



The SWVA POINT

To say that this spring was exciting for the Southwest Virginia Medical Reserve Corps would be a grave understatement. On Monday, March 26th, the unit was informed that it would be the recipient of the Virginia Emergency Management Association's "2012 Volunteer Award" for service to Washington County Emergency Management in the aftermath of the April 2011 tornados. Kristina Morris gratefully accepted the award on behalf of the entire unit and especially the 42 volunteers who tirelessly gave of themselves during that emergency.



On the heels of the VEMA Award, the Southwest Virginia MRC was invited to meet with Gov. Bob McDonnell in Glade Spring on Friday, April 27th. Gov. McDonnell asked for an opportunity to meet and thank all of the volunteers who assisted during the tornados. Janie McGlothlin, Sam Fisher, Susan Austin, Barbara Farmer, Beth Funkhouser, Jill Smeltzer, Kirsten Fleming and Judy Hurd were on hand to greet Gov. McDonnell and receive his thanks from the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Finally, a national honor was presented to the unit at the 2012 Integrated Training Summit held in Nashville in May. During the Medical Reserve Corps Awards Luncheon, Rev. Barbara Farmer was bestowed the "2012 MRC Responder Award" for her service to the Southwest Virginia unit during the April 2011 tornado response and her ongoing representation of the MRC as the Chair of the Washington Co. Long Term Recovery Group. During the awards luncheon the Southwest Virginia Medical Reserve Corps was awarded the "2012 Mentor Award". This honor represents the service and dedication that the unit provided to Washington County, the State of Virginia and the MRC network with the tireless support following the April 2011 tornados.



With over 205,000 volunteers and 990 units in the national network, for the Southwest Virginia Medical Reserve Corps to garner two national awards is outstanding and a testament to the strength of the unit and each of the unit's volunteers. Well done all.

| Current Volunteer Count SWVA MRC (as of 7/1/2012) | |
|---|-----|
| Physicians | 14 |
| Physician Assistants | 2 |
| Nurses | 552 |
| Nurse Practitioners | 14 |
| Pharmacists | 26 |
| Dentists | 9 |
| Veterinarians | 5 |
| Mental Hlth Professionals | 62 |
| EMS Professionals | 91 |
| Respiratory Therapists | 5 |
| Other Public Hlth/Med. | 70 |
| Other Non-Public Hlth/Med. | 214 |



U. S. Deputy Surgeon Gen. Boris Lushniak, Rev. Barbara Farmer, & Capt. Rob Tosatto



Kristina K. Morris, Volunteer Coordinator

Kristina.morris@vdh.virginia.gov or 276-274-0555

The SWVA POINT News

Virginia MRC Video Conference Training—The monthly video conference trainings have been very well received this year. There are none scheduled for the month of July. The next session will be held on August 7th—"Influenza in Virginia", followed by other sessions in September and October. Please take advantage of these training opportunities.

Synthetic Drug Awareness—Due to the interest from SWVA MRC members in learning more about the issues of synthetic drugs, the unit will host a training session with local law enforcement and Emergency Response representatives during the month of September. Please watch for the announcement of these sessions.

DEA Drug Take Back—Saturday, September 29th: The SWVA MRC has been incredibly successful in Drug Take Back programs for the past two year and the growth is continuing. **During the April 2012 Take Back, over 1200 pounds of prescription and OTC drugs were turned in for disposal in Southwest Virginia.** SWVA MRC has already committed to assisting in Washington, Wise, Scott and Grayson Counties and are looking to expand in the Cumberland Plateau region. Schedules are already being considered, so please notify Kristina Morris or Bill Garrison if you are interested this volunteer opportunity.



Volunteer Leadership Opportunity

MRCConnect — Reserve Rangers—MRC County Commissioners???

The SWVA Medical Reserve Corps is working on a project that will allow volunteers to assume more leadership responsibilities so that all volunteers are as informed and connected as possible, especially during emergencies.

This group of volunteers will act as points of contact to answer many of the questions that may arise about an emergency event and the MRC response. This team may also oversee non-emergency events such as drug take back drives, community health fairs, etc.

SWVA MRC members who are interested in this exciting new opportunity are encouraged to complete the survey linked here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/KXVRYN3>

If you have name suggestions, questions or comments, please share them with Mackenzie Jarvis at mackenzie.jarvis@vdh.virginia.gov or 276-676-5604.

The Trail Days First Aid Tent was a resounding success and the SWVA MRC hopes to be asked to be involved again next year. A BIG Round of applause to the 12 volunteers who provided over 65 hours of service. SWVA MRC ROCKS!!!!!!



Quick Notes:

- ⇒ Southwest Virginia Medical Reserve Corps now has a FAN Page on Facebook. The Closed group will continue as it is a necessary tool for alerting during emergencies, but volunteers are encouraged to SHARE the fan page with potential new volunteers.
- ⇒ The SWVA MRC Volunteer Handbook is on the way! At long last, the handbook is just about ready for publication. Please be on the look out!!
- ⇒ **Saturday, August 4th**, MRC members are needed to staff a booth at the Community Safety Day in Wytheville. Please notify Kristina Morris if you are available.
- ⇒ Last year during September, numerous volunteers shared preparedness information at Farmer's Market. If you are interested in repeating this activity, please notify Kristina by **August 15th**.

It has been such an absolute pleasure to be associated with this organization this spring and to represent each of you across the State and to the Nation. Others are always so impressed with the amount of service and the quality of service that is provided by our members to our community. As you can see from this newsletter, we have more exciting times ahead and I look forward to continuing to share YOUR successes with partners, peers and supporters. Thank you, Kristina