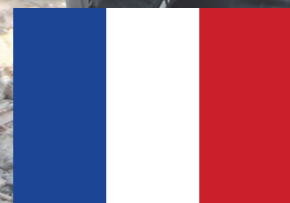


Unité D'Instruction et D'Intervention de la Sécurité Civile N°1



FRA-02

The FRA 02 team arrived in Turkey on the morning of February 7, 2023. Upon arrival at the Incirlik military base, near Adana, and after registration at the RDC, the team was sent to Osmaniye for 36 hours then redeployed to Antakya on February 9. In permanent contact with the UCC also located in Antakya, the team ended its search for victims on the evening of February 13.

Throughout the mission, the FRA02 team worked 24/7 to dig out the rubble and return to their families 40 dead victims on 11 different sites.



The main lessons learned are of three types. First of all, even if it was not possible to save lives, the mission to return the bodies to the families was a difficult and painful mission but a beautiful one. Having to rub shoulders with worried family members who are waiting for the body of a loved one to be returned to them was particularly intense. These situations marked a lasting impression, but never diverted the French rescuers continuing the mission. It is nevertheless necessary to establish psychological support for rescuers at the end of the mission and over the long term.



The second lesson learned is that a USAR mission has such fast kinetics that only the reflex acts are well executed. Thus, it is essential to train regularly to set up a BoO, to deploy a command post even independently of a global USAR exercise.

Finally, the importance of interpreters in this kind of mission must be underlined. They are essential people to the success of the mission and essential to get out of delicate situations. It is therefore necessary to welcome them with in the team in the best possible way by providing them with accommodation, food and even safety equipment before the deployment.

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