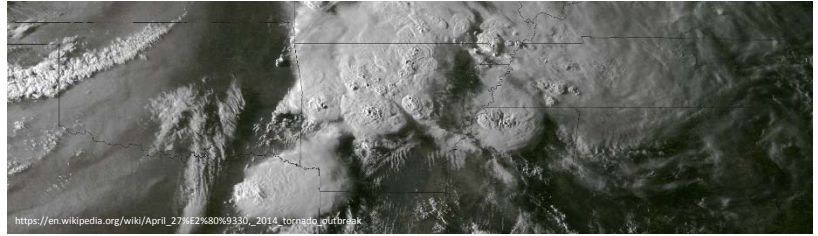


TX-TF1 Requested for Search Operations after Tornadoes Hit Vilonia, Arkansas



On April 27, 2014, severe thunderstorms in Arkansas, Kansas, and Oklahoma produced heavy rain, large hail, damaging winds, and tornadoes. One of the tornadoes, a ½ mile wide EF-4 funnel, impacted the small town of Vilonia, Arkansas, population 3,815. The local fire department in the area identified the event as a mass casualty incident, with the entire town being impacted.



Texas Task Force One (TX-TF1) received activation orders from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for a Type I US&R Task Force on April 28 at 0015 hours. In addition, the White Incident Support Team (IST) and the FEMA IST Central Cache was activated, with NE-TF1 being placed on alert.

This deployment was a unique situation for TX-TF1 as they were still engaged in their Operational Readiness Exercise (ORE) in College Station, TX when they were activated. They deployed soon after the activation notice to Vilonia, Arkansas.

Type I US&R Task Force staged at the Little Rock Air Force base, ready to assist the locals at a moment's notice, until it was determined that their assistance was not needed. TX-TF1, the White IST, and the Central Cache were demobilized on April 30, 2014 at 0830 hours.



Deployment Statistics

- Incident involved a Type I Team with 77 personnel deployed for 3 days
- Incident involved White IST and the IST Central Cache with 8 personnel from TX-TF1 deployed for 3 days

