



*"We want to be a nation that serves goals larger than self."*

**President George W. Bush**  
State of the Union  
January 29, 2002



*"The Medical Reserve Corps is one way that health professionals can volunteer during large-scale emergencies, such as an influenza epidemic, a chemical spill, or an act of terrorism. MRC volunteers also work to improve the overall health and well-being of their neighborhoods and communities.*

*Working together, we are strengthening our communities and, in turn, strengthening our nation."*

**Tommy G. Thompson**  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Health  
and Human Services



# The Medical Reserve Corps



**Supporting and guiding our nation's medical and health volunteers**

The **Medical Reserve Corps** program is sponsored by the Office of the Surgeon General, in cooperation with the White House's USA Freedom Corps and the Department of Homeland Security's Citizen Corps.

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



**citizen**★**corps**

**USA**   
**Freedom Corps**  
Make a Difference. Volunteer.



*"I have a mandate from our President to focus on medical preparedness, including homeland security, the war on terrorism, and improving public health. The **Medical Reserve Corps** is critical to our many national preparedness efforts."*

**Vice Admiral Richard H. Carmona**  
Surgeon General  
United States Public Health Service



## Quick Facts

### About the Medical Reserve Corps

- ❖ The **Medical Reserve Corps (MRC)** program was officially launched as a national, community-based movement in July 2002. It was formed in response to President Bush's call for all Americans to offer volunteer service in their communities.
- ❖ The purpose of the **MRC** Program is to strengthen communities by helping medical and public health volunteers offer their expertise throughout the year as well as during times of community need.
- ❖ The **MRC** Program is a specialized component of Citizen Corps, a national network of volunteers dedicated to making sure their families, homes, and communities are safe from terrorism, crime, and disasters of all kinds. Citizen Corps, AmeriCorps, Senior Corps, and the Peace Corps are all part of the President's USA Freedom Corps, which promotes volunteerism and service throughout the United States and abroad.
- ❖ **MRC** units have been formed or planned across the nation, and thousands of medical and public health volunteers have joined local units.
- ❖ **MRC** volunteers include medical and public health professionals such as physicians, nurses, pharmacists, emergency medical technicians, dentists, veterinarians, epidemiologists, and infectious disease specialists. In addition, volunteer interpreters, chaplains, amateur radio operators, logistics experts, legal advisors, and others fill key support positions.



### What Do MRC Volunteers Do?

#### **MRC** volunteers supplement existing local public health initiatives such as:

- ✍ *Outreach and prevention* (e.g. West Nile virus, SARS, HIV/AIDS, sexually transmitted diseases, smoking, substance abuse, cardiac rehabilitation & screening, physical fitness, domestic violence, injury, vehicle safety, women's health, prostate and other cancers)
- ✍ *Immunization programs* (e.g. childhood diseases, flu, and smallpox)
- ✍ *Blood drives*
- ✍ *Case management and care planning* (for families, special needs populations, high-risk infants, adolescents, the elderly, women, and others)

#### **MRC** volunteers also work in coordination with existing local emergency response programs.

#### About the Program Office

The Program Office of the **Medical Reserve Corps**, headquartered in the Office of the Surgeon General, functions as a clearinghouse for community information and best practices. Its role is to help communities achieve their local visions for health and emergency preparedness and response.

For more information, visit us at:  
[www.medicalreservecorps.gov](http://www.medicalreservecorps.gov)

