

## **WASHINGTON**

### **Highlights of State Council Activities**

The Washington State Citizen Corps Council, which is managed by the Washington Commission for National and Community Service (WCNCS), continued to be a leader in Citizen Corps activities during 2005. The Council held a statewide conference, recognizing Citizen Corps program achievements, sharing best practices, and updating stakeholders on program status. The State Council successfully established 10 Fire Corps programs across the state, worked to build the capacity of Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) programs, and increased collaboration between Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS) and Neighborhood Watch programs in Washington. The Council also partnered with the Washington State Department of Printing to create an order fulfillment process for the printing of manuals for Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training.

The state drafted policy that allowed for the use of Citizen Corps funds to sponsor AmeriCorps VISTA members, and helped to facilitate the passage of legislation creating a retired volunteer medical worker license. The legislation will strengthen MRC units across the state.

### **Highlights of State Activities**

#### **Public Education and Outreach**

During the last week of April 2005, Washington State hosted the national pilot for an ability-oriented CERT training. Over 40 participants from Washington State, Colorado, the District of Columbia, New Mexico, Oregon, and Alaska came to spend four days of hands-on coursework with a specific focus on how to address preparedness and response for special needs populations. Several participants were from the deaf and hard of hearing community, others had mobility issues and three were visually impaired or blind.

#### **Training and Exercises**

In Walla Walla County, Pioneer Middle School and other schools throughout the county have adopted School Emergency Response Team (SERT) training as part of their academic courses, allowing students to earn credit while learning lifesaving skills.

#### **Volunteer Programs and Support**

The Washington State Citizen Corps Council offers administrative and technical support to 236 Citizen Corps programs, and the state's 52 registered Citizen Corps Councils serve over 5.8 million people.

#### **Support for Hurricane Katrina Response**

The Washington State Citizen Corps Council facilitated the deployment of over 100 Washington Conservation Corps and AmeriCorps VISTA members to hurricane-affected areas along the Gulf Coast in 2005. The state's MRC units also sent volunteers to affected areas. The MRC of Seattle/King County Public Health was responsible for non-emergency medical intake, evaluation, and health assessment, provided that evacuees arrived in their jurisdiction. The unit recruited volunteers to staff medical screening and evaluation teams. The Washington Region 3 MRC deployed three volunteers to support the national American Red Cross response mission and three volunteers to New Orleans as part of the Seattle disaster medical team. Thurston County held two emergency orientation sessions to accommodate the large number of prospective volunteers and tripled its volunteer force through this effort. The Operation Evergreen Welcome Center in Washington State had a medical triage unit that was staffed by eight MRC volunteers. Not only did the Clark County MRC deploy five volunteers to various states as part of the relief effort, it also recruited 15 new volunteers. Finally, the Snohomish County Department of Emergency Management MRC deployed three volunteers to support the national American Red Cross response mission and five to support the Department of Human Services (HHS) response mission.

### **National Preparedness Month**

Washington's Citizen Corps Council gave presentations throughout the state to increase the awareness of Citizen Corps Program activities and personal preparedness responsibility.