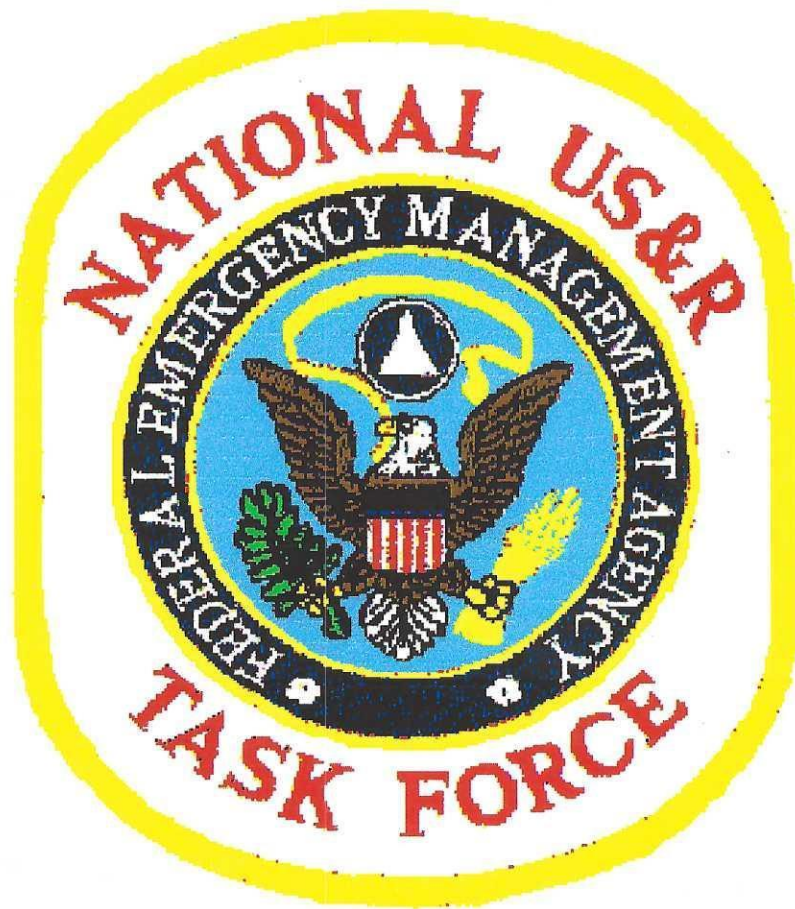


New York Task Force 1



**After Action Report
Oklahoma City, OK**

NYTF-1 After Action Report
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New York Task Force 1 (NY TF-1)

After Action Report

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Thursday, April 20, 1995- Thursday, April 27, 1995

***Prepared by Task Force Leaders
Craig H. Shelley & Curt Wargo***

NY TF-1
After Action Report, Oklahoma City

Executive Summary

This report describes the activities of New York Task Force 1 (NY TF-1) from activation through demobilization for the bombing which took place in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma on Wednesday, April 19, 1995. It contains lessons learned and recommendations for changes to enhance future operations. NY TF-1 did not receive an alert notification, and was activated at 0025 hours April 20, 1995. We mobilized and were airborne at 14:10 hours from John F. Kennedy International Airport (JFK). At 1650 we touched down at Tinker Air Force Base and were operational at the Alfred Murrah Federal Building at 2300 hours. Our primary mission for the 6 days that we were at the site was search and rescue primarily in the front operational sector. While no live victims were recovered, many deceased were, and large amounts of debris removed facilitating the search for victims. This mission would continued until demobilization was begun at 0200 hours on Tuesday, April 25, 1995.

The task force was comprised of members of the New York City Fire Department, New York City Police Department, and the New York City Emergency Medical Service. Task Force Leaders were Craig H. Shelley and Curt Wargo.

Introduction

On April 19, 1995 at approximately 0902 hours an explosion occurred outside of the Alfred Murrah Federal Building, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. This resulted in a major structural collapse of this building as well as collapse of other buildings nearby and extensive damage to buildings in the surrounding area. The number of fatalities and injuries was beginning to climb. The Alfred E. Murrah building housed several functions including a federal court; day care center; and offices of the United States Department of Agriculture; Veterans Administration; Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms; Internal Revenue Service; Social Security Administration; United States Secret Service; and a military recruiting office.

New York Task Force 1 (NY TF-1) was the fourth task force to be activated and such activation took place on Thursday April 20, 1995 at 0025 hours. Our mission would be to join forces with the Phoenix, Sacramento, and Virginia (VA TF-2) task forces and begin urban search and rescue of the Federal Building and surrounding areas as needed. We would later be joined by several other task forces in order to perform this mission. Upon arrival in Oklahoma City at 1650 hrs. the Task Force Leaders were briefed by FEMA's Incident Support Team (IST) and given our specific assignment. Our mission assignment for the remainder of our stay in Oklahoma City would be to work under the command of the IST Operations Chief Rick Risdon from 1900 hours to 0700 hours, specifically in an area fronting on Fifth Street (front operations sector). We would continue this mission until 0200 hrs. Tuesday April 25, 1995 when demobilization procedures would begin. Demobilization continued until NY TF-1 was released from New York's Floyd Bennet Field at 0030 hrs, Thursday, April 27, 1995.

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Chronology of Events

NYTF-1 OKLAHOMA CITY MOBILIZATION

Wednesday, April 19, 1995

09:05
Bombing & Structural Collapse of the A.R Murrah Federal Building
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

16:30hrs

Task Force leader Ray Downey requested to respond to Ok. Cty Collapse as part of the Incident Support Team (IST)

18:00hrs
Downey departs NYC

Thursday, April 20, 1995

00:05
Assistant Task Force Leader Curt Wargo Notified by FEMA ESF#9 Cell Tom Fleming that the NYTF-1 will be activated shortly.

00:25
NYTF-1 Officially Notified as to the Activation

Confirmed through OEM and State Warning point

To: NYC, NY URBAN SEARCH & RESCUE TASK FORCE #1

From: Shawn Foohey

Subject: Building Collapse in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Incident Type: Major Explosion, w/collapse of 9 story, reinforced concrete

The following persons were notified.

Police
Office of Emergency Management- Dennis Onner
Capt. Wargo Exe. ESU- TASK FORCE LEADER

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Det. Michael Corr, NYPD FEMA-USAR Coordinator
CO ESU- Inspect. Harkins

NYTF-1
OKLAHOMA CITY MOBILIZATION

LT. Panazzollo
PO Dennis O'Connell
Sgt Tim Farrell-TECHNICAL TEAM MANAGER

FIRE
Batt. Chief Jack Fanning
Batt. Chief Craig Shelley - TASK FORCE LEADER
Capt. Jim Ellson- TECHNICAL INFORMATION SPECIALIST
Dept. Chief Jim Bullock-Chief SOC

EMS
Capt. Charlie Wells- MEDICAL SPECIALIST
Dr. Dario Gozales- MEDICAL TEAM MANAGER
Assist. Chief - Paul Manascalco Chief EMS SOD

Thursday, April 20, 1995

00:30
Task Force Member call out begun ALL AGENCIES

00:30-01:30
Mobilization Support teams begin arriving at respected agencies.

Tech SERVICES / 1

Fire Cache departs Tech Services for Floyd Bennett

05:30
Fire cache arrives at Floyd Bennett Field

EMS

0530
Task Force Personnel assemble driver training building

BRIEFING

0545
Personnel review video

NAME? FEMA

NYTF-1
OKLAHOMA CITY MOBILIZATION

0550

Core group hold briefing with Team leaders

Hold off issuing radios

Still have not confirmed departure point (FEMA & DOMDS)

Discussed Food, Water, Sleeping

Latest update from scene 300 missing 78 dead.

Cause-Bombing

Weather Cloudy with showers

Length of mission ?????

2 Task Force on Scene

Sacramento, Phoenix

White House
changed
from
McGuire to
JFK

Approt. 4,500 LBS
ANTFO?

0610

EMS Arrived, Briefed

0620

Team members filled out medical evaluation form. Dr. Gonzales Medical Exams

0730

Loaded Buses at staging area for JFK

0755

Formed convoy to JFK

0805

Depart to JFK

0830

Arrived JFK awaiting arrival of C-141 from McGuire

0935

Air Force C-141 Arrived

0955

Began loading pallets

1045

continued loading

PALLETS RECONFIGURED TO
MILITARY PALLETS, ALL
HAZ MAT SEGREGATED.

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1120
Pallets loaded and are being weighted.

By USAF

NYTF-1
OKLAHOMA CITY MOBILIZATION

1140
Briefing

Six teams will be activated by FEMA
Will be departing for Tinker AFB, Ok. Cty
Expect 13:00 departure 3.5 hr flight
Briefing by Air Force
Seating, earplugs, no electrical equip.

1220
Began loading pallets on aircraft

1255
Three pallets loaded
Reconfigure one of the pallets

1335
Aircraft loaded

Thursday, April 20, 1995

1350
Personnel began boarding Aircraft

1410
Departed JFK for Tinker Air Force Base
ETA 3.5 hr.

Summary:

Problems:

Notification: No prior alert. Activation not through proper channels
Activation notice lacked key details.
Communication re: Point of Departure, repeatedly changed.

Solutions:

Obtain pallets 463-L pallets
Three way confirmations-FEMA, TASK FORCE, TRANSPORTER.
Utilize a Standard Activation notice.

(8 ON HAND) 4 TECH SERVICES
4 FLOYD BENNETT

Time Change to Central Standard Time

NYTF-1
OKLAHOMA CITY MOBILIZATION

1650
Touch down Tinker Air Force Base
Meet Lt. Col. Pinchovich Movement Coord.

1700
Deplane

1715
Unload Aircraft *By USAF PERSONNEL*

1725
Update 3 live victims found on eighth floor

Board 2 buses to myriad Convention. Center

1800
Arrive Convention Center rerouted to collapse site.

1810
Arrive 1 block from collapse site
Task Force Leaders meet at Command Post with FEMA USAR Reps

1930
Setup temporary base near collapse site and await future orders.
Parking lot of St. Joseph's Church
Received briefing by Task Force Leader
Will need:
Helmets & Gloves, radios
Maintain team discipline
Teams # 1&3 will be deployed onto collapse immediately.
Reminded of safety rules

2100
Arrived back at Convention Ctr. Unload Pallets-Setup Command Ctr.
Address: 1 Myriad Gardens, Oklahoma City.

2130
Notified by TFL Shelley to have four (4) teams ready.

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OKLAHOMA CITY MOBILIZATION

2140
Briefing

NYTF will be fully deployed tonight.
Follow orders, stay together, No freelancing
Will work under team managers
Start four (4) teams, 3 on rubble pile, one in reserve, will rotate.
DO NOT DISTURB BLUE TARP IN FRONT OF BUILDING
CRIME SCENE EVIDENCE
Political problems, local teams feel left out.
4th team will also serve as a safety team.
Collapse is not a problem, sliding is a problem.
If tired or hurt, come off pile.
We work for FEMA, Operate under ICS
Sqd Leaders to be safety officers
Managers will rotate
Virginia Beach will be working underneath us
Procedure for removing bodies reviewed
R&R issues addressed

BLAST CENTER

2230
Loaded pallets at convention ctr. to bring to site.
Radios issued

2245
Teams left convention ctr for site

(TRANSPORTATION PROBLEM)

Begin On-Site Collapse Search & Rescue Operations

2300
On site briefing

2315
Teams 1,3,4 deployed into collapse.

2325
Team # 1
Discovers one DOA
Begin recovery operations

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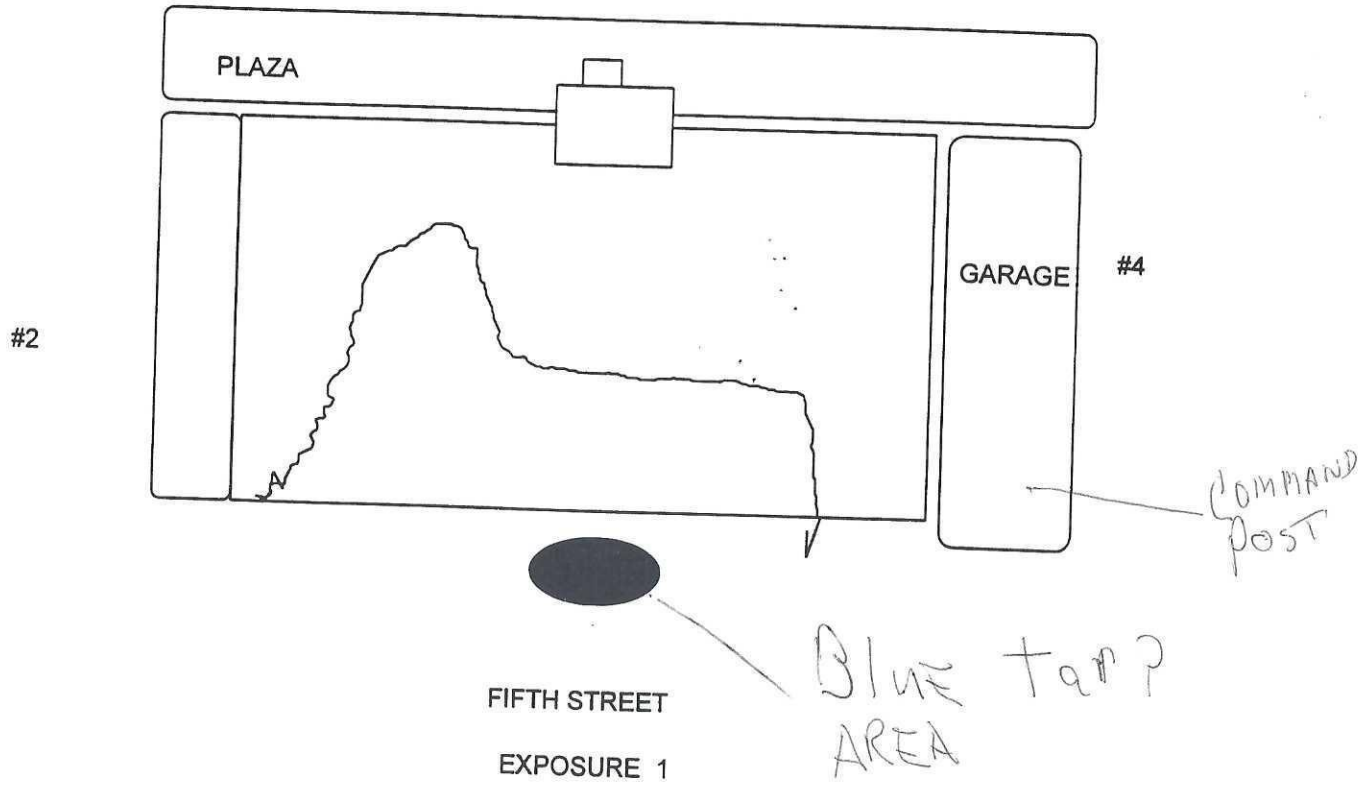
2330
Team #
Begins Rigging Large Slab of concrete
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2355
Team #
Discovers body under slab
Begin recovery operations

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NYTF-1
OKLAHOMA CITY MOBILIZATION

FOURTH ST.
#3



Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building

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OKLAHOMA CITY MOBILIZATION

Friday, April 21, 1995

0005
Team #
Recovery operations continue

0015
F/F Mike Esposito suffered lacerated hand on rubble pile
Treated by Medical team, returned to duty. (4) Four stitches.

0020
Team#
Heavy Rigging Specialist supervises removal of large concrete slab.

0025
Slab removed, 2 bodies DOA spotted. To be removed by OKC-FD

0040
K-9 Search Team in basement reports finding two (2) bodies in basement,
exposure #2 side.

0050
Request made to Base of Ops for more tools:
Saws, blades, fuel, pry bars.

0110
Generator brought to site

0115
K-9 Dog "ALADIN" suffers laceration to paw.
Treated by Dr. Gonzales and the Medical Team (Bandaged)

0140
Requested equipment arrives * (Need to obtain a cargo van for the TF)

0205
Various weapons recovered from rubble and given to Secret Service.

0345
Two bodies removed from basement

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NYTF-1
OKLAHOMA CITY MOBILIZATION

Friday, April 21, 1995

0700
NYTF-1
Relieved from duty at the collapse site.

0730
Task force personnel load equipment for return to Base of Operations.

0800
Truck returns to Base of Operations

0900
Unloading completed
Task Force advised to get some rest, however they will remain on standby as a backup for other task forces. Personnel are to remain fit for duty and in contact with the base of Operations at all times.

Summary:

Problems: Logistical-Equipment cache to far from collapse site.
Need a vehicle to be dedicated to the team for immediate transportation of equipment & supplies.
There is a need for a larger on site equipment cache.
Need a vehicle to be dedicated to the team for transportation of personnel.

Safety- There is a need for a separate safety officer.

Friday, April 21, 1995

1455
M.Corr injured from a fall, removed to Hillcrest Hospital for treatment

1700
Task Force Leaders report to Briefing.

1712
Transport to Hospital

1715
FEMA Operations Ctr NTFD of injury.