MRC Status and Activity Highlights:
The Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) is a national network of local groups of volunteers, with a mission to engage the volunteers in activities that strengthen public health, reduce vulnerabilities and susceptibilities, lessen disaster risk, improve emergency preparedness, response and recovery capabilities, and build community resilience. MRC volunteers include medical and public health professionals, and other community members interested in improving the health and safety of their local jurisdictions. MRC units identify, screen, train and organize volunteers, and utilize them to support routine public health activities and augment preparedness, response, and recovery efforts. We are pleased to welcome 11 new MRC units during this quarter:

Region/Unit
4 FL MRC SMRT (Tallahassee, FL)
4 MAG MRC (Atlanta, GA)
4 South Carolina Veterinary Reserve Corps (Columbia, SC)
5 Franklin Williamson MRC (Marion, IL)
6 Bell County MRC (Temple, TX)
6 Carroll County ECHO MRC (Eureka Springs, AR)
6 Joint Base San Antonio Fort Sam Houston MRC (Fort Sam Houston, TX)
6 Oklahoma Region 6 – Canadian County MRC (El Reno, OK)
6 Sebastian County Good Samaritan MRC (Fort Smith, AR)
7 St. Louis Regional Radiological Response MRC (Berkeley, MO)
10 Joint Base Lewis McChord MRC (Tacoma, WA)

At the end of the reporting period there were 207,927 volunteers enrolled in 1,009 MRC units in 50 states, the District of Columbia, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Palau, American Samoa, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, and Puerto Rico. (Note: the number of volunteers is collated from the information provided by MRC units as part of their profiles on the MRC web site). Seven MRC units were de-registered during this quarter.

The following map and charts give a quick snapshot of MRC scope, the number and regional distribution of MRC units and volunteers, and the categories of MRC volunteers:
As part of their profiles on the MRC web site, 653 (53%) units reported a total of 3,624 activities during this quarter, of which 42 were emergencies and 3,582 were non-emergency. MRC unit leaders also select impact areas for each activity, which may include multiple categories. Leaders reported that of the first quarter activities 1,838 strengthened public health, 914 served a vulnerable population, 1,301 supported non-emergency community events, 2,280 developed/strengthened MRC unit, 1,715 improved community preparedness/resilience, and 1,429 trained/exercised to improve unit or community response capacity/capability. Samples of the activities that MRC units have been involved in during this reporting period include:

**Emergency**

- There were many activities reported during the quarter related to Ebola preparedness and response including trainings, staffing call centers and conducting neighborhood outreach.
- The McHenry County MRC (IL) fire rehab team activated to evaluate firefighters at the scene of a large house fire.
- The Boston MRC (MA) assisted in an emergency shelter due to the Long Island Bridge closure, helping 150 displaced persons.
- Mississippi Behavioral Health MRC (MS) unit’s 12 members of the regional Crisis Unit were called upon to offer grief counseling to approximately 24 staff members and 25 Intellectually Disabled/Developmentally Delayed individuals in October following the accidental drowning of an individual in Hattiesburg.
- Several volunteers from the Evanston MRC (IL) administered vaccinations when their Health Department held four special clinics in October to provide immunizations to persons potentially exposed to hepatitis A virus. MRC volunteers were critical to the Health Department's response, and emergency clinics could not have been held without them.
Kent County MRC (MI) set up generators for residents who were displaced from their retirement village due to a fire, assisting residents with heat and electricity.

Madison County MRC (OH) provided fire rehab to the first responders during a local house fire.

The Big Country MRC (TX) set up a warming center for stranded motorists due to icy road conditions and all motels being at full capacity. The center was moved to another location due to extreme cold temperatures and the inability of the heat system to maintain adequate warmth and was reopened due to major power outages in the county. The warming center was set up and staffed by five Big Country Medical Reserve Corps members along with the Sweetwater Nolan County Health Department, and the Sweetwater Fire Department. Forty four (44) hours were donated by members at a value of over $1,000.

Island County MRC (WA) staffed a warming shelter for the county’s homeless population over a 3-day period.

Non-emergency

There were many activities reported during the quarter related to conducting vaccination clinics to include influenza and other vaccine preventable diseases.

More than 60 earthquake and ‘Great American Shakeout’ drills were reported.

The Cape Cod MRC (MA) gave a presentation to 29 residents in a retirement community on winter preparedness, including education on when to/not to shelter in place, what to have on hand, what happens at a shelter, what to bring to a shelter and having a family communication plan. The unit also conducted a faith-based outreach initiative to train church members in hands-only CPR and AED use. Since many churches have AEDs but no personnel trained to use them, this fulfilled a significant community need.

Boston MRC (MA) assisted Boston Public Schools manage their student immunization records, in order to ensure that all students had received their required shots.

Connecticut MRC and Citizen Corps united for a 1-day conference with key-note speaker, Jeff Bauman, Boston Marathon Survivor.

Vermont Statewide MRC teams assembled Ebola PPE Kits for state EMS teams.

Somerset County MRC (NJ) assisted at the Franklin Township Senior Center Flu Clinic, providing 39 flu vaccinations.

One hundred and twenty (120) New York City MRC (NY) volunteers participated in a full scale exercise lead by NYC fire (FDNY), police (NYPD) and the Port Authority to test the evacuation procedures of the 9/11 Memorial Museum at 4:00 am on a Sunday to ensure no one from the public was there to be alarmed.

Chemung County MRC (NY) staffed a medical tent at mile 23 of the Wineglass Marathon, assisting over 115 runners with a variety of issues.

Volunteers from Cape May County MRC (NJ) participated in full scale medical needs shelter drill in collaboration with local public health, state and county emergency management, and CERT. Volunteers contributed 49 hours of service and $1,446.60 of in kind support.

The Southwest Virginia MRC (VA) volunteers participated in a Project REVIVE! Train-the-trainer course on how to conduct outreach in their community for dispensing Naloxone to someone experiencing an opioid overdose.

A member of the Virginia Beach MRC (VA) volunteered with the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner as a research assistant for a grant funded project to comb through the files of unidentified remains which were subsequently identified by using new information and/or
The purpose of the investigation is to develop "success files" in order to look for patterns which may facilitate future investigations.

- Arlington County MRC (VA) assisted staff at a teen (19 and under) health services clinic twice monthly. Services include testing and pregnancy prevention education. Volunteers greet arriving teens, check IDs and appointment status, and troubleshoot needs as they arise.

- Mid-Ohio Valley MRC (WV) assisted the Salvation Army distribute the Angel Tree Christmas items that were gathered earlier in November through December.

- Chickahominy MRC (VA) had a volunteer that visited various restaurants and offered Choke Response training to their staff.

- Howard County MRC (MD) assisted the local Health Department successfully provide flu vaccines to over 24,000 school children during this influenza season.

- City of Bethlehem MRC (PA) volunteers acted as Support and Gear (SAG) vehicle drivers during the Runner's World Half Marathon & Festival, providing transportation to runners with minor health issues/injuries that have rendered them unable to complete their respective race.

- East Central Health District MRC (GA) assisted the local health department in providing medical services, such as flu shots, dental exams, and blood pressure readings, to a rural, low-income county with a predominantly minority population.

- The South Carolina Midlands Regional MRC (SC) volunteers participated in an Amateur Radio Training Net throughout the month.

- Licking County MRC (OH) assisted the local Health Department with annual 5K run and wellness walk to support Breast Cancer Awareness, monitoring runners and assisting in case of injury.

- Orange County Public Health Reserve Corps (NC) provided health screenings to the homeless or at risk of being homeless population, including flu vaccine, blood pressure screenings, glucose screenings, dental services, HIV tests, as well as provided information on smoking cessation through Project Connect.

- Woodford County Health Department (KY) along with CERT, Red Cross, Woodford County Fire Department, Versailles Fire and Rescue, and Woodford County Emergency Management distributed fire safety information to 251 homes and installed 81 smoke detectors without charge to homes in need in a local neighborhood during Smoke Detector Day. Another such event is planned for April 2015 in another area of the community.

- The Second Annual MRC Emergency Preparedness Camp was held with 65 Minnesota HOSA/MRC (MN) members and staff taking part in a 3-day training for MRC members to reach MN HOSA/MRC Goals and to start community projects.

- As chairman for the Wisconsin MRC Alliance (state association), the Wisconsin Disaster Medical Response Team MRC (WI) Director developed a Factors for Success (FFS) survey. This is one of the goals of the Alliance in 2015/2016 and will help ensure Wisconsin MRC units will have resources available to help improve their scores on future FFS.

- Kara Marsh, unit leader of the Macomb County MRC (MI), received the MI 2014 Volunteer Coordinator of the Year Award at the annual Citizen Corps Conference.

- Medical Reserve Corps of Monroe County (IN) met with the local HOSA chapter to educate students on the Medical Reserve Corps and their partnership before starting new activities and events with the group during the current school year.

- Albuquerque-University of New Mexico Medical Reserve Corps (NM) supported the University of New Mexico Hospital (UNMH) System’s Occupational Health Service, along
with the seven Primary Care Clinics, for a series of Saturday Free Flu Shot Clinics. With their help the UNMH Primary Care Clinics gave more than 5,000 people their flu immunizations ranging in age from 6 months to over 100 years old. More than 28 MRC members donated over 84 hours to support these clinics.

- New Orleans Medical Reserve Corps (LA) volunteers donated nine hours to ask all participants, many of whom had traveled from overseas, of the November American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene Conference Ebola screening questions and provide information to conference attendees.
- The Shawnee County MRC (KS) participated in a zombie preparedness fair to promote general and pandemic preparedness.
- The Southeast Nebraska MRC provided medical coverage for the Pumpkin Run, which is the largest one-mile youth race in the country.
- The Saline County MRC (MO) participated in a full-scale chemical release hazardous materials exercise with the Cargill Company.
- The ND Public Health Emergency Response Volunteer Corps (ND) MRC volunteers, as part of the Million Hearts initiative, conducted blood pressure screenings at a vaccination clinic.
- The Sacramento MRC (CA) provided medical support to officers attending the funeral service for a Sheriff Deputy.
- Sonoma County MRC (CA) responded to a request from Sonoma Life Support to provide several hands-only CPR training sessions, alongside other responders, to 7th grade students at a local middle school.
- The Tulalip Tribes MRC (WA) participated in a diabetes prevention and awareness event in support of National Diabetes Awareness month.
- The Columbia County MRC (OR) sponsored a “Walk with Ease” program through a local senior center. Over a period of 18 weeks, participants learned walking techniques to prevent pain associated with arthritis.
- North Central Idaho MRC sponsored a vision and hearing screening at a local elementary school for all students.

DCVMRC Activities and Accomplishments:

The mission of the Division of the Civilian Volunteer Medical Reserve Corps (DCVMRC) is to support local efforts to establish, implement, and sustain MRC units nationwide. DCVMRC functions as a clearinghouse for information and guidance to MRC units and other stakeholders. DCVMRC activities include strategic planning, intra- and interagency coordination, communications, policy development, program operations, grants management, contract oversight, technical assistance, and deployment operations.

Major activities and accomplishments during the reporting period included:

- There were two replacement MRC State Coordinators appointed during the quarter:
  - DC – Peggy Keller, Phone: 202-671-0746, Email: peggy.keller@dc.gov
  - MA – Donna Quinn, Phone: 617-994-9836, Email: donna.quinn@state.ma.us
- DCVMRC participated, presented and/or exhibited at the following meetings and conferences:
Federal and contract staff presented the October MRC Network Well Check Webinar and Twitter chat on determining the MRC unit’s organizational structure and composition.

Federal and contract staff presented the November MRC Network Well Check Webinar and Twitter chat on participating in activities that fulfill an MRC unit’s mission.

Federal staff attended the International Association of Emergency Managers conference in San Antonio, TX in November 2014.

Contract staff in Region I participated at the NH Emergency Preparedness Annual Conference.

Contract staff in Region I presented at the Cape Cod SALT Triage program in Nantucket, MA.

Contract staff in Region I participated at the FEMA Region I Regional Interagency Steering Committee (RISC) Meeting.

Contract staff in Region II presented, alongside the New York State MRC Coordinator, at the New York State Health Science Educators Meeting in October 2014.

Contract staff in Region II presented at the New Jersey Medical Reserve Corps Quarterly Meeting in December 2014.

Contract staff in Region III attended the MRC Core Competency Workgroup meeting in Crystal City, VA.

Contract staff in Region III facilitated a meeting inclusive of all the proposed and existing units in DC.

Contract staff in Region IV conducted three presentations involving Federal Updates; “New Initiatives”, “New Reporting Structure”, and the “Technical Assistance Assessment Process” at the North Carolina Medical Reserve Corps state meeting in Greensboro, NC.

Contract staff in Region V West hosted two regional meetings with leaders from IL, MN and WI to provide state/regional/national updates, presentations on best practices, a brief training and facilitated an open forum for discussion in October and December 2014.

Contract staff in Region V West participated in Wisconsin’s monthly statewide MRC meetings.

Contract staff in Region V West attended the Cook County Ebola Tabletop Exercise in Chicago, IL in October 2014.

Contract staff in Region V West participated in Red Cross 2015 Whole Community Conference Planning Committee Subcommittee meetings in October and November 2014.

Contract staff in Region V West attended the Disaster Behavioral Health Conference co-hosted by the McLean County MRC in McLean County, IL in November 2014.

Contract staff in Region V West attended the Chicagoland Health Transformation Summit hosted by the Illinois Dept. of Public Health to discuss health issues, strategic priorities, and projects in the works in Rosemont, IL in December 2014.

Contract staff in Region V West attended the Regional Catastrophic Planning Team quarterly update meeting in Chicago, IL in December 2014.
Contract staff in Region V West attended the Oak Park MRC’s Volunteer Meeting and Recognition Event in Oak Park, IL in December 2014.

Contract staff in Region V East attended and presented at IN MRC Quarterly Meeting in Indianapolis, IN in October 2014.

Contract staff in Region V East participated in an HHS Emergency Regional Advisory Committee Meeting in November 2014.

Contract staff in Region V East participated in Active Shooter Awareness Workshop in November 2014.

Contract staff in Region VI attended the American Public Health Association Conference in Dallas, TX in November 2014.

• The MRC was mentioned in at least 70 newspapers and other types of articles during the reporting period. See the “News and Events” page on the MRC web site for links.