Introduction

The devastation caused by the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks moved Americans to volunteer in masses and give their time, expertise, and heart in support of their country.

This willingness to respond in the face of adversity and the challenges of managing spontaneous volunteers shaped a civilian medical and public health volunteer corps. The Medical Reserve Corps (MRC), a national network of volunteers organized locally to improve the health and safety of their communities, was born in 2002 after President George W. Bush’s State of the Union Address.