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## **Annual Report Region 4A Medical Reserve Corps FY 2008**

Welcome to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Report for Region 4A of the Medical Reserve Corps. The past year continued to prove busy in the areas volunteer recruitment, training, and establishing Executive Committees as well as developing grant opportunities, taking the first steps to be approved as a 501(c)3 organization, and building partnerships with other organizations in our communities.

As of June 2008 the Region has 3131 volunteers across the 34 communities of the Region. Every community in the region continues to work hard to prepare themselves and their neighbors for emergencies.

Volunteers continue to visit town fairs, conferences, and town meetings to promote the MRC in their communities. They continue to educate the citizens in their communities about Public Health incentives, the MRC program and family preparedness

Liisa Jackson  
Coordinator, Region 4A MRC

### **Grants**

The region continues to pursue grants as alternative sources of funding. The Region continues to search for other grant opportunities including CERT and CDC grants.

### **NACCHO**

The town of Weston, who administers the NACCHO grants, does not take a fee to manage this funding. So far we have received \$15,000.00 and we are in the process of applying for another \$5,000.00. Part of these funds were used to pay for food for an EDS train the trainer class, and to purchase lanyards, badging supplies, hats and pins for MRC volunteers.

### **Boston Marathon Grant**

In June of 2008 the Region received \$7,333.33 from the Boston Marathon. The money was a gift for Region 4A's role in coordinating the Boston Marathon Medical Sweep teams. The Marathon Committee was so pleased with the volunteers and the coordination that the Regions' scope of service will broaden for 2009.



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## **Massachusetts Medical Registration System**

MMRS was so pleased with the quality and professionalism of the volunteers for the Boston Marathon, that they have contributed \$8,000 toward the purchase of MRC equipment and promotional material for volunteers, we need approval of what to purchase from the Coalition.

### **501(c) 3**

The Region plans to submit an application for tax-exempt or 501(c) 3 status. This will allow the organization to accept tax-deductible donations. During 2008, the Region gathered, collated and completed a draft 501(c) 3 application. The draft was presented to the Board of Directors and has now been submitted to an experienced “non-profit” lawyer for review. Once the information is complete and approved by the coalition, the application will be submitted to the Internal Revenue Service.

### **Partnerships**

The Region continues to build partnerships with organizations within our communities that help us to prepare and respond.

### **Hospital partnerships**

The region has formed partnerships with Marlborough Hospital, Caratis Norwood Hospital, Winchester Hospital, Newton Wellesley Hospital, Emerson Hospital and Metrowest Hospital. Partnerships include shared trainings and COOP exercises.

### **Other Partnerships**

American Red Cross of Mass Bay and Central Massachusetts  
Boston Athletic Association  
CERT teams  
Riverside Community Care of Needham  
National Interpreters Society  
Massachusetts Department of Public Health  
Strategic National Stock Pile  
Salvation Army

### **Ongoing Activities**

The core responsibilities of the Region continued this year, including volunteer recruitment, credentialing and trainings.



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## **Training**

The region held over 100 trainings during the fiscal year. All trainings are well attended and the Region continues to work closely with community partners to collaborate and share training. Liisa Jackson continues to chair the State MRC training committee and has developed training recommendations and resources. The MRC Flix was developed, which includes DVDs as a training resource. Our MRC volunteers are participating in all of the trainings offered and continue to improve the response capabilities of the MA Region 4A Medical Reserve Corps.

## **Credentialing**

The Region received CORI certification and completes most of the town's in the Region CORI checks and license verification prior to badging volunteers. A database and badging equipment were purchased.

## **Badging**

We have badged 15 local MRC branches in Region 4A and have badging dates scheduled for this fall for 13 towns in Region 4A. Doris Moore who does that badging has worked out the issues with the badging system and things are running very smoothly.

## **MRC Call-Down**

The Executive Committees have been working on a formal call-down policy for volunteers to be employed in the case of disaster.

## **Flu Clinics**

This year several of the Health Departments in Region 4a will be using their MRC volunteers in their flu clinics and will be using their Emergency Dispensing Site to dispense the flu vaccine and drill their EDS Plan.

## **Core Competencies Pilot Unit**

MA Region 4A is still a pilot site for the Core Competency study being done by NACCHO.

## **MITRE Corporation Study**

Our MRC chapter has been invited to be part of MITRE's collaborative research effort on Pandemic Planning. They are currently developing a model that we can customize to our response



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plans and analysis needs. They are interested in meeting to introduce this effort to us, hear about our related planning efforts, and use information from our discussion to develop a model. This model will be tailored to our needs and delivered to us as an interactive applet.

## **Goals for FY 2009 taken from the Multi Year Training and Exercise Plan**

### **The MA region 4A MRC staff is charged with achieving the overarching MA Region 4A MRC Priorities**

**Region 4A MRC Priorities for FY 2009 are aligned with the goals and priorities that are found in the Region 4A Multi Year Training and Exercise Plan.**

#### Region 4A

Region 4A worked closely with [State, Regional, Local planning partners] to develop this exercise plan, which also incorporates conducting joint exercises to meet multiple requirements from various grant programs and includes at-risk individuals in the planning and execution of exercises. The priorities in this plan are based upon the results of our assessment of our target capabilities and in the future After Action reports and the objectives defined in the Homeland Security Strategy for Region 4A:

1. Running an EDS
2. Managing Volunteers
3. COOP

#### I. Running an EDS

GOAL: To be able to Mass Prophylaxis the regions total population within 48 hours.

Corresponding [National Priority](#): Strengthen Medical Surge and Mass Prophylaxis Capabilities.

[Improvement Plan](#) Reference: 2007 Exercise Corrective Action regarding mass dispensing (would this count since the After Action Reports were not HSEEP requirement)

Associated [Capabilities](#):

- Communications
- Emergency Public Information and Warning



- Onsite Incident Management
- Mass Prophylaxis
- Medical Supply Management and Distribution
- (I think we also included risk communication here when we took out that as a priority)

Training Courses and Exercises that Support this Priority and Associated Capabilities:

- Trainings:
  - IS-700 An Introduction to [NIMS](#)\*
  - IS-100 Introduction to the [Incident Command System](#)\*
  - ICS 200\*
  - EDS Part I (Mechanics of an EDS) training
  - EDS Part 2 (Facilitating Clients Through an EDS)
  - Risk Communication (Basic)
  - Risk Communication (Advanced)

\* An ongoing schedule of ICS 100, 200 and NIMS 700 trainings is available through MEMA and FEMA

- Exercises:
  - A [seminar](#) focused on EDS Plan updates and developments will be conducted
  - [Tabletop exercises](#) to test EDS Onsite Command, Inventory Management, Tactical Communications and Security will be conducted
- On Line/Self Study Courses:
  - Applying ICS in an EDS is available as a self study DVD on the Region 4A website.

## II. Managing Volunteers

GOAL: To be able to help the local health departments in a surge capacity.

Corresponding [National Priority](#): Strengthen Medical surge and Mass Prophylaxis Capabilities.

Improvement Plan Reference



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Associated [Capabilities](#):

- Communications
- Onsite Incident Management
- Volunteer Management and Volunteers

Training Courses and Exercises that Support this Priority and Associated Capabilities:

- Trainings:
  - Training for First Aid and AED
  - Psychological First Aid
  - CPR Basic First Aid
  - Scene safety
  - Blood borne pathogens
  - Incident Command 100 and NIMS 700
  - Incident Command 200
  - Weapons of Mass destruction
  - Small Animal Handling
  - Pet preparedness
  - Behavioral Health part one and part 2
  - Flu Care at Home courses
  - Scene Safety
  - Family Preparedness
  - Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) training
- Exercises:
  - [Workshop](#) on MRC activation drill to practice such plan
  - Recruitment for the MRC
  - Communication drills with our MRC Volunteers

III. COOP



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GOAL: To be able to provide essential Emergency medical services during an emergency situation

Corresponding National Priority: Expanded Regional Collaboration. (DO NOT think this fits for this category-perhaps Matt can help us)

Improvement Plan Reference:

Associated Capabilities:

Planning

Emergency Public Information and warning

Trainings:

Regional HHAN drill

Exercises:

Using Local Emergency Communications Network.

COOP tabletops

Hopkinton

Hudson

Acton

Framingham with Metro West Hospital

METHODOLOGY AND EVENT TRACKING
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Region 4A

Region 4A has adopted the [Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program](#) (HSEEP) for its training and exercise program. With this in mind, our priorities for training and exercising follow the HSEEP [building block approach](#) by ensuring appropriate training and solid plans are in place before conducting more complex discussion or [operation based exercises](#).

As plans are updated, [workshops](#) will be convened to formulate the plan utilizing input from all the stakeholders. Once the plans are complete, any training that may be necessary will be conducted and seminars will be held to disseminate the plan. The seminars will be followed by a more complex [discussion based exercise](#), such as a [tabletop](#), then move to [functional](#) and [full-scale exercises](#) as appropriate.



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At the conclusion of each exercise, an [After Action Report/Improvement Plan](#) (AAR/IP) will be completed and corrective actions identified will be tracked and implemented and incorporated into future updates of this plan.

MA Region 4A tracks all of the training taken by MRC volunteers in a training database section out by each of the 34 communities in MA region 4A.