



PRESS RELEASE

HURRICANE HUNTER WILL VISIT BONAIRE AND ST. EUSTATIUS

Every year the United States National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in close cooperation with the United States Air Force Reserve (USAFR) organize the Caribbean Hurricane Awareness Tour (CHAT). On this tour, a Hurricane Hunter aircraft of the USAFR, based near Biloxi, Mississippi, will make stops in several countries and islands in our region. At each stop, the occupants of this aircraft will then inform residents and authorities of these countries about the hazards related to the passage of tropical cyclones near or over islands or coastal areas to increase their awareness about the hazards and aftermath of these systems.

In the past several islands of the Dutch Caribbean were visited by a hurricane hunter, like in Aruba in 2000, in Curaçao in 1990, 2006 and 2011 and in St. Maarten in 2003 and 2012. This year, the CHAT will pay a visit to two other islands of the Dutch Caribbean that until now had not seen the hurricane hunter land there yet: Bonaire and St. Eustatius. The WS-130J hurricane hunter will be first at the Flamingo Airport in Bonaire on April 22 between 11 A.M. and 3 P.M. and on April 24 between 2 and 4 P.M. on the Roosevelt Airport in St. Eustatius.

On both islands local residents and authorities will be able to board the plane and meet the crew of the hurricane hunter airplane and a few forecasters and specialists of the National Hurricane Center in Miami, including its director, Dr. Richard Knabb. These tropical cyclone experts through exhibitions and presentations will inform as many people as possible about the hazards posed by tropical cyclones. They will also show how these planes fly through the strongest hurricanes to investigate the development and structure of these systems.

Besides the occupants of the hurricane hunter airplane, representatives of local organizations like the Fire Department, the Meteorological Department Curaçao and the Red Cross will also be present at the airports of Bonaire and St. Eustatius. They will give additional information about tropical cyclones, including how to prepare for the threat of tropical cyclones and on how to deal with their aftermath.

As the dates of these special events get closer, more information about the exact parking location of the hurricane hunter at the airports of Bonaire and St. Eustatius will be announced through the local media.