

## **MRC National, New England, and Local Updates**

December 20, 2017

*The acting director of the national Medical Reserve Corps program shared the following e-mail with all of America's current MRC leaders regarding the network's progress throughout the year.*

MRC Network,

I wanted to take a moment before year's end to express my heartfelt appreciation for all that you have done and continue to do for your neighbors, communities, and the MRC network this year. I am honored to have joined the team in August and to have played a small role in supporting your efforts over the past four months.

This year has been both an extremely busy year and a year of change for the MRC Program. One of the things that has impressed me the most is your ability to support each other – your fellow MRC units – while at the same time responding to the needs of your communities.

This willingness and enthusiasm to step up and help is evident every day as you seek advice and share resources and best practices on our listservs, during the Well Check Webinars, and in discussions with each other. It was also clear this Fall as our country responded to a historic hurricane season that left many of our communities devastated. More than 50 MRC units were activated or placed on stand-by to support the response efforts to these storms, and countless others asked how they could help and were prepared to deploy should the need and request arise. Your dedication and support of the network and the MRC's mission and to improving the health and safety of our neighbors is incomparable.

Earlier this month on the "MRC: 2017 Year in Review" Well Check Webinar, we highlighted some of the collective achievements of the network this year. While this certainly isn't all encompassing, it is an impressive representation of the diversity and impact of your work:

- More than 50 units activated or placed on stand-by to respond to this Fall's hurricanes.
- More than 25 units supported community viewing events for the total solar eclipse this summer.
- Twelve MRC units supported wildfire response efforts in Northern and Southern California.
- Units attended or hosted approximately 125 "Until Help Arrives" or "Stop the Bleed" training events.
- Units administered flu vaccines and/or provided logistical support at more than 400 flu clinics throughout the year, including those held at community events, employers, health departments, and schools.
- MRC units across the country participated in more than 300 activities related to combating the opioid crisis. Activities included community education and outreach, Naloxone distribution and training, and safe prescription drug disposal.

What a way to celebrate the Medical Reserve Corps' 15-year anniversary! I hope you all are as proud of these achievements as we are in the MRC Program Office.

Lastly, although much of their work may go unseen, I wanted to take a moment to thank the MRC Program Office staff and the MRC Regional Liaisons for their extraordinary efforts this year in magnifying the voice of, and improving support to, MRC units across the nation.

I wish you all happy holidays spent with family and friends, and a very happy New Year!

**Esmeralda Pereira**, Acting Director, Medical Reserve Corps, HHS/ASPR/OEM

*Our Region I MRC Liaison offered her views for the season:*

Dearest New England MRC Unit Leaders and Partners,

I wish to extend my heartfelt warm wishes to each and every one of you as we are thoroughly entrenched in the 2017 holiday season!

Every day I am grateful to all who contribute to the MRC Program. You provide your gifts of time and service with a level of professionalism that is too great to measure!

May you enjoy your friends and family. Have a safe and healthy holiday season and a happy new year!

Jennifer

**Jennifer Frenette, BS, CHEP, NREMT-I, I/C(ret) (CTR)**

Regional Liaison, Region 1 – New England CT, MA, ME, NH, RI, VT | Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) | Partner Readiness and Emergency Programs (PREP) Division | Office of Emergency Management (OEM)

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
(DHHS) | Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response  
(ASPR)**

***Our national MRC Communications contact posted the recording for the year-end MRC Well Check Webinar, which recounts examples of the MRC's many successes of the past year:***

MRC Network,

A special thank you to our guest presenters and all who joined us on Tuesday for the December Well Check Webinar. During the webinar, we showcased guest speakers and local units that were instrumental in key public health, preparedness, and response activities throughout the year:

- Kristen Darmody, State Coordinator for Oregon MRC units (OR)
- Cornelia Jammer, Fort Bend County MRC (TX)
- Sara Routley, Maui County MRC (HI)
- Mike Weibel, Bear River MRC (UT)

In case you missed the webinar, a recording is now available on the MRC website:  
<https://mrc.hhs.gov/pageviewfldr/WellCheckCalls>.

Thanks,  
Brennan

**Ms. Brennan J. Leddy, M.A.Ed (Ctr)**

Communications Specialist, Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) Program  
Partner Readiness and Emergency Programs (PREP) Division | Office of Emergency Management (OEM)

**HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES (DHHS) | Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR)**

***Our local MRC Coordinator will be a panelist on the national MRC Well-Check Webinar scheduled for January 9.***

The topic will be It's "Promising Practices in Community Preparedness and Resilience," including Until Help Arrives, Hands-Only CPR, and Stop the Bleed. You may recall that our unit followed through on a mini-grant from our local UMV Public Health Coalition to promote all three initiatives, in addition to boosting our capacity for providing First Aid services and equipment at local sporting events and festivals.

***Have a delightful holidays season and a terrific 2018 ahead!***