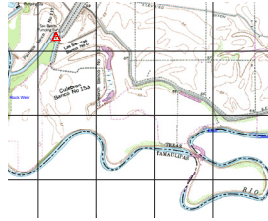


TX-TF1 ASSISTS WITH SEARCH FOR MISSING BORDER PATROL AGENTS



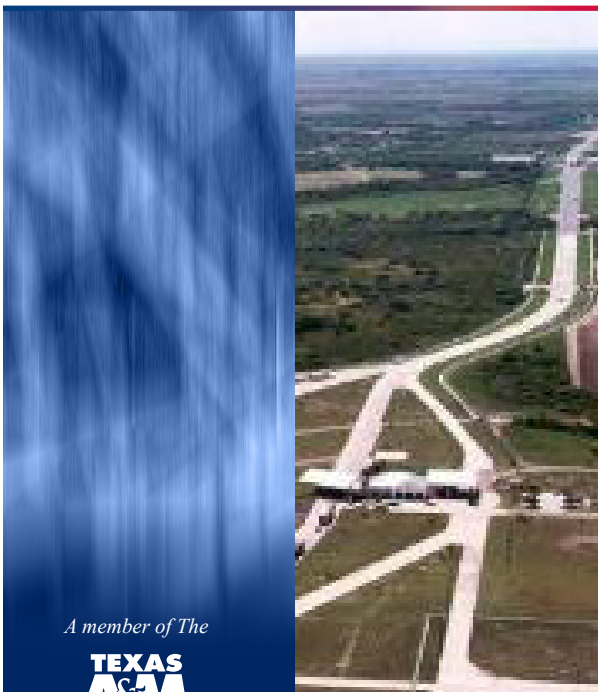
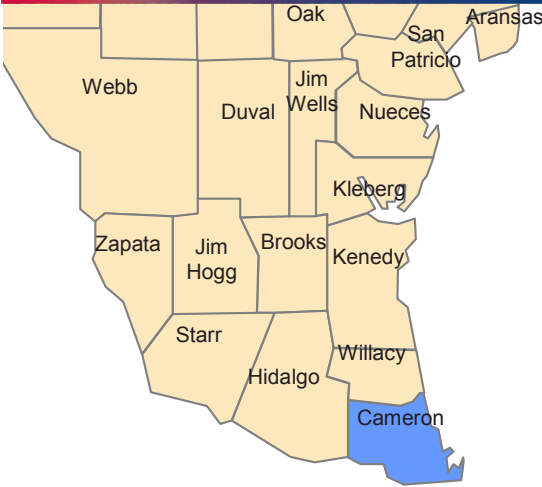
On September 20th, 2004, GDEM requested assistance from TX-TF1 to assist with managing search operations for two missing Border Patrol Agents. The agents disappeared September 19th, when their 19 foot boat capsized on the Rio Grande River near the Free Trade Bridge in Los Indios, about 10 miles south of Harlingen. In addition to managing the search operation, TX-TF1 assisted with communication interoperability between the responding agencies. Two task force personnel worked with the McAllen Disaster District Regional Liaison Officer (RLO) and for the local incident commander. Additionally, two personnel supported the deployment of the RIOS (Radio Interoperability System).

The responding agencies involved in this search could not communicate via radio with each other, so TX-TF1 provided each agency an interoperability radio and then bridged all communications from the Incident Command Post.

The task force was requested to be on scene by 1pm that day, so the Texas A&M System provided a twin engine Beechcraft King Air B200 aircraft to fly the four personnel and equipment to the border. The driving time from College Station to Los Indios was 374 miles (~ 7 hours driving time). The A&M System aircraft flew into McAllen within a few hours and the task force personnel drove to the International Bridge.

One task force member deployed to the river banks and issued handheld interoperable radios from the PEP POD to the local responders and search boats conducting search operations on the river while another task force member provided monitoring and coverage of the RIOS system radios from the top of the international bridge. Agencies involved in this search included US Border Patrol as well as fire, police and EMS from the surrounding jurisdictions.

Search operations continued until 10pm that night. The two border patrol agents were located early the next day so the task force members returned to College Station via the same aircraft on the afternoon of the September 21st.



Deployment Statistics

• Incident involved 4 personnel deployed for 2 days

Search and Logistics Personnel

- Radio Interoperability System (RIOS)
- Interoperable Radio
- Search Team Specialists

A member of The

