



July 17, 2013

Dear MRC Leaders, Volunteers and Partners,

It has been an honor to get to know the Medical Reserve Corps network over the past few years. As a career U.S. Public Health Service commissioned officer, it is inspiring to see volunteers helping to protect, promote, and advance the health, safety, and resilience of their communities. As I transition from Deputy Surgeon General to Acting Surgeon General, one of my most important roles will be to serve as both your spokesperson and enthusiastic supporter. Promoting the good works of the MRC is something I have always done, but elevating your mission will be a torch I hold high and carry with pride as I take on this new role.

Having spoken with many of you at conferences and having learned from CAPT Tosatto and the MRC staff about the tremendous contributions you make in your communities, I wish to honor your role as ambassadors of the Office of the Surgeon General. You have made a visible difference in defense of the public's health, whether through disease detection and prevention, family preparedness education, disaster response, or physical fitness support. You truly are a beacon of hope for America. You have joined us as key partners in emphasizing the critical vision of the National Prevention Strategy: "Working together to improve the health and quality of life for individuals, families, and communities by moving the nation from a focus on sickness and disease to one based on prevention and wellness." The promotion of wellness, prevention and health equity is making a lasting impact on the nation.

Additionally, you have helped to expand awareness of national level initiatives, such as *Million Hearts* and *Let's Move!* Your engagement builds momentum and impresses upon communities and individuals the importance of good nutrition and physical activity. Because of your efforts, Americans are thinking about their hearts and moving their bodies. Just think of the impact you have as you improve the health of your families, colleagues, and neighbors.

Thank you again for your bold and noble commitment to health, and for your dedication to your country. We are primed to make tremendous changes to further improve the public's health and at the same time, to shed light on how to best care for each other. I look forward to making these advancements together.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "RADM Boris D. Lushniak".

RADM Boris D. Lushniak, M.D., M.P.H.
U.S. Surgeon General (Acting)