

Technology Assistance Project Summary

The SWTC Technology Assistance Division provided technology support to public safety providers in the Southeast Texas area during the Hurricane Rita recovery. The Technology Assistance Division transmitted emails and Texas Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (TLETS) messages to all 254 Sheriffs' offices across the state soliciting manpower and equipment support for those counties suffering the most severe damage. The resulting offers of assistance were logged then dispatched as requested by officials in the affected counties. Additionally, the Technology Assistance Division arranged for the acquisition and deployment of four radio communications gateways in the affected area to provide interoperable public safety communications in the affected region. The Technology Assistance Division also coordinated with the National Law Enforcement and Corrections Technology Center-Southeast to have a communications engineer travel to the affected region to assist state and local law enforcement agencies restore damaged or destroyed communications systems and to provide support for the communications gateways deployed to the region. Further, the Technology Assistance Division coordinated with the National Institute of Justice and arranged for the deployment of two powered parachutes for use in search and rescue in the region. Additionally, the Technology Assistance Division coordinated the deployment of a team from the National Institute of Justice to provide disaster mapping in the affected region. Technology Assistance Division staff also provided liaison between local officials requesting equipment, such as generators, and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) personnel who could provide such equipment.

