



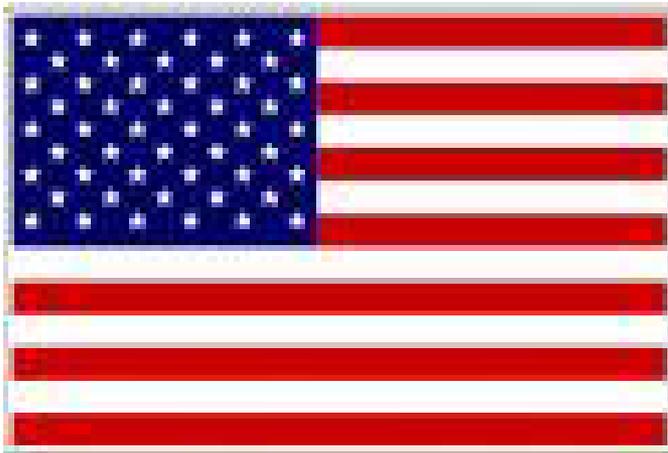


U.S.A-1/VA-TF1

Urban Search and Rescue

Response To The

2010 HAITI EARTHQUAKE





2010 HAITI EARTHQUAKE

- Established in the late '80's following the Mexico City and Soviet Armenia Earthquakes
- Federal government recognized that local assets may be overwhelmed
- Partnership with USAID (International deployments) and FEMA (Domestic deployments)
- All costs covered by Federal government.
- 28 teams established domestically
- 2 International teams (Fairfax and L.A. County)

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2010 HAITI EARTHQUAKE

- Over 200 “Specialists” make up VATF-1/USA-1
- Team consists of Command, Search, Rescue, Medical, Logistics, Engineering, Technical and Support components.
- Self Sufficient providing our own Food, Water and Shelter.
- Typically deployed as either a “Heavy” (72-person) or “Medium” (38-person) team.

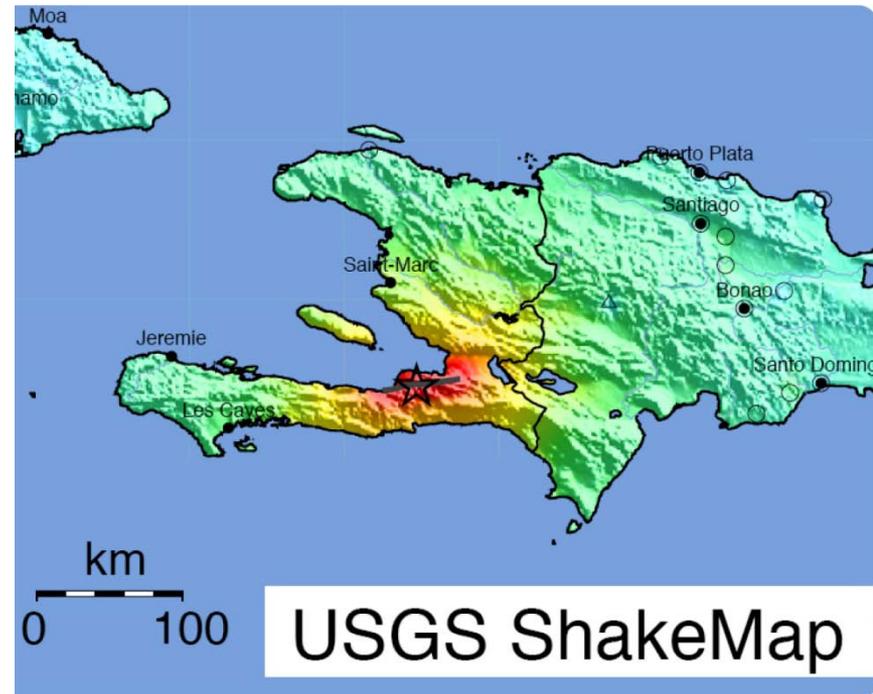
The Team



2010 HAITI EARTHQUAKE

- 5:00 PM, January 12:
 - Magnitude 7.0 earthquake struck
 - This quake was the most powerful to hit Haiti in a century.
 - Epi-center about 10 miles (15 kilometers) southwest of Port-au-Prince
 - Death toll could be as high as 200,000

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A C T I V A T I O N

2010 HAITI EARTHQUAKE

- **6:25 PM, January 12:**
 - USA-1 received orders to deploy a Heavy team to an earthquake in Haiti from USAID.
 - This activation was only ~1.5hrs after the earthquake.
 - This was the fastest deployment decision to date from USAID.
 - This quick action allowed USA-1 to get into action in the disaster area rapidly and is responsible in part for the success of the team.

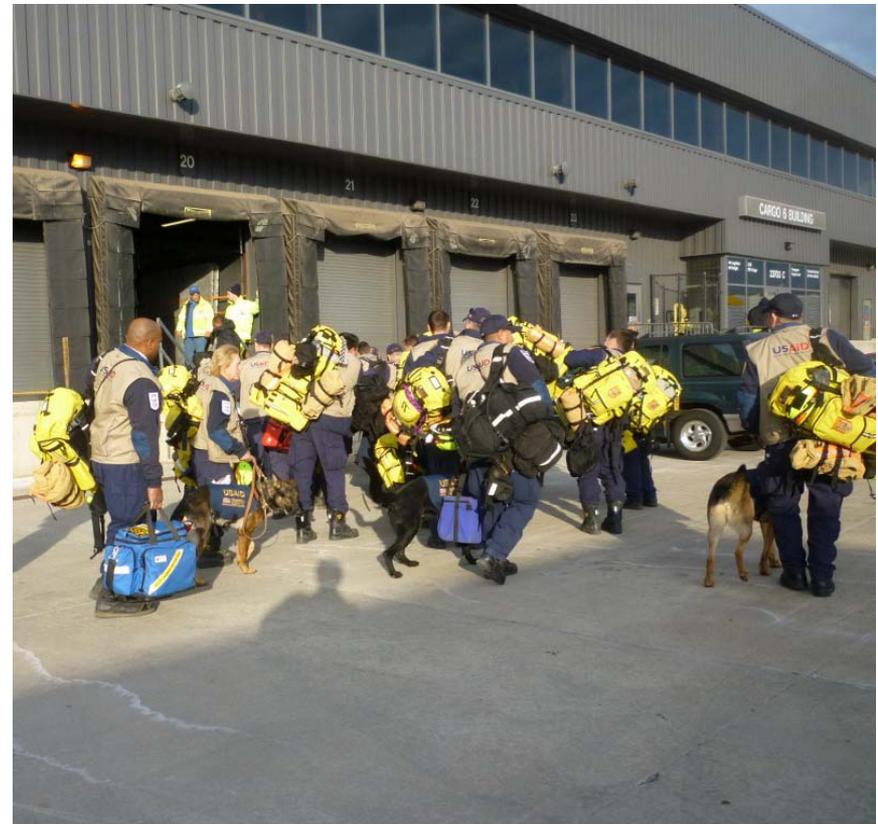




DEPLOYMENT

2010 HAITI EARTHQUAKE

- Team works through the night with USAID to deploy the team.
- This included dividing our team among three aircraft:
 - 1 for team members
 - 2 for equipment cache
- 12:39 PM, January 13:
 - USA-1 airborne enroute to Port-au-Prince airport.

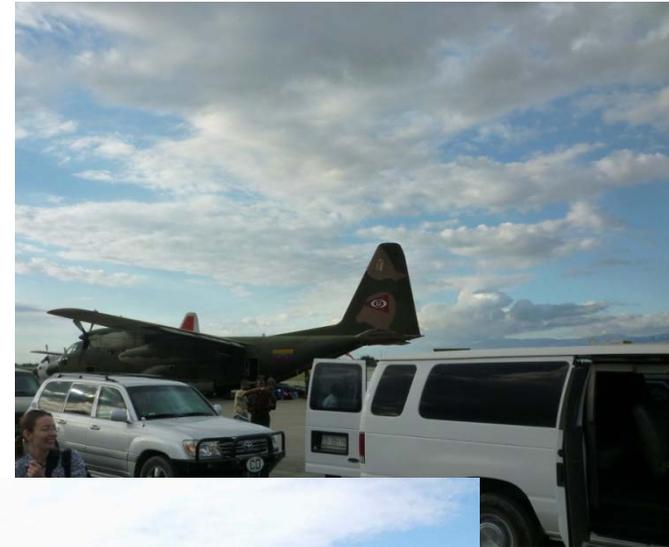




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2010 HAITI EARTHQUAKE

- 4:10 PM, January 13:
 - USA-1 arrives at Port-au-Prince airport.
- Team enroute to the U.S. Embassy to establish their BoO.
- 8:41 PM, January 13:
 - USA-1 on-site at the U.S. Embassy.





OPERATIONS

2010 HAITI EARTHQUAKE

- 1:35 AM, January 13:
 - Start of rescue operations:
 - Blue Task Force Leader reports Recon had a positive hit for a live victim at a UN Complex and is sending a squad to assist at that location.





OPERATIONS

2010 HAITI EARTHQUAKE

- January 13 - USAID requests a roster be developed for the deployment of a second team.
- January 14 – Second “Medium” Team deployed via chartered aircraft





OPERATIONS

2010 HAITI EARTHQUAKE

- 1:30 AM, January 15:
 - Second Team arrives at PAP airport.
 - Transport from airport to U.S. embassy secured after daylight.
 - Teams merged (later) to form “Super-Jumbo” Task force of 114 members and 7 Canine.
 - With 6 Rescue Squads and 3 Recon Teams.





OPERATIONS

2010 HAITI EARTHQUAKE

- **Continued Operations:**
 - Search operations continued until January 26.
 - Team cleared several grids by searches that were assigned by the U.N. OSOCC.
 - Established operational rhythm that allowed for routine handling of requests for assistance.





OPERATIONS

2010 HAITI EARTHQUAKE

- **Longest Extrication in Team's History**
 - 26:11 of total extrication time.
 - Members rescued a 27YOF from the rubble of the University Port-au-Prince.
 - Female was trapped by several floors of concrete slabs and stairwell railing.
 - This rescue proved the importance of cooperative operations in technical rescue and advanced life-support measures.
 - Over 2/3 of the team (114) were involved at this rescue site at some time.





2010 HAITI EARTHQUAKE

- **The Hotel Montana:**
 - The Montana is an extremely large resort style hotel.
 - The building was five stories tall in most places.
 - Building collapsed in almost all areas with most collapses being of the “pancake” type.
 - Team members made multiple rescues from site during the first few days.
 - USA-1 established a continuous presence at the site on January 19 that would continue until relieved by the US Army Corps of Engineers on the January 25.
 - Team started the systematic delayering of the structure and established command of the area to include body identification and forensic efforts.





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2010 HAITI EARTHQUAKE

- **Other Assistance:**
 - Structural Assessment of several hospitals.
 - Structural shoring of these hospital allow buildings to reopen.
 - Re-roofing of a critical Internet server site.





OPERATIONS

2010 HAITI EARTHQUAKE

- **Other Assistance:**
 - The team left the following equipment and material behind to assist the people of Haiti:
 - All tents
 - Majority of the Medium Cache
 - One complete radio system.
 - Majority of our medical cache.





R E T U R N

2010 HAITI EARTHQUAKE

- Team traveled to Santo Domingo in the Dominican Republic to be flown home.
- 5:40 PM, January 28:
 - Full team arrives at IAD.
- 3 members of the AST still in country.
- 2 members of a newly-formed rapid response force enroute to Haiti.





2010 HAITI EARTHQUAKE

- 16 Lives Saved
- No major injuries
- First time two teams (Heavy and Medium) deployed at same time.
- New team configuration designed and implemented.
- Demonstrated use of combined rescue arms successfully (search, rescue, medical, etc.)

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2010 HAITI EARTHQUAKE

Could CERT training have helped?

- Local responders overwhelmed
- Family Preparedness
 - Clean water a concern prior to the earthquake
 - Several days worth of food until humanitarian assistance arrives
 - Temporary Shelter – People forced to sleep on the sidewalk





2010 HAITI EARTHQUAKE

Could CERT training have helped?

- Many rescues performed by Haitians.
- Not all buildings heavily damaged
 - Many rescues were performed using basic levers and cribbing
- Basic First Aid supplies used up quickly



