



THE VIRGIN ISLANDS NATIONAL GUARD

Guardians of the Eastern Front



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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210th RTI converts to alternate care facility for COVID-19 patients

ST. CROIX, U.S. Virgin Islands – The Virgin Islands National Guard is working with the Government of the Virgin Islands and Federal partners to convert the 210th Regional Training Institute at the Estate Bethlehem Compound to an Alternate Care Facility (ACF) to house COVID-19 patients.

Gov. Albert Bryan Jr., Brig. Gen. (VI) Kodjo Knox-Limbacker, the Adjutant General of the Virgin Islands National Guard, and Col. Daniel Hibner, US Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District Commander, held a press conference at the 210th RTI dining facility, April 21, 2020.

The press conference was to discuss efforts to convert a portion of the institute into an Alternate Care Facility to treat acute COVID-19 patients.

“We have a team of professionals from the Corps of Engineers dedicated to converting these barracks into a treatment facility as quickly as possible in order to meet needs of the peak demand,” said Hibner.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) began their assessments to the RTI facility

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in March 2020, as part of a National effort to evaluate sites to serve as ACF during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Brig. Gen. Knox-Limbacker signed the supplemental lease agreement for the 210th RTI on April 17 that calls for the build-out to be completed by May 5. Once converted, the ACF will have a 46-bed capacity, designated for COVID-19 patients only.

“The safety of our servicemen and women, DoD employees, contract workers, retirees, and families are our utmost priority and will not interfere with the Department of Health’s COVID-19 operations,” said Knox-Limbacker. “This is now the third requirement we are going to support. The conversion of the RTI facility was the most feasible choice in becoming an alternate care facility to support the Department of Health in their efforts with the COVID-19.”

As part of an approved FEMA mission assignment, Guardsmen have been on orders since April 2, supporting the Department of Health and local agencies with screening incoming passengers at the airports and conducting public safety announcements at local beaches.

Also, on St. Thomas, constructions are underway to add 50 beds to the Roy Lester Schneider Hospital with negative pressured rooms.

The ACF construction build-out is a joint responsibility of the local and federal governments, with the federal government providing 75 percent of the necessary funding.

“We are very optimistic about this project,” said Justa Encarnacion, Commissioner for the VI Department of Health. “Today’s tour allowed us to ensure the community’s health care needs will be met. This facility will serve as an extra measure to increase capacity in our COVID-19 response efforts.”

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For more information on COVID-19, please visit the USVI Department of Health's website, doh.vi.gov/coronavirus, or text COVID19USVI to 888777.

Link to story below:

<https://www.dvidshub.net/news/368133/210th-rti-converts-alternate-care-facility-covid-19-patients>

3 supporting images available on DVIDS, links below:

<https://www.dvidshub.net/image/6183549/210th-rti-converts-alternate-care-facility-covid-19-patients>

<https://www.dvidshub.net/image/6182484/210th-rti-transitions-acf-covid-19-patients>

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Supporting images submitted by USACE Savannah District, link below:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/savannahcorps/>



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