April 2013

In 2003 the City of Hartford in collaboration with the Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG) requested funds from the Department of Health & Human Services to establish a Medical Reserve Corps. The purpose of the initiative was to develop a cadre of local volunteer medical and public health professionals to enhance the regional emergency and public health response capabilities.

In addition, the Capitol Region Metropolitan Response System (CR-MMRS) approved a substantial expenditure to expand operational capability and capacity of the CR-MRC by purchasing equipment and supplies necessary to deploy the medical support that would enhance the activities of the Capitol Region’s Emergency Support Function -8 (ESF-8), Health and Medical Services.

The CR-MRC continues to function under the guidance of the Capitol Region Emergency Planning Committee (CREPC). The CR-MRC today consists of physicians, nurses, dentists, veterinarians, public health professionals and a strong logistics unit. The CREPC/CR-MRC goal was, and continues to be, an on-going expansion of the current volunteer membership, which demonstrates core competencies and can respond to community and public health needs.

In order to support the Capitol Region project there have been two Project Officer/Commanders, Dr. Jim Freston and Katherine McCormack and a Medical Director, Dr. Ronald Buckman.

Dr. Buckman and I are privileged to serve our communities, our region, and our volunteers. We recognize the challenges of “growing” and “sustaining” a volunteer work force of highly trained professionals; however, we are confident that with ESF-8 and CREPC leadership we can build a strong deployable volunteer capability.

I hope you will consider the possibilities and join the Capitol Region Medical Reserve Corps by completing and returning the application and I refer you to www.getreadycapitolregion.org for additional preparedness and volunteer information.

If you have questions, feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Katherine McCormack, RN MPH
Director, CR-MRC