



# MRC In Touch

Volunteers Building Strong, Healthy, and Prepared Communities

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

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## Featured Article

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### MRC Units Prepare for Zika

It is no secret that as mosquito season nears, public health officials across the country are preparing for the Zika virus. There are 30 countries with active virus transmission. As of April 13, the CDC reports that there were 358 confirmed cases of travel-associated Zika virus disease in the United States. Medical Reserve Corps units are among the groups who are actively preparing for how to deal with this unprecedented threat.

The Veterans Memorial Jr. MRC (TX) created an educational brochure about the virus and a provided community members with a homemade insect repellent. In anticipation for a likelihood that they'll need to assist their local health department during a surge event, the Tarrant County MRC (TX) received substantial training about the Zika virus and in what capacity they will likely be called upon to respond. The Galveston County MRC (TX) is partnering with their Mosquito Control center to prepare for a Zika response.

The MRC Program office recently sent a few Zika resources to the listserv. Review the resources below and share them in your community!

- The [Zika Outreach Guide](#) offers MRC leaders a document to use or share that offers a range of activities that other MRC units have or could conduct in response to Zika.
- The [Zika Flyer](#) can be shared with your communities, partners, and others to highlight how your MRC can support Zika.
- The [Promotion of Zika Activities Form](#) allows MRC leaders to submit an advance request for local media to attend Zika activities being held in your communities.

## MRC/NACCHO Connections

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### View the MRC Strategic Messaging Guide

Over the past year, NACCHO worked to create a strategic messaging guide for unit leaders. This strategic messaging guide was created to provide a roadmap for the approximately 1,000 MRC units as they conduct community outreach and media interviews. It touches on the history of the MRC and shares some of the facts and figures behind this extraordinary organization.

[View the strategic messaging guide.](#)

## Announcements

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### Access the National MRC Volunteer Training Plan on MRC TRAIN

Has your unit been in search of a training plan to direct your volunteers to or model your unit's training on? Available on [MRC TRAIN](#), the [National MRC Volunteer Training Plan](#) is a suggested guide for training MRC volunteers aligned with the Competencies for Disaster Medicine and Public Health.

The training plan is organized around Learning Paths, groups of competencies related to topics that would benefit volunteers. Learning Paths include Volunteer Preparedness, Volunteer Response, Volunteer Leadership, and Volunteer Support for Community Resiliency. The training plan offers volunteers and units a curated selection of training that may be relevant to a unit's operations.

Explore the [National MRC Volunteer Training Plan](#) today! Questions about MRC TRAIN can be sent to [mrcsupport@train.org](mailto:mrcsupport@train.org).

## See How Prepared Your State Is!

The [2016 National Preparedness Index Results](#) were released last week. The Index is an annual assessment of the nation's health security and preparedness, measuring how prepared we are for managing an emergency. The United States scored a 6.7 on a 10-point scale for preparedness, an improvement of 3.6 percent since the Index began three years ago.

Some key findings include:

- Steady national progress in overall preparedness levels since 2013, with particular strengths exhibited nationwide in incident and information management and in surveillance.
- Encouraging signs of improvement in community planning and engagement nationwide, which is a domain that has scored relatively low in past Index releases.
- Signs of a downward trend in environmental health capabilities nationwide, which merit further attention.
- Considerable geographic variation in preparedness across states, with clusters of states falling below the national average preparedness level in the Deep South and Mountain West, and clusters of above-average states along the East Coast.
- Encouraging state trends with 46 states improving overall preparedness levels since 2013.

## MRC Workshop Preparedness Summit Workshops

If you were unable to attend the 2016 Preparedness Summit, or would like to view the presentations given during the MRC Workshop, they are now available on [NACCHO's website](#). The presentations are on the MRC page under the Initiatives section. They are titled MRC Leadership Workshop.



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

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