

TX-TF1 CONDUCTS OPERATIONS 24 HOURS A DAY AT GROUND ZERO



Texas Task Force 1 (TX-TF1) received its first FEMA deployment orders to respond to the collapse of the World Trade Center buildings in New York City. The Task Force was activated on Sept 11, 2001 with personnel arriving in College Station. TX-TF1 completed the personnel in-processing and completed preparations of the equipment cache, awaiting the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to arrange military air transportation to New York City.

On Sept. 18th, the task force boarded buses bound for Austin Bergstrom International Airport where they were loaded onto two C-141 U.S. Air Force transport aircraft. The cache of equipment and logistics specialists flew on one C-141, with task force personnel on the other C-141. The Task Force touched down in Newark, NJ at Ft. McGuire AFB at 2200 hours, riding buses to Ft. Dix and spending the night. The task force went to the forward operating base at Jacob K. Javits Convention Center where they received a briefing and started working at ground zero on Sept. 19th. TX-TF1 split into two groups conducting operations 24 hours a day, in rotating 12 hour shifts.

During the search phase, work had slowed due to a very large piece of steel that was hanging over the debris pile near the south tower. The large piece of steel was situated precariously over the worksite, endangering search efforts below. TX-TF1 volunteered to tackle the difficult and dangerous job. After hours of careful cutting with torches, the massive piece of steel was finally lifted free by a large crane, with union and rescue workers cheering on.

TX-TF1 personnel worked around the clock for a total of 9 days and completed over 216 hours of search and rescue operations at ground zero.

Deployment Statistics

• Incident involved 74 personnel deployed for 16 days

Type I US&R Task Force

- 4 rescue squads
- 2 technical search teams
- 2 canine search teams
- Medical, communications, and logistics personnel and equipment

