

FACT SHEET



Operation Lone Star

Operation Lone Star is a collaborative medical services project that unites state and county health and human service agencies, Texas Military Forces, local service groups and volunteers in the largest public health humanitarian effort in the country. Operation Lone Star is a real-time, large-scale emergency preparedness exercise that provides medical service and disaster recovery training to state agencies and personnel while addressing the medical needs of thousands of underserved Texas residents.

Each summer since 1998, Operation Lone Star has provided free medical care to residents of the Rio Grande Valley. For many residents it is the only medical care they receive all year. For elements of the Texas State Guard and its Medical Brigade, it is a vital training mission providing hands-on experience in providing mass medical care in partnership with local public health authorities. For local residents, it is the gift of health – or of life itself.

The medical services provided during Operation Lone Star include immunizations, blood pressure checks, cholesterol screening, diabetes screening, hearing and vision exams, physicals for students, limited dental services, and limited pharmacy products.

In 2010 more than 300 military staff members, over 200 state and county employees and countless volunteers gave of their time and talents to make Operation Lone Star a reality. Last year they provided some 60,000 medical services to more than 12,000 Texas residents.

Most of the military personnel serving at Operation Lone Star are members of the Medical Brigade of the Texas State Guard. The mission of the Medical Brigade is to provide licensed public health support personnel and technical support expertise in response to large scale disasters, supplementing public health authorities of the Texas Department of State Health Services. In recent years it has been tasked heavily to provide medical care in disaster shelters along the Gulf Coast of Texas, and has responded to Hurricanes *Katrina*, *Rita*, *Ike*, and *Alex*, among others.

The Texas State Guard is one of three branches of the Texas Military Forces (TXMF), operating under the command of the Adjutant General of Texas and the Governor as Commander-in-Chief of all state military forces. The TXMF includes the Texas Army National Guard and the Texas Air National Guard.

For more information about the Texas State Guard, go to: www.txsg.state.tx.us