

FRENCH RELIER IN FOREIGN DISASTER

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French rescue teams deployed in foreign countries, in the event of a disaster, come from pre-existing structures and can therefore start fast.

In France, Civil Security (or Civil Defense) has as its main duty to take on the safety of the french population, in peace as well as in war.

In the event of a disaster occurring in a foreign country, Civil Security is responsible for deploying rescue teams, from its own units, integrating them into the other structures, governmental or non governmental ones and has to coordinate the action of the whole means within the chain of international relief.

First, we will talk about the means which can be deployed, then we will briefly touch on their implementation. At last, for illustration we will talk about " LAFAYETTE Detachment " which participated in the rescue operations during MEXICO earthquake in 1985.

- I - French Resources

They are composed of :

Civil Security

Other governmental means

Non governmental organisms

CIVIL SECURITY

It is a governmental structure

Answering directly to the Minister of the Interior,
Civil Security performs its duty via :

- State support :

Air bases
Helicopters
Warning network
Mines weepers

- Military support :

IUCS : Instruction Units of Civil Security
FBP : Firemen Brigade of Paris
FBM : Firemen Bataillon of Marseille

- Federal means :

The support of territorial communities are
composed of civilian firemen.

Instruction units of Civil Security :

They are currently three. A fourth one with
a chemical and nuclear specialization is being developed.

They are established in :

Nogent le Rotrou
Brignoles
Corte

They are composed of 2000 men.

Each unit is divided into :

- 1 Headquarters section
- 2 Intervention sections
- 1 Instruction section

Each intervention section has in addition to
a commandment group, three specialized operational groups : 2 in research
and rescue in rubble and one in fighting against pollution.
All these groups are competent in fire fighting and first aid.

It is from within these units that are taken
the manpower who will form the ASDI , aero-movable section for disaster
intervention. This detachment is ready to intervene within a delay of
an hour.

Its basic composition is :

- 3 research and rescue in rubble sections
- 3 medical teams
- 3 sections with dogs for research
- 1 logistical section

This detachment can be " aerotransported " and partially air dropped. This ASDI can be reinforced in manpower or equipment according to the nature of the disaster and the needs formulated by the requesting country.

Military Firemen :

These military units are at the Minister of the Interior disposal to protect people and their possessions.

Fire Brigade of Paris is formed of 7000 firemen and can rapidly deploy an Intervention Section for Cataclysm - ISC - This ISC is composed of 40 men all specialized in research and localization of victims. It is divided into :

1 commandment and signals group
and 5 operational groups which can include
a medical team.

This ISC can be modified in terms of manpower and equipment according to the event for which they are deployed.

Fire Bataillon of Marseille consists of 1000 firemen and can deploy, in four hours a " Specialized Operational Section in research and rescue " This section is composed of 40 men divided into :

1 commandment group
1 medical team
2 logistical groups
2 operational groups

Federal Support :

It consists of units of civilian firemen which depend both on Civil Security and on their town council. Some of them own specialized units susceptible to deployment in the event of a disaster. For example :

Intervention and Rescue Group 30
ELIS 30

Medical team 16 - COLMED 16 -

OTHER MEANS OF SUPPORT

Governmental means :

Engaged after the decision of an interministerial council, they are placed under the authority of Civil Security to be integrated into the relief plan.

For example :

The Emergency Intensive Care Unit -SAMU-
answerable to the Minister of Health

The Aero-movable Military Medical Team
-EMMIR-
and the Surgery Parachuted Unit - ACP -
answerable to the Minister of Army

Non Governmental Organisms :

For example:.

Red Cross
Bioforce
Medecins du Monde
Medecins sans frontieres.
A.M.I
Secours Populaire Francais

- II - Organization

The deployment of french rescue teams in a foreign country in the event of a disaster is a governmental decision belonging to the Prime Minister.

As soon as the initial information concerning the disaster is received, two sections are created :

One at the Home Ministry : Civil Security Headquarters
- CODISC -

The other at the Foreign Office : Crisis Team
- CEL/UR -

These two sections have to anticipate the eventual request of french aid, to make an inventory of the means appropriated to the event and to place them on pre-alert status.

At this stage, assessment of needs according to the type of disaster, according to the local means status is the most important to quantify the magnitude of the eventual french relief and to try to do that the means are well appropriated.

This task is carried out by a precursory detachment composed of two specialists of disaster who are deployed immediately and with the french Ambassador have to report rapidly their conclusions.

All the french ressources are put into effect at the request of the government of the country concerned or after its acceptance of the proposal of french aid.

The coordination of the ressources engaged is assured in France by Civil Security Headquarters and in foreign countries by an advanced Headquarters under the direction of the french Ambassador who places all french ressources at the disposal of the director of rescue of the country concerned.

Now we are going to illustrate our remarks with the example of

" LAFAYETTE DETACHMENT "

Thursday, September 19th, 1985 at 7:19 a.m. (1:19 p.m in Paris), a violent earthquake struck the Mexican soil during more than 3 minutes. Its magnitude was 7.5 to 8.5 on the Richter scale.

Friday, September 20th at 6:36 p.m , another quake of between 6.8 to 7.3 on the Richter scale increased the destructions of the day before.

With 18 million inhabitants, Mexico is a very large city. It is approximately situated 400 km from the epicenter and was particularly affected by the quake.

FRENCH GOVERNMENTAL AID

As early as the 19th of September, a concerted inter-ministerial decision was made to send a precursory detachment specialized in disaster in order to quantify the needs of relief.

The two sections (Crisis team and Civil Security Headquarter) held a meeting and began to constitute a list of the future units susceptible to deployment.

September 20th in the afternoon, mexican government decided to accept international aid.

Just as quickly, a detachment sent.

It was composed of :

- Aero-movable Section for Disaster Intervention of the Civil Security Instruction Unit
- Intervention Section for Cataclysm of Paris Fire Brigade
- Specialized Operational Section of the Firemen Bataillon of Marseille
- Intervention and Rescuer Group - ELIS 30 -
- Detachment of SAMU 94
- Detachment of Firemen from Val d'Oise

In all :

192 men including 17 physicians, 14 dogs, 19 tons of equipment, on board of two boeing aircrafts.

Landing in Mexico on Saturday the 21st at 11:25 a.m., the detachment called " LAFAYETTE " , immediatly placed itself at the disposal of General Bravo representative of the mexican government. This detachment immediatly integrated itself with the dispositions already in place and, following the orders of the mexican director of Rescue Services, was attributed a mission of search and localization on three work spots.

Furthermore, numerous reconnaissances in small teams were carried out by the search and localization groups.

The headquarters located in the Camino Real Hotel enabled the centralization of information and got the contact with the mexican director of rescue efforts.

On the 23rd of September at 2:00 p.m , a second french detachment came to reinforce the Lafayette detachment. These reinforcement permitted a new sectional division of the detachment and enabled multiplication of the number of detection and rescue teams.

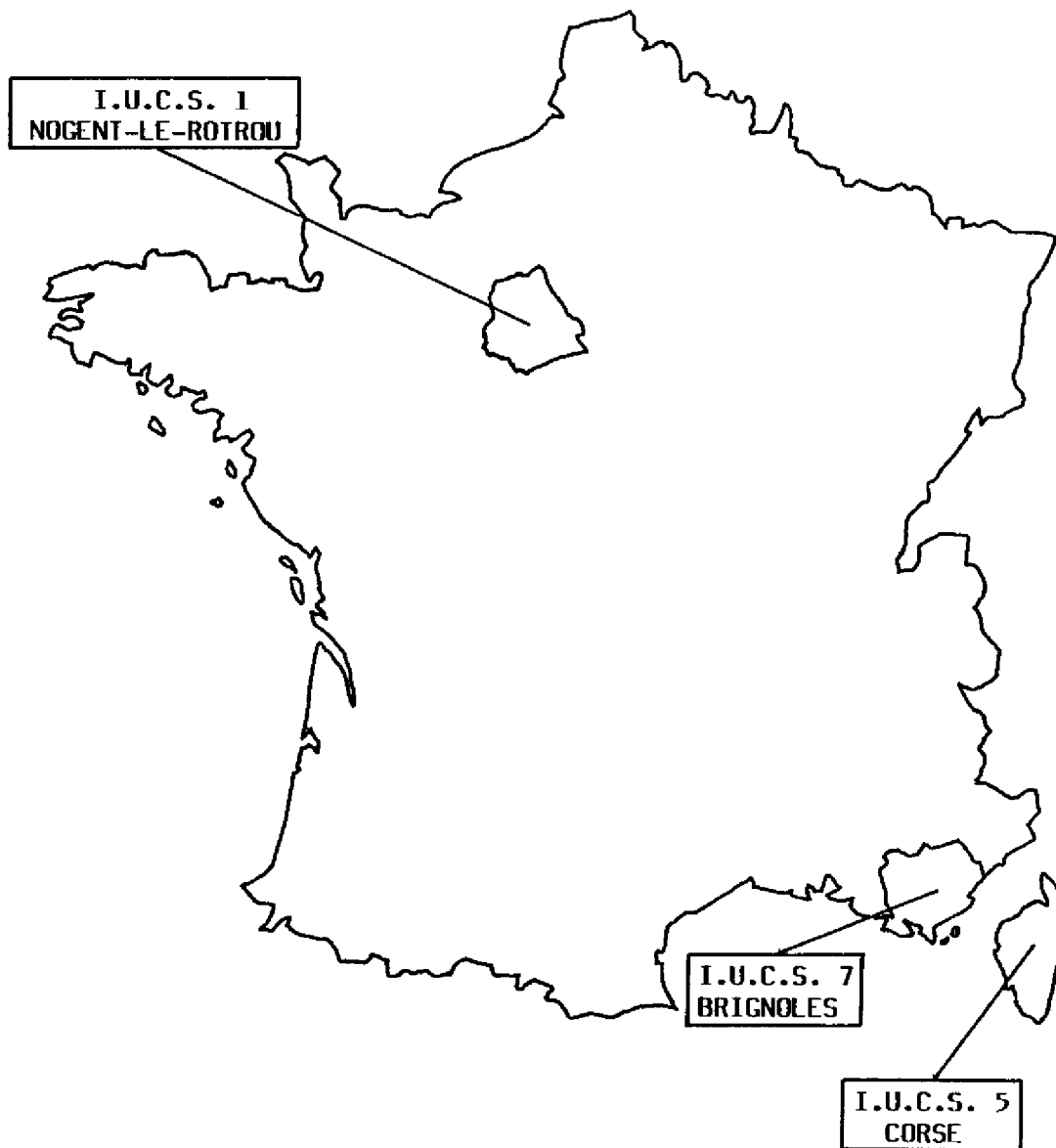
RESULTS

During its stay, Lafayette detachment was enable to localize 607 victims deeply hidden in ruins with unfortunately 560 dead.

- 47 victims were picked out alive from ruins
- 41 are alive today (29 adults and 12 children)
-
- 97 corpses were picked out from rubble.

CONCLUSION

Pre-existing units, assessment of information, a unique commandment, a rapid deployment of units seem, at least for us the main requirements to carry a relief plan off,



**INSTRUCTION UNITS
OF CIVIL SECURITY**

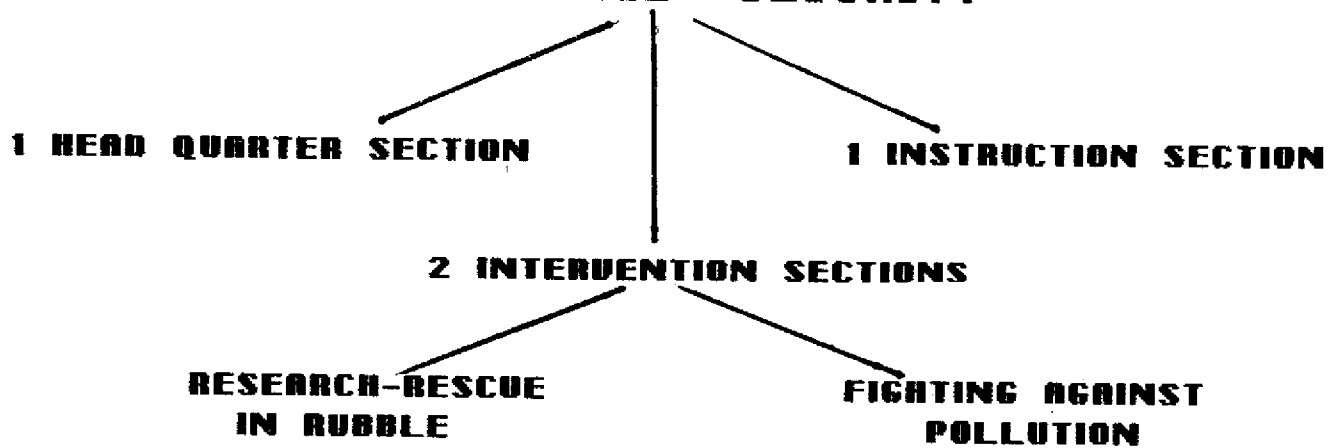
1 HEAD QUARTER SECTION

1 INSTRUCTION SECTION

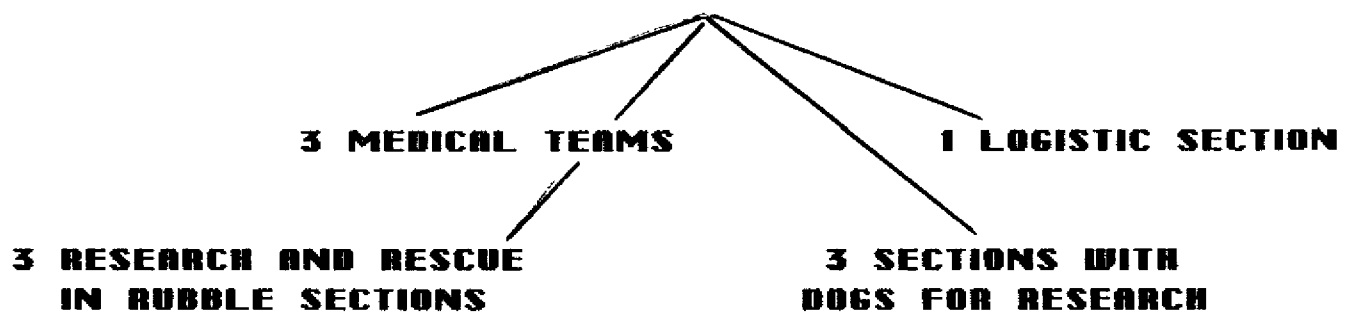
2 INTERVENTION SECTIONS

**RESEARCH-RESCUE
IN RUBBLE**

**FIGHTING AGAINST
POLLUTION**



**AERO-MOVABLE SECTION FOR DISASTER
INTERVENTION
D.I.C.A.**



MILITARY FIREMEN

**FIREMEN BRIGADE
OF PARIS**

7000 MEN

**INTERVENTION SECTION
FOR CATACLYSM**

40 MEN

**FIREMEN BATAILLON OF
MARSEILLE**

1000 MEN

**SOS. RESEARCH - RESCUE
IN RUBBLE SECTION**

40 MEN

FEDERAL MEANS

CIVIL FIREMEN

INTERVENTION and RESCUE GROUP

E.L.I.S 30

MEDICAL TEAM

COL.MED 16

OTHER MEANS

GOVERNMENT MEANS

**NON GOVERNMENT
ORGANISMS**

**AERO-MOVABLE
MILITARY
TEAM
(E.M.M.I.R)**

**EMERGENCY INTENSIVE
CARE UNIT
(S.A.H.U)**

**SURGERY AERO-MOVABLE
UNIT
(A.C.P)**

**RED CROSS
BIOFORCE
M.S.F
MDM
A.M.I
S.P.F**

ORGANIZATION

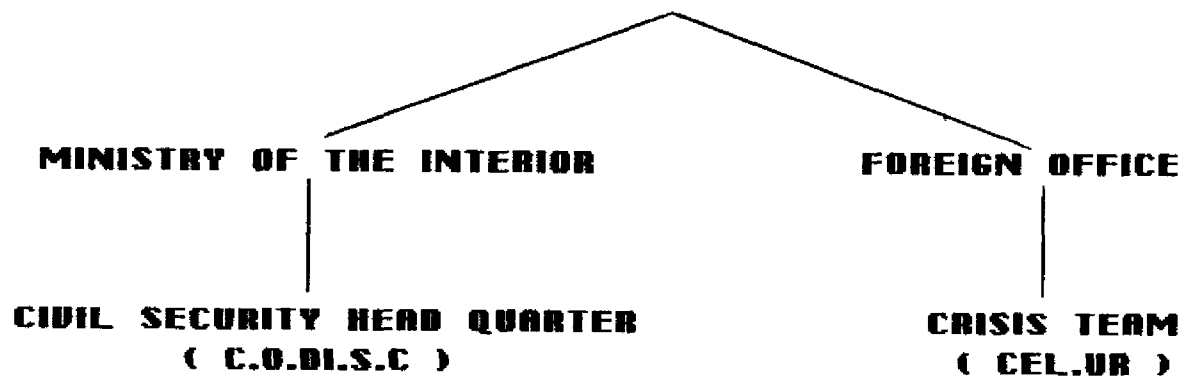
**GOVERNMENT DECISION
PRIME MINISTER**

MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR

FOREIGN OFFICE

**CIVIL SECURITY HEAD QUARTER
(C.O.D.I.S.C)**

**CRISIS TEAM
(CEL.UR)**



MEXICO 1985

LAFAYETTE

SEPTEMBER 19 th

**7. 19 AM
(1 . 19 IN PARIS)**

EARTHQUAKE

**7.5 to 8.5
RICHTER SCALE**

SEPTEMBER 20 th

**7. 36 PM
(1. 36 AM IN PARIS)**

EARTHQUAKE

**6.8 to 7.3
RICHTER SCALE**

CONCLUSIONS

FRENCH ASSISTANCE

458 MEN INCLUDING 67 PHYSICIANS

RESULTS

RESEARCH

RESCUE

607 VICTIMS

47