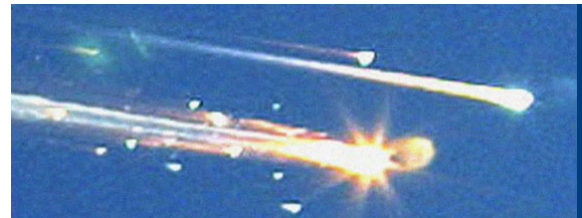
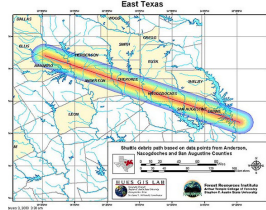


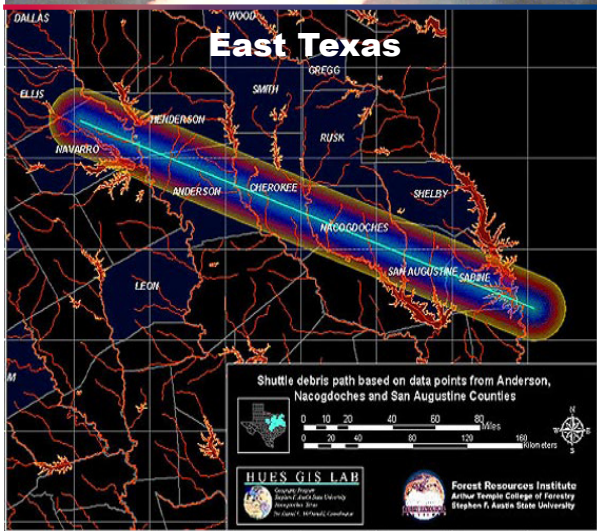
THE LARGEST SEARCH EFFORT IN THE NATION'S HISTORY



On the afternoon of February 1, 2003, the Space Shuttle Columbia disintegrated over Texas during re-entry into the earth's atmosphere. This resulted in more than 2,000 debris fields in sparsely populated areas southeast of Dallas from Nacogdoches in East Texas, where a large amount of debris fell, to western Louisiana and the southwestern counties of Arkansas. The debris area was over 10 miles wide and 240 miles long and required the largest mobilization of search and rescue assets in the state's history.



On February 3rd, Texas Task Force 1 was assigned to coordinate canine search teams to assist with search and recovery of debris. The eight person leadership team was deployed and based out of the command and control center in Lufkin, TX. This team supported and assisted in the coordination of the search and recovery operations with the total number of task force personnel involved growing to 40 members over the next few days.



Deployment Statistics

- Incident involved 40 personnel deployed for 9 day
 - 10 Search Team personnel and 12 canine search teams
 - 10 Hazardous Materials personnel and equipment
 - 6 Medical personnel and equipment
 - 6 Logistics personnel and equipment



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