an MRC have to do with me?



# MRC – THE BEGINNING . . .

- After “9-11”, a surge of “What can I do to help?”
- Pres. Bush – ’02 State of Union Address
- Called upon citizens to make life-time commitment to volunteer time/service
- Created USA Freedom Corps to organize volunteers
- MRC is component of Freedom Corps
- Funded by OSG Federal Grant
- Over 50 MRC’s formed in first year



White House photo by Eric Draper



*“You have to become involved to make an impact.  
No one is impressed with the won/loss record of the referee.”  
--John Holcomb*

# CORPS “BIG PICTURE”

- USA Freedom Corps – The “Parent” Corps
- Citizens Corps
  - Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) (created in 2002)
  - Volunteers in Policing (VIP)
  - National Neighborhood Watch
  - Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT)
  - Terrorism Information and Prevention System (TIPS)
- AmeriCorps (created in 1993)
  - American Red Cross
  - Habitat for Humanity
  - Boys/Girls Clubs
- Senior Corps
  - Foster Grandparent Program
  - Senior Companion Program
  - Retired and Senior Volunteer Program
- Peace Corps (created in 1960)



*"Do not follow where the path may lead. Go instead where there is no path and leave a trail." — Unknown*

# MRC – WHAT IS IT?

- Major local emergencies (fire, flood, HazMat, epidemics, large-scale events, etc.) can overwhelm capabilities of first responders such as Fire, Law Enforcement, EMS, etc.
- A Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) unit is a community-based, organized group of volunteers (medical and non-medical) intended to supplement existing community medical and emergency response systems.
- Helps provide surge capacity (on-site or at treatment location) during event's initial hours, before other help arrives.
- A valuable asset for helping address on-going, significant public health concerns throughout the year.

*“The heart of a volunteer is not measured in size, but by the depth of the commitment to make a difference in the lives of others.”*

*DeAnn Hollis*

# RISK VULNERABILITIES

(Potential to Produce Mass Victims/Casualties)

## ■ Incidents of Nature

- Hurricanes
- Severe Thunderstorms
- Tornadoes
- Floods



## ■ Hazardous Materials Incidents

- I-10, Highways 29, 90 and 98
- Numerous Pipelines
- Burlington and CSX Railroads
- 11 Port Facilities
- Pensacola Regional Airport



## ■ Domestic Security Incidents

- Nuclear, Biological, Chemical, Explosives (NBCE)
- Decontamination Plans
- MPIPs (SARS, Smallpox, Botulism, Anthrax, Viral Hemorrhagic Fever, Plague, etc.)



*"You make a living by what you get. You make a life by what you give."*

*--Winston Churchill*

# LOCAL EMERGENCY EXPERIENCES

## Last 25 Years

- 1979 Nat'l Airline 727 crashed in Pensacola Bay; Tanker Truck accident resulted in Anhydrous Ammonia leak. Both incidents resulted in casualties.
- 1984 – Abortion Clinic bombings.
- 1995 – Train derailment, Hurricanes Opal and Erin
- 1998 – Train derailment, Hurricane George
- 2000 – Tornado touch downs
- 2001 – Tornado touch downs; Beulah wildfire, high-volume natural gas line explosion
- 2002 – Tropical Storm Isidore
- 2004 – “White Powder” incident at Federal Bldg



*Past the beggar and the suffering walk he who asks, 'Why, oh God, do you not do something for these people?' To which God replied, 'I did do something, I made you.' -old Sufi saying*

# BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY



- An organized, team approach.
- Activated during emergencies or disasters.
- Provides a structure/framework for effective use of resources.
- Ensures deployment in planned, coordinated effort consistent with community emergency response plans.
- Mechanism ensuring volunteers have appropriate credentials for their assignments.

*“Definition of volunteering: Doing more than you have to because you want to, in a cause you consider good.”*  
--Ivan Scheier



## HOW DID WE GET AN MRC?

- July '03, ECHD applied for Federal Grant
- Awarded by and administered through Office of the Surgeon General (as a Demonstration Project)
- Approximately 150 units nationwide
- 10 in Florida (Counties of Collier, Lake, Palm Beach, Duval, Monroe, Broward, Lee, Pasco, City of Orlando)
- Local MRC is under the general guidance of ECHD Director - Dr. John Lanza
- Part of Public Health Preparedness Section
- Housed at Northside Clinic, 8390 N. Palafax



*“To the world you may be one person, but to one person you may be the world.”*  
-- Anonymous



# WHERE ARE WE GOING? THE MRC MISSION . . .

- Engage Volunteers
  - Health Care Professionals
  - Administrative and Support Personnel
- To help the community
- Prepare for, respond to, and mitigate
- Emergencies, disasters and pressing health care needs
- In order to supplement and assist local emergency and medical systems responses
- By providing a group of readily trained and available professionals.

*“You have not lived until you have done something for someone who can never repay you.”*  
--Unknown



# WHAT ARE WE DOING?

- Recruiting Health Care Professionals (active AND retired) from all fields: physicians, nurses, dentists, pharmacists, psychologists, social workers, EMS, medical students
- Recruiting Administrative, Clerical and Support
- Matching volunteer skills to community needs
- Developing plans
  - Strategic National Stockpile (SNS)
  - Mass Prophylaxis and Immunization (MPIP)
- Training
- Developing job descriptions and competencies
- Planning/Conducting tabletop exercises and drills to test the plan



*"Destiny is not necessarily what we get out of life, but rather, what we give."  
--Cary Grant*

# EXAMPLES OF MEDICAL TASKS WHEN MRC IS ACTIVATED/DEPLOYED

- Triage
- Medical Screening and Evaluation
- Medication and/or Vaccine Preparation
- Medication and/or Vaccine Dispensing
- Medical Dispensing Assistant
- Emergency Medical Services
- Mental Health / Crisis Counseling



*You can't build a reputation on what you are going to do.  
-- Henry Ford*



# EXAMPLES OF NON-MEDICAL TASKS WHEN MRC IS ACTIVATED/DEPLOYED

- Greeters
- Forms and Information Distribution
- Orientation/Education
- Registration
- Transportation
- Data Collection
- Administrative/Clerical
- Interpreters
- Phone Bank Operators



*One hand alone does not clap.  
--Arab Proverb*



# COMMUNITY PARTNERS

## Play a Heavy Role in MPIP

- ECHD
- Esc. Co. Emergency Mgm't
- Esc. Co. Emerg Medical Svcs
- Esc. Co. Public Works
- Esc. Co. Schools
- Esc. Co. Transportation
- Esc. Co. Fire Services
- Esc Co. Public Info Office
- Esc. Co. Sheriff's Department
- FDLE
- National Guard
- Pensacola Police Dep't
- Pensacola Fire Services
- Florida Highway Patrol
- Pensacola Junior College
- University of W. Florida
- Pensacola Civic Center
- FL 1-DMAT
- American Red Cross
- Esc. Co Medical Society
- Esc. Pharmacy Assoc



# MRC – BENEFITS OF VOLUNTEERING



- Make a difference
- Sense of pride and accomplishment through Community service and involvement
- Networking and interaction with like-minded peers
- New experiences
- Learning opportunities, skill development
- Training opportunities
- Professional CEUs
- Disaster/Emergency Response Opportunities
- Liability covered by FL Volunteer Protection Act, 768.1355



*"The best way to find yourself, is to lose yourself in the service of others."  
--~Ghandi*

# VOLUNTEER RESPONSIBILITIES

## (Choose either Corps or Registry)

- **Reserve Corps Responsibilities**
  - Volunteer time, service, expertise
  - Attend/participate in MRC meetings and training sessions
  - Assist in the planning, responding and/or recovery phases
  - Abide by Volunteer Code of Ethics
  - Act as MRC Ambassador/Recruiter
- **Reserve Registry Responsibilities**
  - Register name and contact information
  - Complete awareness level on-line briefings/trainings
- **Corps AND Registry Responsibilities**
  - Be available, willing and prepared to respond to emergencies
  - Work in a high-risk environment
  - Be aware of MRC Standard Operating Guidelines
  - Allow for screening, references, credentials and background check



*You can't leave footprints in the sands of time while sitting down.  
--Nelson Rockefeller.*



## WHY MRC? BECAUSE . . .

- . . . failure is not an option. (E. Kranz, Flight Dir. Apollo 13)
- . . . being ready to respond in an emergency does not just happen.
- . . . random effort produces random results.
- . . . planning and preparedness are a journey, not a destination.
- . . . the process is never finished.
- . . . consistent communication and regular training are essentials.
- . . . readiness requires planning, organization and practice.
- . . . no one person or agency can do it alone.
- . . . if we don't, who will?



*“We are all like one-winged angels. It is only when we help each other that we can fly.”*

*--Luciano de Crescenzo*



## A CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

*“A volunteer is a person who believes that people can make a difference – and is willing to prove it.”*

*--Anonymous*

*Are you that person?*





**For further information or for an MRC application, contact:**

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**<http://doh.state.fl.us/CHDEscambia/MRC.htm>**

