



SPACE SHUTTLE COLUMBIA RECOVERY SUPPORT

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Washington, DC -- Phoenix International, Inc., (Phoenix), prime contractor to the Naval Sea Systems Command's Office of the Supervisor of Salvage and Diving (SUPSALV) announced its participation in operations to locate, recover, and map debris from Space Shuttle Columbia.



As director of all underwater search and recovery efforts for Columbia, SUPSALV has directed Phoenix to assist in locating remnants of the spacecraft that may have fallen in and around Texas waterways. The project includes the provision of boats, underwater search systems, sonar operators and analysts, logistics coordination, and the construction and management of a database to catalog the precise location of every recovered item. The immense and difficult search effort includes participants from federal and state agencies as well as commercial survey companies. The team includes Navy divers from Mobile Diving and Salvage Unit 2 of Norfolk, VA; members of the Houston, Galveston, and Jasper County Police Departments; Texas Departments of Public Safety, and Parks and Wildlife; the US Coast Guard Auxiliary; Louisiana Fish and Wildlife, and the Sabine River Authority. Phoenix and C&C Technologies of Lafayette, LA are providing search equipment and operators. A vast array of underwater search technologies has been employed to complete the project as expeditiously as possible. Side scan, forward looking, and multi-beam sonars; laser line scanners; and autonomous underwater search systems have all been used in conjunction with Navy and civilian dive teams to search murky and tree laden waters thought to contain shuttle debris.

SUPSALV is responsible for developing and maintaining a national capability to search, locate, and recover objects of interest lost in water depths to 20,000 feet. In addition to meeting the Navy's search and recovery needs, SUPSALV provides command and control for accident investigation assistance to the Army, Coast Guard, Air Force, NASA, FAA, and NTSB, as well as to foreign governments and agencies requesting its expertise.

Phoenix provides high quality manned and unmanned marine services to an international customer base from its facilities in Landover, MD and Morgan City, LA. Phoenix is the SUPSALV prime contractor responsible for maintaining, modifying, upgrading, and operating Navy owned sonar, ROV, and heavy lift equipment used to conduct worldwide underwater search and recovery operations.

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