Unusual Support and Reassurance (USAR) Services: recent evolution of the Task Force mission

Jason McMullan, MD
Cincinnati
Disclaimers

• I am not FEMA or an official representative of any kind
• These thoughts and opinions are based on personal experience and do not reflect policy
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• I am not special or unique. I was not alone.
The Federal USAR System

- 28 teams nationwide, equally staffed, trained, and equipped
- 80-man teams: Command structure, logistics, planning, communications, technical search, HazMat, heavy rigging, technical rescue, 2 structural engineers, 2 MDs, 4 paramedics, 4 search canines and their handlers
- Self-sufficient
Traditional USAR Mission
Traditional USAR Mission
Everyone has a plan 'till they get punched in the mouth

- Mike Tyson
Lavallette, NJ
Lavallette, NJ
FEMA

CANNOT STAY IN HOUSE

CALL:

609-442-7233
609-827-2930
609-827-6181
908-902-7153
We’re from the government, and we’re here to help
Our Activities

- Concrete slabs broken: 0
- Steel beams cut: 0
- Field amputations: 0
Our Activities

- Houses cleared: ~6000
- Houses searched: ~50
- MREs distributed: ~8000
- Bottles of water distributed (1L): ~15000
- Blankets and NYC Marathon “Snuggies”: 2500
- Wellness checks: ~200
- Evacuated: <10
When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news,

my mother would say to me, "Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping."

To this day, especially in times of "disaster," I remember my mother's words and I am always comforted by realizing that there are still so many helpers — so many caring people in this world.

~ Fred Rogers