

SPY SATELLITE IMPACT POSSIBLE IN THE SOUTHERN UNITED STATES



On February 19th, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) requested that Texas Task Force One (TX-TF1) roster and Type I task force and be ready for deployment anywhere in the southern United States. The satellite, which was the size of a bus, was in a decaying orbit and was expected to re-enter the earth's atmosphere the week of February 25th. An uncontrolled re-entry of the satellite could have resulted in large pieces of debris falling across the southern United States. Additionally, the satellite was powered by 1000 pounds of hydrazine, a toxic substance similar to chlorine and could damage skin and lungs. TX-TF1 identified 70 personnel available for immediate mobilization and began making preparations for a rapid mobilization to any impact site.



At 10:30pm EST on February 20th, the United States Navy successfully intercepted the satellite with a modified SM-3 missile fired from the USS Lake Erie, hitting the satellite 133 nautical miles over the Pacific Ocean as it travelled at more than 17,000 mph. The missile scored a direct hit, striking the satellite in the hydrazine tank, reducing the satellite to football size pieces which burned up upon re-entry. A few hours later, after no impacts of satellite debris were reported, FEMA released the Task Force.

Deployment Statistics

• Incident involved 70 personnel on standby for 3 days

Type I US&R Task Force

- 4 rescue squads
- 2 technical search teams
- 4 canine search teams
- 2 structural engineers
- Command personnel
- Communications personnel and equipment
- Hazardous materials personnel and equipment
- Medical personnel and equipment
- Logistics personnel and equipment

A member of The

**TEXAS
&M
SYSTEM**

