Medical Reserve Corps (MRCs)
US, Texas, STRAC

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DISCLAIMER

• The opinions and observations in this presentation are those of the presenter and do not represent current and official Texas Military Forces and Texas Department of State Health Service rules and guidance.

• The Presenter reports the following disclosures:
  • Adjunct Professor, Emergency Medicine, UTHSCSA
  • Medical Director, InCell

• Off-line use of Medications will not be discussed.
Objectives

Discus the Role of Medical Reserve Corps Units (MRCs) Throughout the United States

Be Aware of the Training Opportunities available and how to access them.

Know of Past Events That Have Required the Support of MRCs, How to Join, and Become Active Members
A few critically important questions:

If a terrorist attack, disaster or other large scale public health emergency happens in Texas…

- Who will be there to help?
- Who will treat those affected?
- Will there be enough people to respond adequately?
Join an MRC

Don’t:

Become a *Spontaneous Uninvited Volunteer (SUV)* Reporting to the Wrong Place at the Wrong Time Becoming a part of the Disaster! Did you bring Food, Water, Shelter, Fuel/Transportation, Equipment, Supplies, Medications? How will you communicate? To Whom will You Report? What are Your Skills and Credentials? Current License/Registration? Have you registered with the Texas Disaster Volunteer Registry? Did you go through the Alamo Area Volunteer Coordinating Center?
What’s An MRC?

A National Network of Local Groups of Volunteers
With a Mission to Engage the Volunteers in Activities that Strengthen Public Health, Emergency Response and Community Resilience

MRC Volunteers Include:

• Medical and Public Health Professionals – Physicians, Nurses, Nurse Practitioners, Physician Assistants, Dentists, Pharmacists, Veterinarians, and Epidemiologists
• Others Interested in the Health and Safety of their Local Jurisdictions – Interpreters, Chaplains, Communications, Logistics, Admin support.

MRC Units Identify, Screen, Train and Organize Volunteers
MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS (MRC)

• 989 MRC organizations across the US
  • Approximately 205,998 members

• Texas – 37 MRC organizations
  • 15,092 members, MD – 1,527, PA – 89, Vet – 41, Pharmacist
  • Nurse – 2,157, NP – 136, Mental Health Professional – 355
  • EMS – 431, Dentists – 41, Other Med – 1,232, Resp. therapist
  • Other Public Health, Medical – 1,045
  • Non-Public Health, Non Medical – 8,941

• TXSG MED BDE – 350 active members
  • Only uniformed/military affiliated MRC in US.
Quarterly Progress Report
FY2014 Quarter 1 (October 1 – December 31, 2013)

Units by Region

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Quarterly Progress Report
FY2014 Quarter 1 (October 1 – December 31, 2013)

Growth of MRC Units

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FEMA REGION VI MRCs (TALON)
Texas Medical Reserve Corps Units
Some Texas MRC Units

Harris County Gateway to Care MRC – 2,393
Dallas County MRC – 1,693
Tarrant County MRC – 1,743
Texas State Guard MRC, “Texas State Guard Medical Brigade – 350
Alamo Area MRC – 95
Starr County – 2
Fredericksburg High School Junior MRC
UT – Austin MRC – 10 (Nurses)
Austin Veterinary MRC – 10 (Veterinarians)
Texas Medical Brigade of the Texas State Guard

We Are “Texans Helping Texans”

Contributing to the Volunteer Solution for Preparedness
Our Mission Is

To Serve the people of Texas by
• providing volunteer medical expertise,
• health service support during public health emergencies or disasters
• Inside Texas ONLY
• at the call of the Governor.
Teams of organized, specially-trained volunteers from all health-related fields, including support skills, with verified licensure
The Texas Medical Brigade

We provide SURGE Responders

- Help Staff or Manage Acute Care Centers
- Augment TSDHS and Local Clinics
- Help Staff Emergency Operation Centers
- Help Staff Medical Question Call Centers
- Help Staff Mass Vaccination / Antibiotic Sites
- Assist with Strategic National Stockpile
- Assist with Mass Triage
- Provide Emergency Veterinary Response
Part of U.S. Surgeon General’s network of Medical Reserve Corps volunteer organizations.

- We work for the Governor of Texas
- NOT subject to authority of U.S. President.
- Available for missions only within Texas
- Available for missions expected to last a few days to a few weeks.
• When on a state active duty official mission.
  • Texas HB 9 signed into law, effective 22 June 2003, provides immunity from civil liability.
  • State Guard has Worker’s Compensation.
  • Your ‘day job’ is protected (with or without pay) by state law.
Texas Medical Brigade

Responded to Hurricanes

• Katrina
• Rita
• Gustav
• Ike
• and Alex
Thank You.

Questions during the Panel Discussion

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