

TASK FORCE SUPPORTS FEMA IST STAGED FOR REPUBLICAN NATIONAL CONVENTION



On August 27th, 2004, in preparations for the Republican National Convention, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) placed a FEMA US&R task force on standby during the convention. To support the task force in the event of a deployment, FEMA activated a FEMA Incident Support Team (IST) and requested that TX-TF1 personnel assist with staffing. One TX-TF1 task force member was requested by FEMA to forward deploy with the FEMA IST based in New York City.

Additionally, FEMA supported state and local emergency management services and first responder units by pre-deploying emergency personnel to serve with Emergency Response Teams, the National Disaster Medical System, and a Mobile Emergency Response Unit.

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) officially declared the 2004 Republican National Convention a National Special Security Event (NSSE). As such, the United States Secret Service was charged with employing and coordinating all federal and local agencies including the various bureaus of DHS, the FBI, and the NYPD to secure the venue from terrorist attacks. Expected security expenditures reached US \$70 million, 50 of which was funded by the federal government.

The city employed an active beat of 10,000 police officers deployed as Hercules teams — uniformed in full riot gear and body armor, and equipped with submachine guns and rifles. Commuter and Amtrak trains entering and exiting Penn Station were scoured by bomb-sniffing dogs as uniformed police officers were attached to buses carrying delegates. All employees of buildings surrounding Madison Square Garden were subjected to thorough screening and background checks.

TX-TF1 provides personnel to staff the FEMA US&R IST for deployment throughout the United States upon activation by FEMA. Supporting the mobilization and deployment of the FEMA IST provides task force personnel an opportunity to train and practice command and planning functions at large scale incidents and improves the State's capability for disaster response and mitigation. The multi-disciplinary FEMA US&R task forces afford search, rescue, medical, and technical capabilities, and a wide variety of services for catastrophic events.

Deployment Statistics

• Incident involved 1 person deployed for 8 days

FEMA Incident Support Team

- 1 Task force member deployed as the Point of Arrival/
Mobilization Specialist