



▶ HAWAII MRC MEMBER REQUIREMENTS.....1



▶ MRC VOLUNTEER OF THE QUARTER 2



▶ TRAININGS.....3

Hawaii Medical Reserve Corps

In Touch

*Volume 2, Issue 1
Spring 2008*

Mission Statement:

To establish local teams of volunteers who can contribute their skills and expertise for medical and public health services during times of community need and throughout the year

Hawaii
medical
reserve
corps



MRC Member Requirements

ICS 100 & 700

Why is it important to take the ICS courses?

- *Required by National Medical Reserve Corps
- *Ensures consistency in MRC member knowledge
- *Thorough understanding of ICS for use in an event

How can I take the the classes?

- *Take the courses on Oahu (RSVP 587-6583)
ICS 100 June 12th & July 19th
ICS 700 June 26th & July 26th
- *Take the course on Maui (RSVP 243-8689)
ICS 700 May 30th, June 4th, or June 12th
- *Take the courses online (for free!)

<http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/crslist.asp>



What now?

- *Give a copy of your certificates to your MRC Project Coordinator via fax, email, snail mail, or in person
- *If you have any questions please contact your MRC Coordinator (see last page)

Emergency Plan & Disaster Kit

Why do I need to have a Personal and Family Preparedness Plan and Disaster Kit?

- *If you are not prepared, you won't be able to help anyone else!
- *Required by National Medical Reserve Corps
- *The MRC promotes emergency preparedness to the community!

What do I do?

- *Use your Plan to be Ready book as a guide
- *Create a plan and a kit for yourself and your family

What now?

- *Procedures for documentation vary so contact your unit leader with questions
- *Oahu Only: If you have not noted completion of these items on your info sheets and have done them, call 587-6583



2008 Pacific Preparedness Conference

Capacity Building to Address Vulnerable Populations



Speakers ↑

Pictured from Left Kate Gaynor, MD, Kristine Qureshi, RN, DNSc, and Tara Nash MS who spoke at the conference

On January 16, 2008 Pacific Emprints hosted a conference to address the topic of Vulnerable Populations. It was a day full of informative speakers, with many different topics of interest discussed. The day ended with a tabletop exercise, in which all attendees participated. The conference was attended by the MRC Coordinators from Kauai (Moji Owolabi), Maui (Marc Nishimoto), and the District Health Officer from the Big Island (Aaron Ueno).

“Role of the Volunteer Medical Reserve Corps” was the title of the presentation given by three Oahu MRC staff members. Kate Gaynor, MD presented an overview of the origin and structure of the MRC in the country and Hawaii touching on the concept of Na Lima Kako’o (Many Hands One Heart of Aloha). Kristine Qureshi, RN, DNSc, spoke about surge capacity needs, reasons we need an MRC in Hawaii, and outlined goals during disaster response. Tara Nash, MS spoke on the MRC Core Competencies and outlined potential roles of Hawaii MRC volunteers. We encourage members to gain knowledge by participating in similar events, and hope to see you next time!

Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP) Training Course

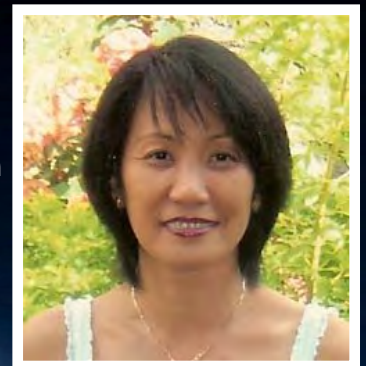
MRC Unit Leaders participated in a 3 day workshop dealing with Exercise Planning and Evaluation. The training (sponsored by Hawaii Department of Health) was very informative and will be helpful in future planning of MRC events. The timing was perfect as MRC staff members participated in the Reception, Storage, Staging and Distribution (RSSD) Exercise which was planned and conducted by the Hawaii Department of Health. A big mahalo to Linda Green (DOH) for organizing the training!



MRC Volunteer of the Quarter Elizabeth Villasista

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.” This quote by Margaret Mead exemplifies the heart of the Kauai Medical Reserve Corps Unit and its volunteers. We are small in numbers, yet abundant in spirit—the spirit of Aloha. Our volunteers are a shining light in our community. Elizabeth Villasista is a genuine example of this.

Elizabeth is a trained Operating Room and Dialysis Nurse. She received her Bachelors of Nursing while in the Philippines. Over 10 years ago, Elizabeth began volunteering as a surgical nurse when she went on her first medical mission trip to Ecuador. This past February, Elizabeth returned from her most recent trip to Laos.



Though Elizabeth currently works part-time with both Exam One and Liberty Dialysis, she makes time to serve with the KMRC. Elizabeth contributed many hours to the school flu clinics, has completed Incident Command Courses 100, 200 and 300 and is always willing to assist in any manner asked of her. When asked why she volunteers, Elizabeth responded “It’s my way of giving back as much as I have received.” Mahalo nui loa Elizabeth and all Hawaii MRC members for being the people making things happen in our communities.

Hawaii MRC Events, Trainings, & Exercises

Other Trainings



MCHV Psychological First Aid Class Picture ↑
Eleven MCHV members attended a psychological first aid course on February 22, presented by Dr. Leslie Gise. Dr. Gise is a certified American Red Cross Trainer and a member of the MCHV. This training was conducted to improve member resiliency during a disaster so that they can help others.

Pictured from left: Melisa Anderson, Douglas Roberts, Dr. Leslie Gise, Rachel Heckscher, Dr. Randy Christman, and Jocelyn Bouchard

Not Pictured: Shannon Ray, Loraine Krauss, Kalani Holokai, Brenda Orlopp, Marc Nishimoto and Pam Palencia



MCHV Patient Handling Training

 ↑

Seven members of MCHV participated in the Patient Handling training on March 12, 2008. Students were provided instructions on transferring patients from floor to cots, cots to wheelchairs, wheelchairs to commodes, and car transfers. The training was meant to improve the capacity and capability to handle special health needs individuals during evacuation and shelter operations in an emergency.

Pictured: Public Health Nurse Charlotte Fusato transfers Rachel Heckscher from a cot to a commode.

Quarterly Topic Trainings



HAWAII STATE
DEPARTMENT
OF HEALTH



↑ Oahu Vulnerable Populations and Disasters in Hawaii Training

Two Vulnerable Populations and Disasters in Hawaii Trainings were conducted at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. This training was unique in that we had five speakers with extensive disaster experience. Kris Qureshi (MRC) gave an overview of the definition of vulnerable populations. Then Danny Tengan, State Civil Defense Hurricane Planner, described the Physical Aspects of Level 1 and Level 2 shelters. Francine Wai, Director of the Disability and Communication Access Board, gave an overview of the people that you would find in Level 1 and Level 2 shelters. Maria Lutz, Director of Disaster Services for the American Red Cross, then explained the ARC's role in sheltering and went over the shelter intake form with our members. Lastly, Dr. David Fray, Chief of the HDOH Developmental Disabilities Division, discussed developmentally disabled persons and the challenges facing this population in regards to sheltering. It was a very special treat to get such knowledgeable people together in the same room for our training!

MCHV Quarterly Meeting

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Forty MCHV volunteers attended a meeting held at the Maui Electric Company on February 11, 2008. Hawaii State Department of Health Epidemiology Specialist Lorie Whitsett presented a talk on communicable diseases, using recent outbreaks on Maui to present the role of the epidemiologist in disease investigation. MCHV member Dr. Zacharias Asuncion (pictured) presented a talk on his work with Doctors Without Borders, including missions to Liberia and Sierra Leone.



Oahu MRC Orientation Training

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Potential Oahu MRC Members participate in an Orientation Training at the University of Hawaii Manoa. We are currently up to 418 members on Oahu, and were able to form a partnership with National Youth Challenge at this event.



HAWAII MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Dileep G. Bal, MD, MS, MPH, Kauai District Health Officer

Morgan Barrett, MD, MPH, Deputy Director, Health Resources Administration

Toby Clairmont, RN, CEM, Emergency Program Manager, Healthcare Association of Hawaii

Paul Effler, MD, MPH, Chief, Disease Outbreak Control Division

Kate Gaynor, MD, All Hazards Preparedness Coordinator

Maria Lutz, Director of Disaster Services, American Red Cross

Tara Nash, MS, State of Hawaii and Oahu MRC Coordinator

Lorrin Pang, MD, MPH, Maui District Health Officer

Kris Qureshi, RN, DNSc, Professor, School of Nursing

Aaron Ueno, Hawaii District Health Officer

MEET THE STAFF



Anne Holmberg moved to the Big Island five years ago after careers in engineering and commercial forecasting, a dozen years in Cyprus and South America as a diplomat with the US State Department, and a stint as head of public relations for a major catalog company. In spite of the bureaucratic world's insistence on first names and middle initials, the new MRC Coordinator for the Big Island prefers to be called by her middle name. She now raises orchids, hibiscus, and weeds in her Big Island garden and tries to keep her two rescue dogs, Todd and Sam, out of the avocados.

FUN FACT: Anne loves traveling by train. She rode from the Ecuadorean Andes down to the coast with live chickens as travel companions.



Rachel Heckscher moved to Maui in 2005, and is currently a Health Educator at the Maui District Health Office. After completing her master's degree, she worked in the Disease Outbreak Investigation Branch of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. She also spent 6 years working in a large homeless shelter as an outreach worker and health educator. Her focus within public health has been the epidemiology of diseases for which no vaccine exists. Rachel also enjoys doing graphic design and welcomes suggestions to improve the MauiReady.org website that she has developed.

FUN FACT: Rachel is fluent in Spanish, having lived for 2 years in Guatemala as a human rights worker with Peace Brigades International.

Upcoming Events

Big Island MRC

- Family Emergency Planning & Preparedness (May/June)
- Point of Distribution Exercise (July/August)
- ICS 100 (June-September)

Anne Holmberg
Department of Health
Phone: 974-6480

kathryn.holmberg@doh.hawaii.gov

Kauai MRC

- Orientation Training June 28th
- ICS 400 June 4-6th
- Quarterly Training: Epidemiological Surveillance (June)

Moji Owolabi
Department of Health
Phone: 241-3555
mojisola.owolabi@doh.hawaii.gov

Oahu MRC

- Advisory Board (May)
- Lecture Series (June)
- Quarterly Training (July)
- ICS 100 June 12th & July 19th
- ICS 700 June 26th & July 26th

Tara Nash
Department of Health
Phone: 587-6583
tara.nash@doh.hawaii.gov

Maui County Health Volunteers

- Hurricane Expo, Queen Ka'ahumanu Center May 31st
- ICS 700 May 30th (9am-12pm), June 4th (1-4pm), or June 12th (4-7pm)
- Quarterly Training May 14th

Marc Nishimoto
Department of Health
Phone: 243-8660
marc.nishimoto@doh.hawaii.gov