



**U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
Office of the Surgeon General**

# Medical Reserve Corps 101





# Purpose

- Provide an introduction to the Medical Reserve Corps
- Discuss key issues pertaining to the establishment

# Learning Objectives

- Describe the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) concept
- Discuss how MRC units vary depending on the needs of the local community
- Describe potential ways to get involved with local MRC units



# MRC Vision

A nationwide network of organized volunteers strengthening the health and safety of their communities



# Mission of the Medical Reserve Corps

The mission of the [Medical Reserve Corps \(MRC\)](#) is to improve the health and safety of communities across the country by organizing public health, medical and other volunteers



# MRC Concept

- Establish groups of volunteers with interest in strengthening local public health system and providing help in emergencies
- Organize/utilize locally
- Integrate with existing programs and resources
- Identify, credential, train and prepare in advance
- Include medical and public health professionals, and others



# MRC Concept

- Foster Community Resiliency!
  - Get all response partners to the table with a common goal
  - Strengthening the “everyday” public health system will improve community preparedness
- Prepared Communities
  - Prepared States
    - Prepared Nation



# History

- Following 9-11 attacks
  - Thousands of unaffiliated volunteers show up at sites
    - No way to ID or credential
    - Not covered under liability laws
    - No Incident Command System (ICS) training
    - Difficult to manage
- President George W. Bush 2002 State of the Union
- Partner program with White House's USA Freedom Corps and DHS' Citizen Corps



# MRC Program Office

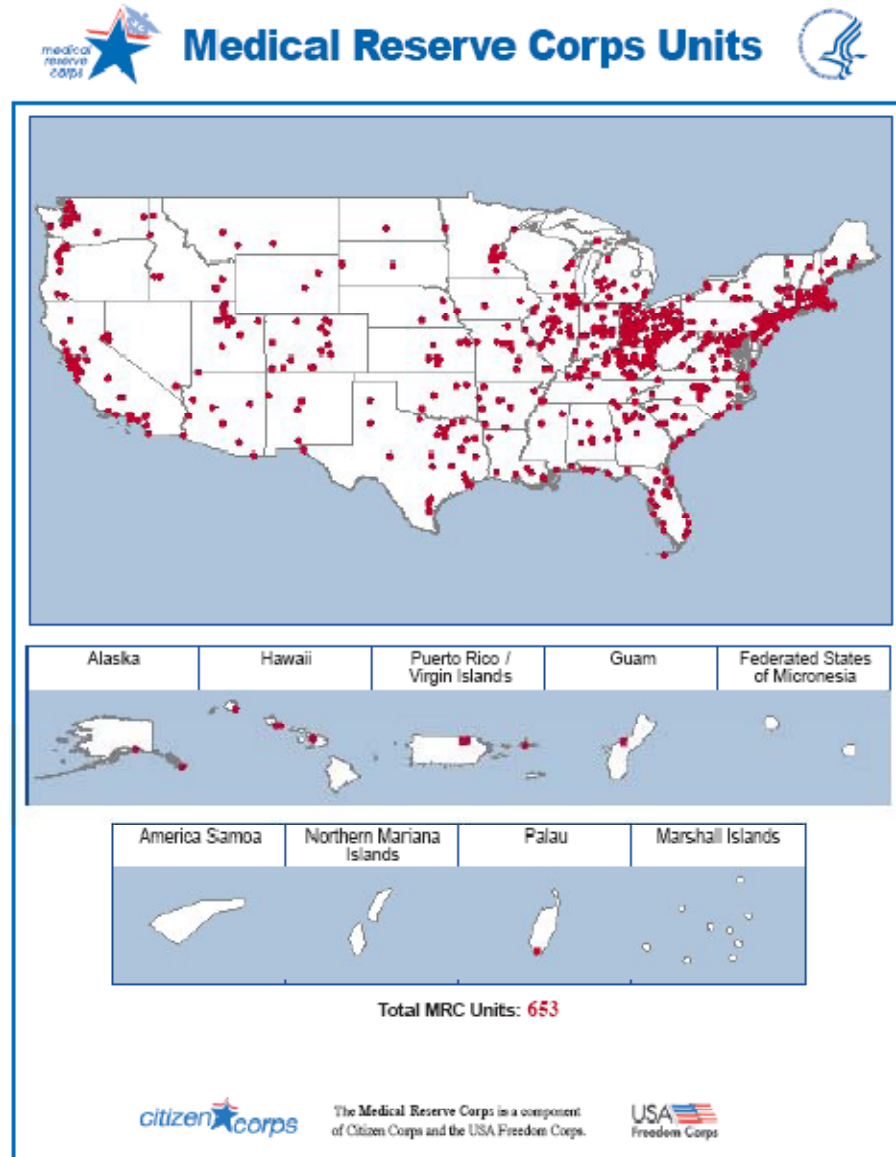
- Housed in the [Office of the Surgeon General](#)
- Supports local efforts to establish, implement, and sustain MRC units nationwide
- Goals:
  1. Providing effective national leadership and coordination
  2. Promoting awareness and understanding of the critical role that MRC units play in communities across the nation
  3. Enhancing the capacity of MRC units to achieve their local missions



# Status - Current Local Units

Visit the MRC website  
<http://www.medicalreservecorps.gov/FindMRC.asp>  
to find up-to-date information on the MRC unit in your community.

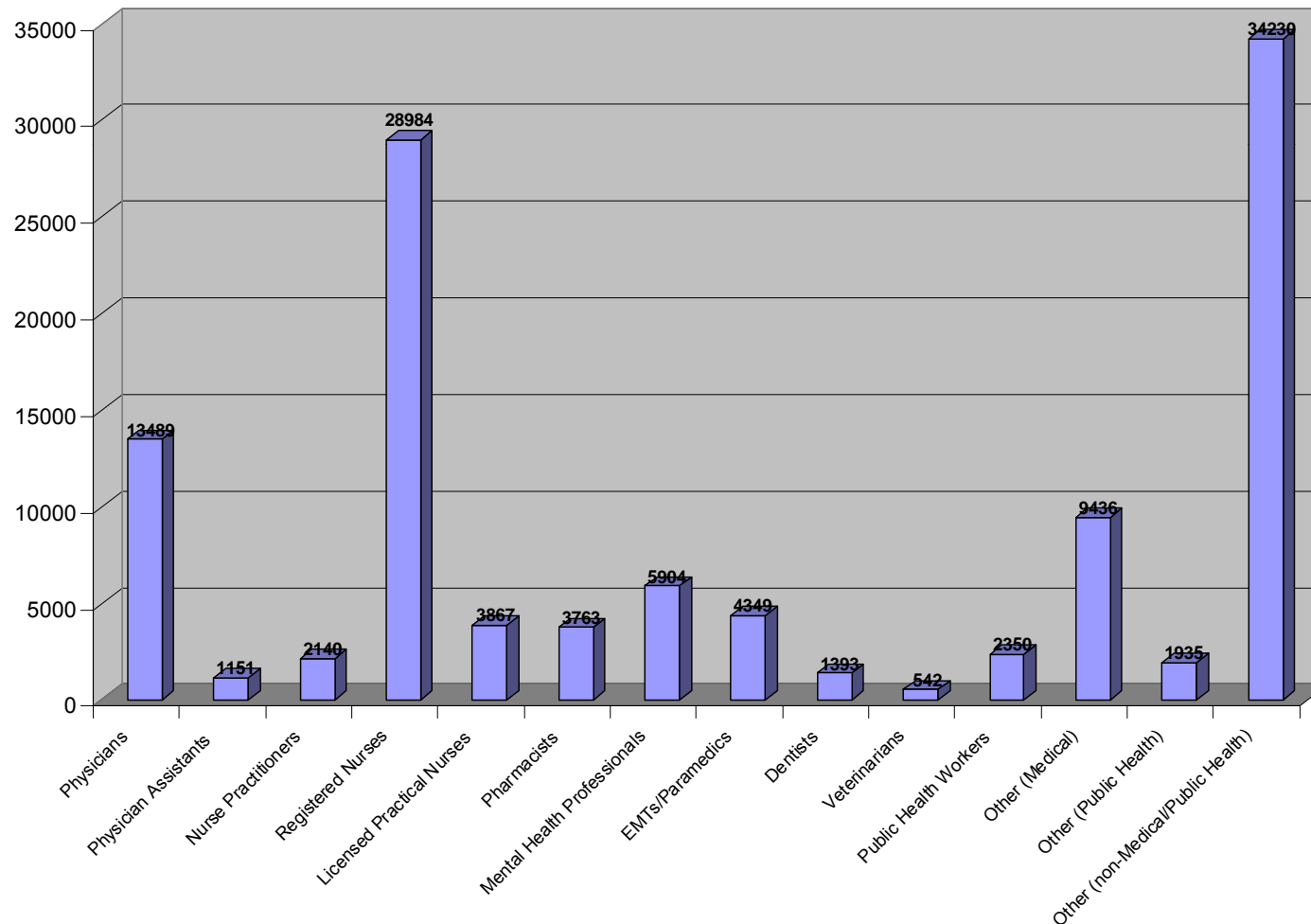
Current Status  
693 units over 125,000 volunteers



# Status – Volunteer Numbers

There are currently more than 120,000 MRC volunteers from a variety of health and medical professions, as well as other community volunteers (see chart below for volunteers according to professions):

Number of MRC Members by Categories





# How Can an MRC Benefit Your Community?

- Resiliency – not as reliant on state and national resources
- Meet identified health needs/gaps
- Bolster public health and emergency response infrastructures
- Give community members an opportunity to help make their communities healthier and safer
- Provide mechanisms for information sharing and coordination between partner organizations
- Allow for national recognition of local public health and emergency response efforts



# MRC Models

- No “typical” MRC
- All MRC units:
  - Provide an organizational structure for managing and utilizing members
  - Pre-identify members
  - Screen members, including verification of professional licensure/certification
  - Train/prepare members
- Units vary by:
  - Types/#s of volunteers
  - Sponsor organizations
  - Partner organizations
  - Mission/focus



# Volunteers

- Types/# of Volunteers - local decision based on local needs
- May include those in training, in active practice, or retired
- Medical and public health professionals
- Persons with no health experience who can help with communications, administration, logistics, and other essential functions



# Mission/Roles

- We encourage MRC unit leaders and members to serve as “Ambassadors” of the U.S. Surgeon General (SG)
  - ...support [SGs Priorities for Public Health](#)
    - Increase disease/injury prevention
    - Eliminate health disparities
    - Improve public health preparedness
    - Promote Health Literacy



# Roles

MRC members can have a profound impact on the health and safety of their community

- **Examples:**
  - Serve as MRC leaders
  - Provide medical care, administer vaccines and dispense medications
  - Provide health education as part of a local public health initiative
  - Provide counseling for victims, families and responders
  - Promote preparedness
  - Provide administrative, logistical and communications support

# Ways to get involved

- Volunteer
  - Locally 1 NSP volunteer is part of the Sacramento Regional MRC
  - Fresno County is working with the NSP currently
- Partner
  - From a National Perspective we look at local units to partner with local chapters
  - Looking at ways to bridge training
- Establish



# How To Volunteer with a Local MRC

- Get in touch with local unit
- If there is no unit in your area, talk to local leaders (i.e. health department, board of health or emergency management agency) about starting an MRC unit in your community



# Finding A Local MRC - 1

**MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS**  
Sponsored by: The Office of the Surgeon General

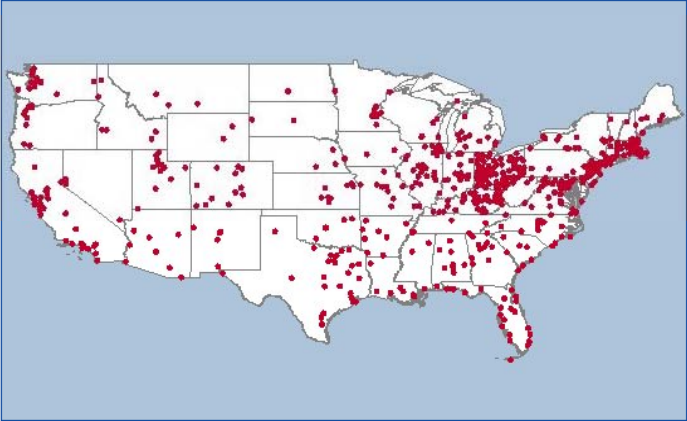
Search:

LOG OUT | MY MRC | MESSAGE BOARD | LISTSERV | NEWSLETTERS | FAQs

Home >  
**Find MRC Units (639 MRC Units found)**

To view contact information for registered MRC Units, click a state or territory on the map or search by State or Region. To search for MRC Units based on a radius from a specific Zip Code, go to [Search MRC Units by Zip Code](#).

[MRC Unit PDF Maps](#)



Alaska   Hawaii   Puerto Rico / Virgin Islands   Guam   Federated States of Micronesia

America Samoa   Northern Mariana Islands   Palau   Marshall Islands

View MRC Units By:  
Region:  go Or State:  go

1. Visit [Find MRC Units](#)
2. Select a state and click Go...



# How to Partner with a Local MRC

- Contact the unit coordinator to learn what roles have already been identified for volunteers
- Work with the local unit to determine how you can partner with the local unit
  - Additional types of volunteers would be needed, what training would be needed/could be provided
  - Other types of resources MRC may need
  - Incidents you may need MRC to respond to



# For More Information:

- MRC Program Office:

Tel. (301) 443-4951

MRCcontact@hhs.gov

[www.medicalreservecorps.gov](http://www.medicalreservecorps.gov)

- MRC Regional Coordinators:

<http://www.medicalreservecorps.gov/Coordinators/Regional>

- MRC State Coordinators:

<http://www.medicalreservecorps.gov/Coordinators/State>