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GOVERNOR

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"When things were the bleakest here and we were looking for some sort of relief from the federal level or state level or whatever, you were a lighthouse on a dark shore."

– Jefferson Parish (Louisiana) President Aaron Broussard to Governor Ehrlich
and the citizens of Maryland, September 12, 2005

"Thanks to Maryland for being one of the first states to respond."

– Bishop Darneal Johnson III, Beacon Light Baptist Church, New Orleans, September 15, 2005

Medical Volunteer Accomplishments after Hurricane Katrina

- In the wake of Hurricane Katrina, the Ehrlich Administration deployed 165 medical volunteers over a two-week period to assist rescue and recovery efforts in areas devastated by the storm.
- The health care volunteers included 44 physicians, 84 nurses, 14 pharmacists, 15 mental health professionals and others. Mental Health volunteers were deployed through a partnership between the American Red Cross and the Department of Health & Mental Hygiene (DHMH).
- More than 6,200 Louisiana patients received treatment from Maryland volunteers between September 5 and September 21.
- All Maryland volunteers had returned safely to Maryland by September 21.
- The Ehrlich Administration flew volunteers to the affected areas on C-130 planes piloted by the Maryland Air National Guard. All flights departed from Martins Airport in Essex, MD.

- DHMH partnered with the Maryland Defense Force (MDF). Deployed volunteers were sworn in as MDF members and provided enhanced liability coverage and workers' compensation.
- The Health Department worked with local health departments in Baltimore County, Baltimore City, Anne Arundel County and Montgomery County to provide essential immunizations to medical volunteers. Volunteers were offered Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B and tetanus vaccinations.
- The MDF and Maryland National Guard handled transportation and safety logistics for the medical volunteers.
- Returning volunteers were provided Welcome Back packages that included follow-up resources.
- DHMH deployed its Maryland Professional Volunteer Corp (MPVC) through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact, a national emergency response network, to help those devastated by Hurricane Katrina. MPVC is a group of health care professionals that was created by DHMH after 9/11 to ensure that Maryland could identify medical volunteers rapidly when there is a large-scale emergency.
- To date, 6,480 professionals have been recruited to join the Maryland Professional Volunteer Corps (MPVC). Of the 6,480 enrolled volunteers, 3,390 have been trained for emergency response and 880 joined the MPVC since Hurricane Katrina hit.

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