News RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Maryland to Send Team to the United States Virgin Islands

Will Provide Educational Session for Stress Management

Baltimore, Maryland, January 23, 2018 - The Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems (MIEMSS) and the Maryland Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) is sending a team to the United States Virgin Islands (USVI) to provide stress management resources and support for first responders, emergency personnel, and other government workers in the USVI who have been working long hours in the four months since the hurricanes of September 2017.

The request to MEMA from the USVI Department of Health Director, was made through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC). MEMA leads the State's coordination of resource support through the EMAC, which allows for states and territories to share resources during and after incidents. MIEMSS oversees and coordinates all components of the statewide EMS system in Maryland. MIEMSS will coordinate the 17-person team consisting of personnel from MIEMSS, Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service, and private-sector providers.

The team will be made up of one mental health leader, two administrative/logistics personnel, seven mental health providers, and seven fire/EMS/peers trained in Critical Incident Stress Management. Critical Incident Stress Management provides services to emergency services responders when they need support in dealing with stressful situations. Mental health providers and emergency services peers will be paired together and will travel throughout the islands of St. Croix, St. John, and St. Thomas providing aid to those who have been coping with demanding situations.

Four team members will depart on January 23, and the rest of the team will depart on January 24. All personnel are scheduled to return on or before February 14, following the completion of their mission.

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