RESPONSE TO THE HAITI EARTHQUAKE DISASTER
Urban Search and Rescue

• Tech Rescue started in mid-1970s
• Two Federal Government agencies sponsor the team
  – USAID/OFDA (2 Teams)
  – DHS/FEMA (28 Teams)
• Specialize in rescue from reinforced concrete structures
Team Expectations

- Report to POD within 6 hrs
- Air / ground mobile
- Self-sufficient for 72 hours
- Up to 10 day deployment
- 24 hour operation at 2 sites
Full Team Deployments

- Armenia  Earthquake
- Philippines  Earthquake
- Oklahoma  Terrorist Attack
- North Carolina  Hurricane Fran
- Nairobi, Kenya  Terrorist Attack
- Izmit, Turkey  Earthquake
- Touliu, Taiwan  Earthquake
- Duce, Turkey  Earthquake
- Virginia (Pentagon)  Terrorist Attack
- Bam, Iran  Earthquake
- Mississippi/Louisiana  Hurricane Katrina
- Virginia  Hurricane Ophelia
- Texas  Hurricane Rita
- Florida  Hurricane Ernesto
- Georgia  Hurricane Gustav
- Louisiana  Hurricane Ike
- Pétionville, Haiti  Structure Collapse
- Port-au-Prince, Haiti  Earthquake
Task Force Components:

– Search
Task Force Components:

- Search
- Rescue
Task Force Components:

– Search
– Rescue
– Medical
Urban Search and Rescue

Response to the Haiti Earthquake Disaster

Task Force Components:

– Search
– Rescue
– Medical
– Command and General Staff
Task Force Components:

- Search
- Rescue
- Medical
- Command and General Staff
- Logistics
Earthquake Details

• 7.0 magnitude Earthquake strikes January 12, 2010, at 1653 hours
  • Epicenter about 10 miles southwest of Port-au-Prince, Haiti
  • Most powerful earthquake to hit Haiti in a century
• Initial media reports suggested:
  • High number of casualties (100K-200K)
  • Widespread damage
  • Urgent need for Search and Rescue
Earthquake Details

• Aftershocks from 1/12/2010 – 2/5/2010
  – M6.0 occurred 7 minutes after quake
  – M5.9 occurred 1/20/2010
  – 16 at M5.0 or greater
  – 59 at M4.5 or greater
Urban Search and Rescue

Response to the Haiti Earthquake Disaster

Port-au-Prince, Haiti Details

- Area: 14.7 square miles
- Population: 1,000,000+
- Density: 70,000 / square mile
- Experience: 2008 School Collapse
Activation

• 38 minutes later USAID mobilizes:
  • USA1
  • USA2
  • AST
  • UNDAC Member
• Fastest deployment decision to date from USAID
• Mobilization process begins
Response to the Haiti Earthquake Disaster

Team Configurations

USA-1 (Heavy)
- 72 members + 6 canines
- Arrived within 24 hours

USA-1 (Medium)
- 42 members + 1 canine
- Arrived within 60 hours
Team Configurations

USA-1 (Super Jumbo)

- Combined upon arrival of Medium Team
- 114 members + 7 canines
Operations

• Arrive at US Embassy around 2000 hrs
• BoO is being set up
  • BoO Site determined by the DART & RSO
  • Still an active embassy – evacuating American citizens
• Benefit of Embassy vs. OSOCC:
  • Transportation
  • Water
  • Electricity
  • Security

2100 TFL’s meeting with DART & ASO
• Priority building being assigned
• Security briefing
• Compound rules
Timeline of Operational Highlights

• 2245 UN Minustah Rescue of 1-37YOM
  (Concluded 1-14-10 0742)
Timeline of Operational Highlights

- 0645 Hotel Montana Operations begin
- Numerous assignments from USAID-field assessments
- Rescue Squads and RECON squads in full “Blitz Mode”
- Coordinating operations with LAFD (USA2)
  - Develop and assign Divisions for PAP
- 1640 Recon assigned JULIET Division
  - 1830 diverted to assist Iceland at Caribbean Market
- 1705 Recon assigned GOLF Division
- Midnight - Units completed operations other than Hotel Montana

- **16-Sites were searched**
- **2-Divisions were searched**
- **9-rescues were initiated**
Urban Search and Rescue
Victim First
Response to the Haiti Earthquake Disaster
14 January 2010
Response to the Haiti Earthquake Disaster

Timeline of Operational Highlights

• GRID Search Sector-1 & 9
• 0915 Secondary Search of Hotel Christopher
• 1625 Olympic Market Rescue Assist (DAY 7)
• 911’s

18 - 19 January 2010
Response to the Haiti Earthquake Disaster

Timeline of Operational Highlights

- 6.1 Magnitude Earthquake
- GRID Search EQ Epicenter
- Carrefour Search Investigations
- 911’s
- Begin Humanitarian Aid
  - St François Pediatric Hospital Tent Project
  - De L’ Ofatma Hospital Shoring Project
- Hotel Napoli Investigation
- Equipment Donations

20 - 23 January 2010
Operations-The Hotel Montana

- Extremely large resort style hotel.
- Five stories tall in most places.
- Team members made multiple rescues from site during the first few days.
- USA-1 established a continuous presence at the site on January 19 that would continue until relieved by the US Army Corps of Engineers on the January 25.
- Team started the systematic delayering of the structure and established command of the area to include body identification and forensic efforts.
Response to the Haiti Earthquake Disaster

The Hotel Monana [Structural Stability]

- Multiple Stories in pancake and other style collapses
- Simultaneous multi-team operations
The Hotel Montana [Multiple Worksites]

- Command and control difficult at such a large site.
- Up to eight different teams working simultaneously speaking several languages.
The Hotel Montana [Political Concerns]

- Multi-government interest in the site.
- Press onsite at all times.
- Several congressional “tours”
Accountability and Documentation

• All Rescue Teams
  – 67 teams
  – 1,918 staff and 160 dogs
  – 130+ rescues

• VA-TF1
  – 114 staff and 7 dogs
  – 16 rescues
    • 9 unassisted
    • 7 assisted
Response to the Haiti Earthquake Disaster

Victim First

Urban Search and Rescue