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## NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### **Martinsburg VA Medical Center full-scale emergency exercise**

MARTINSBURG, W.Va. – The Martinsburg Veteran Affairs Medical Center, Martinsburg, W.Va. will be conducting a full-scale emergency preparedness exercise involving local, state and federal agencies, Thursday, April 4 from 12:30 p.m. – 4 p.m.

The “Operation Newton” was developed in cooperation with several agencies with input, advice, assistance and guidance set forth in the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP).

The full-scale exercise will provide officials, observers, media personnel and players from participating organizations an opportunity to evaluate their response plans in the event of a major catastrophic event.

The scenario for the event is a C-17 Globemaster carrying 147 passengers will crash with its wing clipping the main medical center building and the fuselage damaging the Capital Region Readiness Center. The exercise will then focus on participants’ emergency response plans, policies and procedures. This exercise will be an emergency full scale evacuation of the medical center with mass casualties.

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## **222-Martinsburg VAMC Full-Scale Exercise**

**Editor's Note:** Following the scenario there will be a mock press conference. The first 10 minutes will provide information on emergency services provided during the exercise. The last 10 minutes will be opened for Questions and Answers. This is a great opportunity for training and working with federal agencies during an emergency.

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*The Martinsburg VA Medical Center mission is to honor America's Veterans by providing exceptional health care that improves their health and well-being. Located in West Virginia, the medical center offers a comprehensive range of services, including internal medicine, ambulatory surgery, audiology and speech pathology, dental, nursing home, nutrition, podiatry, prosthetics, women's health, mental health, and rehabilitation medicine. With a service area of nearly 130,000 Veterans in West Virginia, Maryland, Virginia, and Pennsylvania, the medical center operates four VA-staffed Outpatient Clinics in Cumberland, Hagerstown, Fort Detrick, Md., and Stephens City, Va. and three contract clinics in Franklin and Petersburg, W.Va. and Harrisonburg, Va.*