State of Louisiana

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

PROCLAMATION NO. 16 JBE 2016

STATE OF EMERGENCY – CAMP MINDEN

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Homeland Security and Emergency Assistance and Disaster Act, La. R.S. 29:721 *et seq.*, confers upon the Governor of the State of Louisiana emergency powers to deal with emergencies and disasters, including those caused by fire, flood, earthquake, or other natural or manmade causes, in order to ensure that preparations of this state will be adequate to deal with such emergencies or disasters and to preserve the lives and property of the people of the State of Louisiana;

WHEREAS, when the Governor determines that a disaster or emergency has occurred, or the threat thereof is imminent, La. R.S. 29:724(B)(1) empowers the Governor to declare a state of emergency by executive order or proclamation, or both;

WHEREAS, in October 2012, a storage facility leased by the Louisiana Military Department to Explo Systems, Inc. ("Explo") containing approximately 125,000 pounds of smokeless powder exploded at the state installation located at Camp Minden, Louisiana, resulting in destruction of the storage facility and damage to the adjacent town of Doyline;

WHEREAS, as a result of the investigation of Explo's operations after the explosion, the Louisiana State Police discovered that Explo was improperly storing approximately 10 million pounds of M6 propellant at Camp Minden, causing the evacuation of parts of the town of Doyline for seven days and the closure of large parts of Camp Minden for several months;

WHEREAS, over the following several months, the Louisiana State Police, Louisiana National Guard, and Explo packaged and properly stored the improperly stored propellant, thereby reducing the risk posed by the explosive material to the surrounding area;

WHEREAS, at the request of the Louisiana State Police and the Louisiana National Guard, the U.S. Army conducted two separate Explosives Safety Visits at Camp Minden, recommending that the materials be disposed of as soon as possible;

WHEREAS, Explo has filed bankruptcy without providing for the monitoring, removal, or disposal of approximately 18 million pounds of M6 propellant and other explosives, which pose a continuing threat to the safety of citizens and property of this State in and around Camp Minden.

NOW THEREFORE I, JOHN BEL EDWARDS, Governor of the State of Louisiana, by virtue of the authority vested by the Constitution and laws of the State of Louisiana, do hereby order and direct as follows:

SECTION 1: Pursuant to the Louisiana Homeland Security and Emergency Assistance and Disaster Act, La. R.S. 29:721 *et seq.*, a state of emergency is hereby declared to exist at Camp Minden as a result of the threat of detonation of potentially unstable M6 propellant and other explosives which threatens the lives and property of the citizens of the State and public property located on Camp Minden.

SECTION 2: The Director of the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness and the Adjutant General of the Louisiana National Guard are hereby authorized to undertake any activity authorized by law which they deem appropriate in response to this declaration.

SECTION 3: All departments, commissions, boards, agencies and officers of the State, or any political subdivision thereof, are authorized and directed to cooperate in actions the State may take in response to this extremely dangerous situation, including contracting for the disposal of the M6 propellant and other explosives.

SECTION 4: This state of emergency extends from Tuesday, February 23, 2016 to Wednesday, March 23, 2016 unless terminated sooner.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have set my hand officially and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of Louisiana, at the Capitol, in the City of Baton Rouge, on this 22nd day of February, 2016.

GOVERNOR OF LOUISIANA

ATTEST BY
THE GOVERNOR

SECRETARY OF STATE