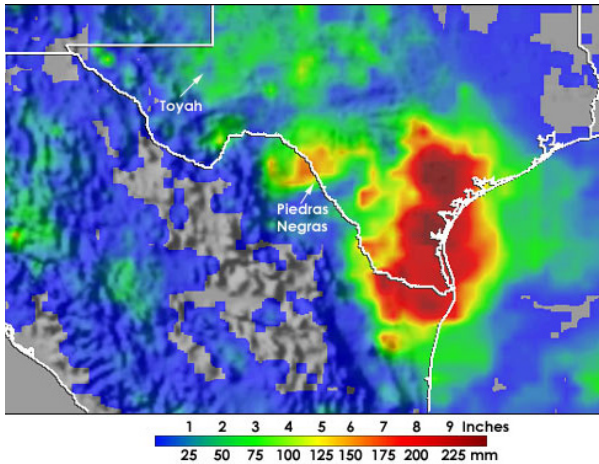


TX-TF1 ACTIVATES CANINE SEARCH TEAMS TO DEPLOY TO MEXICO



On April 8th, GDEM received a call from the Government of Mexico requesting assistance with human remains (HR) search operations in the area of Piedras Negras, Mexico. This was the first request for TX-TF1 to deploy internationally. The Government of Mexico reported that as many as twelve Mexican citizens from the town of Piedras Negras were missing due to recent flooding. Piedras Negras, Mexico is located directly across the international border and Rio Grande River from Eagle Pass, TX.



On April 11th, GDEM directed Texas Task Force One (TX-TF1) to assemble five HR canine search teams for deployment to Mexico. At the time the task force did not have certified HR capable canine search teams on the task force. Local volunteer HR canine search teams were notified to send potential canine teams to College Station for evaluation. On April 13th, GDEM authorized TX-TF1 personnel to assemble and evaluate HR canine search teams. TX-TF1 conducted evaluations of all canine teams in Disaster City® in College Station and identified 5 HR canine search teams that would deploy. The teams were issued necessary equipment, veterinary checks were completed and by 8pm on April 13th the teams received the mission briefing.

The team departed College Station the morning of April 14th but was recalled shortly afterwards because the last of the missing Mexican citizens had been located. The team returned to College Station and demobilized.

Deployment Statistics

- Incident involved 15 personnel deployed for 2 days

Canine Search Team Command Staff

- 1 Team Leader
- 1 Search Team Manager
- 1 Logistics Specialist
- 1 Communications Specialist
- 1 Medical specialist

5 HR Canine Search Teams

- Each team consisted of a canine, the canine handler and a flanker/navigator



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