

2004

RIO GRANDE SEARCH

Deployment Statistics

Lasted a total of 2 days

4 Personnel activated supporting the following resources:

- Search and Logistics Personnel

Type - **SEARCH OPERATIONS (WATER)**



On September 19, 2004, 2 Border Patrol Agents went missing after their 19 foot boat capsized on the Rio Grande River near the Free Trade Bridge in Los Indios, Texas, about 10 miles south of Harlingen. The following day, on September 20, GDEM requested assistance from TX-TF1 to assist with managing search operations for the missing Border Patrol Agents. The task force personnel were requested to be on scene by 1:00 p.m. that day, but because of the physical distance (374 miles), they never could have driven it in the required time; therefore, the Texas A&M System provided a twin engine Beechcraft King Air B200 aircraft to fly the 4 personnel and equipment to the border. From there, the task force personnel drove to the International Bridge and began their assignments.

Two task force personnel worked with the McAllen Disaster District Regional Liaison Officer and local Incident Commander, while the remaining 2 task force personnel worked to ensure communications between agencies. They did this by providing each agency an interoperability radio and then bridging all communications from the Incident Command Post. The task force issued interoperable radios from the PEP POD to response partners and coordinated and dispatched resources from the top of the International Bridge.

Agencies involved in this search included the United States Border Patrol as well as fire, police, and EMS from the surrounding jurisdictions.

Search operations continued until 10:00 p.m. that night. The 2 border patrol agents were located early the next day, allowing the deployed task force members returned to College Station via the same aircraft on the afternoon of the September 21.



September 20-21