

Unidad Militar de Emergencias



ESP-02

Wins and challenges

The Spanish USAR team was deployed within the first 24 hours. Our team was ready to go in less than 6 hours. It was essential to land in Turkey within a few hours.

3 victims were rescued in Nurdagi. The search technical team arrived at the worksite and confirmed the victims were alive, then the rescue team started working at the site. The technical search team heard the alive victims clearly through his electronics devices. The team pulled out the victims. The rescue team also pulled out the dead father. After rescuing the family, the worksite was checked to confirm that there were no more victims in this collapsed building. The Spanish USAR worked to rescue the family for more than thirty hours.

The AFAD organisation provided a lot of information, but we really did not know which information was real. We made a map to check every collapsed building, where we could find people alive.

The situation in Turkey was overwhelming and we had no information about the area where we were deployed so we recruited an interpreter from that area to get as much information as possible, which was extremely important because the interpreter knew the area perfectly and she was able to lead to the main worksites.



Lessons Learned

The USAR Team should be ready to conduct ASR-1 and ASR-2 when they arrive at an area of operation, because it could had not been done.

An accurate ASR-2 will facilitate the next step.

Although the canine search team was extremely effective, the dogs tired early due to stress factors such as the number of people on the worksite or the noise from heavy machinery.

Close contact with Local authorities is essential to obtain information in order to locate the worksite.

At least two interpreters should be assigned to each team from the start.

Chemical flashlights were very useful. The USAR team used them to be guided by the victims. Chemical lights were thrown at different holes, when victims saw some of this light, they told to USAR team the colour of this stick easing and guide the team to the right direction.

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