

MONA L. BARNES
State Director
Virgin Islands Territorial Emergency Management Agency



In March 2015, Governor Kenneth E. Mapp tapped Ms. Mona L. Barnes to lead the Virgin Islands Territorial Emergency Management Agency (VITEMA). As VITEMA Director, Ms. Barnes serves as the Virgin Islands government’s senior executive solely charged with coordinating a territorywide response to and recovery from a major disaster, and with building a ready and resilient community. Ms. Barnes also serves as Homeland Security Advisor to the governor, playing a key role in the fight to protect and secure the homeland through key partnerships and raising awareness.

Prior to her service in the public sector, Ms. Barnes channeled her energies into entrepreneurship, utilizing her unique skill sets to build businesses for under-served markets in the US Virgin Islands. In 1997, Ms. Barnes developed an environmental company, FSH Enterprises Inc.. Expanding her creativity, Ms. Barnes is also a partner in BDBD through which she has assisted in the development of a patent that is in the production phase. Later, as a successful businesswoman, Ms. Barnes mentored young entrepreneurs on how to turn passion and vision into successful ventures. Ms. Barnes’ compassion and respect for the elderly has granted her the opportunity to serve as the CEO of the “New Life Senior Resort”- a fourteen (14)-unit residence for the elderly sponsored by the City of Refuge Worship Center. This multi-million dollar venture allows eligible seniors to live independently in a safe and secure community.

Ms. Barnes has 28 years of military service. In 2010, Ms. Barnes’ exemplary leadership was recognized when she was selected to serve as the first female State Command Sergeant Major in the Virgin Islands National Guard.

Ms. Barnes is a 1981 graduate of St. Croix Central High School. Ms. Barnes obtained a B.A. in Psychology from Fisk University in 1985 and a M.A. in Management and Leadership from Webster University in 2008.