



Vermont National Guard Emergency Response



Overview	<i>VTNG Response to Irene Remnants (2011)</i>	<i>OHNG Response to Train Derailment (2023)</i>	<i>VTNG Response to US Capitol (2020 & 2021)</i>	<i>VTNG Response to COVID-19 (2020-2022)</i>	<i>VTNG Support to Winter Storm (DEC 2022)</i>	<i>VTNG Response to Severe Flooding (JUL-AUG 2023)</i>
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The Vermont National Guard has a Dual Mission

Supporting Vermont

Domestic Operations (DOMOPS) Mission

On order, the Vermont National Guard (VTNG) conducts DOMOPS in support of Civil Authorities (CA) in order to save lives, prevent human suffering, mitigate property damage, and protect Critical Infrastructure (CI) upon request of state or federal authorities.

Supporting the United States

Army Mission

To deploy, fight, and win our Nation's wars by providing ready, prompt, and sustained land dominance by Army forces across the full spectrum of conflict as part of the Joint Force.

Air Force Mission

The mission of the United States Air Force is to fly, fight and win - airpower anytime, anywhere. Whether full time, part time, in or out of uniform, everyone who serves plays a critical role in helping us achieve mission success.

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**The Governor of Vermont
(Captain General & Commander in Chief)**

The Adjutant General (TAG or AG-VT) ★★

Vermont Military Department

- Construction and Facilities Management Office (CFMO)
- Military Finance Office
- Office of Veterans Affairs
- Vermont State Guard (VSG)



Joint Force Headquarters, Vt. (JFHQ-VT) ★

- Joint, Air, Army, Special, and Federal Staffs
- Joint Operations Center (JOC)



Vt. Air National Guard (VTANG) - Air Component ★

- 158th Fighter Wing (158th FW)



Vt. Army National Guard (VTARNG) - Land Component ★

- 86th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (86th IBCT)
- Garrison Support Command (GSC)
- 124th Regimental Training Institute (124th RTI)
- Recruiting and Retention Battalion (RRB)



Overview

VTNG Response to Irene Remnants (2011)

OHNG Response to Train Derailment (2023)

VTNG Response to US Capitol (2020 & 2021)

VTNG Response to COVID-19 (2020-2022)

VTNG Support to Winter Storm (DEC 2022)

VTNG Response to Severe Flooding (JUL-AUG 2023)

What does the Vermont National Guard Offer?

- Command and Control
- Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, & High-Yield Explosives (CBRNE) Response
- Aviation & Airlift
- Engineering
- Medical
- Communications
- Transportation
- Security
- Logistics
- Maintenance
- Cyber

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Tropical Storm Irene caused extensive damage to Vermont infrastructure, particularly in southern Vermont. One of the primary tasks was reconnecting communities using the 131st Engineers (a unit Vermont formerly had) and other EMAC'ed units from Ohio and Maine. The 131 EN unit completed the portion of their mission in late September / early October of 2011.



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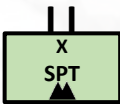
While access was limited to isolated communities, the Vermont National Guard (VTNG) delivered supplies via air and ground. Since Vermont lacks heavy aviation, we EMAC'ed an aviation Joint Task Force (JTF) from Illinois.



VTARNG
AVN



ILARNG "JTF"
1-106th AVN
2-238 GSAB



186th BSB



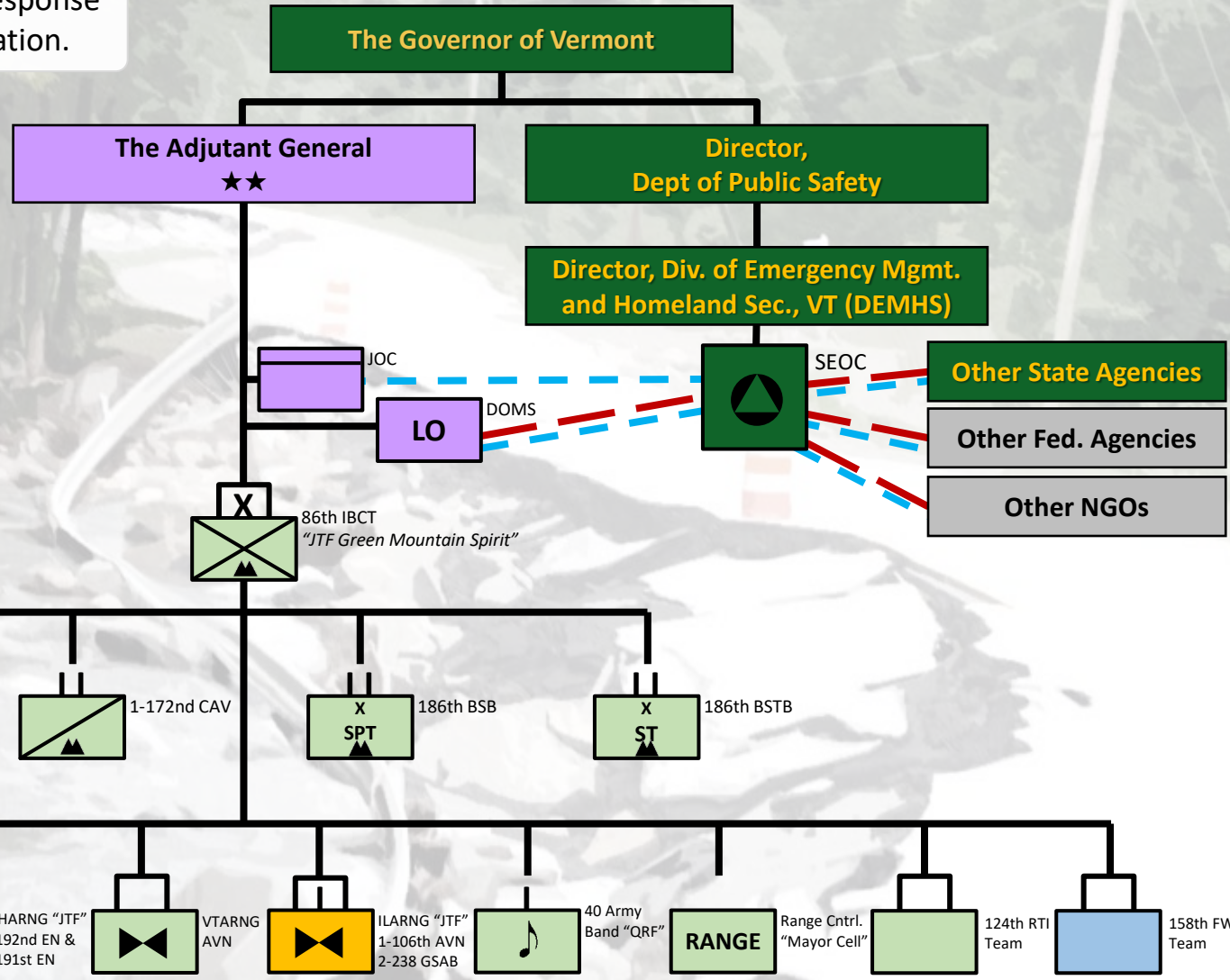
To help Vermont Emergency Management (at the time "DEMHS") assess the condition of the state, we additionally used "Key Leader Engagement Teams (KLEs)". *Note that use of KLEs in the domestic environs is doctrinally incorrect.*

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When summarized, the whole response looked like this in military notation.

— OPCON or Organic
 - - - Direct Supporting
 - - - Coordinating

State of Vermont
Joint (VTNG)
Joint (Federal)
VTARNG
Army / Federalized VTARNG
VTANG
Air Force / Federalized VTANG
EMAC
Other



Disclaimer: this diagram fails to capture all elements employed

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- **The train derailment occurred approximately 8:54 PM time on February 3, 2023.**
- Plume models were delivered hourly to Incident Commander (IC), Joint Operations Center (JOC), and United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and with any substantial change. Initial models provided from Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA) and the Civil Support Team (CST) accounted for vinyl chloride.
- **Governor activates the National Guard for deployment 8:00 PM to assist local authorities.**
- **East Palestine evacuation notice issued at 8:40 PM local on February 5, 2023.**
- CST began Alert Assemble and Deploy (AAD) operations at 8:45 PM and report to unit at approximately 9:30 PM.
- Advance party departed home station at approximately 11:50 pm February 5, 2023, to incident location, arriving at approximately 4:00 AM on February 6, 2023.
- Main body departed home station at 12:55 am February 6, 2023, with 19 personnel and 8 vehicles and occupied footprint at 5:35 AM.
- On February 6, 2023, survey operations were conducted to collect two air and one water sample outside of the evacuation area. Two Civil Support Team (CST) members donned suits. A hasty decontamination area was set-up for initial entry.
- An updated controlled release procedures was given by the rail company. The Civil Support Team (CST) Nuclear Medical Science Officer (NMSO) and modeler made recommendations on exclusion zone. The modeler contacted Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA) counterparts and re-assessed predictive analysis.



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Response continued

- **4:36 PM on February 6, 2023, the railcar controlled-detonation was executed.**
- 35th Civil Support Team (35th CST) provided seven personnel to assist in operations.
- Two non-survey personnel went downrange at 11:15 on February 7, 2023, to conduct welfare checks on community members.
- On February 7, 2023, the Civil Support team (CST) members conducted downrange operations to perform air quality monitoring and detections in the local police department, fire department, and public administration buildings.
- On February 8, 2023, the Civil Support Team (CST) initiated air monitoring surveys in coordination with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) downrange.
- 6:15 PM on February 8, 2023, the Civil Support Team (CST) performed water sample collection at in support of the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) water team. Samples were provided to the Civil Support Team (CST) lab and allowed to run overnight.
- 8:45 AM on February 9, 2023, the Incident Commander (IC) determined support from the Civil Support Team (CST) was no longer required and the commander began termination of team operations with initial elements retuning home station on February 9, 2023. Final lab samples were completed and provided to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) at approximately 1:45 PM on February 9, 2023.



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Take Aways:

- Civil Support Teams (CSTs) can typically recall and respond within three (3) hours of activation.
- In the case of a train derailment or any toxic industrial chemical accident, the company is likely to handle response and mitigation, but Civil Support Teams (CSTs) have many of the same capabilities to mitigate but do not have the capabilities to remediate.
- Civil Support Teams (CSTs) have the capabilities to create modeling and provide threat assessments to advise on evacuation.
- Civil Support Teams (CSTs) can provide presumptive analysis in a timely manner. The question will be about time vs confirmatory analysis.
- Civil Support Teams (CSTs) have the equipment and training needed to perform detailed water and air sampling.
- Civil Support Teams (CSTs) are trained in the Incident Command System (ICS) and understand their role to support government agencies.
- Trained experts will provide advice on mitigation and response as needed.



Other CST Missions:

Joint Hazard Assessment Teams (JHAT)

- Boston/Burlington Marathons & Fireworks
- Killington World Cup/Kentucky Derby
- VIP events, ceremonies, and concerts

Unknown Substances

- Ricin incident in Shelburne, VT
- White powder in Westminster, VT
- Customs and border support

COVID-19 Sampling

Flood Support

- HAZMAT response
- Town liaison support
- State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) Support

State Partnership Program

- Republic of N. Macedonia
- Senegal
- Austria (new)

Operation Center Support and Management

- Modeling
- Common Operating Picture (COP) Management

Area sampling

Liaison support

Comms Packages

- Tunbridge, VT
- Post-Tropical Cyclone Sandy in New York City, NY

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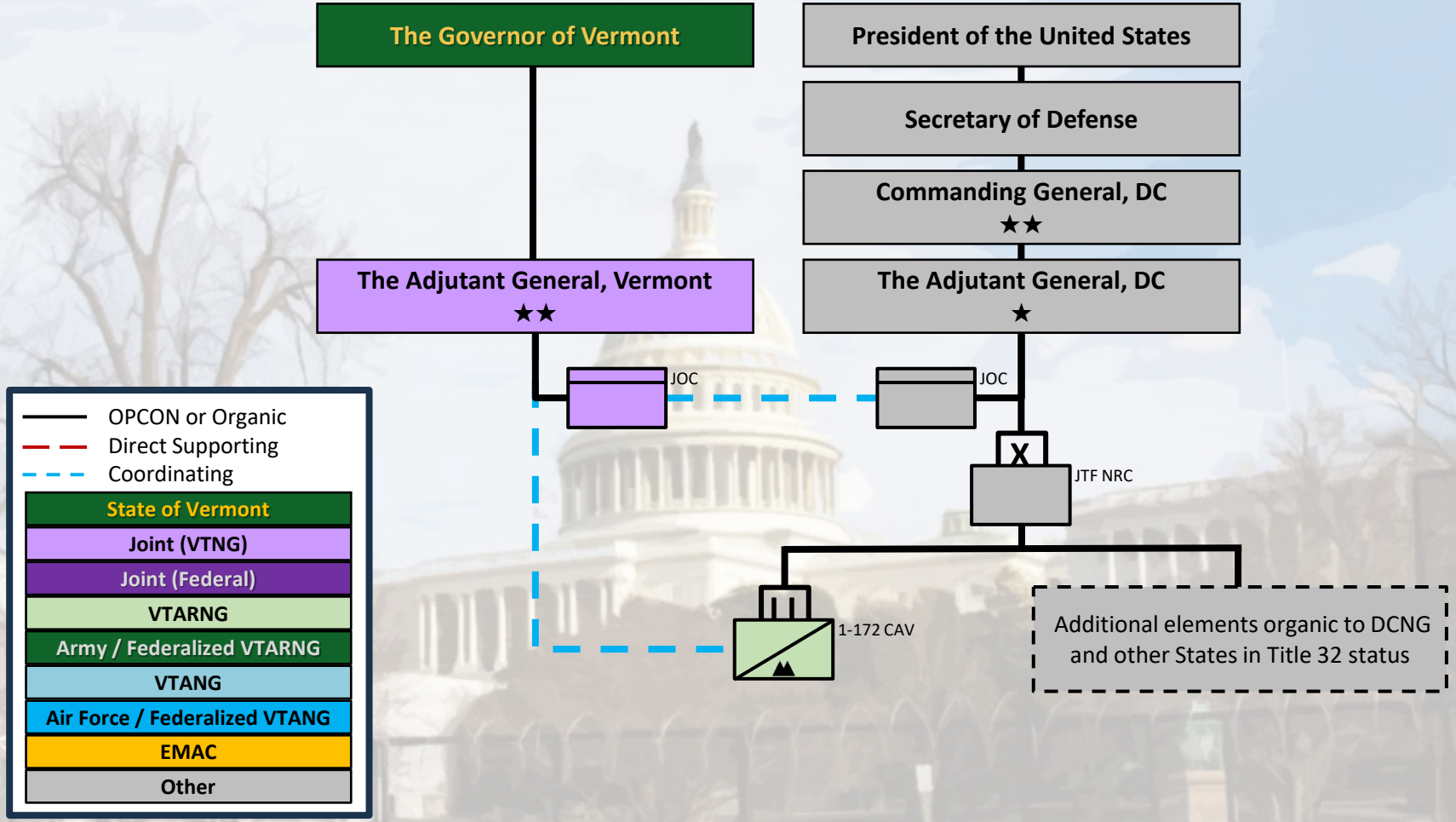
2021 – On January 06, 2021, protestors massed at the U.S. Capitol building in the District of Columbia (D.C.) in response to the 2020 presidential election results. The protest gained international attention when protestors forcibly entered the U.S. Capitol building and physically assaulted law enforcement resulting in destruction of government property, and several injured law enforcement and civilians. The Secretary of Defense directs the National Guard to muster troops prepared to support law enforcement to prevent further civil unrest and restore law and order. The Vermont National Guard (VTNG) provided a company-sized team (100 person) to assist January through February 2021.

2022 – Late February through early March 2022 the VTNG provided a company-sized team to assist the Washington, DC Capitol Police with area security in response to the Freedom Convoy in the National Capitol Region (NCR).



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When summarized, the 2021 response looked like this in military notation. The 2020 response looked similar.



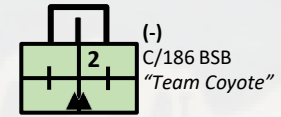
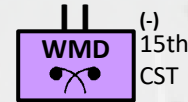
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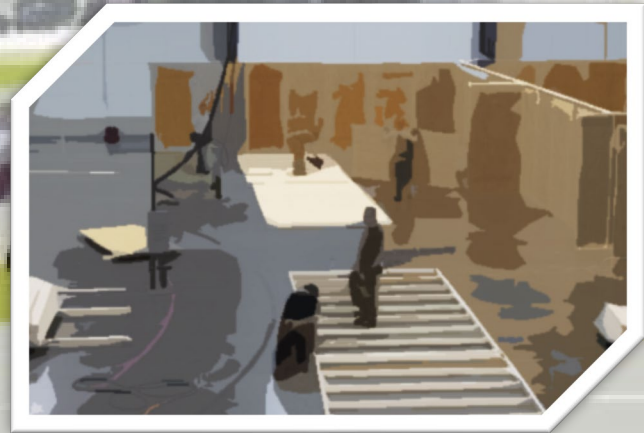
Early in the COVID-19 pandemic impacts were uncertain, prompting the medical surge construct managed by the Department of Health and the private sector medical centers in the state to activate. Additionally, the Vermont National Guard (VTNG) was called out to cover the emergency room at the University of Vermont Medical Center (UVMCC) in the event there was overflow.

Later, SARS-CoV-2, determined to be the cause of COVID-19, was sequenced in late January 2020. This, in turn, allowed COVID-19 testing in Vermont initially by the 15th Civil Support Team (15th CST) and later Charlie Company, 186th Brigade Support Battalion (C/186 BSB), a.k.a. "Team Coyote" in late March 2020.

Starting December 2020, the state of Vermont began administering vaccines for COVID-19. Based on the more immediate need of the vaccination mission in contrast to the testing mission, Team Coyote shifted over towards this mission and away from testing.



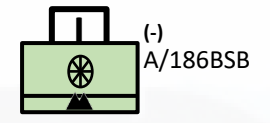
In anticipation of a morbidity/mortality surge the governor of Vermont ordered the Alternate Healthcare Facility (AHF) be stood up in April 2020; to which, the Vermont National Guard constructed the facility from April 2 to 5, 2020. The setup of the facility was modular, both in staffing and physical layout, and was designed to hold up to 400 beds.



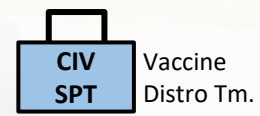
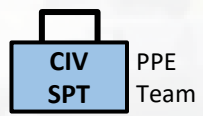
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Distribution of food to the public was performed under multiple phases of Vermont National Guard (VTNG) support to the Vermont Food Bank (VTFB) and other assisting agencies. During these initial periods, the VTNG was used for distribution sites, warehousing, and the transportation segments; though the logistics backend decreased as the government shifted to more traditional support. Notable to these sites was the integration of our interagency partners in this response (synergy); COVID-19 testing information, food insecurity, and demographics were collected at the same time as food was being distributed. The terminal portion (CPOD) of the logistics chain could be executed by any entity, not just the Guard (i.e., State Guard, volunteer groups, or other social/cultural groups).

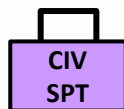


At the request of the Vermont Department of Health (VDH) in November 2020, in order to support the return to school, the Guard staffed testing kit production at the state health lab. From November 2020 until June 2022 the COVID-19 Test Kit Depot distributed over 3 million test kits. The Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) warehouse was created early in the COVID-19 pandemic from the Strategic National Stockpile / Medical Counter Measures (SNS/MCM) construct originally designed to respond to pandemic influenza. The PPE team distributed 14 million items. During the period of VTNG involvement within the warehouse, from May 2020, until the end of mission in June of 2022. The first vaccines arrived in Vermont in late November 2020, and the Vermont National Guard (VTNG) assisted the Vermont Department of Health (VDH) in logistical support (running the warehouse and deliveries). The Vaccine Depot managed the distribution of over 420,899 doses of vaccine.

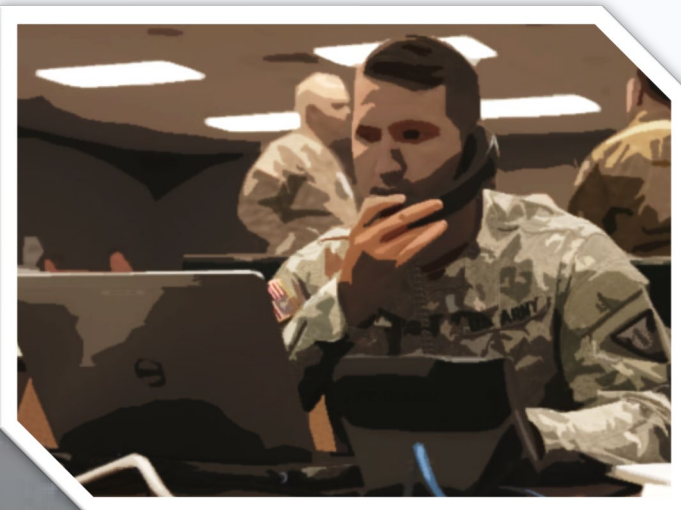


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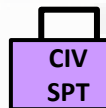
At the request of the Vermont Department of Health (VDH) in November 2020, the Guard staffed contact tracing.



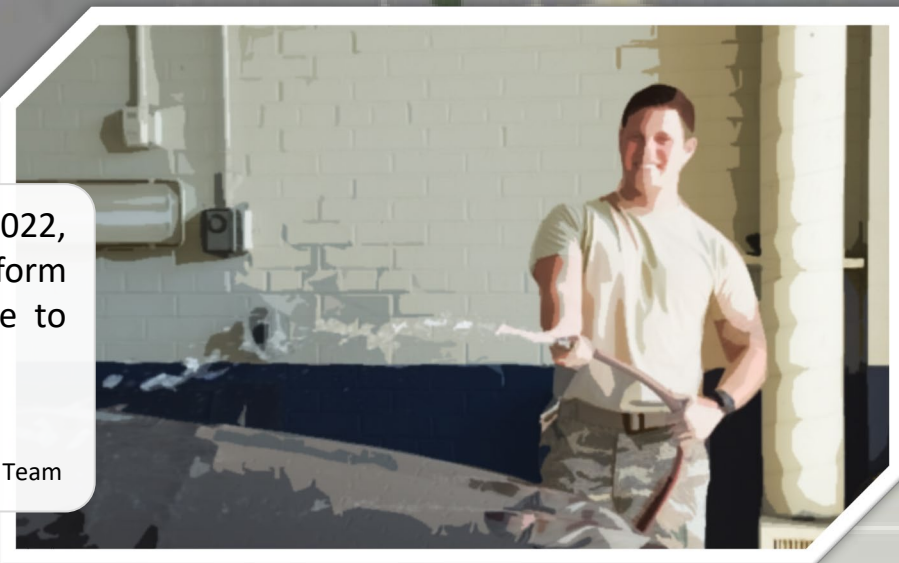
Contact Tracing Team



Due to the Omicron variant surge in January 2022, the National Guard was requested to perform wrap-around services at medical facilities due to staffing shortages (i.e., janitorial services).

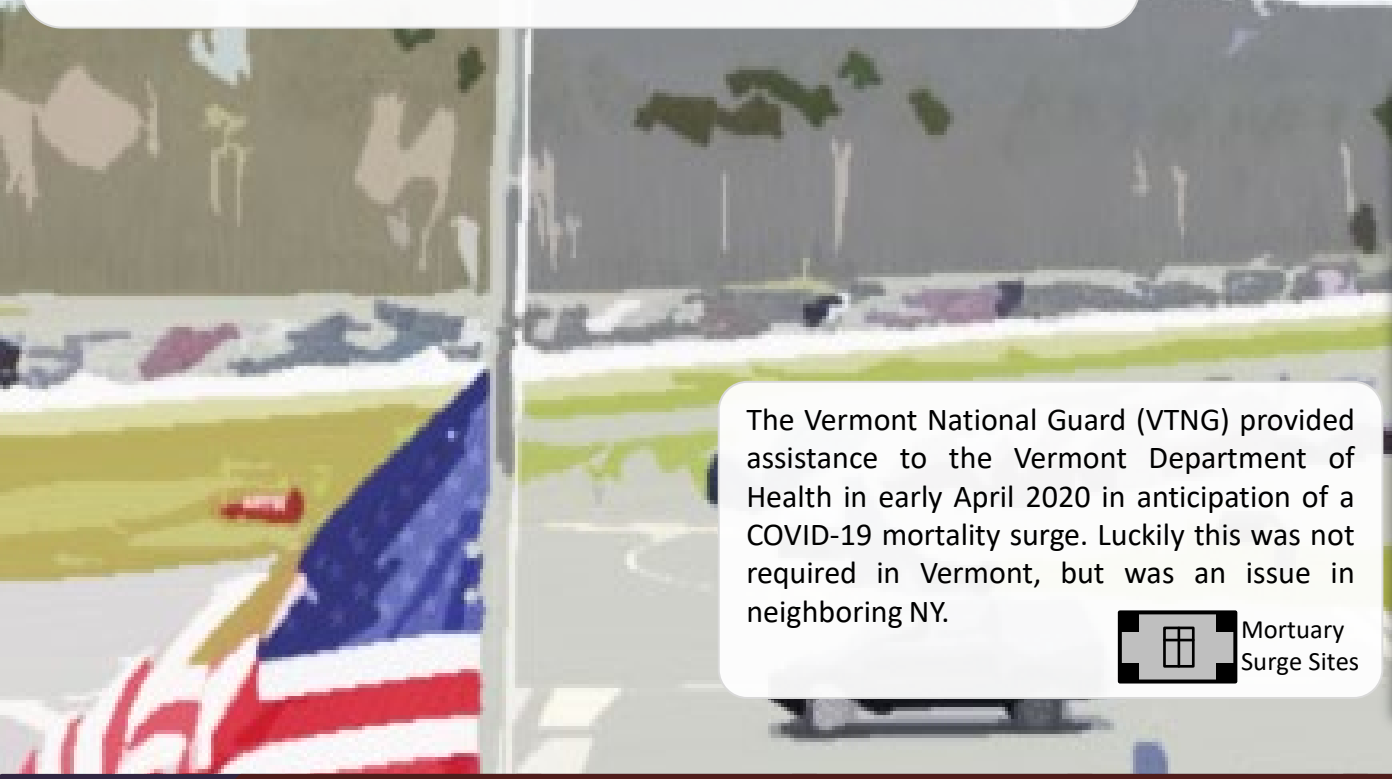
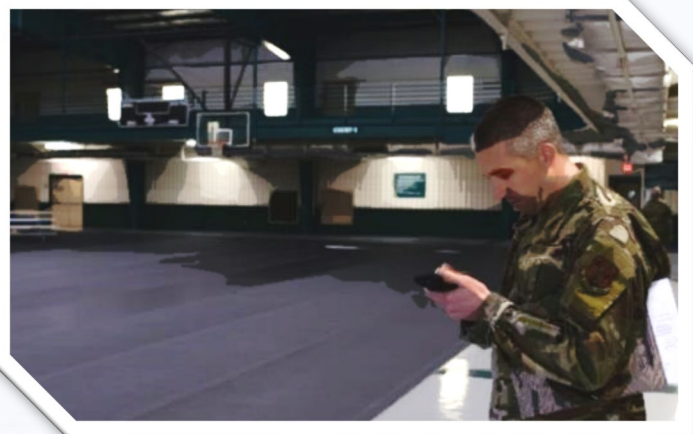


Non-Clinical Hospital Spt. Team



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Early in the COVID-19 pandemic the governor directed the private sector medical centers to prepare additional bed space using the medical surge concept under the assumption there was going to be an increased case load. The primary sites for this were Collins Perley Sports and Fitness Center in St. Albans (Northwestern Medical Center), Barre Civic Center in Barre (Central Vermont Medical Center), the Rutland Spartan Arena (Rutland Regional Medical Center), and at the University of Vermont (University of Vermont Medical Center). The Vermont National Guard (VTNG) contribution to this effort was to help set up the sites.

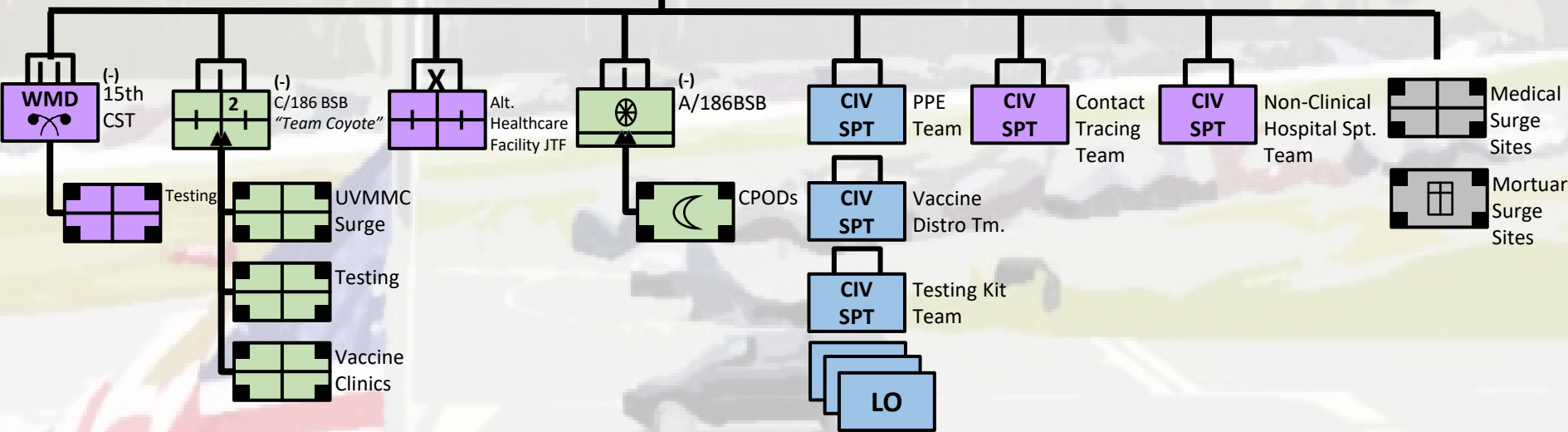
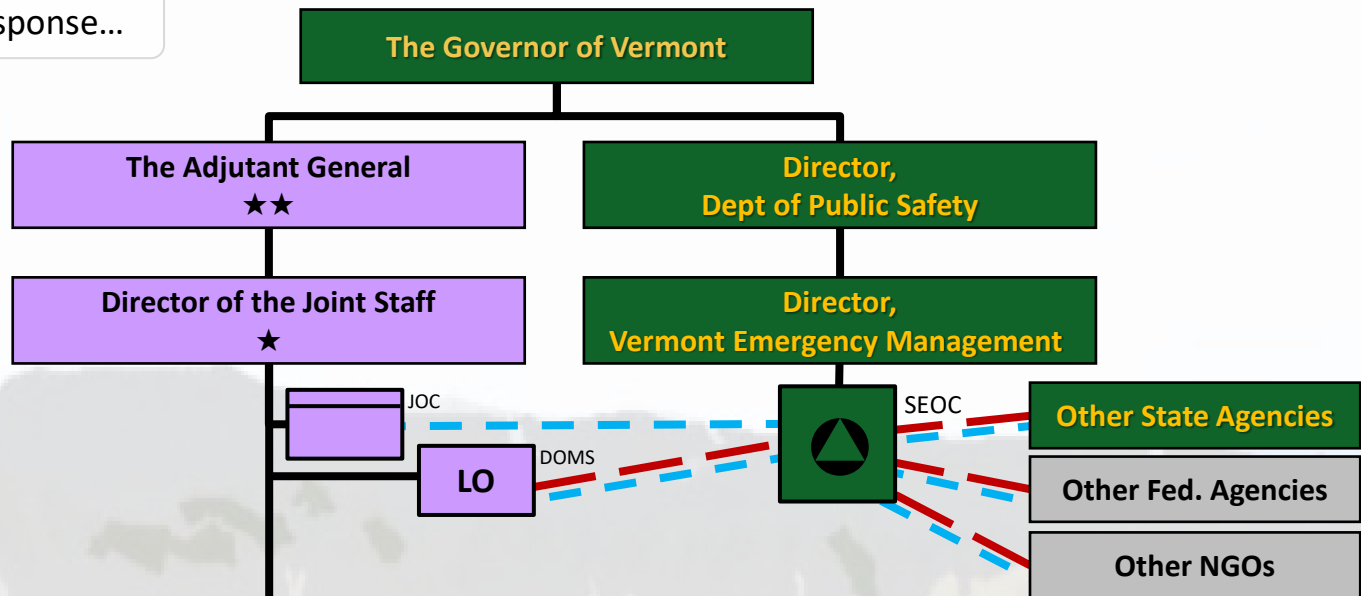
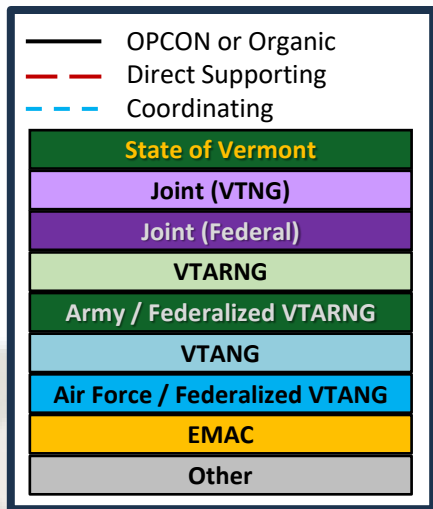


The Vermont National Guard (VTNG) provided assistance to the Vermont Department of Health in early April 2020 in anticipation of a COVID-19 mortality surge. Luckily this was not required in Vermont, but was an issue in neighboring NY.



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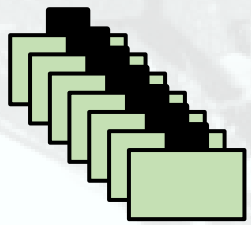
This doesn't represent a single point of time, but covers all portions of response...



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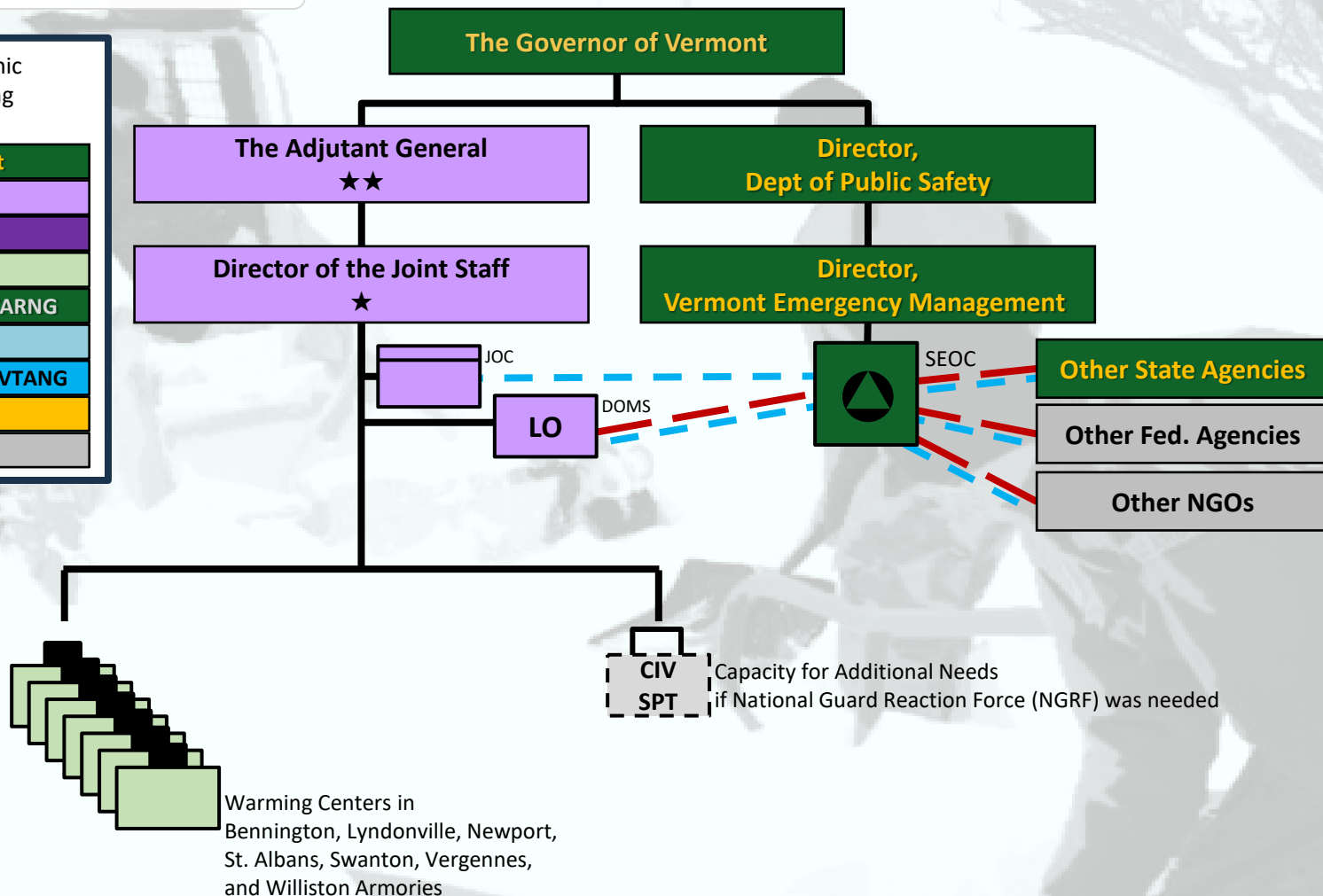
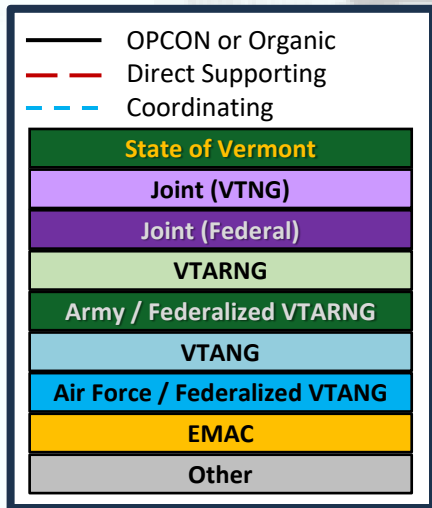
At the request of Vermont Emergency Management (VEM) we ran several warming centers at our armories; however, the relatively small-scale of this event led to them being underused.
Note: Sheltering operations are typically the domain of local municipalities, but the National Guard can augment this.



The National Guard Reaction Force (NGRF) was additionally notified for a potential need to respond.

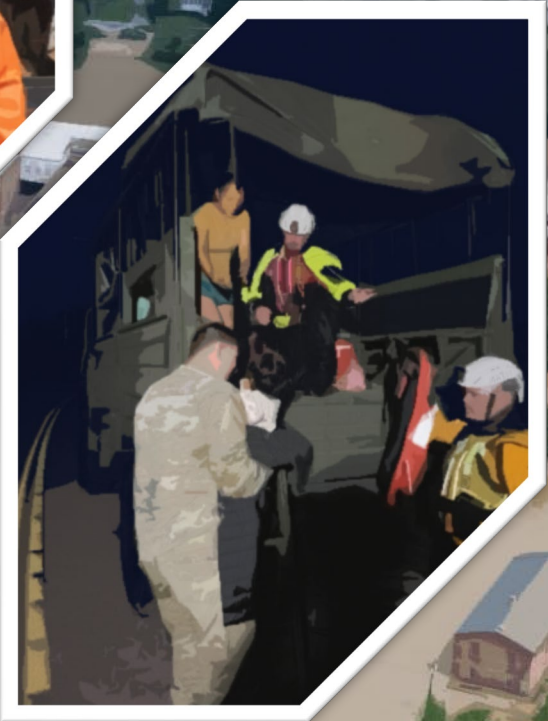
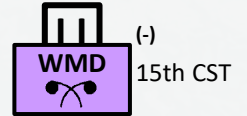
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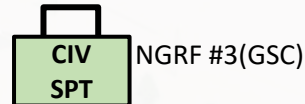
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Elements from the 15th Civil Support Team (15th CST) were in direct support to the VT HAZMAT team for the duration of the event, per their standard operating procedures. They additionally provided communications support to our response elements.

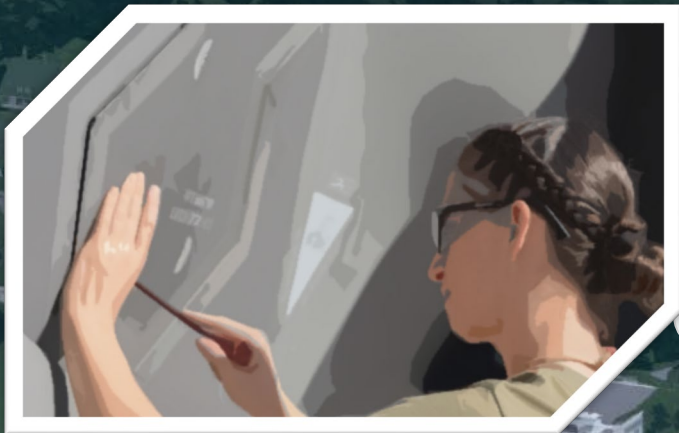


The National Guard Reaction Force (NGRF) was activated a day after the incident in direct support to Vermont Urban Search and Rescue (VT US&R). The NGRF provided support to VT US&R to cover a gap in their capacity (high wheel-base vehicles).

[Video Link](#)



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As part of mission support, we activated a maintenance team.



Maint Team

Elements from A Company 186th Brigade Support Battalion were activated to form a logistics/transportation team throughout the response for bulk and palletized commodity movement.



(-) A/186 BSB Team



Overview

VTNG Response to Irene Remnants (2011)

OHNG Response to Train Derailment (2023)

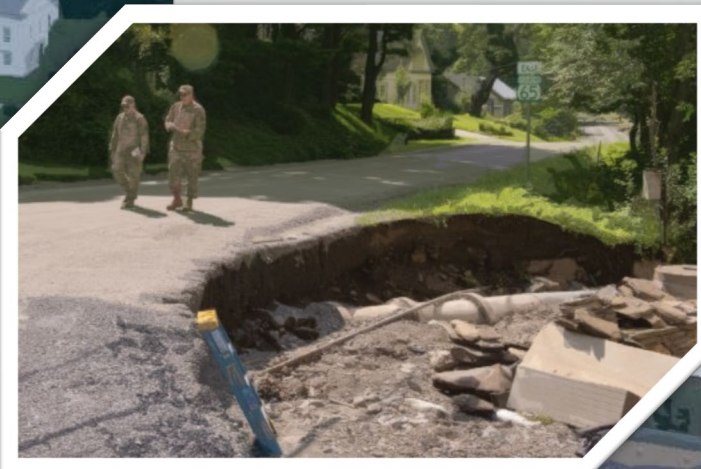
VTNG Response to US Capitol (2020 & 2021)

VTNG Response to COVID-19 (2020-2022)

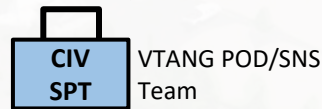
VTNG Support to Winter Storm (DEC 2022)

VTNG Response to Severe Flooding (JUL-AUG 2023)

The Vermont Emergency Management (VEM) requested deployment of military liaisons between the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) and Municipalities (CIV-CIV LNOs). This is not the specific role these LNOs are trained or intended for (MIL-MIL or MIL-CIV LNOs) but they addressed a gap in the intended function of the SEOC's local liaison program (matching resources to communities requires accurate reporting).



Vermont Department of Health (VDH) was authorized by FEMA to use the Department of Health Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for flooding recovery (support for PPE to Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) and municipalities, mold health mitigation). VDH lacked an adequate staff to address the anticipated surge and warehouse and distribution site staff we brought on-board.

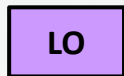


Overview	<i>VTNG Response to Irene Remnants (2011)</i>	<i>OHNG Response to Train Derailment (2023)</i>	<i>VTNG Response to US Capitol (2020 & 2021)</i>	<i>VTNG Response to COVID-19 (2020-2022)</i>	<i>VTNG Support to Winter Storm (DEC 2022)</i>	<i>VTNG Response to Severe Flooding (JUL-AUG 2023)</i>
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The Guard activated multiple support elements for specific needs during this incident. The JOC to a “tier-2 minus”, the DOMS to the SEOC, multiple support staff to the SEOC to fill staffing gaps with our interagency partners, and a support site in the White River Junction (WRJ) Armed Forces Reserve Center (AFRC) to support federal Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) swift water rescue teams.



JOC



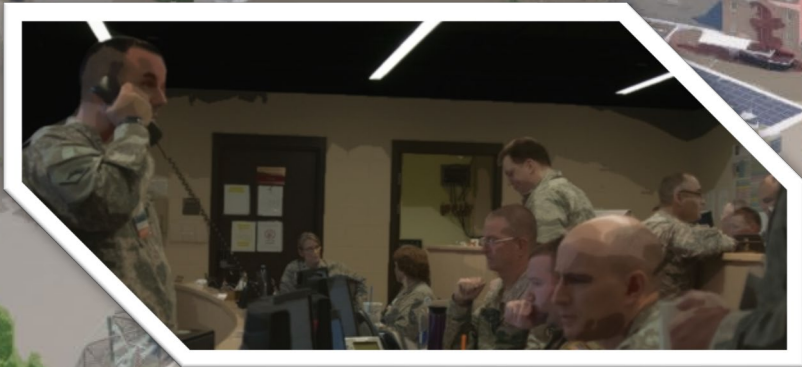
DOMS



SEOC Spt. Team



WRJ AFRC
“Mayor” Cell



Vermont Army National Guard (VTARNG) aviation was activated for several missions in support of incident assessment and support to Vermont Urban Search and Rescue (VT US&R). Due to a lack of available & trained hoist we did EMAC x2 and later x1 Blackhawk Medium Helicopter (HH-60) w/ hoist from the New Hampshire Army National Guard (NHARNG).



HH-60
VTARNG



UH-72
VTARNG

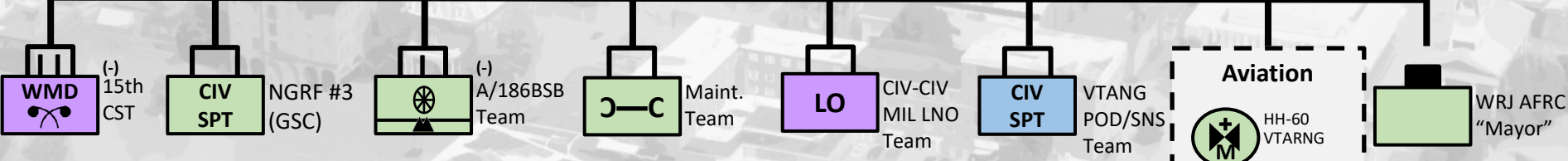
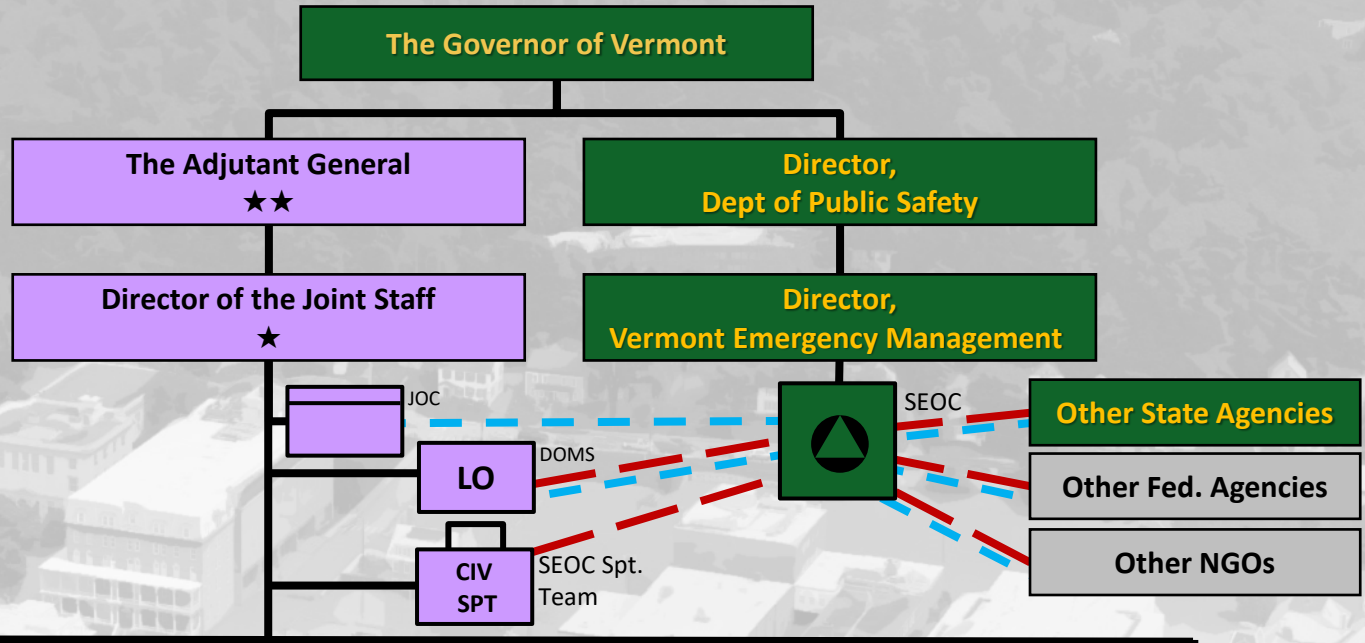
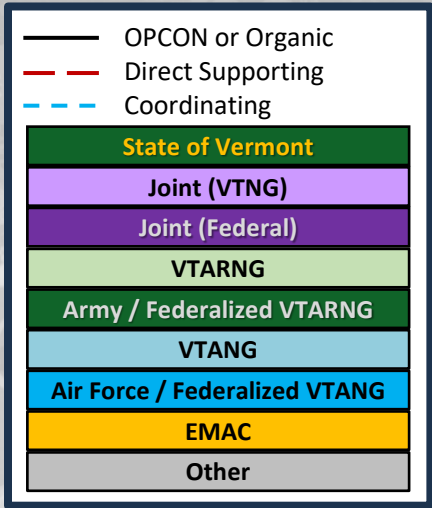


UH-72
VTARNG



HH-60
NHARNG

Overview	<i>VTNG Response to Irene Remnants (2011)</i>	<i>OHNG Response to Train Derailment (2023)</i>	<i>VTNG Response to US Capitol (2020 & 2021)</i>	<i>VTNG Response to COVID-19 (2020-2022)</i>	<i>VTNG Support to Winter Storm (DEC 2022)</i>	<i>VTNG Response to Severe Flooding (JUL-AUG 2023)</i>
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When summarized, the whole response looked like this in military notation

*Additional fusion elements are not shown

Overview	<i>VTNG Response to Irene Remnants (2011)</i>	<i>OHNG Response to Train Derailment (2023)</i>	<i>VTNG Response to US Capitol (2020 & 2021)</i>	<i>VTNG Response to COVID-19 (2020-2022)</i>	<i>VTNG Support to Winter Storm (DEC 2022)</i>	<i>VTNG Response to Severe Flooding (JUL-AUG 2023)</i>
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Military Support Branch

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