

IADB GUIDE TO INTERNATIONAL SEARCH AND RESCUE



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I. INTRODUCTION

This guide is intended for use within the IADB and its member delegations. It provides general, strategic-level information which will enable senior officials to understand the basic principals and procedures of International Search and Rescue as it is conducted in the global arena. While this is not an operational document, some of the necessary actions described within do require the actions of senior military and/or government officials in a coordination role. It is intended that this guide will alert them as to their crucial role in the timely accomplishment of those actions.

Appropriately, this document does not address Combat Search and Rescue. It pertains only to search and rescue operations resulting from transportation accidents or other types of peacetime activities. Although much of the content of this document is valid and appropriate to address the conduct of a Search and Rescue (SAR) operation within the boundaries of a sovereign nation, it also addresses SAR activities involving two or more countries.

Specific, detailed procedures on the tactical, field-level conduct of a Search and Rescue operation are contained in IADB document No. C-1542, Search and Rescue Manual, dated 2 November, 1972. This guide does not supersede that publication; rather it addresses Search and Rescue from a management standpoint, referencing the many international organizations which have emerged and agreements which have been made since 1972.

This document is produced by the Natural Disaster Section of the International Staff. Please forward to that office any necessary updates or corrections.

II. BACKGROUND

SAR operations clearly pre-date recorded history. Only in modern times has it become a pre-planned, well-organized endeavor with full-time personnel assigned. Many distinct and necessary roles have evolved based on real world experiences. Today a large database exists with historical and analytical data readily available. The communications revolution has greatly enhanced our ability to successfully accomplish SAR. With modern technology, we receive earlier notification, more accurate location of incidents and often have real-time, or near real-time communications between all parties involved in a SAR as well as their control centers.

A good illustration of the importance of modern technology to SAR operations is today's standard use of the electronic locator transmitter (ELT) aboard aircraft. Statistics compiled by the Federal Aviation Agency (FAA) of the United States reveal that the time required to find an aircraft with a functioning ELT is 6.8 hours. Without a functioning ELT the average time required stretches to 40.7 hours. This time difference is critical as FAA statistics also reveal that the probability of death from serious injury increases substantially after 24 hours.

Today, a permanent office of responsibility for International Search and Rescue exists at the United Nations. Various other International Governmental and Non-Governmental organizations have also emerged to address specific areas of responsibility. Within sovereign nations we often find federal, state, local, and private organizations with SAR responsibilities.

Additionally, professional training courses and reference documents are readily available as is a wide range of SAR equipment and supplies incorporating state-of-the-art technology.

SAR has emerged as an area in which all nations normally cooperate in a spirit of humanitarian good-will. Rarely are restrictions raised or compensation demanded related to SAR. Additionally, many organizations have waived copyright claims on their publications related to SAR, especially in the area of general guidance. This freedom of distribution greatly enhances both the preplanning and conduct of SAR operations.

III. LEVELS OF COORDINATION

The coordination of a SAR operation is generally divided into three distinct levels:

- Strategic Level. Actions at this level are performed by the international relief community and are coordinated at the level of the United Nations or other international body.
- Operational Level. Actions at this level are performed by the country or region affected.
- Tactical Field level. Actions at this level are performed at or near the disaster site in the field.

SAR related documents are generally aligned to the three levels of coordination shown above. Accordingly, this guide falls into the Strategic Level. The much more specific IADB Search and Rescue Manual, C-1542, is meant for use at the Operational Level and Tactical Field Level.

IV. PHASES OF SEARCH AND RESCUE

Although the terminology used varies among organizations, SAR operations are generally accomplished in four phases: the uncertainty phase, the alert/search phase, the rescue/recovery phase, and the termination phase. These phases apply to a greater or lesser degree to every Search and Rescue operation regardless of scope or complexity. The operation may be initiated to address something as simple as an individual lost on a jungle hike or something as large and complicated as the crash of an airliner or loss of a passenger ship at sea.

The uncertainty phase . This phase is well illustrated by a situation in which a commercial airliner is overdue at its destination airfield, but calculations reveal that it should still have fuel aboard. At this point it is prudent to consider that the aircraft may have been delayed by an unknown event such as weather or that it may have been diverted to an alternate airport for unknown reasons. This phase would require that an advisory be issued to predesignated search and rescue agencies in the vicinity of the flight path.

The alert/search phase. This phase can be illustrated by considering that the same aircraft described above now has exceeded its maximum flight duration based on the fuel aboard. It is clear at this point that the aircraft has either landed or crashed. This phase includes full notification to all emergency response agencies and the initiation of a full communications

search using available resources. A control center is established and extensive coordination of planned search activities is required to avoid duplication and insure best utilization of the various types of equipment and personnel available. At the conclusion of the communications search with negative results, a physical search is initiated beginning with the planned flight path and/or the last known position.

The rescue/recovery phase. This phase begins with the identification of the location of the wreckage. Much modern technology is available to specify the geographical coordinates, most notably Global Positioning System (GPS) equipment. Care must be taken in the plotting of these coordinates to insure maps being used are standardized to the extent possible, including geographic orientation and scale of distance.

During the rescue phase, the mission is the saving of lives and extraction of the victims as rapidly and efficiently as possible. The control center must coordinate and direct all activities towards this goal taking into account the availability of specialized resources such as medical response teams and teams with special equipment such as chain saws or excavating equipment. Additionally, the control center must insure that preparations are made to receive the victims upon their arrival, perform such on-site aid as is necessary and available, and transport the victims to the designated treatment location.

The recovery phase begins when it is determined that rescue is complete or that there are no survivors. This phase is not as time sensitive as the rescue phase. The first priority in this phase is the recovery and transportation of bodies and/or body parts. The later recovery of the wreckage is often a sensitive issue as the wreckage must frequently be left in place until the official accident investigation team approves movement. The location and condition of the wreckage is a vital factor in determining the cause of the accident. Additionally, working in close coordination with the accident investigation team, it is usually necessary to designate a location for delivery of the wreckage.

The termination phase. The first step in this phase is notification to all participants that search and rescue operations are no longer required. This phase includes the extraction of the personnel and equipment used in the operation. It includes as well the drafting of any reports or other documents required. Lastly, it may be necessary to perform decontamination or other "safeing" actions to render the area safe for future use. Any decontamination/safeing actions are usually transferred to civil engineering or other agencies and the SAR incident need not remain open pending their action.

V. THE SEARCH AND RESCUE COORDINATOR

The SAR Coordinator is an official appointed at the national or regional level who is responsible for SAR operations falling into his geographical region. He may be a military or civilian official. This official is responsible for maintaining the SAR program on a day-to-day basis and activating SAR resources when necessary. He maintains or contributes to the national SAR plan and tracks equipment, training, personnel, etc at the national or regional level. Among his most important duties is coordination at the national or regional level with other agencies or countries and the responsibility for any agreements arising from that coordination. This

individual is responsible for establishing the Rescue Coordination Center (RCC) at the beginning of each SAR operation and subsequently coordinating any needs identified by the RCC Commander.

VI. THE RESCUE COORDINATION CENTER (RCC)

Among the first and most critical actions in SAR is the establishment of the Rescue Coordination Center (RCC). This center must be staffed by qualified personnel and equipped as necessary to permit control and coordination of all SAR activities. It must be located high enough in the chain of command to permit visibility of all necessary resources. The most critical single requirement of the RCC is communications equipment. The RCC must be able to rapidly and reliably communicate with response elements, including aircraft, ships, and land teams, as well as other involved governmental or non-governmental agencies. The RCC must remain in operation throughout the SAR, from its establishment until the termination phase is complete.

VII. THE ON-SCENE COMMANDER (OSC)

On those occasions when the RCC is not in a position to properly direct actions at the scene, an on-scene commander (OSC) must be designated. The OSC is normally the senior member of the first response team to arrive. He retains that position until specifically relieved by the RCC. One of the duties of the RCC is to evaluate the skills, experience, rank, etc., of subsequent arrivals and appoint a more capable OSC as necessary. The arrival of a more senior officer does not automatically place him in charge, rather that action must be coordinated and approved by the RCC. The OSC speaks for and with the authority of the RCC. He is responsible for directing the activities of all on-scene personnel and equipment.

VIII. FOREIGN COUNTRY ENTRY CLEARANCE

In the event it is necessary for SAR teams to transit from one country to another in response to an emergency, it is the responsibility of the RCC to make the official request. The procedures may vary slightly from country to country, but generally only require an emergency request with all the details available. The RCC must elevate this request as soon as it is recognized. The actual request is made through normal diplomatic channels. Practically all nations of the world are members of The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and accordingly have agreed to permit emergency entry of aircraft and ships into their territory for SAR.

As part of the entry clearance request, the assisting nation should request and the receiving nation should grant:

- a. Overflight and landing permission for the duration of the SAR operation.
- b. Waiver of commercial documentation
- c. Exemption from customs duties
- d. Waiver of visa requirements
- e. Free access to the disaster zone
- f. Authorization to transport and use communications equipment

- g. Recognition of certificates
- h. Agreement to provide adequate security for the SAR team/equipment

After entry clearance is granted, the RCC must work with the host nation in coordinating any mutual SAR assistance as well as to facilitate the entry and departure of aircraft and ships.

IX. RELEASE OF INFORMATION TO THE NEWS MEDIA

Extreme care must be taken with the release of information from official sources to the news media. All information must be of factual content only with no supposition as to causes or circumstances of the accident. The RCC should be staffed with a Public Affairs Officer familiar with official policy on release of information. At no time should the release of information interfere with the ongoing operation. The RCC may wish to establish a standard, preplanned briefing schedule and require that the news media adhere to those times.

X. COSTS

Normally the total cost of a SAR operation is borne by the responding elements and their government. It is generally national policy that compensation for expenses incurred is not requested. There are however, exceptions to this policy. When an SAR involves a private for-profit enterprise, such as an airline or passenger ship company, they may be requested to reimburse the cost of the operation to those participating. Additionally, in cases where private individuals request a SAR operation that is made necessary through their own negligence, reimbursement is often demanded and is provided for in the laws of some nations.

XI. SOURCES OF TRAINING

SAR training is conducted within the armed forces of most IADB member nations. Additionally, it is fully appropriate for any member nation not already having such a training program to request participation in the training program of another member nation. This type of training fits well into the program of Confidence and Security Building Measures as advocated by the OAS.

SAR is often part of joint training exercises conducted throughout Central America, South America, and the Caribbean. A frequent sponsor of these joint training exercises is the U.S. Southern Command, with headquarters in Miami, Florida. These exercises are advertised well in advance and all IADB member nations may request participation.

The U.S. Armed Forces offers a three-week formal training course in SAR at the InterAmerican Air Force Academy located in San Antonio, Texas. Any IADB member nation may elect to participate in this training through the International Military Education and Training (IMET) program offered by the United States. This training is identified as course number D121066 in the Military Articles and Services List (MASL). The U.S. Military Group in each

country has access to the MASL and can assist in arranging this training as well as other types of military training.

Private organizations and some colleges and universities offer SAR training. However, in most cases this training is expensive and often involves a continuing membership in a civilian professional organization.

APPENDIX A: LIST OF MILITARY CONTACTS

The following list provides only the Air Force point of contact in each of the 18 countries which have provided data. Although many other points of contact exist within other branches of the armed forces, departments of defense, and other government ministries, it would be counterproductive to try to provide them all in this guide. The Air Force point of contact can, if necessary, provide a link to the appropriate additional agency. The information below was provided to the InterAmerican Defense Board by the Secretary General of the “Sistema de Cooperación entre las Fuerzas Aéreas Americanas” (SICOFAA) and is included along with further information in their document “Libro de Datos SAR-APCADE (Búsqueda y Salvamento y Apoyo Aéreo Mutuo en Casos de Desastre), dated May 2000.

ARGENTINA

Departamento Búsqueda y Salvamento
Dirección de Tránsito Aéreo
Avenida Pedro Zanni 250-ofic. 178 Verde
(1104) Buenos Aires
República Argentina

Telf: (54-1) 311-3379
(54-1) 312-3178
FAX: (54-1) 311-3379

BOLIVIA

Director del Sistema de Búsqueda y
Salvamento
Comando General de la Fuerza Aérea
La Paz, Bolivia

Telf: (591-2) 392194
(591-2) 379066
(591-2) 379065
FAX: (591-2) 379408
(591-2) 320030
(591-2) 391930

BRASIL

División de Búsqueda y Rescate Aéreo
De la Directoria de Electrónica y Protección
al Vuelo

Telf: (55-21) 220-0379
FAX: (55-21) 814-6565

CANADA

Search and Rescue Officer
Air Command Office Ottawa
National Defense Headquarters
Mgen George R. Pearkes Bldg.
Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0K2

Telf: (613) 995-6977
(613) 965-2379
FAX: (613) 995-8687
(613) 965-2106

CHILE

Servicio del Servicio de Búsqueda y
Salvamento Aéreo
Calle Zenteno No. 45 Segundo Piso
Edificio FF.AA.
Postal: Correo 21, Casilla 37, Santiago

Telf: (56-2) 698-3478
(56-2) 696-2943
(56-2) 557-1091
(56-2) 557-0637
FAX: (56-2) 695-5917
(56-2) 530-5816
(56-2) 672-6533

COLOMBIA

Departamento de Seguridad Aérea FAC
Comando Fuerza Aérea
Avenida El Dorado CAN
Santa Fé de Bogotá D.C.

Telf: 2-220497
FAX: 2-912-221484

ECUADOR

Cdnte del Ala de Combate No. 22
Base Aérea Simón Bolívar
Casilla 5455
Guayaquil, Ecuador

Telf: (593) 4-294520
(593) 4-281002
(593) 4-281519
(593) 4-282570, ext 300
FAX: No tiene

EL SALVADOR

Centro de Operaciones Aéreas
Fuerza Aérea de El Slavador, Ilopango

Telf: (503) 295-0418, ext 386
(503) 295-0241
FAX: No tiene

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

U.S. Southern Command Joint Search and
Rescue Center
P.O. Box 9046
NAS Key West, Florida 33040-9046

Telf: (001) 305-293-3110
(001) 305-293-3112
FAX: (001) 305-293-5410

Sub-Center SAR en Honduras;
Telf (504) 2-80-44149
(504) 2-80-44134

GUATEMALA

Representante de SAR
Base Aérea del Sur

Telf: (502) 771-0251
FAX: No tiene

Representante de SAR
Base Aérea La Aurora

Telf: (502) 332-2083
FAX: no tiene

HONDURAS

Oficina SAR
Base Aérea Coronel Hernán Acosta Mejía
Tegucigalpa, Honduras

Telf: (504) 33-4623
(504) 33-4606
FAX: No tiene

NICARAGUA

Centro de Coordinación SAR
Aeropuerto Augusto C. Sandino
Managua, Nicaragua

Telf: (505) 2-31137
(505) 2-31174
(505) 2-31165
FAX: (505) 2-31451
(505) 2-31428

PANAMA

Servicio Aéreo Nacional
Aeropuerto nacional de Tocúmen
Apartado 11371, Panamá 6 Panamá

Telf: (507) 238-4267
(507) 238-4355
FAX: (507) 238-4321

PARAGUAY

Servicio Nacional de Búsqueda y
Salvamento
Base Aérea Ñu-Guazu
Avenida General Elizardo Aquino
Kn. 12 Comando FAP
Asunción, Paraguay
Casilla Correo 281

Telf: (595) 21-672-857
(595) 21-672-850

FAX: (595) 21-670-959

PERU

Comando de Operaciones FAP
Departamento de Búsqueda y Salvamento
Avenida la Peruanidad S/N – Jesús Maria
Lima, Peru

Telf: (51) 1-4332240
(51) 1-4335033
(51) 1-4240625

FAX: (51) 1-4332240

REPUBLICA DOMINICANA

Escuadró de Rescate, FAD
Base Aérea de San Isidro, D.N.
Santo Domingo, R.D.

Telf: (809) 688-8557
(809) 688-2282
(809) 596-6506

FAX: (809) 596-8557

URUGUAY

C.C.R SPOC Carrasco
Brigada Aérea 1
Escuadrón Aéreo No. 5 (Helicópteros)
Ruta 101, Km. 19.500
Canelones, Uruguay

Telf: (598) 2-601-45-05
(598) 2-601-17-01

FAX: (598) 2-601-43-34

VENEZUELA

Escuadron de Búsqueda y Salvamento de
La Fuerza Aérea Venezolana
Base Aérea El Libertador
Palo Negro, Estado de Aragua
Venezuela

Telf: (58) 4-367-0392
(58) 2-355-2636

FAX: (58) 2-574-7035

APPENDIX B: LIST OF NON-MILITARY SEARCH AND RESCUE SUPPORT AGENCIES

The agencies listed here do not normally conduct search and rescue operations. However, they often provide valuable support to SAR, especially when the SAR results from an extensive catastrophe such as a natural disaster or a major accident with mass casualties. After the RCC determines the need for support from these agencies, the SAR Coordinator at the national level should make the official request for support.

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS (ICRC)

Emergency Response Unit Officer
17 Chemin des Crets
1209 Geneva
Switzerland

Telf : (41) 22 730 42 57
FAX : (41) 22 733 03 95

ICRC REGIONAL OFFICES (Contact these offices by e-mail)

ARGENTINA (Responsible For Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Paraguay, Uruguay)

ICRC Regional Delegation
Esmeralda 1320, 2 "A"
Buenos Aires, 1007
Argentina
e-mail: buenos_aires.bue@icrc.org
(underline mark_ necessary after buenos does not appear here)

BRASIL (RESPONSIBLE FOR BRASIL, ECUADOR, VENEZUELA)

ICRC Regional Delegation
SHIS QL O6, Conjunto 09, Casa 16
Lago Sul
CEP 71620-095 Brasilia, DF
Brasil
e-mail: brasilia.bra@icrc.org

COLOMBIA

ICRC Regional Delegation
Calle 76 No. 10-02
Santa Fe de Bogota D.C.
Colombia
e-mail: bogota.bog@icrc.org

ESTADOS UNIDOS (RESPONSIBLE FOR EE.UU. AND CANADA)

ICRC Regional Delegation
2100 Pennsylvania Ave, N.W.
Suite 545
Washington, D.C. 20037
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e-mail: icrc_wash@msn.com (underline mark _ necessary after ICRC does not reproduce here)

**GUATEMALA (Responsible For
Guatemala, Belize, Costa Rica, Cuba,
Dominican Republic, El Salvador,
Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras,
Jamaica, Nicaragua, Panama, Surinam
And The Caribbean)**

ICRC Regional Delegation
4a Avenida 9-38, Zona 10
Apartado Postal 727-A
01909 Guatemala Ciudad
Guatemala
e-mail: cicrgu@intelnet.net.gt

MEXICO

ICRC Regional Delegation
Calle Cuvier No. 65
Colonia Anzures
Delegación Cuauhtemoc
Mexico D.F. CP. 11590
Mexico
e-mail: circ@intranet.com.mx

PERU

ICRC Regional Delegation
Avenida Juan de Aliaga N 620
Magdalena de Mar
Lima 17
Peru
e-mail: lima.lim@icrc.org

VENEZUELA

ICRC Regional Delegation
Edif. Centro COINASA
Av. San Felipe entre 2a
Transversal y Calle Jose Angel
Lamas
La Castellana
Caracas, Venezuela
e-mail: caracas.caa@icrc.org

PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION (PAHO)

Director
Pan American Health Organization
525 23rd ST N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20037
Unites States
Telf: (1) 202-974-3000
FAX: (1) 202-974-3663

PAHO FIELD OFFICES

ARGENTINA

Representante de PAHO en Argentina
Oficina Sanataria Panamericana
Marcelo T. de Alvear 684, 4o piso
1058 Buenos Aires
Argentina

Telf: (54) 1-312-5301
FAX: (54) 1-311-9151
e-mail: e-mail@arg.ops-oms.org

**BAHAMAS (Responsible for Turks &
Caicos)**

PAHO Representative
Third floor Curry House Building
Shirley Street
Royal Victoria Compound
Nassau, Bahamas
P.O. BOX N 9111
Nassau, Bahamas
Telf: (242) 326-7390
FAX: (242) 326-7012
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Caribbean Program Coordinator WWW
Dayralls and Navy Garden Roads
Christ Church
Bridgetown, Barbados

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Bridgetown, Barbados

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BELIZE

PAHO Representative
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Belize City, Belize

P.O. Box 1834
Belize City, Belize

Telf: (501) 2-448-85
FAX: (501) 2-309-17
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BOLIVIA

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Av. 20 de Octubre #2038, 3er Piso
La Paz, Bolivia

Casillas Postales 9790 y 2504
La Paz, Bolivia

Telf: (591) 2-362-646
FAX: (591) 2-391-296
e-mail: email@bol.ops.oms.org

BRASIL

Representative de OPAS/OMS no Brasil
Setor de Embaixadas Norte, Lote 19
70800-400 – Brasilia, D.F., Brasilia

Caixa Postal 08-729
70912-970 – Brasilia, D.F. Brasilia
Telf: (55) 61-312-6565
FAX: (55) 61-321-1922
e-mail: e-mail@bra.ops.oms-oms.org

CANADA

Canadian Society for International Health
1 Nicholas Street
Suite No. 1105
Ottawa, Ontario
Canada K1N 7B7
Telf: (613) 241-5785
FAX: (613) 241-3845
e-mail: csih@fox.nsta.ca

CHILE

Representante de la OPS/OMS en Chile
Oficina Sanitaria Panamericana
Avenida Providencia No. 1017
Piso 4 y 5
Santiago, Chile

Casilla 9459
Santiago, Chile

Telf: (56) 2-264-9300
FAX: (56) 2-264-9311
e-mail: e-mail@chi.ops-oms.org

COLOMBIA

Representante de la OPS/OMS en Colombia
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Edificio Urano
Sante Fé de Bogotá, D.C. Colombia

Apartado Aéreo 253367
Santa Fé de Bogotá, D.C. Colombia
Telf: (57) 1-336-7100
FAX: (57) 1-336-7306
e-mail: e-mail@col.ops-oms.org

COSTA RICA

Representante de la OPS/OMS en Costa Rica
Calle 16, Avenida 6 y 8
Distrito Hospital
San José, Costa Rica

Apartado 3745
San José, Costa Rica

Telf: (506) 233-8878
FAX: (506) 233-8061
e-mail: e-mail@cor.ops-oms.org

CUBA

Representante de la OPS/OMS en Cuba
Oficina Sanitaria Panamericana
Calle 4 No. 407, entre 17 i 19 Vedado
La Habana, Cuba

Apartado Postal 68
La Habana, Cuba

Telf: (53) 7-552-526
FAX: (53) 7-662-075
e-mail: e-mail@cub.ops-oms.org

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Representante de la OPS/OMS en República Dominicana
Secretaría de Estado de Salud Pública y Asistencia Social
Calle Pepino Salcedo – Recta Final
Edificio Cruz Rojo y OPS/OMS
2da. Planta
Ensanche la Fé
Santo Domingo, República Dominicana

Apartado 1464
Santo Domingo, República Dominicana

Telf: (809) 562-1519
FAX: (809) 544-0322
e-mail: e-mail@dor.ops-oms.org

ECUADOR

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San Javier 295 y Francisco de Orellana
Quito, Ecuador

Apartado Postal 17-07-8982
Quito, Ecuador

Telf: (593) 2-544-642
FAX: (593) 2-502-830
e-mail: e-mail@ecu.ops-oms.org

EL SALVADOR

Representante de la OPS/OMS en El Salvador
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Guatemala, Guatemala

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Georgetown, Guyana
Telf: (592) 2-751-50
FAX: (592) 2-666-54
e-mail: e-mail@guy.ops-oms.org

HAITI

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No. 295 Avenue John Brown
Port-au-Prince, Haiti
Boite Postale 1330
Port-au-Prince, Haiti

Telf : (509) 245-2750
FAX : (509) 245-5930
e-mail : e-mail@hai.ops-oms.org

HONDURAS

Representante de la OPS/OMS en Honduras
Oficina Sanitaria Panamericana
Edificio Inmobiliaria Caribe
Quinto Piso
Calle Principal
Colonia Lomas del Guijarro
Tegucigalpa MDC Honduras

Telf: (504) 221-3721
FAX: (504) 221-3706
e-mail: e-mail@hon.ops-oms.org

JAMAICA (Also Bermuda and Cayman)

PAHO/WHO Representative
Old Oceana Building
7th floor
2-4 King Street
Kingston, Jamaica
P.O. Box 384, Cross Roads
Kingston 5, Jamaica

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APPENDIX C: UNITED NATIONS SUPPORT TO SEARCH AND RESCUE

In April, 1992, The United Nations (UN) established the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) located in Geneva, Switzerland. This office is the UN point of contact for both Natural Disaster and SAR assistance. Contact with this office is appropriate when SAR requirements exceed the capability of the national response elements. OCHA includes a “Military and Civil Defense Unit” and a subdivision of this unit is the Disaster Response Branch.

The procedures for requesting SAR assistance are basically the same as the procedures for requesting Natural Disaster Assistance. These procedures are included in the UN document “Guidelines on the Use of Military and Civil Defense Assets in Disaster Relief” which is available upon request from the Natural Disaster Section of the Estado Mayor.

Request for SAR assistance should be made directly to OCHA at their Geneva, Switzerland Office as shown below:

United Nations
Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
Military and Civil Defense Unit
Palais de Nations
CH-1211, GENEVE 10
Switzerland

TELF: (41) 22-917-2010 (Emergency Only)

(41) 22-917-1234

FAX: (41) 22-917-0023

e-mail: must mail to all address simultaneously

balabanov@un.org

bohl@un.org

montravel@un.org

nordstrom@un.org

putman@un.org

The initial request for OCHA assistance should include the following:

Complete background information known thus far to include:

- Type of aircraft or ship involved (if applicable)
- Number of potential victims
- Location
- Limiting factors such as terrain or weather
- Identification of agencies already responding
- Special needs such as communications, logistics, scuba equipment, unexploded ordnance team, infrared sensing devices, etc
- Location for reception of the responding agencies

- Type of support already available (telephone, fuel, food, hospital, etc)
- Name, phone, FAX, etc of the host nation point of contact or the RCC if it is already established

The requestor must maintain frequent contact with OCHA throughout the SAR event and provide updated information as it becomes available through the end of the Termination Phase.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH AND RESCUE TEAMS (GENERAL)

Nations in Asia, Europe, North American, and Latin America have identified to OCHA twenty generalized SAR response teams which are available in time of emergency and may be requested through OCHA in the manner described above. These countries include:

Indonesia	Germany (4)
Japan	Italy
Republic of Korea	Sweden
Singapore	Switzerland
Turkey	United Kingdom (2)
Austria	Colombia
Denmark	Ecuador
Finland	Honduras

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH AND RESCUE TEAMS (SPECIALIZED)

In addition to the non-specialized teams listed above, OCHA maintains an extensive list of highly specialized SAR response teams to be requested through OCHA as the need arises. A listing of the teams currently coordinating their services through OCHA is provided below. Some countries provide multiple teams within the same special area.

PORTABLE ELECTRIC GENERATORS (22 TEAMS)

France, Austria, Turkey, Honduras, Singapore, United States, Finland, Colombia, United Kingdom, Japan, Germany, Denmark, Italy, Ecuador, Indonesia, Sweden, Switzerland

STATIONARY ELECTRIC GENERATORS (1 TEAM)

- Finland

MOTORIZED PUMPS (1 TEAM)

Colombia

SEARCH LIGHTING (2 TEAMS)

Finland, Sweden

CHAIN SAW (3 TEAMS)

Austria, United States, Japan

BLASTING (1 TEAM)

Austria

CHISEL (15 TEAMS)

France, Austria, Turkey, Singapore, United States, Finland, Colombia, Japan, Denmark, Italy, Ecuador, Sweden, Switzerland, Germany, United Kingdom

COMPRESSOR (1 TEAM)

Austria

REINFORCING BAR CUTTER (1 TEAM)

United States

DISC CUTTER (17 TEAMS)

France, Austria, Turkey, Singapore, Finland, Colombia, United Kingdom, Japan, Germany, Denmark, Italy, Ecuador, Indonesia, Sweden, Switzerland

GAS CUTTER (10 TEAMS)

Austria, Turkey, Singapore, Finland, Colombia, Japan, Italy, Sweden, Germany, United Kingdom

HAMMER DRILL (2 TEAMS)

Austria, Japan

HEAVY BORING MACHINE (1 TEAM)

Sweden

HYDRAULIC CUTTER/SPREADER (1 TEAM)

Singapore

SAW (1 TEAM)

United States

THERMIC CUTTER (1 TEAM)

France

AIRBAG FOR LIFTING (14 TEAMS)

France, Austria, Turkey, Singapore, United States, Finland, Colombia, Japan, Denmark, Italy, Indonesia, Switzerland, Germany, United Kingdom

HEAVY LIFTING CRANE (1 TEAM)

Honduras

HEAVY DUTY JACK (11 TEAMS)

France, Austria, Honduras, Singapore, United States, Finland, Germany, Denmark, Italy, Sweden, Germany

AMBIENT AIR COMPRESSOR (1 TEAM)

Austria

COMPRESSED AIR RESPIRATOR (1 TEAM)

Austria

ELECTRICALLY-OPERATED POWER UNIT (1 TEAM)

France

HYDRAULICALLY-OPERATED POWER UNIT (14 TEAMS)

France, Austria, Turkey, United States, Finland, Colombia, Japan, Germany, Denmark, Italy, Indonesia, Switzerland, United Kingdom

MULTI-PURPOSE LADDER (1 TEAM)

Austria

NUCLEAR/BIOLOGICAL/CHEMICAL PROTECTION SUITS (1 TEAM)

Austria

HYDRAULICALLY OPERATED RAM (1 TEAM)

United States

MISCELLANEOUS TOOLS (1 TEAM)

Austria

WINCHES, PULLEYS, AND OTHER PULLING EQUIPMENT (20 TEAMS)

Turkey, Sweden, United Kingdom, France, Austria, Honduras, Singapore, United States, Finland, Colombia, Japan, Germany, Denmark, Italy, Indonesia, Switzerland

MEDICAL EQUIPMENT (1 TEAM)

United States

PARAMEDICS (19 TEAMS)

France, Austria, Honduras, Singapore, United States, Finland, Colombia, United Kingdom, Japan, Germany, Italy, Ecuador, Indonesia, Sweden, Switzerland

DRUGS (1 TEAM)

United States

PHYSICIANS (19 TEAMS)

France, Austria, Honduras, Singapore, United States, Finland, Colombia, United Kingdom, Japan, Germany, Denmark, Italy, Ecuador, Indonesia, Sweden, Switzerland

GENERAL MEDICAL SUPPLIES (1 TEAM)

United States

TRAUMA MANAGEMENT (16 TEAMS)

Austria, Honduras, Singapore, United States, Finland, Colombia, United Kingdom, Japan, Italy, Ecuador Indonesia, Germany, Sweden, Switzerland

ELECTRIC VISUAL DETECTING DEVICES (3 TEAMS)

Republic of Korea, Singapore, United Kingdom

ENDOSCOPIC DETECTOR (1 TEAM)

Republic of Korea

FIBER-OPTIC DETECTOR (8 TEAMS)

Republic of Korea, Austria, United States, Colombia, United Kingdom, Japan, Switzerland

GEOPHONE (2 TEAMS)

Republic of Korea, Italy

HOVERCRAFT (1 TEAM)

Republic of Korea

INFRARED GOGGLES (2 TEAMS)

Finland, Japan

SEARCH DOGS (15 TEAMS)

Republic of Korea, France, Austria, United States, Finland Colombia, Germany, Denmark, Italy, Ecuador, Sweden, Switzerland

SELF-RELIANT ROBOT DETECTOR (1 TEAM)

Republic of Korea

SOUND DETECTOR (2 TEAMS)

France, Sweden

THERMAL-IMAGING DETECTOR (6 TEAMS)

Republic of Korea, Singapore, Finland, United Kingdom, Japan

ULTRASONIC DETECTOR (14 TEAMS)

Austria, Turkey, Singapore, United States, Finland, Colombia, United Kingdom, Japan, Denmark, Germany, Sweden, Switzerland

UNDERWATER IMAGING DETECTOR (1 TEAM)

Republic of Korea

UNDERWATER SOUND DETECTOR (1 TEAM)

Republic of Korea

APPENDIX D: BIBLIOGRAPHY AND RECOMMENDED READINGS LIST

The sources listed below were used in the development of this document. The identified websites are frequently updated to provide information related to current SAR operations.

1. Libro de Datos SAR-APCADE, (Búsqueda y Salvamento y Apoyo Aéreo Mutuo en Casos de Desastre), Mayo del 2000, publicado por el Systema de Cooperación entre las Fuerzas Aéreas Americanas (SICOFAA), 1535 Command Drive, Suite E-301, Andrews AFB, MD 20762-7002.
2. Search and Rescue Manual, IADB Document No. C-1542, 2 November 1972, Published by the InterAmerican Defense Board, 2600 16th Street N.W., Washington, DC, 20441.
3. Directrices para la Utilizacion de Recursos Civiles y Militares en Operaciones de Socorro en Caso de Catastrofes, Mayo 1994, publicado por Naciones Unidas Departamento de Asuntos Humanitarios, Palais de Nations, CH-1211, Ginebra 10, Suiza.
4. International Search and Rescue Response Guidelines, undated, Published by the United Nations Office of Humanitarian Affairs, Palais de Nations, Ch-1211, Ginebra, Suiza.
5. Websites:
 - a. PanAmerican Health Organization - www.paho.org
 - b. Disastercenter - www.disastercenter.com
 - c. UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs - www.reliefweb.int/ocha_ol/
 - d. International Red Cross - www.icrc.org
 - e. United States Coast Guard - www.uscg.mil