

**Governor's Office of Homeland Security
and Emergency Preparedness**
State of Louisiana

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GOHSEP Coordinates EMAC Deployment for Virgin Islands COVID Related Mission

BATON ROUGE (March 11, 2021) – The Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP) is coordinating the deployment of four Louisiana Telecommunications Emergency Response Team (LA-TERT) team members to the U.S. Virgin Islands. These members of LA-TERT will be departing New Orleans early Thursday morning to assist the Virgin Islands Territorial Emergency Management Agency (VITEMA) with emergency communications services due to impacts of COVID-19.

The Virgin Islands entered a support request through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC). A 911 center in Christiansted has been heavily impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The request calls for 24-hour staffing support and others services for a 14 day deployment. The mission could be extended to one month.

VITEMA officials state that staff at the Christiansted, VI, 911 center have been heavily impacted by COVID-19 and have requested 24-hour operations staffing and services for a deployment of 14 days, with a possible extension to 30 days.

"Louisiana and GOHSEP stand ready to help our emergency management partners in other states or territories when there is a need for support," said GOHSEP Director Jim Waskom. "The COVID-19 pandemic has taken its toll on everyone. We are glad to be part of this support mission for a critical emergency/911 center and hope the workers have a safe and successful EMAC deployment."

EMAC offers assistance during governor-declared states of emergency through a responsive, straightforward system that allows states to send personnel, equipment, and commodities to help disaster relief efforts in other states. Through EMAC, states are able to join forces and help

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one another, as needed, during each phase of the emergency. The state-to-state system was developed after Hurricane Andrew in 1992 and established in 1996.

For more information on the Emergency Management Assistance Compact visit www.emacweb.org.

Find more tips on weather and preparedness on GOHSEP's Facebook and Twitter accounts. Listen to conversations on all aspects of emergency management by downloading GOHSEP's The Get A Game Plan Podcast. You can receive emergency alerts on most smartphones and tablets by downloading the new Alert FM App. It is free for basic service. The Get A Game Plan App is another resource available to help you and your family prepare for any type of emergency. You can download the Louisiana Emergency Preparedness Guide and find other information at www.getagameplan.org.

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