

Thank you for your interest in volunteering for the Naval Hospital Naples Medical Reserve Corps (USNH MRC). We are looking for all types of volunteers to contribute skills and expertise throughout the year as well as during times of community need.

The Medical Reserve Corps is a national program (www.medicalreservecorps.gov) that was started after the tragic events of Sept. 11. Our organization focuses on recruiting and training volunteers and utilizing their talents to assist communities during public health and medical emergencies. As a USNH MRC volunteer, you would be provided training, participate in emergency drills, and have an opportunity to make a difference in the community.

We are looking for volunteers with both medical and non-medical skills, such as administrative talent, stretcher-bearers, security, counselors, etc. If you are interested in volunteering or would like more information, please email NaplesMRC@med.navy.mil or call 081-811-6084.

OVERVIEW OF THE MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS PROGRAM

Why was the MRC created?

The National MRC program was created after President Bush's 2002 State of the Union Address, in which he asked all Americans to volunteer in support of their country. The MRC is comprised of volunteers who respond to natural disasters and emergencies.

The need for trained supplemental medical and public health personnel to assist with emergency operations was highlighted after the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. Many medical and public health professionals sought to support emergency relief efforts, but there was no organized approach to channel their efforts. The MRC program provides the structure necessary to deploy medical and public health personnel in response to an emergency.

What does the name Medical Reserve Corps mean to our community?

Each community is different, and these differences may require alternative approaches to natural disasters and emergencies. The terms "medical" and "reserve" indicate that trained personnel are available to respond to emergencies requiring support to the community's health and medical resources. "Corps" refers to an organized body of individuals with a similar function. The "medical" in Medical Reserve Corps does not limit MRC units to medical professionals. Individuals without medical training can fill essential supporting roles. For the Naples community, building a MRC will assist the hospital during medical emergencies by providing additional medical support, stretcher bearers, and administrative assistance, as well as other support.



How is the direction of the MRC established?

Each MRC unit is led by an MRC Unit Coordinator, who matches community needs—for emergency medical response and public health initiatives—with volunteer capabilities. The NHNMRC Management Team is comprised of the Unit Coordinator, a Medical Advisor, and the Hospital Emergency Manager.

At the national level, the MRC program is run by the MRC Program Office, which is headquartered in the Office of the U.S. Surgeon General. It functions as a clearinghouse for information and best practices to help communities establish, implement, and maintain MRC units nationwide.

Who is the MRC affiliated with?

The MRC program is sponsored by the Office of the Surgeon General. The MRC is a specialized component of [Citizen Corps](#), a national network of volunteers dedicated to ensuring hometown security. Citizen Corps, along with AmeriCorps, Senior Corps, and the Peace Corps are part of the President Bush's [USA Freedom Corps](#), which promotes volunteerism and service throughout the nation.

VOLUNTEERING WITH THE MRC

Why should I become an MRC volunteer?

People volunteer for many reasons, but some volunteer for the MRC because:

- It's a way to offer their skills that might not have been used before because they were not adequately prepared to be part of the response effort.
- It's a significant benefit to communities because skilled volunteers offer services during the year to augment existing public health efforts or provide emergency backup that would not otherwise be available.
- It's a chance to belong to a group with a strong sense of mission and purpose.
- It's a chance to qualify for special incentives (e.g., free training).

What training do I need to become an NHN MRC volunteer?

Emergency preparedness and response is a highly coordinated effort. Volunteers may already know how to perform some of the necessary medical and health functions. Training to become a Naval Hospital Naples MRC volunteer focuses primarily on learning the hospital emergency and health procedures, use of specialized equipment, how to prepare for a disaster, and other methods to enhance volunteer effectiveness.

All MRC volunteers attend an orientation to the NHN MRC, which includes an overview of the system in which the MRC's activities occur. Also, a hospital orientation class is required to familiarize MRC volunteers with the hospital's processes and organization. An introduction to the Incident Command System (ICS) will also be provided. The ICS is a nation-wide system used to organize responders during an emergency and focuses on using common terminology and communication.

What type of training is available for MRC volunteers?

Volunteers are encouraged to participate in practice drills and other training opportunities. Other training opportunities include support skills training, communications, administrative tasks, stretcher bearer training and many others. Training requirements for front-line/direct-service volunteers is typically extensive and specialized. Generally, this training includes basic life support and CPR; ATLS/PALS/ACLS, and basic first aid skills to deal with emergencies such as shock, allergic reactions, broken bones, burns, chemical splashes, choking, eye injuries, dislocations, head trauma, heat exhaustion, stroke, and poisoning.

What type of background do I need to become an MRC volunteer?

Volunteers in the MRC program include:

- Practicing, retired, or otherwise employed medical professionals, such as doctors, nurses, emergency medical technicians, pharmacists, nurses' assistants, and others.
- Public health professionals.

- Community members without medical training can assist with administrative and other essential support functions.

United States citizenship is not required to be part of the MRC. Non-citizen, legal U.S. residents also are welcome to volunteer and contribute their time, knowledge, and skills to protecting and improving their communities.

Is the MRC volunteer program only for medical or healthcare professionals?

No. Community members without medical training can assist with administrative and other essential support functions.

What do individuals with a medical or healthcare background do as an MRC volunteer?

Medical and other health volunteers can provide an important "surge" capacity. In short, communities often need medically trained individuals to improve their response capabilities overall. Possible types of "front-line" medical and public health volunteers include:

- Physicians (including surgeons, medical specialists, osteopaths)/ Physician Assistants
- Nurses (nurse practitioners, registered nurses, LPNs, nursing assistants)
- Pharmacists
- Dentists / Dental Assistants
- Optometrists
- Veterinarians
- Emergency medical technicians
- Public health workers / Epidemiologists
- Infectious disease specialists
- Toxicologists
- Mental health practitioners (psychologists, social workers, etc.)
- Health educators/communicators
- Other medical and public health professionals

What do individuals with a non-medical or healthcare background do as an MRC volunteer?

Individuals with a non-medical or healthcare background can volunteer by assisting with administrative and other essential support functions, including:

- Administrative assistants and office support staff
- Chaplains
- Training directors and trainers
- Volunteer coordinators
- Supply and logistics managers
- Interpreters/translators
- Stretcher bearers

Do MRC volunteers only help during emergency situations?

Although the MRC volunteers are ready to respond to disasters or emergencies, part of the MRC program's mission is to foster disaster preparedness. MRC volunteers also are called to help during non-emergency times. For example, during flu shot season, NHN MRC volunteers may be called upon to assist with the vaccination process. Also, NHN MRC volunteers may be asked to provide community outreach and education on disaster preparedness and public health issues.

I am interested in becoming an MRC volunteer. What do I do first?

Please contact the Naval Hospital Naples MRC Coordinator at NaplesMRC@med.navy.mil for more information or to find out the orientation and training schedules.