MAGNITUDE 7.0 EARTHQUAKE IN THE CARIBBEAN NATION OF HAITI

On January 13, 2010, at 10:30 p.m., Governor Rick Perry authorized Texas Task Force 1 (TX-TF1) to deploy at the request of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). FEMA requested TX-TF1 to deploy to Haiti and support search and rescue operations after a 7.0 magnitude earthquake on January 12 that devastated the region.

The Task Force undertook immediate preparations for the deployment of equipment and personnel aboard military aircraft for the morning of January 14. Task Force personnel began assembling at their headquarters in College Station at 5:00 a.m. and all equipment and personnel departed for Ellington Field in Houston at 9:30 a.m.

The task force arrived at Ellington Field by 11:00 a.m. ready to deploy directly to Port-au-Prince aboard military aircraft. TX-TF1 would have joined seven other task forces that were already activated from Virginia, California, New York, and Florida. The activation would have been the first international deployment since the team was established in 1998. The Task Force remained on standby at Ellington Field throughout the weekend, awaiting assignment to an aircraft.

On the morning of January 18, TX-TF1 and all other U.S. teams on standby were demobilized by FEMA. FEMA had been notified by the United Nations mission in Haiti that the 28 search and rescue teams in the country were sufficient. The Task Force returned to College Station, where it returned the equipment cache to be on standby for deployment within four hours.

Deployment Statistics
- **Incident involved 80 personnel deployed for 5 days**
  Type I US&R Task Force
  - 4 Rescue squads
  - 4 Canine search teams
  - 2 Technical search teams
  - 2 Structural engineers
  - Command personnel
  - Communications personnel and equipment
  - Medical personnel and equipment
  - Hazardous materials specialists and equipment
  - Logistics personnel and equipment

  - 1 ESF-9 Coordinator assigned to the State Operations Center
  - ESF-9 Coordination Center in College Station was activated for this deployment