



# Fairfax County Health Department and the Medical Reserve Corps

George Mason University  
Outreach

June 7, 2007

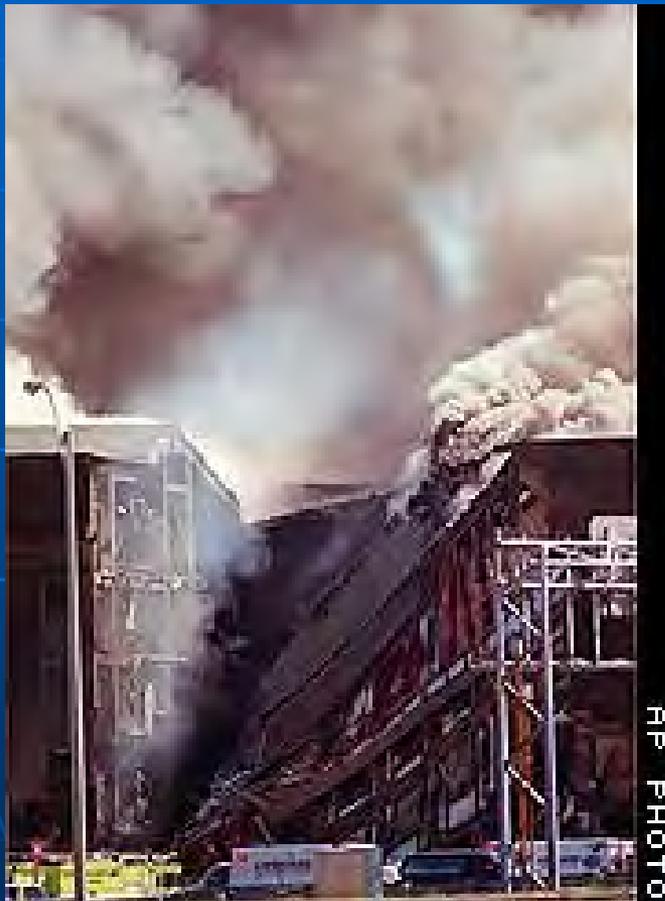


Dianne Quebral, Fairfax MRC Coordinator

# Fairfax County Health Department Core Functions

- Investigation and prevention of epidemics and the spread of disease
- Protecting the public against environmental hazards
- Promoting and encouraging healthy behaviors
- Assuring the quality and accessibility of health services

# The Day Our World Changed



# Post-911

Public Health has a new role in homeland security and is viewed as a 'first responder' responsible for protecting the country against bioterrorism and other emerging public health threats



# Strategic National Stockpile

- Consists of large quantities of stored medicines and medical supplies maintained by the CDC
  - Antibiotics
  - Chemical antidotes
  - Life-support medications
  - IV administration
  - Airway maintenance supplies
  - Medical/surgical items



# “Push Packages”

- In case of public health emergency, federal and authorities deliver “push package” to any state within 12 hours.
- Storage locations are kept secret
- Each state has plans to receive and distribute materials quickly
- Not a first response tool, but used to supplement medical materials after major disaster

# Cities Readiness Initiative

CDC program to aid the 53 largest metropolitan areas to increase their capacity to deliver medicines and medical supplies during a large-scale public health emergency such as a bioterrorism attack or a nuclear accident.



For more information visit:  
<http://www.bt.cdc.gov/cri/qa.asp>

# Points of Dispensing

- “Mass Dispensing” is a major responsibility that the Health Department counts on the Medical Reserve Corps to support.
- Goal is to be able to provide prophylactic antibiotics to county’s residents (1.2 Million) within 48 hours of detecting bioterrorist attack.



For Fairfax County, this task requires staffing 96 Points of Dispensing.

# How Did The MRC Begin?



- September 11, 2001 Attacks
- October, 2001 Anthrax Letters

- Following 9/11/01, there were a string of anthrax outbreaks in:
- Ft. Lauderdale, Florida (National Enquirer)
- New York City (Tom Brokaw - NBC studio, New York Post)
- Washington DC (Senator Daschle & Leahy, Brentwood and Merrifield postal facilities)
- The Government (Dept. of Health and Human Services) quickly became aware of the possibility of future bioterrorist, and natural medical disasters. The anthrax attack was the “wake up call” for public health in that it was realized that current personnel in the system would be grossly inadequate to serve large populations.
- Realizing that the Government couldn't do everything, a call for help was issued by the President in his State Of The Union address on January 29, 2002

# What is the MRC ?



Office of the  
Surgeon General



- Formed in 2002, in cooperation with USA Freedom Corps, Office of the Surgeon General, and a charter program of Citizen Corps.
- One of the programs under the USA Freedom Corps was the Citizen Corps. The Citizen Corps called for local communities across the nation to volunteer to assist in local programs which would require assistance in the event of a local disaster.
- Under the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), the Office of the Surgeon General, the idea was conceived to form a medical reserve, and continues to administer that function, today.

# What is the Fairfax MRC ?



A local volunteer program to augment the capability of the public health system to respond to a biological attack, naturally occurring epidemic, or other disaster ("all-hazards").

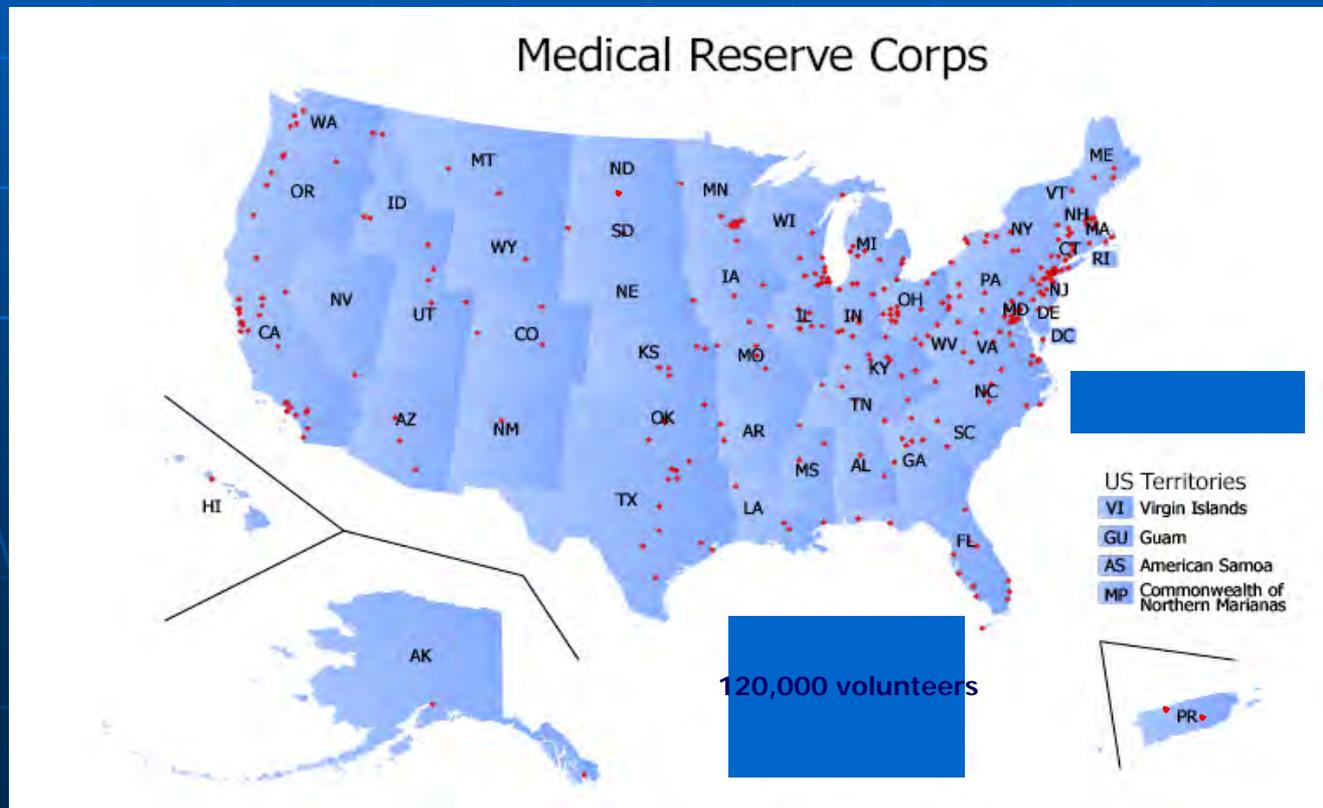
The MRC is a "blend" of volunteers from the medical community, non-medical volunteers, and volunteers/resources of the Fairfax Co. Health Dept.

# 644 MRC Units Across USA

This map, provided to us by national MRC office, shows the MRC's around the Continental USA, Alaska, and Hawaii.

This is a good map which gives the audience a visual idea of how many MRC units are around the USA. Fairfax MRC is one of the largest MRC units in the USA, with over 3590+ members.

For your information, MRC units are not all alike—some are affiliated with Local Fire departments, some are non-profit, etc.



# Potential Roles for the MRC

- Mass Dispensing/Vaccination Operations. There are 25 MRC dispensing sites within Fairfax County ( 24 high schools plus GMU).
- Family Assistance Centers
- Special Medical Needs Shelters
- Other roles (e.g. assist Health Department with info distribution to public)
- A plan will be developed for the creation of 4 mobile teams to assist special populations that would have difficulty coming to a dispensing site. More information will be forthcoming.



# Mass Vaccination Center Team

1	Incident Coordinator	1	Flow Control Unit Leader
1	Deputy Incident Coordinator	104	Dispensing Site Assistants (min.)
1	Safety Officer	2	Medical Directors
1	Logistics Section Chief	2	Nurse Pract. / Physicians Asst.
1	Public Info. Officer (Media School)	41	Registered Nurse
4	Administrative Assistant	4	RN Unit Leader
1	Volunteer Coordinator	6	Physician
1	Support Branch Director	2	Pharmacist
1	Support Branch Deputy Director	2	Pharmacy Technician
10	Interpreters (min.)	6	Public Health Staff
1	ASL Interpreter	6	Mental Health Professional
1	Data Entry Unit Leader	6	Greeter (Counselor)
24	Data Entry Specialists	6	Special Needs Assistant

There are 2 MRC teams per high school, an "A" team, and a "B" team. This slide shows the ideal numbers of volunteers on one team.

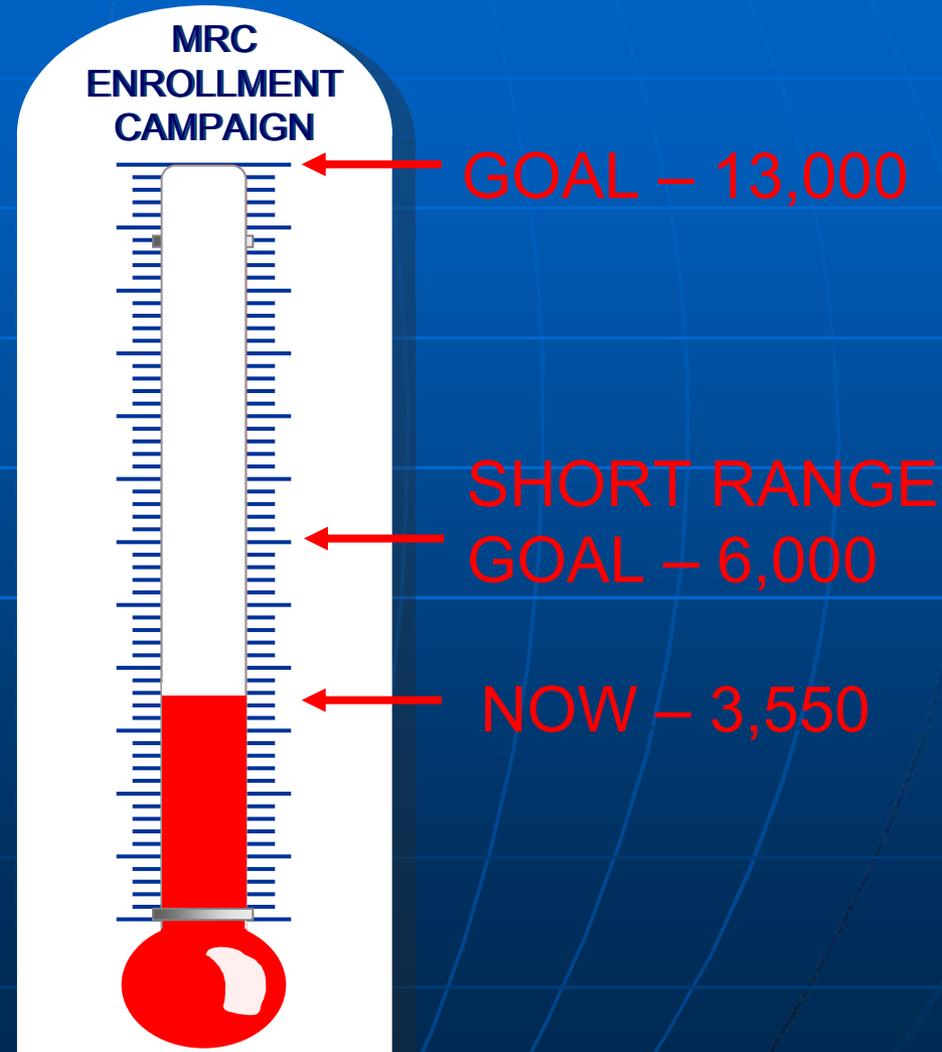
Notice that more non-medical volunteers are needed than medical volunteers. This is ironic, because many people are reluctant to join the MRC because of the word "Medical". It implies that this is a group of medical volunteers. Also, some volunteers may think that the Site Assistant position is insignificant, but they play an important roles throughout the dispensing site process.

**TOTAL = 236**

**\*\*\* Majority of Volunteers are not medical \*\*\***

# More Volunteers Needed !

- Caring, committed, reliable and responsible persons are needed
  - Not committed to another disaster response org.
  - Age 18 or older
  - Able to work required schedule
    - 12 hour shifts for successive days
    - Only 10-15 hours of volunteer time per year.
- Enroll via:
  - [www.fairfaxmrc.org](http://www.fairfaxmrc.org)
  - 703 246 2433



# More Volunteers Needed !

- We need more volunteers! Application process for IC positions
- We currently have 3,550 volunteers, and our long-range goal is 13,000 volunteers. We could use more than 13,000, but will be able to suffice with 13000 volunteers.
- Our short-range goal is to have 6,000 as soon as possible—why 6000? Because that would give us about half of volunteers that we would hope we would have trained that would then be able to work along side of spontaneous volunteers that would be forthcoming at the time of an emergency.
- Dr. Gloria stated that she doesn't want just numbers, rather volunteers who are caring, committed to the MRC, and reliable. In other words, volunteers who will actually show up to do their job at a dispensing site when needed.
- There is an application process for Incident Coordinators, Deputy I.C.s and Logistics Chiefs. For IC's and DIC, this process includes a life-time criminal background check, list of references, and answers to given scenarios along with an interview; for the Logistics Chief, it entails the submission of a resume and a CBC.
- There are MRC recruitment brochures on the table. Please take some and pass them to people who you think would care to participate in the MRC.

# www.fairfaxmrc.org

- In this and the next 3 slides, we discuss login help to the MRC database, and viewing the individual volunteer's profile and details of their job assignment in the MRC.
- Go to the MRC website, login with username & password.
  - If you forgot your password, don't type anything, just click on "Can't remember Username?" or "Can't remember Password?"
  - Then the next screen appears.

**WANT TO BECOME A VOLUNTEER?**  
Click here to apply

**EXISTING VOLUNTEER**

User Name:

Password:

[Log In](#)

[Can't remember Username?](#)  
[Can't remember Password?](#)

[Home](#)  
[New Volunteer](#)  
[Send Password](#)

  
English

### Fairfax Medical Reserve Corps

#### A Program of the Fairfax County Health Department

The anthrax attacks of October 2001 dramatically indicated the need to increase our capacity for dispensing medication to a large number of persons in a short timeframe. Working with community physicians, the Fairfax County Health Department began recruiting volunteers soon thereafter. In 2003 this group officially affiliated with the Medical Reserve Corps, a program of the federal Citizens Corps. The Fairfax Medical Reserve Corps, serving Fairfax County, Fairfax City and Falls Church, is now one of the largest Medical Reserve Corps in the country.

Even though large, Fairfax Medical Reserve Corps needs more medical and non-medical volunteers dedicated to serve our community in times of public health emergency. We invite you to become part of this important effort to augment the Fairfax County Health Department's capacity by providing medication in response to acts of bioterrorism and naturally occurring epidemic. If you would like to review the various positions in the MRC, please click on MRC Roles, or click on "New Volunteer" to apply now.

To our current volunteers, thank you for your commitment to serve. Significantly enhanced in 2006, this website represents an advancement in our support to you as a Fairfax MRC volunteer. On logging in, you will find a simpler more intuitive interface providing assignment information, access to training, Fairfax MRC announcements, and other features. As always, our capacity to communicate with you in emergencies as well as routinely depends on having current e-mail and wireless device information. When you log-in please take a moment to be certain this information is current.

[Home](#) | [New Volunteer](#) | [Log in](#) | [Send Password](#) | [MRC Roles](#) | [MRC FAQ](#) | [Support](#) | [Terms of Service](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) |

 Fairfax Medical Reserve Corps Alert Network is a patent-pending product of Roam Secure, Inc. Roam Secure is a federally registered trademark. The ActivMRC mark is a trademark of Roam Secure. All rights reserved.

# Personal Preparedness:

Why do you need a plan?

- To help your family feel safe both physically and psychologically
- To help you function better during a public health response.
- It's better to be prepared, not scared!

# How should I prepare?

- Assemble an emergency kit
- Make a family communications plan
- Learn more about readiness
- [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov)
- [www.americanredcross.org](http://www.americanredcross.org)
- [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/cean](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/cean)

# Summary

- Real potential for Public Health emergency
- First line of defense is prevention
- Detection is based on multiple independent monitoring methods
- Rapid response capability requires close relationship with community partners and volunteers
- We are working daily to strengthen detection & response capability, but we need your assistance.

# QUESTIONS?

- [Dianne.Quebral@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Dianne.Quebral@fairfaxcounty.gov)  
(703) 246-2433
- Sign up now at [ww.fairfaxmrc.org](http://ww.fairfaxmrc.org).
- We need your help to identify volunteers and other venues in the County for recruitment.

**THANK YOU!**