



# MARYLAND PROFESSIONAL VOLUNTEER CORPS

Newsletter

OFFICE OF PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE

Winter 2008

**Martin O'Malley**

*Governor*

**Anthony G. Brown**

*Lt. Governor*

**John M. Colmers**

*Secretary*

**Arlene Stephenson**

*Acting Deputy Secretary for  
Public Health Services*

## MISSION STATEMENT

**The Maryland Professional Volunteer Corps are health care professionals poised to provide supplemental assistance during catastrophic events.**

MPVC is a registered Medical Reserve Corps with the National Association of County & City Health Officials.



The mission of the Medical

Reserve Corps (MRC) is to improve the health and safety of communities across the country by organizing and utilizing public health, medical and other volunteers.

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## Program Funding Support

- ✓ U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services
- ✓ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- ✓ Medical Reserve Corps.

## MESSAGE FROM MARK BAILEY,

MD Professional Volunteer Corps Coordinator

Resolutions anyone? How are you doing keeping the one(s) you made? As we move into 2008, it is important that we show resolve in maintaining a level of preparedness that will mitigate the impact of a disaster or emergency. For those of us who work or volunteer in the field of emergency response and preparedness, have we collectively ensured that we will be in a good position when faced with the challenges a disaster may present? It is becoming a bit of a cliché, but the expression "take care of yourself first" is still very valid.

What is your level of personal preparedness? What is your level of family preparedness? Are you involved with your community's preparedness effort?

As a member of the Maryland Professional Volunteer Corps, the hope is that we will never have to deploy you for an actual disaster. But if you are needed, would you have your affairs in sufficient order to respond if called upon?

The state of Maryland has identified four core priorities for the coming year. Each of these will receive attention from this office by way of activity and correspondence and all relate to our ability to respond to emergencies.

These priorities are:

Interoperable communications

Workforce development

Community and personal preparedness

Operationalizing emergency preparedness plans

Initial efforts will focus on community and personal preparedness. I hope you resolve to begin or complete your personal and family preparedness planning efforts. Scrambling for flashlights when the lights go out or bottled water when the well runs dry is not a position you want to be in. Others are depending on you. Don't let yourself and them down.



**Volunteers Building Strong, Healthy, and Prepared Communities**

**MRC** <http://www.medicalreservecorps.gov/HomePage>

**MPVC** <http://bioterrorism.dhmh.state.md.us/volunteer.htm>

**MPVC is the organizational name adopted by the Maryland Licensing Boards that partner with the Office of Preparedness and Response (OP&R) to provide professional volunteers in the event of a disaster or emergency.**

### **MENTAL HYGIENE ADMINISTRATION MARYLAND NATIONAL GUARD OUTREACH (MNGO)**

This exciting pilot program has been up and running since March, 2007. Approximately 90 volunteers from the Maryland Professional Volunteer Corps and Pro Bono Counseling Project have been trained to work with the Army and Air National Guard providing psycho-educational presentations, facilitating discussions, and supporting the Guard Family Readiness Groups.

MNGO volunteers assist with and support families and service members during deployment departures, welcome home events, and at memorials and funerals when needed. Recently, MNGO volunteers offered suicide prevention education and support services to the WING 175<sup>th</sup> Air Guard after a series of deaths of Airmen. Last June, 10 volunteers offered support to the 1-158<sup>th</sup> CAV Unit members and families at a leave-taking ceremony at the US Navy-Marine Stadium in Annapolis. The CAV Unit is now serving in Iraq.

To date, MNGO has responded to over 30 requests from Family Readiness Groups Statewide and is actively participating in the newly developed Reintegration Academies providing speakers for recently returned National Guard, Reserve and newly-separated active duty veterans and their families.

If you have questions regarding this national model program, please contact Laura Copland, Director of Behavioral Health Disaster Services and coordinator of the Maryland National Guard Outreach at [CoplandL@dnhm.state.md.us](mailto:CoplandL@dnhm.state.md.us)

### **PHYSICIANS:**

Online Emergency Preparedness training for physicians and other Allied Health Professionals can be found at <http://mbp.state.md.us/pages/emergencyprep.html>

Physicians should create a "Go Bag" of essential medical items for use in the event of a serious emergency situation. The "Go Bag" should be a backpack filled with essential medical supplies that could be used in a triage situation. It should be kept in a secure and accessible location with its stock periodically checked and rotated as dated items dictate. Some of the items should include: bandages, alcohol, scissors, tape, inhaler, mask, gloves and other personal protection equipment.

### **Board of Nursing:**

Formerly the volunteer program at MBON was known as the Disaster Nurse Volunteer Program. Collectively we are working to provide a new training program for our volunteers. The program will consist of face-to-face training as well as an online program MBON has designed specifically for nurses.

As we step into 2008, please speak to your colleagues about the opportunity to be a part of the MPVC. It is imperative that we build the numbers of volunteers each year to sustain a healthy program that can respond to the complex demands of a disaster.

As an MPVC member you will have the opportunity to participate in future updates, refresher courses, conferences, table top exercises, drills and networking currently being developed as a part of the new and improved program with OP&R.

As we renew and strengthen the volunteer program we thank you for your commitment in providing your professional expertise when called upon in the event of a disaster.

Lisa Varholy MBON /410-585-2057/  
[lvarholy@dnhm.state.md.us](mailto:lvarholy@dnhm.state.md.us)

### **Maryland Department of Agriculture Holds Foreign Animal Disease Training for Volunteer Veterinary Corps Members**

If a foreign animal disease such as foot and mouth disease occurs in Maryland or anywhere in the United States would it cause major economic devastation? It could not only cause destruction to the food and agricultural sectors, but also to all phases of our daily life including movement of goods and tourism. Members of the Volunteer Veterinary Corps would be activated to help the federal and state departments of agriculture control, contain, and eliminate the disease.

A one-day, Department of Homeland Security-approved foreign animal disease training course was held at the Maryland Department of Agriculture to prepare the Corps members for this role. Instruction modules included an introduction to agro-terrorism, quarantine procedures, use of personal protective equipment, depopulation and disposal of infected or exposed animals, cleaning and disinfection of premises and equipment, and a practice exercise. All who attended felt the instruction was of the utmost importance to them in the work they might be asked to do if the Volunteer Veterinary Corps was activated.



Dr. Jacob Casper, [jarucasper@comcast.net](mailto:jarucasper@comcast.net)

## VOLUNTEER CORPS FACE-TO-FACE



Photograph submitted by Shirley Sevaries, RN from the Maryland Board of Nursing. Group shot prior to Katrina deployment of 2005. Thanks Shirley! Please send us your photos (jpeg) or stories to be shared in our newsletter or on our Web site to [cplummer@dhmh.state.md.us](mailto:cplummer@dhmh.state.md.us)

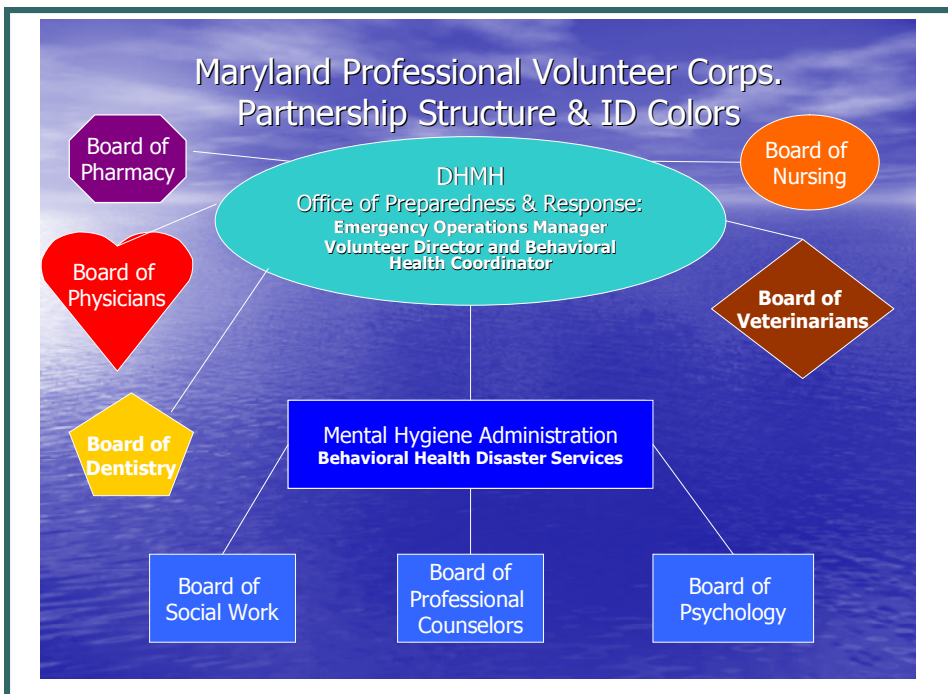
### New look to ID badges :

- Color codes
- MPVC name
- Bolded and boarded
- OP&R logo on front
- No expiration date



### Fall '07 Newsletter Results

- Returns– incorrect addresses– 350
  - Calls for requests– 100
  - E-mails for requests– 200
- Keep your correspondences coming. We love to hear from you! What do you want to see in our next Newsletter?



Colors are designated to each licensing board for better identification to the field supervisor or incident command during disaster management or an emergency event.





## MPVC UPDATES

### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

- ✓ **MNGO**-Maryland National Guard Outreach ( MHA, DHMH, Laura Copland)  
[CoplandL@dhhm.state.md.us](mailto:CoplandL@dhhm.state.md.us)  
410-724-3175
- ✓ **LOCAL MRC UNITS**– Medical Reserve Corps: Frederick, Harford, Montgomery, Prince George’s, Baltimore County, for more info and applications please go to the MRC Web site to find your local unit:  
<http://www.medicalreservecorps.gov/state.asp?state=24>
- ✓ **CITIZEN CORPS**- Governor's Office on Service and Volunteerism, Debbie Staigerwald;  
[dstaigerwald@gov.state.md.us](mailto:dstaigerwald@gov.state.md.us)  
410-767-1674
- ✓ **MPVC TRAINING, OUTREACH AND RECRUITMENT ASSISTANCE**-  
Mark Bailey, Volunteer Coordinator,  
[mbailey@dhhm.state.md.us](mailto:mbailey@dhhm.state.md.us) / 410-767-7772

### CURRENT VOLUNTEER COUNTS

•Board of Physicians .....	654
•Board of Nursing .....	3044
•Board of Pharmacy .....	539
•Board of Veterinary .....	117
•Board of Dentistry .....	72
•Board of Social Work .....	713
•Board of Professional Counselors .....	197
•Board of Psychology .....	97
•Psychiatric Physicians .....	26
•Psychiatric Nurses .....	36
• <b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5423</b>

### RECRUITMENT

MPVC is currently negotiating with the Board of Morticians and Funeral Directors to join the Corps.

### TRAINING

A training sub-committee of members from various licensing boards and registered MPVC volunteers is formulating a comprehensive training curriculum that will include the following elements:

- MPVC introduction and orientation
- Volunteer liability and workers’ compensation issues
- Deployment notification and logistics
- Personal and family preparedness
- Psychological first aid/self care
- National Incident Management System (NIMS) and Incident Command System (ICS) modules
- Medical Reserve Corps competency standards

***Look for upcoming announcements about these presentations.***

### LEGAL ISSUES: LIABILITY & WORKER’S COMP

Note that MPVC volunteers are covered by the state workers’ compensation and liability benefits when acting under the Governor’s and/or the Secretary’s directions and control. If you volunteer as a health care professional for another governmental, private or public organization, your coverage may be different. It is best to check before being “called up.”

## ACTIVATION STEPS

### **NINE STEPS TO DEPLOYMENT:**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Governor declares state of emergency</li> <li>2. State Emergency Operation Center (SEOC) is activated</li> <li>3. Request for MPVC to Maryland Emergency Management Agency (MEMA/SEOC) by Local Health Departments (LHD) Mental Hygiene Administration (MHA), Hospitals, ect.</li> <li>4. Request goes to DHMH Secretary &amp; Director of OP&amp;R</li> <li>5. If approved goes back to requesting entity<br/>If denied, continues to be monitored</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6. OP&amp;R Dir. notifies MPVC Volunteer Coordinator to call the designated licensing boards.</li> <li>7. Boards activate MIR 3 system, notifying volunteers</li> <li>8. Volunteers respond to MIR 3</li> <li>9. Volunteers report to designated site</li> </ol> |
|--|---|



## OFFICE OF PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

*The mission of the Office of Preparedness and Response is to provide expert technical guidance and leadership for DHMH as the lead for Emergency Support Function 8 (ESF8 health and medical) to coordinate a public health emergency response in the State of Maryland.*

### **Planning and Developing the 2008 Statewide Pan Flu Exercise.**

The 2008 exercise will build on the lessons learned from the 2007 statewide exercise. It is designed to address statewide pan flu priorities and operational activities.

This exercise will be open to any organization who wishes to participate. This year we will be activating our Maryland Professional Volunteer Corps and invite Pharmacists, Physicians, MED CHI, and Nurses to be on the planning subcommittee to help assist in the exercise design for the volunteer portion. The incorporation of the MPVC and MRCs demonstrates collaborative response efforts on a local and regional basis. Because there are a limited number of spaces on the Exercise Volunteer subcommittee, please submit a one page letter of interest with a brief background as to why you are interested to [mbailey@dhhm.state.md.us](mailto:mbailey@dhhm.state.md.us) , or call 410-767-7772 by April 1, 2008.

#### **Priority areas to be tested include:**

- Health And Medical Surge Including Facilities, Personnel, Equipment and Supplies
- Interoperable Communications
- Mass Fatality Response
- Special Needs Populations
- Community and Personal Preparedness

**Proposed exercise dates: JUNE 17, 18, 19, 2008**

**If your organization is interested in more detailed information concerning the exercise please contact Mr. Ivan Zapata at 410.767.0823 or [IZapata@dhhm.state.md.us](mailto:IZapata@dhhm.state.md.us)**

### ESAR-VHP

On a national level, the federal government is encouraging each state to achieve a level of preparedness that will allow health professionals to be seamlessly incorporated and utilized in a disaster or emergency response situation. The concept is referred to as ESAR-VHP---Emergency System of Advance Registration of Volunteer Health Professionals. The system allows health volunteers responding to a site to have their professional credentials pre-screened to allow site commanders to use them and their skills in a manner that would best benefit victims at the scene. The licensing boards check the status of their respective licenses monthly and relay this information to MPVC as an important step in this effort.

The MPVC staff is taking the lead in this issue. Additional information will be provided in future newsletters.

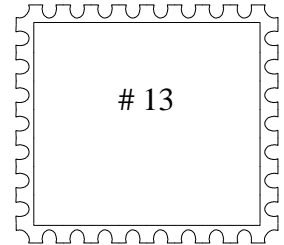
### MRC CORE COMPETENCY

The Maryland Professional Volunteer Corps (MPVC) represents the state's Medical Reserve Corps (MRC). As an MRC, there is an expectation that volunteers are provided training and possess a baseline level of knowledge and skills relating to MRC core competencies.

Core competencies are available through the MRC Web site. [medicalreservecorps.gov/HomePage](http://medicalreservecorps.gov/HomePage)

Additionally, an expectation of MPVC/MRC volunteers is that they obtain training relating to the National Response Program (NRP) and the Incident Command System (ICS). A portion of this training is available on-line.

MPVC volunteers are encouraged to partake of this self-paced training. FEMA Web site [www.fema.gov/emergency/nims/nims\\_training.shtm#0](http://www.fema.gov/emergency/nims/nims_training.shtm#0)



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[http://  
bioterrorism.dhmh.state.md.us/  
volunteer.htm](http://bioterrorism.dhmh.state.md.us/volunteer.htm)

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## REMINDERS!



- ✓ CONTACT INFO–Remember we need your personal cell number, and an emergency contact person listed on your application.
- ✓ FOR LIST SERV– We need your e-mails to send more newsletters out by this method, plus updates and notices. It's fast, easy and painless for the earth!
- ✓ BADGES– if you do not have one and have been trained, e-mail or call us! Reminders for the dental trainees (on 1/19/07 ) and the veterinary trainees (on 9/28/06): I'm still waiting for photos to be sent jpeg e-mail format. [cplummer@dhmh.state.md.us](mailto:cplummer@dhmh.state.md.us) so I can prepare your ID badges for distribution.
- ✓ TRAINING– New plans for a standardized curriculum includes basic courses for new members, psychological first aid, interesting speakers, table top drills. A Fall 2008 Conference for many to get CEU's and more disaster skill preparation training is being planned.
- ✓ WEB SITE– Still under construction but check it out!  
<http://bioterrorism.dhmh.state.md.us/volunteer.htm>
- ✓ Look for e-newsletters coming in a few months.
- ✓ PREPAREDNESS TO GO BAGS– Are you ready if we call you? Get Prepared, Get Packed! <http://www.wikihow.com/Make-a-Go-Bag> and [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov)
- ✓ SURVEYS-REAL NUMBERS– WHO WILL RESPOND? Coming in a few months we will ask you to do an on-line survey so we can get some hard numbers before our Pan Flu Exercise in June. Please help us!

All of your responses will matter. **We are so lucky to have you as MPVC'S**

