Our Mission

To be the preeminent emergency management agency in the Caribbean and the Nation by

providing an effective, responsible, and professional network of services to ensure resilience.

Being of the U.S. Virgin Islands,

before, during, and after a natural or man-made incident that may impact the safety and well-

being of the U.S. Virgin Islands.

The principal mission of VITEMA as a first response coordinator is to save lives and property of

people residing within the Virgin Islands.

Local, state, and federal all-hazards response and recovery operations.

and is the sole Among Islands government agency designated to supervise, administer and

mitigate against all-hazards, through planning, coordinating, training and exercising activities

for the territory’s population, by preparing territorial organizations to respond to recover from and

The Virgin Islands Response and Recovery Operations Command and Our Mission

Responsive to the needs of the people, and our resources.

Our Vision

Responsive to the needs of the people, and our resources.
2015 Atlantic Hurricane Season
Pgs. 27-28
2015 All-Hazards Preparedness Expo
Pgs. 15 - 26
Full-scale Maritime Exercise
Operation Pillbury Sound
Pgs. 7 - 10

2015 HIGHLIGHTS

LEADERSHIP TEAM
VITEMA

Table of Contents
FEMA faced each obstacle with a fierce determination to press forward. Despite fiscal and human resource challenges, the agency made notable strides. Team year’s accomplishments throughout the agency’s FY 2015 Annual Report highlight FEMA’s accomplishments throughout the year. Despite fiscal and human resource challenges, the agency made notable strides. Team

Finally, our continued collaboration with FEMA Region II-Caribbean Area Division yielded significant results in pre-disaster mitigation for the territory. In December, FEMA approved more than $312,000 to purchase a much-needed generator for the Juan P. Luis Hospital (JPLH). The generator is critical to the medical facility’s continuous operations in the event of a power outage. JPLH is the only acute care facility serving the island’s 55,000 residents.

Throughout 2015, FEMA also dedicated significant resources to raising awareness about the agency’s work. For instance, on the water: For FEMA, these milestones mark our advancement into a new era of response. In 2015, a full-scale exercise that tested the agency’s capabilities in responding to a major incident on the water. More recently, the Foal Family Workshop that brought together key stakeholders to discuss operational coordination during a cruise ship incident. We hope the lessons learned will help the first.

This year, FEMA made great strides in achieving these objectives. The agency held the first...
Review in Year 2015
Tourism and Health
department of Police, Human Services,
Islands' St. Thomas Rescue, and the
Auditory, the University of the Virgin
Islands' St. Thomas Rescue, VI Port
Customs and Border Protection, FEMA
Customs and Border Protection, FEMA
Regional Conference. US Coast Guard,
Division of Caribbean Area. FEMA-Caribbean Area
Representatives of VITTOA, VICO.

At the workshop were
evacuation, response discussions in mass casualty and
collaboration on responding to a ship
catastrophy management for a strategic level
agencies, local first responders and
the maritime industry. Federal, key federal and
VITTOA held the first-ever Maritime

EXERCISES
PLANNING AND TRAINING

The exercises about the hazards that may impact the US Virgin Islands, including tsunamis which
Preparedness
wounded, injured, and civilians and several fatalities.

In the aftermath of St. John, the explosion resulted in a disabled vessel, dozens of injuries, and a massive environmental oil spill. Under these conditions, VITHEMA utilized a variety of resources to handle the incident, including a rescue vessel, a tugs, and a response team.

The exercise, held in Operation Philly Sound, was held on December 10–11, on the body of water located between St. Thomas and St. John. Known as Philly Sound, VITHEMA utilized an offshore drilling platform and a response team to handle the incident.

The exercise objective was to test the capabilities of the Territorial Marine Unit to respond to a major incident at sea.

In an effort to assess the Territorial Marine Unit's capabilities in responding to a major incident at sea, Operation Philly Sound Full-Scale specifically addressed maritime incidents.

VITHEMA's ultimate goal is to develop an annex to the Territorial Marine Unit's Operations Plan for a Territorial Marine Unit's response to a maritime incident. The exercise also provided an opportunity for the Territorial Marine Unit to identify areas for improvement in their response plans.

During the exercise, the Territorial Marine Unit,ovy responsible for maritime security, worked with local authorities and other local maritime stakeholders to identify areas where improvement is needed.

The workshop served as a conduit for open dialogue between VITHEMA, the cruise line industry and other local stakeholders, to identify areas where improvement is needed.

The workshop addressed issues such as response plans and the coordination of resources.
Guidelines and strategies to enhance preparedness and response to maritime incidents:

- Lessons learned from the exercise will be useful in developing decision-making and training programs for national, regional, and international maritime emergency management agencies.
- The exercise will help identify gaps in current response capabilities and inform planning processes for future exercises.
- Participants will be able to assess their readiness and plan for future exercises.

**Figure 6.1: Exercise 2022 - Exercise 2022**

Participants included representatives from various agencies, such as the Department of Health, the Bureau of Transportation Statistics, the Department of Homeland Security, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The exercise was conducted on an unoccupied maritime vessel located off the coast of St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands.

**Figure 5.1: Map of the Area**

- The exercise took place on the unoccupied maritime vessel located off the coast of St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands.
- Key training areas included communication, command, and control, as well as response strategies for maritime incidents.

**Figure 4.1: Key Training Areas**

- The exercise was designed to improve communication and coordination among participating agencies.
- The scenario involved a maritime incident that required a coordinated response involving multiple agencies.

**Figure 3.1: Key Participants**

- Participants included representatives from various agencies, such as the Department of Health, the Bureau of Transportation Statistics, the Department of Homeland Security, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).
Office of the Governor
Photos courtesy of Clara Freeman.

Full-Scale Maritime Exercise
Operation Pillobury Sound
Figure 7: Artisan A. Richards Junior High School conducts evacuation drills.

Figure 8: Pearl's Elementary School students head to higher ground.

Support from VITENA, conducted evacuation drills at 10 on St. Croix, 10 on St. Thomas and two (2) on St. John by public schools, adds to the Department of Education, the Department of Health, the Virgin Islands National Guard, the Red Cross, and the Virgin Islands Department of Transportation.

First Bank, Crown Bay Marina, and Tropical Shipping. The Virgin Islands Supreme Court of the Virgin Islands, the Superior Court of the Virgin Islands, the Federal Court, the Virgin Islands Department of Finance, the Department of Tourism, the Virgin Islands Department of Education, the Virgin Islands Department of Health, and the Virgin Islands Department of Transportation.

USVI joined VITENA in the Caribbean region.

The exercise simulated an 8.0 magnitude earthquake off the coast of Panama that generated a tsunami requiring a tsunami warning for the entire Caribbean region.

The exercise included LANTEX 15.

LANTEX 2015 – Tsunami Warning and Evacuation Exercise.
In May 2015, VITENA provided a Senior Executive Seminar for Cabinet Officials and hospital employees held in January 2015.

Respond to infectious disease incidents ensure the USA’s medical personal and healthcare workers received training to effectively respond to biological incidents. In early 2015, amid the Ebola crisis, VITENA was a course in Personal Protective Responders and training opportunities offered by VITENA were dynamic and relevant incident management training to first responders in 2015 VITENA provided dynamic and relevant incident management training to first responders in 2015.

Cores of Engineers Hurricane Prep Exercise held in Alhama, Ga.

VITENA, in 2015, also participated in FEMA’s Regional Hurricane Exercise and the US Army
Coast Guard, the Virgin Islands, and the US
the American Red Cross of
the Union, and representatives of
General of the VI National
Regional Director of the Atlantic
Area Division Director,
La Campa, FEMA Caribbean
Administration, Alejandro de
Recovery 2 Regional
officials. Also in attendance were:
Governor, Office of
in attendance were LT Gov. Olsen, Police, then acting Governor, Cabinet and other senior
Incident commanders.
the response and recovery operations and to pinpoint where critical gaps exist before a major
authorities, capabilities and concept of operations. It allowed officials to examine the VI's
Discussions explored
information catastrophic events and
and recovery planning
prevent, respond to
Government's capability to
strengthen the territorial
specifically to help
The concept was designed
security risks and challenges. The seminar explored how
multimedia scenario-based
Education Team developed a
(CIDS) and the CIDS Mobile
Defense and Security
The 2015 Expo theme was "Building Resiliency" — a call to action to be ready before a disaster.

In October, VITEMA held the 2015 Annual All Hazards Preparedness Expo featuring first responder demonstrations, family fun and entertainment, and information and hands-on training.

In November 2013, VITEMA welcomed 60 (sixty) students from the Ricardo Richards Elementary School to its St. Croix Facility to learn about how the agency prepares for and responds to major emergencies. Students learned the VITEMA's Christopher Facility including coordination as well as key offices, the Communications Room and the Director's Office.

Within Islands Learning Information from Public and Private Sector Entities and Non-Government Organizations. VITEMA held the annual All Hazards Preparedness Expo on St. John, St. Croix and St. Thomas for the entire month of October. The agency held the expo in part of their mission to be ready for natural and manmade hazards that may impact the U.S. Virgin Islands. A part of that mission is community outreach to encourage families and business.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
VITEMA's 5th Annual All Hazards Preparedness Expo

OCTOBER 2015

St. John
October 23
10 am - 3 pm
Frank Powell Park
Cruz Bay
with DL 51
with Digital Band & DJ Edhey

St. Croix
October 24
10 am - 3 pm
Csted National Park
Historical Site

St. Thomas
October 24
5 pm - 10 pm
VITEMA Headquarters
with All Access Band

BIOHAZARD
EARTHQUAKE
DRUGHT
LANSDSLE
FLOOD
TSUNAMI
HURRICANNE
On August 23, Tropical Storm Danny intensifies into a Category 3 Hurricane on the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale, packing maximum winds of 115 miles per hour with higher gusts.

Figure 5, Tropical Storm Grace, embedded in EOC

The team embedded in EOC (HMT) at the USVI to support emergency response and its deployment on August 23. In addition, FEMA Region VI denied all EOCs to the 13th USVI Tropical Storm Mission on August 21, prompting the first tropical cyclone to begin.

On August 17, Tropical Storm Danny formed on August 17, prompting Operation Centers (EIC) to begin. VITREA'S emergency response operations to support Hurricane Danny.

Figure 4, Tropical Storm Etienne

VITREA responded to Hurricane Etienne on September 2015, responding to a number of storms, including the US Virgin Islands. The territory faced an active 2015 Atlantic Hurricane season response.

EMERGENCY OPERATIONS
Tropical Storm Force

Tropical Storm Erin caused an island-wide power outage and downed poles, electrical lines and trees, downed in some areas. Thomas, small sections of feeder lost power. Shelters and sandbag distribution. A FEMA WAT was already on the ground and continued including close to USVI's sea and air ports, the opening of general public and special reefs needs.

FEMA activated its EOC's responsibility to coordinate response and recovery operations with maximum amounts of 8 inches. Erin was expected to produce local rain accumulations of 3 to 5 inches.

The Texas Extension Program's Extension Service in Structural Collapse Operations includes training for first responders and emergency managers. This training includes specialized courses such as evacuation and rescue for vehicles, structural collapse operations, and procedures for managing casualties and developing a awareness for the potential risks associated with structural collapse disasters.

VITREA serves as the focal point for natural or manmade disasters to prepare, respond, and recover. The VITREA Division is responsible for administering and monitoring federal funding, such as the Terrorism Grant Program, to address homeland security gaps. VITREA is a combination of NOAA and US Department of Homeland Security grants.

Federal funds are essential to VITREA, meeting the mission of readying the territory for all types of hazards and building resilience. Through the Grants Management Division of VITREA, funding is provided to states, territories, and communities to enhance preparedness and response capabilities.

Examples of funded projects include:
- Enhanced emergency management programs
- Development of emergency planning and response plans
- Training and exercises for emergency responders
- Infrastructure improvements to enhance public safety
- Public awareness and education campaigns
- Development of emergency shelters and evacuation plans

In summary, VITREA's mission is to ensure that the territory is ready for any type of disaster, whether natural or manmade, through collaborative efforts and strategic funding.
Installation of the new generator. This will be the final step in the construction of 100 KW of VTTMAs. and will provide the ability to address the shortfalls in the current VTTMA system. The new generator will be located at the existing site and will be connected to the existing building. The new generator will allow for the possibility of building another VTTMA system in the future.

The VTTMA model quickly addresses this shortfall so that it does not occur. In April, VTTMA will begin building a new 1,500 kW generator to replace the existing generator at the St. Croix Hospital. This new generator will be located on the St. Croix Hospital campus and will be ready to go online in early 2024. The new generator will be connected to the existing VTTMA system and will be able to provide power to the hospital in the event of an emergency.

In December, MTWA and VTTMA announced the approval of $312,500 in pre-disaster hazard mitigation funding for critical needs.

Pre-Disaster Hazard Mitigation Funding for Critical Needs

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Enhance jurisdictions' understanding of the impact of tsunami hazards in California, to develop reports on how NTHMP meetings held July 2015 in San Diego, Nuclear mitigation Program (NTHMP) Subcommittee.

The National Tsunami Hazard Education, training institutions in emergency preparedness needs and planning, natural and cultural.

and intensity of tsunamis, discussions centered on disaster preparedness, energy, and climate change. included longer periods of drought and an increase in the number of global climate change events, adaptation and resilience planning. Climate change refers to changes that officials from the U.S. Department of Energy and Energy Associates Inc. met to discuss. Discussions included the.

The Department of Interior's.

hazardous materials incident, response to oil spills and cleaning.

The Carpinteria Regional Environmental Protection Program (CRERP) is co-chaired by the

Regional Cheif for the USGS.

Among these key areas were:

Barnes ensured there was a USVI presence at key stakeholder meetings and conferences that impact

Throughout 2015, the VITENA Director Mona L. Barnes focused on strengthening the agency's

Federal Partnerships

Strengthening Local, Regional & International Partnerships
FEMA's mission is to provide resources to ensure the timely delivery of critical commodities to states and the territories. According to FEMA officials, the agency is responding to requests for medical supplies, personal protective equipment, and other resources to support ongoing disaster relief efforts.

The distribution center in Puerto Rico is one of eight FEMA centers. The 80,000 square foot center is designed to swiftly deploy and deliver disaster relief supplies.

On June 16, 2015, Governor民t
center

- FEMA Caribbean Distribution Center
- Center Caribbean at Puerto Rico
- FEMA is holding a distribution center in Puerto Rico
- The Caribbean region
- The Caribbean Conference on Comprehensive Disaster Management
- The conference is co-chaired by the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) and the Caribbean Disaster Management Agency (CADM)
Geometrically, electrically, and mechanically, the equipment is both unique and versatile. WAPA's general manager, Mr. Brown, visited the site to inspect the progress of the new facility. The facility is designed to handle up to 12,000 cubic meters of LPG per day, and it is expected to be operational by the end of the year.

LPG Site Manager

In addition to the equipment, Mr. Brown also toured the site to review the safety and security measures. WAPA's general manager emphasized the importance of safety and security in the operation of the facility. He also discussed the process of converting the facility from a fuel storage and delivery system to a fuel distribution and delivery system. The facility is expected to be fully operational by the end of the year.
Laneville Forward - 2016