

TEXAS ENGINEERING EXTENSION SERVICE'S TEXAS TASK FORCE 1 PREPARED TO DEPLOY FEMA IST CACHE INTERNATIONALLY

IST CACHE AND PERSONNEL ON STANDBY TO SUPPORT FEMA US&R TEAMS DEPLOYED TO HAITI



On January 14, 2010, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) activated the Red Incident Support Team (IST) to support the task forces deployed to the Haiti earthquake. FEMA requested that Texas Task Force 1 (TX-TF1) prepare the IST cache for deployment to Haiti to assist with the establishment of the IST Base Camp and to provide support operations. In addition to the equipment, four TX-TF1 members were requested by FEMA to deploy with the FEMA IST cache to Haiti.



The Task Force began to make immediate preparations for the deployment of the IST cache aboard Department of Defense aircraft for on morning of January 14. The IST equipment cache was palletized by 8:00 a.m. The IST cache consisted of 6 aircraft-ready pallets with a combined weight of 21,660 lbs. The IST cache and four support personnel were ready at Ellington Field at 10:00 a.m. to deploy directly to Port-au-Prince. The IST cache would have joined other task forces that were already activated from Virginia, California and Florida. The IST cache and support personnel remained on standby at Ellington Field throughout the weekend, awaiting assignment to an aircraft.

On January 15, a TX-TF1 IST Structures Specialist flew to Homestead ARB in Florida and joined the remainder of the Red IST. While staged, the Red IST gathered intel and identified planning assumptions based on the information acquired from teams already deployed to Haiti.

The Red IST personnel were ready at Homestead ARB to deploy directly to Port-au-Prince aboard Department of Defense aircraft. The Red IST remained on standby at Homestead ARB throughout the weekend, awaiting assignment to an aircraft.

On the morning of January 18, TX-TF1 and all other U.S. teams on standby and the IST cache were demobilized by FEMA. FEMA had been notified by the United Nations command in Haiti that the 30 search and rescue teams in the country were sufficient. The IST cache and support personnel returned to College Station. Equipment cache was re-established to be ready for deployment within four hours.

Deployment Statistics

• Incident involved 5 personnel deployed for 5 days

FEMA Incident Support Team Equipment Cache

- 1 IST Structures Specialist
- 6 pallets of IST equipment
- 4 IST cache support personnel

ESF-9 Coordination Center in College Station was activated for this deployment