



New Zealand Search and Rescue Council & Consultative Committee Meeting

Minutes of Combined Meeting New Zealand Search and Rescue Combined Council and Consultative Committee Meeting Wednesday 9 May, 1.00pm Conference Room Ministry of Transport Level 6 Novell House 89 The Terrace, Wellington

Attendees:

Martin Matthews – MoT (Chair)
Viv Rickard – NZ Police
Dave Jane – DOC

Graeme Harris – CAA
Andrew Clark – NZDF
Keith Manch – MNZ

Duncan Ferner – NZSAR
Harry Maher – LandSAR
Bruce Johnston – NZ Police
Amanda MacKinnell – AMSA
Andy Kent – Surf Life Saving NZ
Rodney Bracefield – RCCNZ
John Sinclair – AIA
Phil Burgess – NZSAR
Carl van der Meulen – NZSAR
Mike Davies – DOC
Paul Craven – RCCNZ
Brendan Comerford – MOC

Steve Kern – CAA
John Scobie – LandSAR
Gerry Prins – NZ Police
Patrick Holmes – NZ Coastguard
Colin Small – NZ Coastguard
Leonce Jones – NZ MSC
Phil Melchior – LandSAR
Geoff Pierce – NZDF
Nigel Clifford – MNZ
David Waters – Ambulance NZ
Jeff Sayer – AREC
Amy Greig – MoT (Minutes)

1. Welcome

Martin Matthews opened the meeting and extended a special welcome to:

- Amanda MacKinnell – Australian Maritime Safety Authority
- Graeme Harris – CAA
- Harry Maher – LandSAR
- Deputy Commissioner Viv Rickard – NZ Police

2. Apologies

- Lt Gen Rhys Jones – NZDF
- Air Commodore Peter Port – NZDF
- Al Morrison – DOC
- Commissioner Peter Marshall – NZ Police

3. Minutes of meeting held on 15 February 2012

The minutes of the meeting of the Consultative Committee held on Wednesday 15 February 2012 were accepted as a true and accurate record.

4. Matters Arising from Minutes of meeting on 15 February 2012

Item 6 – Sector Updates

To be provided to the Secretariat prior to each meeting

Action taken: Completed

Item 8 – NZSAR Awards

Subcommittee to meet and rank the nominations by Wed 22 Feb

Action taken: Completed - NZSAR Awards are being held this evening.

Item 9 – SAR/CDEM Engagement

All SAR sector organisations are to promote engagement and cooperation with the CDEM sector within their organisations. Engagement between the two sectors to be carried out at the local, regional and national levels.

Action taken: Discussed in agenda item 13

Item 11, e) – Planning for 2012/13

Proposed plans and dates for SAREXs, major training courses, conference and workshops to be provided to Phil Burgess by 21 March.

Action taken: Completed and discussed in agenda item 8

5. Joint Service Level Agreement monitoring report: 1 Jan 2012 – 31 March 2012 Quarter

The summary report was distributed prior to the meeting. During the quarter there were 692 SAROPs, with 54 lives saved.

There was a slight increase in the number of SAROPs, however there was a significant increase in the numbers of people that required assistance during the quarter. In total 724 people required assistance during the 692 SAROPs.

Main updates coming out of the SLA partners report is that 3 out of 4 SLA partners have new Chief Executives (LandSAR, CNZ, SLSNZ); and that LandSAR and SARINZ have agreed in principle on an amalgamation of the two organisations.

6. SAR in the Australian Context

Amanda MacKinnell, Australian Maritime Safety Authority, gave a presentation on the Australian SAR sector, with a focus on the challenges and changes currently facing the sector. One of the main challenges the Australian SAR sector faces is the federal system of government in Australia.

Some of the specific challenges faced by the Australian SAR sector are:

- suspect irregular entry vessels,
- critical environmental accidents
- light air craft accidents (particularly around mining locations)
- flooding (particularly the Queensland floods)

Recently there has been an effort on education and prevention activities. A successful example has been the efforts in the Torres Strait region, with a focus on school children. After the educational programmes on improving the children's safety awareness around water, it has been found that some children will now refuse to accompany their parents in boats unless they are wearing life jackets - a positive step in the right direction regarding maritime safety.

Other strategic challenges facing the Australia SAR sector include:

- increases in recreational activities
- an aging population (with associated increases in wandering related searches)
- funding constraints
- increases in catastrophic climatically and geographical events

7. Strategic Discussions

Mass Rescue Operations (MRO)

An update was provided on the strategic MRO policy. There are two broad aims for the policy: Integration of the NZSAR MRO policy into existing arrangements (vertical); and clarification of organisational arrangements for MRO (horizontal). A broad ranging conversation followed and noted the following points:

Aim 1 – Plan Integration:

This will require a high level, top-down approach that ensures the policy integrates with:

- ODESC (Officials committee for Domestic and External Security Coordination)
- IMO guidance on MRO (Feb 2003)
- NZ National Security System – DPMC (May 2011)
- SAR and other relevant operational plans

Aim 2 – Organising for MRO:

MROs are low probability, high consequence events. Success often depends on immediate, well planned and closely coordinated large-scale actions, and the use of resources from multiple organisations on a national (or even international) basis. The policy will endeavour to provide visibility across the various plans prepared by organisations that would be involved in responding to MRO incidents.

The NZSAR Secretariat met with the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) to discuss this policy project. DPMC have indicated that a verbal update is given at the next ODESC meeting. The Secretariat was also invited to join the public safety cluster, which is chaired by Police. The Police commented that the first meeting of this cluster was held two weeks ago, and it is still in the formative stage.

There was some further discussion on the policy, with some feedback provided to the Secretariat on some of the questions that the policy should endeavour to answer.

Strategic Risks:

The possible risks facing the NZSAR Council and Consultative Committee were discussed. An environmental scan noted possible concerns around search and rescue can include technology, equipment, and competition for the charitable dollar, public expectations of the SAR sector, an aging volunteer sector (aging volunteers, obesity issues with some victims), increasingly changing weather patterns.

Action: Members were invited to provide additional thoughts or comments on these issues directly to the NZSAR Secretariat.

8. Planning for 2012 / 2013

Phil Burgess spoke to the distributed SAREX planning document for the 2012/13 year titled *Support for NZSAR exercises for 2012 / 2013*. No further comments were received on this paper.

Decision: The paper was endorsed by the Council.

Action: Secretariat to work with the NZ Police and wider sector to implement the approved SAREX support plan for 2012/13.

9. International

Pacific Engagement (Kiribati)

MNZ and MFAT are working jointly on a series of projects aimed at improving the SAR capacity across some of the Pacific Islands. These projects include:

- Responsibilities
- Communication capabilities
- Education/training programmes

Southern Ocean / Antarctica

Over the past few years there has been an increase in activity in the Southern ocean, which increases the potential for SAR incidents. There have been some joint discussions about responsibilities, capacities, and capabilities for SAR related rescues/assistance in this region. MFAT will be attending a conference regarding this in Brussels early next year. Ideally someone from the SAR sector would also attend this conference.

10. Media Engagement and Social Media

There has been a large increase in the use of social media networks over the last few years. The news media are starting to use social network sites as a source of information during operations. Two recent examples were provided of operational information being posted on social networks, which was then reported in the media. The combined meeting then discussed the issues and noted the following:

The concerns only dealt with the use of social media during SAR operations. However this was raised as a reminder for the sector that media organisations monitor the use of social media sites. It is vital that families and friends of victims in SAR rescues do not find out about their loved one via a social networking site before they have been spoken to by the appropriate channel first.

The SAR sector needs to be reminded to:

- Use the correct media channels (IAW MoUs)
- Make no comment/statement about body recovery or search suspension – unless authorised to do so
- Be mindful of what they post on social media sites

Actions:

- SAR organisations will remind staff & volunteers about posting operational matters on social media networks.
- Members were invited to provide the Secretariat with their current social media policies and procedures so that they can be shared across the sector.

11. Sector Update

The sector update paper was distributed prior to the meeting. Further comments made were as follows:

DOC:

The Outdoor visitor intentions system is now implemented and working well. Points concerning communicating the new intentions approach and possible system improvements have been made, and DOC has proposed to MSC that those agencies involved in developing this system meet to consider these points and follow up any agreed actions.

RCCNZ:

Beacon registrations for the year to date have been consistent at approximately 610 per month. This is nearly double for the same period last year and the ratio of the PLBs is two thirds of this volume. There is a significant change in PLB registrations and now there are more PLBs (13,345) registered than EPIRBs (12,859).

The NZSAR secretariat was asked whether it would be possible to see a statistical comparison of beacon use. It was agreed this would be a useful agenda item.

CAA:

The CAA provided an update on the Human Sling Load issue.

12. Secretariat and NSSP Update

SAREX Support:

SAREXs are continuing to be run according to the plan. The plan for 2012/13 has been finalised (see item 8)

SAR Managers Training:

This work has been suspended until other matters become clearer, including the issues around LandSAR and SARINZ. Once this has been clarified the project will be reinstated.

AdventureSmart:

The statistical information on the hits on the AdventureSmart website is pleasing. It is averaging around 2,000 visitors to the site per month. The NZSAR

secretariat urged those organisations that don't already have a link to the AdventureSmart website from their organisation's website to get one established soon.

Action: Members will include hyperlinks to AdventureSmart from the appropriate parts of their own websites

Air Observer Training/OSC Courses:

Three more air observer courses and one on scene coordinator course will be run this year.

Back Country Technical Rescue Workshop:

This workshop is sponsored by the NZSAR Council, and has been organised by LandSAR. It will be run 26-27 May.

SAR-NET:

The phase 1 trial encountered some technical issues, so phase 2 has been delayed until these issues are resolved.

Health and Safety:

The NZSAR Secretariat thanked those who have engaged with the H&S consultant so far. The Secretariat hopes to have information on this work available in the next couple of months.

406MHz DF Training:

RCCNZ will be holding this training next month with a selected operator. MAROPs have been engaged to produce a 406MHz training package which will be shared with other operators.

13. Engagement with Civil Defence Update:

Since the Council endorsed the paper at its last meeting, an article was posted in the CDEM bulletin which is available to the CDEM sector (all 16 CDEM groups around the country). The article encourages the CDEM sector to be open to approaches from the SAR sector to engage. Members were encouraged to take active steps to implement the elements of the engagement plan.

14. General Business:

Police SAR Review:

Comments have been received from the SAR sector and support agencies. Police are now considering that feedback.

TEC Review:

A paper has gone to Minister Joyce seeking his comment on a host of options. The chair was unable to provide any further detail on this matter except to say it looks reasonably positive.

MEOSAR Ground Station:

An update was provided on the MEOSAR project. The Minister has provided guidance on the funding proposal process to be followed.

NZSAR Awards:

The NZSAR Awards are being held at Parliament tonight. There has been some interest in the awards from local media, which is positive for the SAR sector.

Beacon Registrations:

There are currently 30,900 registered beacons operating in NZ. A point to note is that for the first time there are more registered PLBs than EPIRBs.

Next proposed meetings

- Consultative Committee meeting - Thursday 2 August
- Council meeting - Wednesday 15 August

Martin Matthews
Chair
NZSAR Council

Actions Arising		Responsibility
8. Planning for 2012/13	Secretariat to work with the NZ Police and wider sector to implement the approved SAREX support plan for 2012/13.	Secretariat/Police/All
10. Social Media	SAR organisations will remind staff & volunteers about posting operational matters on social media networks.	All
	Members were invited to provide the Secretariat with their current social media policies and procedures so that they can be shared across the sector.	All
11. Sector Update	Members will include hyperlinks to AdventureSmart from the appropriate parts of their own websites.	All