



# MRC In Touch

Volunteers Building Strong, Healthy, and Prepared Communities

---

December 2013

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

---

## Featured Articles

---

### Partnerships Allow Albuquerque-UNM MRC to Reach Nearly One Million at 2013 International Balloon Fiesta

In October, the Albuquerque-University of New Mexico (UNM) MRC unit received a free booth at the 2013 Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta. More than 850,000 domestic and international travelers attended this nine-day event, and fifteen MRC volunteers donated 62 hours across fourteen shifts. The Albuquerque-UNM MRC was the only recipient of a no-cost booth at this year's event. Event organizers select one volunteer service organization each year to receive a free booth, and this year chose the MRC following a recommendation from a volunteer from a partner organization who nominated them.

The no-cost booth presented an excellent opportunity for the Albuquerque-UNM MRC to share their local mission with attendees and also to promote the national MRC network since the event reaches an international audience. They educated visitors about the mission of the MRC, shared information about how to sign up for the MRC, and also handed out personal preparedness materials, including the Federal Emergency Management Agency's preparedness checklists, information about pets in disasters, and elderly preparedness guides. Additionally, they encouraged potential volunteers to reach out to their local MRC once they returned home. Numerous MRC volunteers from other states (California, Kansas, Arizona, Massachusetts, Texas, Ohio, Florida, Illinois, and North Carolina) also visited the table and were happy to discuss their experience with MRC volunteers from New Mexico.

This was the first year that the Albuquerque-UNM MRC participated at the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta and hopes to return next year. Thanks to the generous nomination from another organization, the Albuquerque-UNM MRC was able to promote the great work of the MRC in New Mexico and throughout the U.S. and connect potential volunteers with their Regional Coordinator. "The Fiesta has thousands of visitors from all of the world so this was a huge opportunity for recognition and recruitment of the national MRC program," said Ashley Vanderjagt, Program Specialist at the UNM Department of Emergency Management.

Do you want to learn more about how partnerships can help grow your MRC unit? MRC-Train offers several courses about forming and sustaining partnerships. View "[Research to Reality: Developing, Maintaining, and Sustaining Partnerships](#)" and "[Improving Preparedness and Resilience through Public-Private Partnerships](#)" to get started.

## MRC/NACCHO Connections

---

### Learn More about the MRC Network in the Upcoming "Network Profile of the Medical Reserve Corps" Report

Did you know that 28 percent of unit leaders were part of an MRC unit before becoming a unit leader?

Learn more about the characteristics of the MRC Network in the upcoming "Network Profile of the Medical Reserve Corps" report, scheduled for release in March 2014. In the spring of 2013, MRC unit leaders were asked to participate in NACCHO's MRC Network Profile survey. Thanks to an outstanding 87% response rate among MRC unit leaders, NACCHO has been able to paint a fuller picture of the MRC network as a whole.

The upcoming report will highlight the following characteristics of the MRC network:

- Unit, leader, and volunteer demographics;
- Funding and finances;

- Partnerships;
- Recruitment, screening, training, and communications processes;
- Activities and services; and
- Legal protections.

The “Network Profile of the Medical Reserve Corps” report will allow MRC unit leaders to gain a better understanding of how their unit fits into to the larger MRC network. This report will give you the information you need to speak with your local and state political leaders, stakeholders, policymakers, business leaders, funding agencies, and the media about the MRC. You will be able to access statistics and talking points that demonstrate the strength and value of the MRC network overall and the critical roles you fill at the local level.

NACCHO thanks all of the MRC unit leaders who participated in the MRC Network Profile survey. Stay tuned for more information about the release of the report and other interesting facts about the MRC network!

## Announcements

---

### **NACCHO to Create New Mobile Application for the MRC**

NACCHO is excited to announce the development of a mobile application for MRC unit leaders and volunteers to use for event management! NACCHO is working with Rallyware, a start-up company that has created online platforms to engage networks similar to the MRC. The new mobile application, scheduled to launch in Summer 2014, will offer an event tracking and management system, and will allow users to connect with other unit leaders. The new application is not required for MRC units, but will offer an additional way connect with your colleagues across the network and will streamline logistics and tracking for MRC events.

For more details about the mobile application, view the [press release](#) announcing the partnership between NACCHO and Rallyware, and visit the [NACCHO Preparedness Brief Blog](#) for updates about the development process. More information about the MRC mobile application will be shared in upcoming MRC publications and via the listserv.

### **American Academy of Pediatrics Preparedness Resource Kit**

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), in partnership with CDC, recently released the "[Pediatric Preparedness Resource Kit, Inspired by the H1N1 Pandemic: Strengthening Pediatric and Public Health Partnerships.](#)" This kit promotes collaborative discussions and decision-making among pediatric and public health leaders about pediatric all-hazards preparedness planning. It also aims to increase state- and community-level preparedness that incorporates children’s needs. MRC units can reference the kit to learn more about children's preparedness needs and for more information about partnering with your state AAP chapter.

### **New Emergency Responder Health Monitoring and Surveillance System Training Available**

The Emergency Responder Health Monitoring and Surveillance (ERHMS) System: Leadership Training (IS-930) is now available. The ERHMS training offers guidelines for protecting emergency responders over a range of emergency types and settings, and is for use by everyone involved in a deployment. View the [course](#) now to learn how to plan an execute an incident response to optimize the health and safety of first responders.

### **Share Your Story from the Field**

NACCHO is pleased to announce the launch of the new [Stories from the Field](#) website. This website provides a means for local health departments to share their experiences and demonstrate the value of public health. Several featured stories from the field demonstrate how the MRC continues to benefit local health departments and showcase innovative roles for the MRC. View "[Volunteer Efforts Continue Local Preparedness Education.](#)" "[Using Field Research to Improve Disaster Response.](#)" and "[Partnerships Make California Exercise Possible](#)" to learn more about MRC/local health department collaboration and innovative MRC projects. Do you have a story that you would like to share? Visit the [website](#) or email [mrcnewsletter@naccho.org](mailto:mrcnewsletter@naccho.org).

---

# NACCHO

National Association of County & City Health Officials

*The National Connection for Local Public Health*

[www.naccho.org](http://www.naccho.org)



The mission of the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) is to be a leader, partner, catalyst, and voice for local public health departments.

1100 17th St, NW, 7th Floor Washington, DC 20036

P 202-783-5550 F 202-783-1583

© National Association of County and City Health Officials

Please contact Alyson Jordan, NACCHO's MRC Communications Specialist, with any questions or suggestions for the newsletter at 202-783-5528 or at [ajordan@naccho.org](mailto:ajordan@naccho.org).