



April 12, 2007

Three years ago, 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 our regional emergency and public health response capabilities.

In addition, the Capitol Region Metropolitan Medical 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 (ESF) – 8, Health and Medical Services.

The CR-MRC continues to function under the guidance of the Capitol Region Emergency Planning Committee (CREPC). The Corps 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 emergency and public health needs.

In order to support the Capitol Region project, Dr. Jim Freston served as the CR-MRC Project Officer/Commander until his retirement from the University of Connecticut in the fall 2006. Effective February 2007, I became the Director of the CR-MRC and Dr. Ron Buckman became the Medical Director.

Dr. Buckman and I are very excited for the opportunity to serve our communities, our region and our volunteers. We recognize the challenges of “growing” a volunteer work force of highly trained professionals; however, we are confident that we can build a sustainable operation in the CREPC organization.

I am confident that my experience, knowledge and commitment will provide a seamless transition from Dr. Freston as the Corps Commander with minimal disruption to the organization.

I hope you will join the Capitol Region and the Medical Reserve Corps by completing the application form and returning it to me. If you have questions, feel free to call.

Sincerely,

Katherine McCormack, RN MPH
Director, Medical Reserve Corps