

# Bristol -Norfolk

Serving the Communities of  
Attleboro, Foxboro, North Attleboro, Mansfield,  
Norton, Plainville, Rehoboth, Seekonk



Spring 2011

## Coming Soon - NEW On-line Registration Medical Reserve Corps & MA Responds

**News Flash:** Massachusetts has started a new volunteer registry for Medical Reserve Corps volunteers! What is it? How does this affect you?

The Bristol-Norfolk Medical Reserve Corps, in cooperation with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, has implemented a new volunteer registry, MA Responds. Beginning in March, BNMRC volunteers will be able to view their training history, sign up for training courses, update their personal profiles and receive deployment notifications.

*MA Responds is administered by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Public Health and is a partnership that integrates local, regional, and statewide volunteer resources to identify, credential, train, and mobilize volunteers during a health-related emergency or event.*

### What is MA Responds?

MA Responds is a centralized, secure web-based system that integrates lo-

cal, regional, and statewide volunteer programs. The site is easy to use, and will facilitate the ability to respond to health related emergencies and events. This volunteer management system is part of a nation-wide effort to make sure that volunteer professionals can be quickly identified and their credentials checked so that they can be properly utilized in response to a public health emergency or disaster.

This system is a partnership of local Medical Reserve Corps units (MRCs), the Massachusetts System for Advance Registration of Volunteer Health Professionals (MSAR) and other volunteer organizations in Massachusetts, coordinated administratively by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH). Under MA Responds, MRC units retain full control of their volunteers, and you would continue to work directly with your local unit. **MRC volunteers in the system will not be contacted**

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To join or find out more about your local MRC please contact your local chapter coordinator on page 6

To receive copies or submit articles please contact:

Debbie Revelle at  
bnmrc@hotmail.com

## BNMRC Badges & Handbooks Ready For Distribution

Bristol-Norfolk Medical Reserve Corps officially issued badges and the Volunteer Handbook is finalized and ready for distribution to fully credentialed BNMRC volunteers.

The handbook has been designed to provide MRC volunteers with a quick reference to many of the policies and procedures of the Bristol-Norfolk Medical Reserve Corps in addition to leader contact information, Core Competencies, training overviews

and space to keep personal notes and experiences. It is our intention that the handbook will be carried with volunteers to trainings and deployments and will provide you with the information needed to be a prepared Medical Reserve Corps volunteer.

If you haven't received your BNMRC ID badge or handbook or if you are unsure if you are fully credentialed, please contact your local coordinator listed on page 6.

## Volunteer Recognition Dinner - Awards, Fun & Food

On May 6, 2010, in appreciation for valuable contributions made during the 2009-2010 pandemic flu season, the Bristol Norfolk Medical Reserve Corps Coordinators honored their volunteers with a recognition dinner at the Mansfield Holiday Inn. Chapter Coordinators from the towns of Rehoboth, Attleboro, North Attleboro, Norton, Seekonk, Mansfield, Plainville, and Foxboro presented certificates of appreciation and H1N1 recognition pins to the many volunteers who willingly came forth to help during the previous year.

The evening was an opportunity to express gratitude for all the hard work provided by each and every

volunteer in the Medical Reserve Corps. Some of the activities provided by the volunteers included shelter operations during the ice storm that blanketed western Massachusetts, health fairs, and H1N1 clinics. The services provided by the volunteers are always invaluable and that was just one way for the coordinators to express our thanks.

We look forward to sharing another great evening of wonderful food, good company and good cheer at the next recognition dinner scheduled for May 11, 2011. We hope you can join us!

*Submitted by Lynn Allienello, RN*



Rehoboth Volunteer Al Erdos and  
Rehoboth Health Nurse, Lynn Allienello, RN

## Get the Word Out!

Are you a member or leader of an organization such as a church, fellowship, youth-group or sports club that holds functions where the Medical Reserve Corps could set up a small booth on occasion?

We are seeking to make ourselves more visible to the public in order to recruit other volunteers and

to educate the community about the services we provide. If so, we would love to hear from you. Please contact us with your thoughts and suggestions. Either email us at [bnmrc@hotmail.com](mailto:bnmrc@hotmail.com) or call Deb Revelle at the Plainville Board of Health at 508-695-3142, Ext 16.

## Volunteer Spotlight

Interview with Ray Issler and Pam Kulibaba  
By Donna Palmer, RN, Norton Public Health Nurse

Ray and Pam first learned about the Medical Reserve Corps at an event in Attleboro. There was an information booth set up and they began talking with Jacquie O' Brien, the public health nurse in Attleboro. Jacquie is the coordinator for Attleboro's MRC and she introduced them both to the MRC and encouraged them to contact their Norton coordinator, Donna Palmer, for more information. That was two years ago and they have never looked back.

To begin with Pam was the driving force in the decision to join the MRC. She had been inspired to volunteer more often after Sept. 11, 2001. Ray began to be more interested after the first few classes. Today they both enjoy the educational opportunities offered and have taken many classes. Ray and Pam have taken all of the core curriculum classes and are both fully credentialed volunteers. They say they enjoy learning new information. Ray's background is communications and Pam's background is occupational health.

Ray and Pam have been active volunteers in political campaigns and events and both give blood regularly. Ray recently participated in the campaign to count homeless people in our area, has been involved in veteran's issues and helped raise funds for a veteran's parade. He was instrumental in installing a light at the common to shine on our nation's flag.

They both enjoy volunteering at the flu clinics. Ray says it gives him a feeling of accomplishment. It makes him feel he is part of something bigger than himself.

They both feel appreciated by the MRC coordinators and enjoy our Meet and Greet evenings which gives volunteers the chance to mingle in a social setting.

As the MRC coordinator for the Town of Norton I have had the pleasure of getting to know Pam and Ray. I enjoy their company, enthusiasm and friendship. I am also very proud of the fact that Norton was able to vaccinate twice the number of people we have vaccinated in the past due to fine volunteers like Pam and Ray.

## Training, Recruitment & Deployments

Reflecting after our most recent "MRC 101" training, it's hard to believe how quickly 5 years passed and the efforts the Bristol Norfolk Medical Reserve Corps have been involved with. Public Health's motto is "Prevent. Promote. Protect". Some MRC units choose to focus only on emergency response and drills. Bristol Norfolk MRC's goal is to keep our volunteers engaged in a variety of public health prevention initiatives in addition to disaster responses.

When Deb Revelle "asked" me to write an article on deployments for this issue, I started reading our old newsletters and I can't believe I forgot about some of our deployments. Many volunteers have been involved with Emergency Dispensing Site (EDS) drills/flu clinics in your community; but who remembers being deployed:

- to play a "victim" at a Public Safety drill about a shooting at UMASS Dartmouth in Spring 2008
- to aid other MA residents staffing shelters during the Worcester Ice Storms in December 2009
- to help staff the booth at Spring 2010's "Senior

Spectacular" sponsored by Representative Betty Poirier

- to help a former president feel "secure" in Taunton last fall as he was present for a federal legislator's campaign rally
- to stomp in the cold weather in January 2011 seeking and counting homeless individuals and families in the Greater Attleboro Taunton area?

Weather extremes, H1N1 pandemic flu, Emergency Dispensing Site Drills, etc. are behind us (and could return). New opportunities, such as the upcoming "Project Homeless Connect" and our fourth year of involvement with the Elder Dental Clinic, are on the horizon. Lessons are learned from each deployment which helps strengthen and improve what we offer our communities and each other. As always, we thank our dedicated volunteers - our accomplishments would not be physically or mentally possible without you.

*Submitted by Jacquie O'Brien, RN*

## MA Responds

*(Continued from page 1)*

**or activated directly by MA Responds or the MA Department of Public Health without the permission of the local coordinator.**

Every volunteer is going to be asked to go to the MA Responds website and register. This will allow you to enter the most up to date contact information and let us know that you are still interested in continuing to be an MRC volunteer. Every volunteer will be asked to complete a new CORI application. We apologize for those of you that completed the CORI application in 2010; however, MA Responds requires this for all volunteers when initially registering. If you do not have a computer, your local coordinator will register you on-line and we will continue to use mail and e-mail to contact our volunteers.

### **Why is MA Responds necessary?**

Recent experience with large scale disasters has consistently shown that an effective response requires that volunteers be pre-credentialed and deployed through a coordinated effort. Well-meaning but unaffiliated volunteers who spontaneously present to disaster sites are often unable to be assigned. With limited time and resources to process volunteers, often only those with known credentials

are permitted access to the disaster response. By registering with MA Responds, you can be part of an alert system and respond, when activated, to a significant disaster or public health emergency. Participating volunteer organizations in Massachusetts have recognized that a statewide system will improve data management and alerting programs. MA Responds will serve as an asset to local volunteer groups and will improve volunteer coordination during a public health emergency.

This allows standardizing of information and will make it easier for your unit leaders to manage credentialing, deployment and training. We will be sending a letter out to all volunteers when we are up and running! Thank you for your help as we transition to this new system. Please let us know if you run into any problems, have any concerns or recommendations.

Please visit [www.maresponds.org](http://www.maresponds.org) for additional information.

*Respectfully submitted by  
AnneMarie Fleming, RN  
Director, Bristol-Norfolk Medical Reserve Corps*

*Some of the information obtained for this article is from the MA Responds website, FAQ's.*

# UPCOMING TRAINING DESCRIPTIONS

Please see page 5 for training dates, times and locations

## Personal Preparedness

This training is required for Medical Reserve Corps volunteers. This training teaches participants about the importance of caring for oneself in order to be able to care for others. It provides a guideline for developing a personal preparedness plan for both the volunteers and their families and addresses the sort of supplies and information one should have at home, in the car and in a “go-pack” to take on deployments. Please join us on Wednesday, March 9, 2011 between 6:30—8:30 pm at the South Attleboro Fire Station, 1476 West Street, Attleboro, MA. RSVP to [bnmrc@hotmail.com](mailto:bnmrc@hotmail.com) or call Jacquie O'Brien, R.N. at 508-223-2222. ext 3244

## Psychological First Aid—101



This course will teach the core components and techniques for use with disaster victims and responders. PFA is a supportive and compassionate response designed to reduce acute psychological distress and to provide immediate support to people affected by disasters. 2.5 CEU's for nursing, social work and ATA. Please join us on Wednesday, March 23, between 6:00—8:30 pm at the Plainville Council on Aging, 9 School Street, Plainville, MA 02762. RSVP to [bnmrc@hotmail.com](mailto:bnmrc@hotmail.com) or call Deborah J. Revelle at 508-695-3142, ext 16.

## ICS & NIMS (Incident Command & National Incident Management— mandatory)

These courses are mandatory for Medical Reserve Corps volunteers and provides critical information in the successful management of personnel in an emergency.



NIMS – the consistent nationwide system that enables all government, non-government and private sector entities to work together during a domestic incident regardless of size and complexity. Wednesday, April 13, 2011, 6 pm—9 pm. \*



ICS –Learn the chain of command and the system of managing multi-agency personnel in responding to an emergency. Wednesday, April 20, 2011, 6 pm—9 pm.\*

\*Class size is limited and you **MUST PRE-REGISTER**.

Classes will be held at the North Attleboro Police Facility, 102 Washington St, North Attleboro, MA. Please RSVP By phone: Jacquie O'Brien, R.N. at 508-223-2222 x3244 or by email: [bnmrc@hotmail.com](mailto:bnmrc@hotmail.com)

ICS & NIMS classes can also be taken on line at:

ICS100b - <http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/IS100b.asp>

NIMS700a - <http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/IS700a.asp>

## Pet First Aid/Small Animal Handling

This combination course will discuss the basics of safe small animal handling, basic behavior, how to better “read” animals, the basics regarding pet emergencies and how to recognize if something is wrong. This class will primarily focus on the dog and cat species. Basic first aid for domestic pets will be discussed including CPR and bandaging. Dogs will be on hand for visual demonstration and class members will be able to practice techniques at the end of the class. A must for anyone desiring to work with pets during times of disaster. Participants will leave with a better understanding of animal handling and behavior and how to better protect themselves. Two Class times available. Please join us on Wednesday, April 27, 2011 between 3:00 - 5:00 pm or 6:00 - 8:00 pm at Gordon N. Larson Senior Center, 25 South Main Street, Attleboro, MA 02703. RSVP to [bnmrc@hotmail.com](mailto:bnmrc@hotmail.com) or call Barbara Legatowicz at 508-820-2032



## Volunteer Recognition Celebration

The Bristol-Norfolk Medical Reserve Corps Coordinators will host an appreciation banquet at the Mansfield Holiday Inn, 31 Hampshire Street, Mansfield, MA 02048 on May 11, 2011, between 6:30 pm—8:30 pm. This evening is an opportunity for the coordinators to express their gratitude for all the hard work provided by the MRC volunteers. Buffet dinner, cash bar, awards and good company. Please plan to join us on May 11, 2011. RSVP to [bnmrc@hotmail.com](mailto:bnmrc@hotmail.com) or call your local chapter coordinator listed on the back page.



## Upcoming Trainings

See page 4 for detailed description of trainings.

You may attend any trainings that are being offered regardless of jurisdiction, please visit the Bristol County website training directory for additional trainings in the area at [www.bristolcountymrc.org](http://www.bristolcountymrc.org)

Please RSVP to the contact persons listed so that we may plan for refreshments.  
Walk-ins are always welcome unless otherwise stated.

- March 9, 2011**  
South Attleboro Fire Station  
RSVP Jacquie O'Brien

**Personal Preparedness**  
1476 West St/Rte 123, Attleboro, MA  
508-223-2222, ext 3244 or

**6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.**  
bnmrc@hotmail.com
- March 23, 2011**  
Plainville Council on Aging  
RSVP Deborah Revelle

**Psychological First Aid 101**  
9 School Street, Plainville, MA  
508-695-3142, ext 16 or

**6:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.**  
bnmrc@hotmail.com
- April 13, 2011**  
North Attleboro Police Facility  
RSVP AnneMarie Fleming  
Limited Seating

**NIMS 700a**  
102 Washington St, North Attleboro, MA  
508-699-0104 or

**6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.**  
bnmrc@hotmail.com  
**MUST PRE-REGISTER**
- April 20, 2011**  
North Attleboro Police Facility  
RSVP AnneMarie Fleming  
Limited Seating

**ICS 100b**  
102 Washington St, North Attleboro, MA  
508-699-0104 or

**6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.**  
bnmrc@hotmail.com  
**MUST PRE-REGISTER**
- April 27, 2011**  
Gordon Larson Senior Center  
RSVP Barbara Legatowicz

**Pet First Aid/Small Animal Handling1**  
25 South Main Street, Attleboro, MA  
508-820-2032 or

**3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.**  
bnmrc@hotmail.com
- April 27, 2011**  
Gordon Larson Senior Center  
RSVP Barbara Legatowicz

**Pet First Aid/Small Animal Handling1**  
25 South Main Street, Attleboro, MA  
508-820-2032 or

**6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.**  
bnmrc@hotmail.com

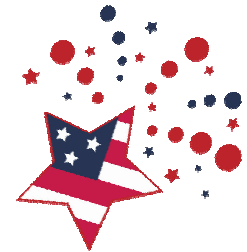
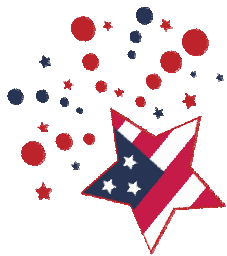
### Volunteer Recognition Celebration May 11, 2011

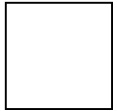
Holiday Inn Mansfield  
31 Hampshire Street  
Mansfield, MA 02048  
6:30 pm—8:30 pm.

Buffet Dinner, Cash Bar, Awards

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION  
PLEASE VISIT THE FOLLOWING WEBSITES**

[www.bristol-norfolkmrc.org](http://www.bristol-norfolkmrc.org)  
[www.bristolcountymrc.org](http://www.bristolcountymrc.org)  
[www.mamedicalreservectorps.org](http://www.mamedicalreservectorps.org)  
[www.medicalreservectorps.org](http://www.medicalreservectorps.org)





## Local Chapter Contact Information

[www.bristol-norfolkmrc.org](http://www.bristol-norfolkmrc.org)

*Attleboro Chapter - Jacquie O'Brien*  
77 Park Street  
Attleboro, MA 02703  
healthnurse@cityofattleboro.us  
508-223-2222, ext 3244

*Foxboro Chapter - Lauren Bitar*  
40 South Street  
Foxboro, MA 02035  
lbitar@fcav.org  
508-543-1207

*Mansfield Chapter - AnneMarie Fleming*  
43 S. Washington St  
North Attleboro, MA 02760  
amfleming@north-attleboro.ma.us  
508-699-0104

*Norton Chapter - Donna Palmer*  
70 East Main Street  
Norton, MA 02766  
bohnurse@nortonmaus.com  
508-285-0258

*North Attleboro Chapter - AnneMarie Fleming*  
43 S. Washington St  
North Attleboro, MA 02760  
amfleming@north-attleboro.ma.us  
508-699-0104

*Plainville Chapter - Deborah Revelle*  
142 South Street  
Plainville, MA 02762  
drevelle@plainville.ma.us  
508-695-3142, ext 16

*Rehoboth Chapter - Lynn Allienello*  
148 Peck Street  
Rehoboth, MA 02769  
rehobothtownnurse@gmail.com  
508-252-5947

*Seekonk Chapter - Beth M. Hallal*  
100 Peck Street  
Seekonk, MA 02771  
508-336-2950