



**Department of Health and Human Services  
Office of the Surgeon General**

# **Medical Reserve Corps**





# A Changing View of Public Health

September 11, 2001



Tsunami



Avian Influenza



October 2001 Anthrax Mailings



Hurricanes





# MRC Concept

- Organize medical, public health, and other volunteers in support of existing programs and resources that improve the health and safety of communities and the nation
- Use an all-hazards approach to strengthen and improve the public health infrastructure, including emergency response
- Credential, train and prepare these volunteers in advance of a public health event

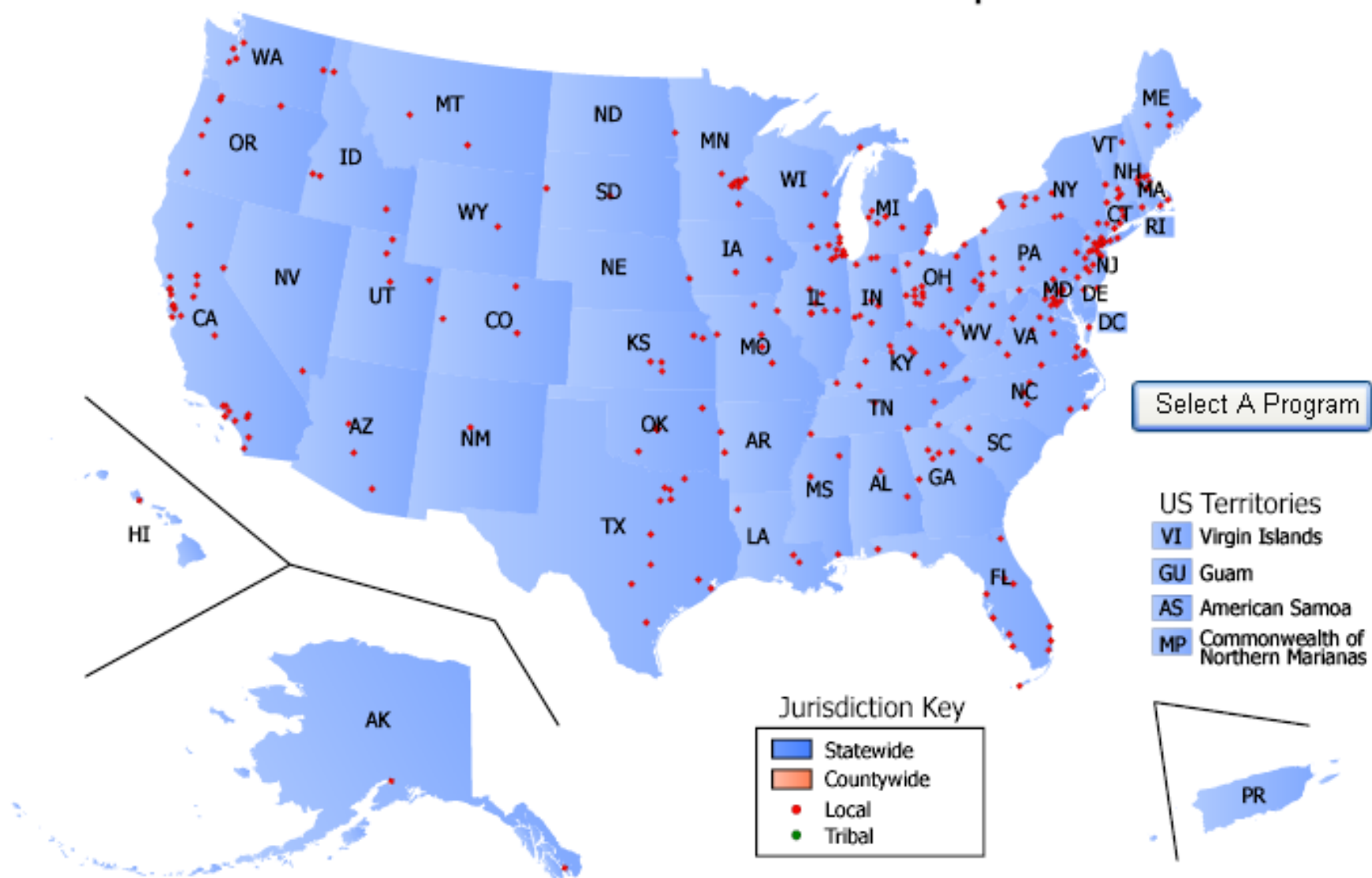




# MRC Status

- 391 MRC units in 49 states, the District of Columbia, U.S. Virgin Islands and Guam
- Over 70,000 volunteers
  - Physicians
  - Physician Assistants
  - Nurse Practitioners
  - Registered Nurses
  - Dentists
  - Veterinarians
  - Pharmacists
  - Mental Health Professionals
  - EMTs and Paramedics
  - Epidemiologists
  - Health Educators
  - Others...

# Medical Reserve Corps



For more information: see [www.medicalreservecorps.gov](http://www.medicalreservecorps.gov)



# Housing Organizations

- Health Departments
- Boards of Health
- Medical Centers/Hospitals
- Medical Societies
- Emergency Management
- Citizen Corps Councils
- Police/Fire Departments
- Volunteer Centers
- Faith Based Organizations
- American Red Cross
- Regional Planning Groups
- Medical Societies
- Non-Profit Community Organizations



# MRC Partners

- Health Departments
- Boards of Health
- Health Care Systems/Hospitals/Clinics
- Medical Retiree Groups
- Medical Examiners Offices
- Emergency Management Agencies
- Emergency Planning Committees
- Police and Fire Departments
- Community-Based Disaster Groups
- Healthcare Outreach Coalitions
- Retired and Senior Volunteer Programs
- Schools and Universities
- Emergency Medical Services
- Military Organizations/National Guard
- Neighborhood Associations
- City Attorney Offices
- Local Businesses/Corporations
- Metropolitan Medical Response System Coordinators
- CDC and HRSA Grant Coordinators
- SNS Coordinators
- Others...





# MRC Volunteers

- Local decision (based on needs)
- May include those in training, in active practice, or retired
- Medical and public health professionals
- Persons with no health experience, but who help support health activities through their expertise in communications, administration, logistics, and other essential functions



# Benefits

- Provides supplemental personnel to support existing public health and emergency response systems
- Provides mechanisms for information sharing and coordination among the many community partners
- Enhances community preparedness through citizen involvement
- Enables communities to meet specific health needs
- Allows communities more autonomy in responding to emergencies, with less reliance on state or national resources
- Bolsters public health and emergency response infrastructures by providing supplemental personnel
- Enables communities to meet specific health needs
- Allows the local community more autonomy – not as reliant on state and national resources
- Gives community members the opportunity to participate in developing strategies to make their communities healthier and safer
- Provides mechanisms for information sharing and coordination between all partner organizations
- Provides a dialogue between emergency management and public health agencies
- Allows for national recognition of local public health and emergency response efforts



# Ambassadors of the Surgeon General

- Support Surgeon General's Priorities for Public Health
- Support Existing Community Resources
  - Public Health Initiatives
  - Emergency Preparedness and Response



# Support Existing Public Health Resources

## Upper Merrimack Valley (MA) MRC

Flu Vaccination



## Sedgwick County (KS) MRC

Diabetes Detection Initiative





# Support Existing Emergency Preparedness and Response Resources

## Southwest Florida MRC Hurricane Response



## Clark County (NV) MRC First Aid at American Heart Walk



# 2005 Hurricane Response and Recovery Efforts

- Establishing medical needs shelters
- Providing medical support in evacuee shelters and clinics
- Filling in locally for others who were deployed to the disaster-affected regions
- Immunizing responders prior to their deployment to the disaster affected regions
- Staffing response hotlines
- Teaching emergency preparedness to community members



# An Evolution of the MRC Concept

- Identifying mechanisms to allow involvement outside of local jurisdictions
- Various mechanisms
  - state-to-state mutual aid agreements and the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC)
  - American Red Cross
  - HHS “Federalization” process





# National Efforts

## **MRC Support for American Red Cross Disaster Operations**

Health services, mental health and shelter operations roles

- > 700 applications received

- > 400 MRC members received assignments or are approved for travel

## **MRC Support for HHS Recovery Efforts**

Provide supplemental staffing for special needs shelters, clinics, strike teams and other assignments

- > 800 MRC members volunteered to support this mission

- ~ 200 MRC members activated





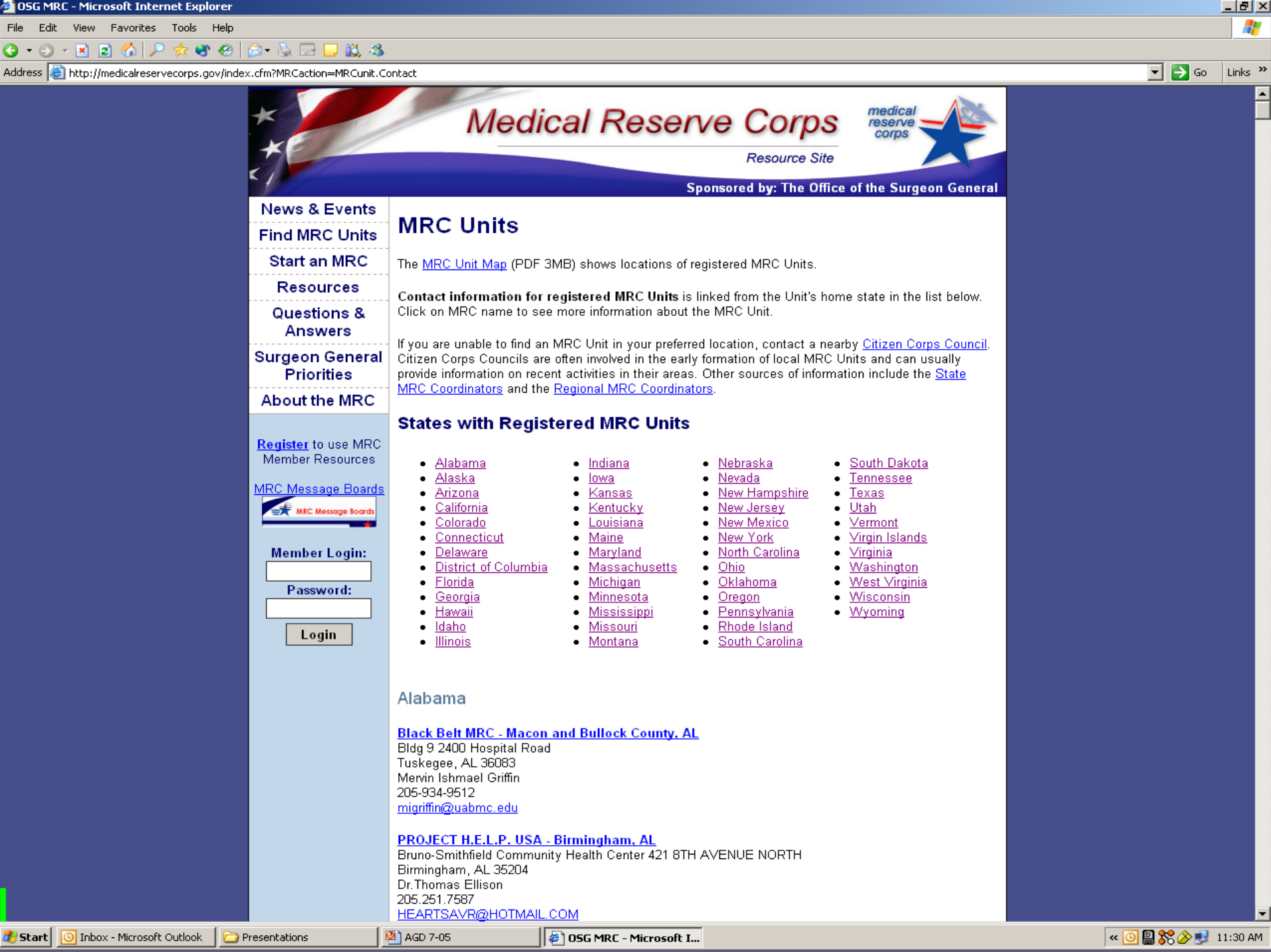
# A work in progress...

- Volunteer Management
- Credentialing
- Training
- Legal Protections
- Sustainability



# How to find your local MRC


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



- News & Events
- Find MRC Units
- Start an MRC
- Resources
- Questions & Answers
- Surgeon General Priorities
- About the MRC

[Register](#) to use MRC Member Resources

[MRC Message Boards](#)



**Member Login:**

**Password:**

## MRC Units

The [MRC Unit Map](#) (PDF 3MB) shows locations of registered MRC Units.

**Contact information for registered MRC Units** is linked from the Unit's home state in the list below. Click on MRC name to see more information about the MRC Unit.

If you are unable to find an MRC Unit in your preferred location, contact a nearby [Citizen Corps Council](#). Citizen Corps Councils are often involved in the early formation of local MRC Units and can usually provide information on recent activities in their areas. Other sources of information include the [State MRC Coordinators](#) and the [Regional MRC Coordinators](#).

## States with Registered MRC Units

- |  |                                 |                                  |                                  |
|--|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| • <a href="#">Alabama</a>              | • <a href="#">Indiana</a>       | • <a href="#">Nebraska</a>       | • <a href="#">South Dakota</a>   |
| • <a href="#">Alaska</a>               | • <a href="#">Iowa</a>          | • <a href="#">Nevada</a>         | • <a href="#">Tennessee</a>      |
| • <a href="#">Arizona</a>              | • <a href="#">Kansas</a>        | • <a href="#">New Hampshire</a>  | • <a href="#">Texas</a>          |
| • <a href="#">California</a>           | • <a href="#">Kentucky</a>      | • <a href="#">New Jersey</a>     | • <a href="#">Utah</a>           |
| • <a href="#">Colorado</a>             | • <a href="#">Louisiana</a>     | • <a href="#">New Mexico</a>     | • <a href="#">Vermont</a>        |
| • <a href="#">Connecticut</a>          | • <a href="#">Maine</a>         | • <a href="#">New York</a>       | • <a href="#">Virgin Islands</a> |
| • <a href="#">Delaware</a>             | • <a href="#">Maryland</a>      | • <a href="#">North Carolina</a> | • <a href="#">Virginia</a>       |
| • <a href="#">District of Columbia</a> | • <a href="#">Massachusetts</a> | • <a href="#">Ohio</a>           | • <a href="#">Washington</a>     |
| • <a href="#">Florida</a>              | • <a href="#">Michigan</a>      | • <a href="#">Oklahoma</a>       | • <a href="#">West Virginia</a>  |
| • <a href="#">Georgia</a>              | • <a href="#">Minnesota</a>     | • <a href="#">Oregon</a>         | • <a href="#">Wisconsin</a>      |
| • <a href="#">Hawaii</a>               | • <a href="#">Mississippi</a>   | • <a href="#">Pennsylvania</a>   | • <a href="#">Wyoming</a>        |
| • <a href="#">Idaho</a>                | • <a href="#">Missouri</a>      | • <a href="#">Rhode Island</a>   |                                  |
| • <a href="#">Illinois</a>             | • <a href="#">Montana</a>       | • <a href="#">South Carolina</a> |                                  |

## Alabama

### [Black Belt MRC - Macon and Bullock County, AL](#)

Bldg 9 2400 Hospital Road  
Tuskegee, AL 36083  
Mervin Ishmael Griffin  
205-934-9512  
[migriffin@uabmc.edu](mailto:migriffin@uabmc.edu)

### [PROJECT H.E.L.P. USA - Birmingham, AL](#)

Bruno-Smithfield Community Health Center 421 8TH AVENUE NORTH  
Birmingham, AL 35204  
Dr. Thomas Ellison  
205.251.7587  
[HEARTSAVR@HOTMAIL.COM](mailto:HEARTSAVR@HOTMAIL.COM)



# Medical Reserve Corps

Resource Site



Sponsored by: The Office of the Surgeon General

**News & Events**

**Find MRC Units**

**Start an MRC**

**Resources**

**Questions & Answers**

**Surgeon General Priorities**

**About the MRC**

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**Member Login:**

**Password:**

**Login**

## How to Start an MRC

### Getting Started

Since every community is different, we expect every community to approach the task of establishing its MRC unit differently too. We have prepared general guidelines covering many key issues to assist you in your planning. You can download a copy of [Getting Started: A Guide for Local Leaders](#) (PDF 3.09MB). We also offer a [Technical Assistance Series](#) covering certain topics in greater depth:

- Organizing an MRC Unit: Operational Components and the Coordinator's Role
- Coordinating With Your Local Response Partners
- Developing Volunteer Relationships and Capabilities
- Establishing and Maintaining Your MRC Unit's Organization

### Registering Your MRC Unit

**Registering your MRC unit** will allow you to request technical assistance from the National Program Office, apply for use of the official MRC logo, and be included in National MRC Conferences. Your registered unit will also be officially recognized as part of the White House's USA Freedom Corps initiative and the Department of Homeland Security's Citizen Corps. In return, we will expect you to be an active member of the MRC "community" by participating and sharing information on the MRC message board or at MRC meetings. Regular updates of your unit profile, volunteer numbers and recent activities are also requested.

**Registering is Easy.** Just complete and submit the [registration form](#). Your application will be reviewed by the MRC program office staff, in consultation with state and regional coordinators. You will be contacted to clarify, and perhaps expand upon the information you provided. If your registration request is approved you will be added to our online directory. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to [contact us](#).

**Please Note:** If your MRC Unit is already found on the [list of registered MRC Units](#), you do not need to register again.

[Contact Us](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Accessiblity](#) | [Disclaimer](#) | [Site Map](#)



For More Information:

Tel. (301) 443-4951

[MRCcontact@osophs.dhhs.gov](mailto:MRCcontact@osophs.dhhs.gov)

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