

# **Coordination and Cooperation Among RCCs/RSCs and other SAR Units**

Enhancing SAR Effectiveness through Joint Efforts

# Introduction

- **Importance of seamless coordination among Rescue Coordination Centers (RCCs), Rescue Sub-Centers (RSCs), and other Search and Rescue (SAR) units.**
- **Overview of agencies involved in SAR operations: coast guard, navy, land rescue, civil defense.**
- **Purpose of the presentation: to explore why effective cooperation is critical for successful SAR missions.**

# The Structure of SAR Operations

- **SAR operations involve multiple entities across different domains (air, land, sea).**
- **RCCs: Serve as the central hubs for receiving distress alerts and coordinating responses.**
- **RSCs: Handle SAR missions at a regional level, especially in areas with high SAR activity.**
- **Other Units: Coast guards, navies, and land-based SAR units provide tactical support for rescue missions.**
- **Necessity for Synchronization: Ensuring all units respond swiftly and without delays requires excellent coordination.**



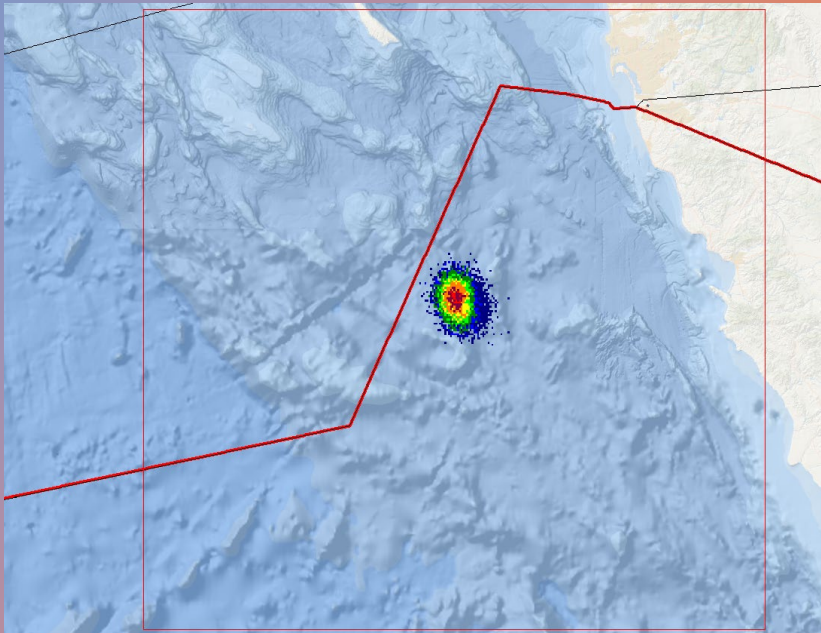
# The Necessity of Coordination

- **Unified Response:** SAR missions often span multiple jurisdictions (airspace, land, and sea). Unified coordination ensures no gaps in response.
- **Real-time Communication:** Effective SAR operations depend on timely information sharing between RCCs, RSCs, and operational SAR units.
- **Resource Management:** Optimizing resources like personnel, aircraft, ships, and equipment demands careful planning and coordination.
- **Prevention of Overlap:** Without coordination, agencies may duplicate efforts, wasting resources and delaying SAR operations.



# Case Study: USCG/SEMAR Cooperation

- 31 August 2021: US Navy SH-60 helicopter with 5 crewmembers within MRCC Ensenada's SAR Rescue Region.
- Utilized USCG/SEMAR 2020 SAR Memorandum of Understanding Operational Forms to facilitate cooperation.
- JRCC Alameda retained SMC / SEMAR provided vessels.



# The Importance of Joint Exercises

- **Regular SAR Drills:** Conducting joint SAR exercises helps test and improve the coordination between RCCs, RSCs, and other SAR units.
- **Scenario Planning:** Exercises involving multiple agencies provide opportunities to practice response plans and improve efficiency.
- **Lessons from Exercises:** Joint drills reveal gaps in communication, resource allocation, and procedural inconsistencies.
- **Training in Realistic Conditions:** Exercising under real-world conditions ensures all units are ready for emergencies, improving overall SAR preparedness.

# Communication Protocols

- **Standardized Communication Channels:** Establishing uniform communication protocols between RCCs and SAR units to avoid miscommunication.
- **Use of Technology:** Integrating advanced communication systems, such as satellite-based systems, for real-time information sharing.
- **Establishing Clear Roles:** Define roles and responsibilities of RCCs, coast guards, navies, and land-based units during SAR operations to prevent delays.

# Best Practices for Inter-Agency Cooperation

- **Regular Inter-Agency Meetings:** Holding coordination meetings among RCCs, RSCs, and other SAR units to ensure everyone is on the same page.
- **Creating a Shared Information Hub:** Use of shared digital platforms where agencies can access up-to-date data, mission updates, and resource availability.
- **Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs):** Developing agreements between agencies to formalize coordination, joint training, and resource-sharing commitments.



# Best Practices for Coordination: Communication Plans

- **Pre-established Communication Plans:** RCCs and SAR units must have communication plans for emergencies, including contact lists, reporting formats, and escalation paths.
- **Debriefing Procedures:** After-action reviews and debriefs following missions ensure continuous improvement and identification of gaps in coordination.

# Building a Culture of Cooperation

- **Trust-Building:** Developing trust between different SAR units and RCCs through collaboration, transparent communication, and shared missions.
- **Cultural and Operational Understanding:** Understanding how different units operate within their jurisdictions ensures smoother operations.
- **Shared Responsibility:** Instilling a sense of collective ownership among all SAR units, regardless of their specific roles.

# Benefits of Improved Coordination

- **Faster Response Times:** Seamless coordination leads to faster mobilization of resources, reducing SAR response times.
- **Resource Optimization:** Joint operations ensure efficient use of resources and reduce duplication.
- **Increased Trust Among Agencies:** Regular cooperation strengthens relationships between SAR agencies, which improves operational success.

# Actionable Steps for Improved Coordination

- **Formalize Communication Protocols:** Establishing clear guidelines for communication during SAR missions.
- **Organize Joint Exercises:** Plan and execute regular joint SAR drills with neighboring countries and agencies.
- **Invest in Shared Technology:** Equip RCCs and SAR units with interoperable communication and tracking technology.

# Conclusion and Q&A

- **Coordination and cooperation among RCCs, RSCs, and SAR units are essential.**
- **Effective communication, resource allocation, and joint exercises improve response and outcomes.**
- **Clear protocols, training, and technology optimize SAR operations.**
- **Trust and collaboration ensure smoother, more successful missions.**
- **Continuous improvement through exercises and real-life learning.**