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## NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### **Outdoor PA system test scheduled at Martinsburg VAMC**

MARTINSBURG, W.Va. – The Martinsburg VA Medical Center will test its enhanced campus-wide outdoor Public Address System (PAS) Tuesday, Jan. 29 between 10 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. The system communicates multi-hazard emergency announcements to the entire medical center.

The enhanced system allows the medical center to announce emergency messages to the entire 175-acre campus. “The outdoor Public Address System is an integral part of our emergency preparedness program,” said Todd Lake, emergency preparedness coordinator for the medical center. “The system is tested twice daily, will only be used during emergencies or training, and will have very little noise impact on our surrounding neighbors.” The noise levels outside the campus fence will be in the range of 50 to 80 decibels, the level of vehicle traffic noise.

The decision to enhance the campus-wide PAS was made after a comprehensive assessment of noise levels during the daily tests. “We want to make sure that we have a one source message that can be heard across our entire campus during emergencies, adding a level of safety to our Veteran patients and staff,” Lake said. “This enhanced system will give us that capability, if we ever need it.”

*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*

-more-

## 222 – Outdoor PA system test scheduled

*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.*