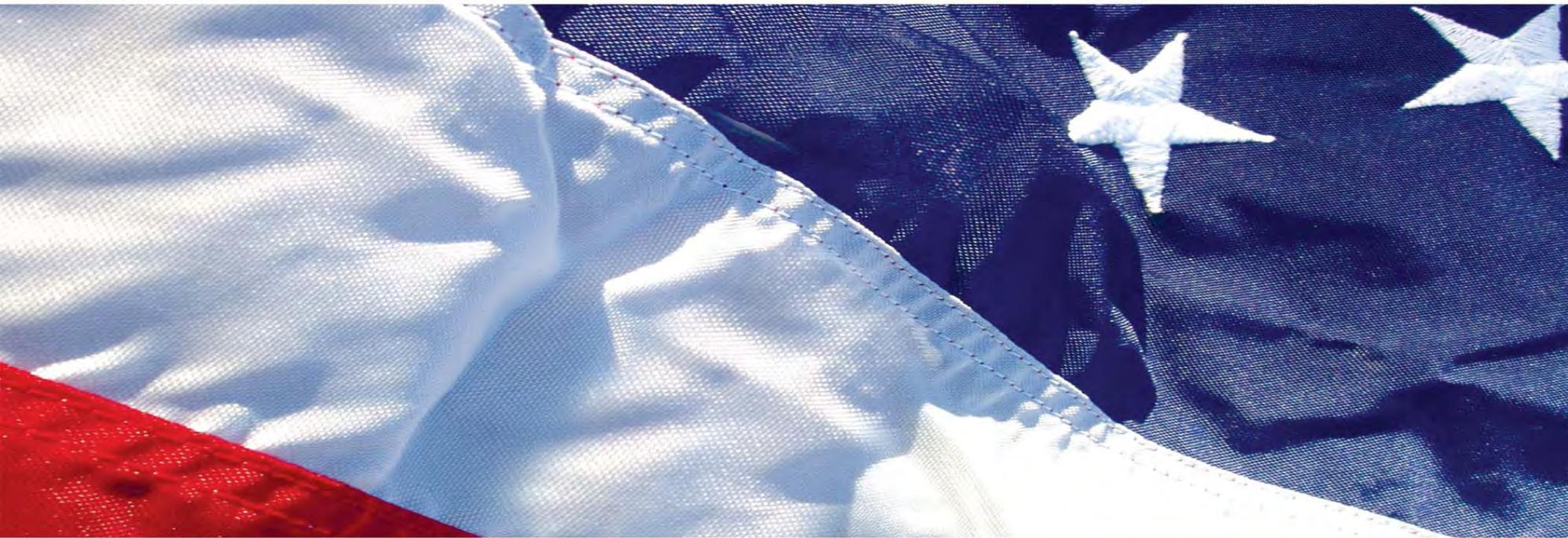


2008 Medical Reserve Corps National Leadership and Training Conference



Prepared Volunteers, Resilient Communities, Strong Nation



April 8–11, 2008

Portland, Oregon



**Emergency System for Advance Registration of Volunteer
Health Professionals (ESAR-VHP) Integration and
Coordination with the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC)**

**2008 MRC National Leadership and Training Conference
Thursday, April 10, 2008**

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Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response
Office Preparedness and Emergency Operations
Healthcare Preparedness Programs
ESAR-VHP Program**

ESAR-VHP Mission

To establish a national network of State-based programs that effectively facilitate the use of health professional volunteers in local, State, and Federal emergency responses.

What is ESAR-VHP and how does it work?

- National system of State-based programs for managing health professional volunteers
- Recruitment
- Advance registration
- Licensure and credential verification
- Assignment of standardized credential levels
- Mobilization of volunteers

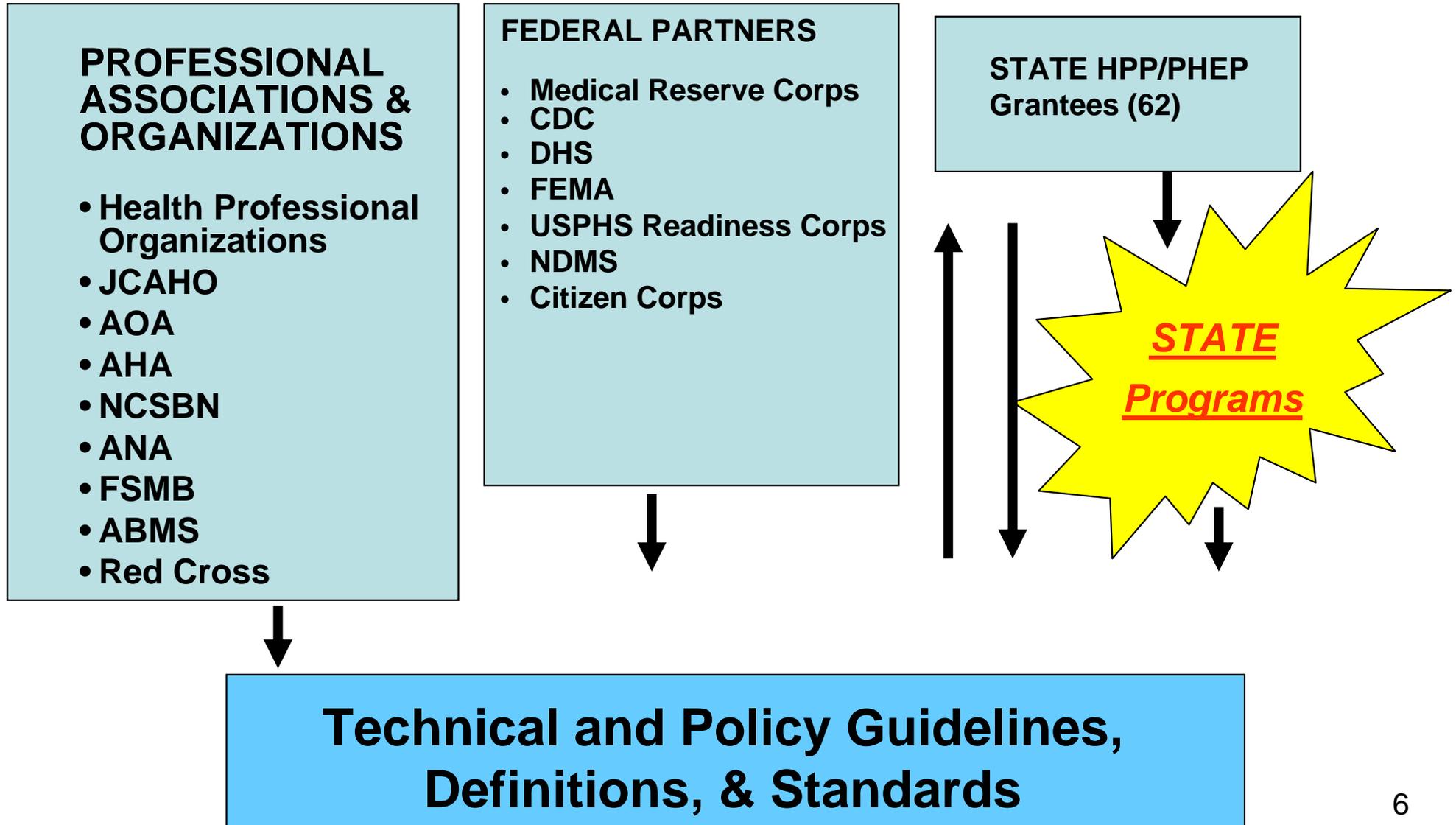
Why is ESAR-VHP important?

- Volunteers practice at highest professional capacity
- Volunteers understand legal protections and liabilities
- Service delivery site confidence in volunteer competence
- Volunteers fully integrated into emergency response
- Standard classification leads to effective use of volunteers
- National standards allow for easier transfer across State lines

Key Strategies

- Develop Federal ESAR-VHP Guidelines to ensure consistency across States for:
 - credential verification
 - data transfer/exchange
- Provide technical assistance throughout development
 - Educate States on legal and regulatory issues regarding use of volunteers
 - Targeted technical and operational assistance
 - Access to National Databases
 - Marketing and recruitment support
- Identify volunteers willing to be activated in a Federal emergency

Essential Partners



ESAR-VHP Professions

- Physicians (Allopathic and Osteopathic)
- Physician Assistants
- Registered Nurses
- Advanced Practice Registered Nurses
- Licensed Practical Nurses and Licensed Vocational Nurses
- Psychologists
- Clinical Social Workers
- Dentists
- Marriage/Family Therapists
- Pharmacists
- Respiratory Therapists
- Mental Health Counselors
- Veterinarians
- Cardiovascular Technologists and Technicians
- Diagnostic Medical Sonographers
- Emergency Medical Technicians and Paramedics
- Medical and Clinical Laboratory Technicians
- Medical and Clinical Laboratory Technologists
- Medical Record and Health Information Technicians
- Radiologic Technologists and Technicians

Standardized ESAR-VHP Credential Levels

- Level 1: Verified active hospital practice
- Level 2: Verified active clinical practice (non-hospital)
- Level 3: Verified State licensure or certification (in good standing)
- Level 4: Verified education or experience (no verification of licensure or clinical practice)

Current Status and Update

- During Hurricane Katrina, over 8,300 volunteers were deployed through ESAR-VHP
- In 2006, developed and exercised Federal Protocol
- 40 States and Territories have operational ESAR-VHP systems
- 80% of the top ten population States have operational ESAR-VHP systems
- As of April 2007, there are a total of 122,616 registered ESAR-VHP volunteers
- By the end of CY 2008, it is expected that all 50 states will have operational ESAR-VHP systems

MRC & ESAR-VHP Integration

Vision for Integration

Develop a unified and systematic approach for Local-State-Federal coordination of volunteer health professionals, in support of existing resources, to improve the health, safety and resiliency of local communities, States, and the Nation in public health and medical emergency responses

Benefits of Integration

- Strengthens local and state coordination
- Increase surge capacity
- Allows maximum use of volunteer health professionals' skills and expertise
- Minimizes duplication of effort
- Improves resource planning and allocation
- Increases the resiliency of local communities and States

Recommendations for Integration

ESAR-VHP and MRC:

- State ESAR-VHP Coordinator and State MRC Coordinator (If possible, same person)
- Include MRC and ESAR-VHP in local and State response plans
- Coordinate activities and share responsibility for identifying and recruiting potential volunteers
- Written State-level policy for information sharing between ESAR-VHP, MRC units, and other local authorities
- Coordinate activities and share responsibility for coordinated notification, activation, mobilization, and demobilization

Recommendations for Integration

ESAR-VHP:

- Develop and implement registration and credential verification mechanism
- Encourage ESAR-VHP registrants to join local MRC units
- Encourage establishment of new MRC units (If no local MRC units exist)
- Track, train, and prepare VHPs not affiliated with local MRC or other local/State response organizations
- Obtain sign-off/approval of local MRC unit leader for State requests for activation and deployment of MRC volunteers

Recommendations for Integration

MRC:

- Use State ESAR-VHP program for registering and verifying credentials of members
- Train and prepare volunteers for activation at local level

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