



State of Louisiana

BOBBY JINDAL
GOVERNOR

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY
AND
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

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PRESS RELEASE

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Louisiana Homeland Security Office Sending Support to Haiti *Louisiana Interoperability Experts to Assist in Improving Communications in Haiti*

BATON ROUGE (March 12, 2010) – Today, Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP) Director Mark Cooper announced that GOHSEP is sending technicians to Haiti to install two FM radio stations to help improve communications for emergency personnel. The FM radio stations will be placed in the rural cities of Fort Liberte and Ouanaminthe. These two low power stations will enable emergency personnel to send and receive information to those who are in the area impacted by the recent earthquake.

"We have a wide range of experience in disaster recovery and emergency communications here in Louisiana", said GOHSEP Director Mark Cooper, "We look forward to the opportunity to take what we've learned and assist others in their time of need."

Following the devastation of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005, Louisiana focused on creating a statewide interoperable communications system that would allow first responders such as law enforcement, fire services, and emergency medical personnel, as well as emergency managers and local and state agencies to communicate seamlessly on a single radio network.

Cooper said, "Today, the Louisiana Wireless Information Network (LWIN) is on the forefront of interoperable communications technology and is one of the largest statewide communications systems in the nation, allowing more than 50,000 users instant communications throughout the state."

GOHSEP's Travis Johnson and Paul Murphy, both members of the 236th Combat Communications Squadron of the Louisiana Air National Guard, leave today for the technical support mission. Second Lieutenant Murphy has served in Afghanistan, the United Arab Emirates, and provided emergency communications support during Hurricanes Gustav and Ike. Master Sergeant Johnson provided communications during Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, and served with the military in Iraq, Saudi Arabia, and Kyrgyzstan. They will spend five days in Haiti.

Montaigne Marcelin, the communications regulator for Haiti, requested the assistance though the Federal Communications Commission.

The Louisiana Association of Broadcasters (LAB) and Greater New Orleans Broadcast Association (GNOBA) are funding this mission.

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