

SAFEMED IV Project - Training on main principles of SAR.

24- 25 - 26 March 2021 - Case study¹

Instructions:

4 groups will be created. In each one a representant will be nominated to present the outcome of the discussion. Case study has been drafted to stimulate the debate and it might be that there is not just one answer that should be considered correct. Furthermore, all reflections provided shall be considered for training purpose and cannot be taken as an example for real cases.

State of play

The coastal State of Paperopoli declared its SRR and appointed 1 RCC and 3 RSCs. Each RSC is responsible for its SSR. Decree 123 of 1.1.2019 states that the competent Authority of SAR operation in the State of Paperopoli is the Ministry of Defence.

RCC and RSCs don't have Aircrafts or helicopters in their assets but they can count on the resources of the AIR Force.

The RCC located in the capital city is responsible for the coordination of SAR activities when the location of the SAR operation is inside the SRR and when:

- is involving more than one RSCs and is foreseen at national level or
- in any case of which is considered more convenient by the RCC.

In all other cases is competent the RSC in which area falls the SAR operation.

Many different public authorities can contribute to the SAR operation such as Air Force, firefighter brigade, police, national health service, etc...under the overall coordination of the RSC or RCC.

A specific office under the Ministry of Defence is in charge for drafting a national SAR Plan and the Head Office requested your help since you are one of the SAR experts in your country.

The following plan was drafted and submitted to your consideration. You should analyse it in detail and comment on possible integrations or amendments if any.

1.1 Goal

The aim of this National Plan is to ensure the effective use of all available resources in all types of SAR operations and to enable the State of Paperopoli to satisfy its international commitments and obligations.

1.2 Principles

¹ The National Search and Rescue Manual Volume 1 - Search and Rescue Administration 2019 Edition from Australian Maritime Safety Authority have been used for drafting some of the sentences of this case study. The entire manual is on-line available at <https://natsar.amsa.gov.au/natsar-manual.asp>

Any SAR Authority may receive a distress alert as first receiver, making them responsible for onward distribution to the responsible SAR Authority.

The first SAR Authority to become aware of a SAR incident is obliged to respond until overall coordination can be transferred to the competent SAR Authority in accordance with the provisions of the National Plan.

The competent SAR Authority is that one that can intervene in the shortest possible time.

All public authorities to which support is requested cannot refuse their co-operation.

A SAR Authority that hires or requisitions privately owned facilities for a SAR operation will bear any costs of hiring or payment of compensation for such requisitioning.

A special assessment of the resources needed shall be carried out before starting any kind of SAR operation when the resources required exceed those available to any SAR Authority.

1.3 Organization

RCC is responsible for the coordination of all SAR activities falling in the SRR. It implies that SAR activities cannot be executed without informing the RCC.

1.3.1 RCC capabilities

RCC capabilities are described below:

- 24/hours availability
- Trained persons
- Person with a working knowledge of the English language
- Rapid and reliable communications:
 - ✓ Ability to receive alerts
 - ✓ With Meteorological service office
 - ✓ With required support facilities

1.3.2 RSC capabilities

RSC capabilities are described below:

- Trained persons
- Person with a working knowledge of the English language
- Rapid and reliable communications:
 - ✓ Ability to receive alerts
 - ✓ With Meteorological service office
 - ✓ With required support facilities

1.4 Local SAR plan

Each RSC shall develop a local SAR plan that:

- Cover all the emergency scenarios likely to occur within the SRR;

- Shall be submitted to the RCC for an evaluation of its compatibility with the plans developed by the other RSCs
- Foresees a verification of the contact list at least every six months
- Define the training requirements of the crew of the SRUs
- Define duties and responsibilities of the OSC and ACO

2.1 SAR Authority Responsibilities

A SAR Authority shall ensure that a SAR operation can be promptly initiated and prosecuted with the efficient use of available SAR resources, until rescue has been completed or until chance of success is no longer a reasonable possibility.

SAR Authorities have the responsibility for establishing, staffing, equipping and managing the SAR system, including SAR assets, and developing SAR policies.

SAR Authorities will focus upon resources to conduct SAR operations for which they are responsible for.

2.2 The SAR Authority duties

The SAR Authority shall:

- a) Designate an SMC for a specific SAR incident
- b) Establish close liaison and formulate agreements with other authorities and organisations having SAR potential;
- c) Ensure that a comprehensive and current SAR plan is prepared and distributed;
- d) Establish and supervise communication facilities and assign SAR frequencies from those authorised to assets designated for SAR tasks;
- e) Ensure immediate action is taken to provide assistance, advising the appropriate SAR Authorities and passing all information received concerning the distress incident and any action taken;
- f) Ensure that each incident is prosecuted until assistance is no longer necessary, rescue has been completed or chance of success is no longer a reasonable possibility;

2.3 SAR Mission Coordinator (SMC)

Each SAR operation is carried out under the coordination of a SAR Mission Coordinator (SMC) designated for the purpose by the appropriate SAR Authority.

The SMC must be capable of performing all SAR functions required by the SAR Authority and is in charge of a SAR operation until a rescue has been effected or until it has become apparent the further efforts would be of no avail.

3.1 SAR Resources

SAR resources are not only those one devoted to SAR activities and managed by each SRC but also all support facilities and services that could be used for the purpose of search and rescue life at sea.

Each SRC shall be responsible for developing and maintaining a facility register of its resources containing:

- Type of personnel
- Assets
- Programme of maintenance of SAR means and devices

Each variation occurred in the facility register shall be immediately communicated to the RCC.