

Exercise Evaluation Report

OPERATION Goldilocks

Location: North Eastern Ruahine Forest Park, Crown Range Area

Date: 6th/7th/8th November 2020

Report version: Final

Evaluator: *Mike Wright* MNZM

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Executive Summary

A multi-agency Land Search and Rescue Exercise (SAREX), Operation Goldilocks, was conducted in the Golden Crown Range area, North Eastern Ruahine Forest Park.

The SAREX occurred on the 6th, 7th and 8th of November 2020.

All Objectives were met to an acceptable level.

The terrain, pending weather and events occurring within the SAREX, ensued personnel and procedures across all agencies were tested on a number of dimensions.

Opportunities for improvement have been identified and detailed in the recommendations .

By comparison to last year there was a greater sense of Calm and Confidence within the Incident Management Team.

1. Recommendations

1. Members of the IMT and those likely to be called upon to work in the IMT, participate in regular table top exercises to refine their skills. This will add value to other agencies requiring their skills. It will also consolidate the investment in CIMS training conducted earlier in the year.
2. Potential new members to the IMT are encouraged to attend a CIMS4 Course.
3. The participation of IWI, is more evident in the Response Phase.
4. Hawkes Bay Search & Rescue “Inc” continue along the path of Succession Planning, there is clear evidence of a rejuvenation underway.
5. If the HB Coastguard Headquarters are to be utilised the purpose built Ops Room is used.
6. To heighten the intensity of the IMT experience and build on the recommended table top exercises , Search & Rescue management may like to consider a “Round Robin” SAREX format, which has been successfully used in other areas.
7. The learnings from this SAREX are committed to a Readiness Plan for the area. (nzsar-resources.org.nz/Guidelines/creating-readiness-plans)

2. Introduction

Every year the New Zealand Police is required to exercise with Partner Agencies in the Search and Rescue (SAR) environment. This includes both Land and Marine SAR.

The Hawkes Bay (HB) Police Area is part of the wider Eastern Police District, therefore has responsibility for the command, coordination and training of the HB Police SAR Squad.

The HB SAR Squad works closely with the HB NZ LandSAR volunteers, AREC HB and the Lowe Corp Rescue Helicopter.

The scenario of the SAREX was 2 hunting parties who had started out together but separated and went in opposite directions, had been reported overdue when members of both parties failed to meet work commitments. There were two people in each party. One party was more experienced than the other.

The search area was set in the Golden Crown Range, north eastern Ruahine's. The area of focus was the Mangleton area around the Golden Crown track towards the Three Fingers.

The Public Estate is an area which is a popular tramping destination whilst it borders an area that is a sought after private hunting block.

Further, it provided a variety of terrain, both in elevation – tussock and open tops, conformation (steep off the tops) cloaked in mature beech forest, along with some river travel.

The Private Hunting Block area was unfamiliar territory to most of the participants of the SAREX.

The date, location and allocation of responsibilities during the SAREX was known only to a select few. The intention being to replicate an actual SAR response.

3. Background

<This section explains the context within which your evaluation was undertaken.>

3.1 Background to the Exercise

Recreational hunting and tramping has been a pastime of many New Zealanders for generations.

The Hawkes Bay Policing Area is replete with opportunities for this activity.

The selection of the Golden Crown Range in the North eastern Ruahine's, gave the Hawkes Bay Police Search and Rescue Squad (HBSAR Squad) , the Hawkes Bay NZ Land Search and Rescue volunteers and the members of the Hawkes Bay AREC, the opportunity to exercise the traditional disciplines, one could expect to apply during a search.

It had been some time since Search Management had applied their skills to this area.

3.2 Dates, location, organising agency(s), key people

6th, 7th, 8th November 2020

No Man's Private Hunting Block, accessed via Big Hill Station

North Eastern Ruahine Forest Park around the Golden Crown Range area.

NZ Police Senior Constable Andy Walker

HB NZ LandSAR Jessie Kyle /Peter Bowker

AREC John Newson

3.3 Participating organisations

NZ Police HB Police SAR Squad members

NZ LandSAR HB NZ LandSAR volunteers

AREC HB members of AREC

3.4 Exercise aim

Exercise the participants of Hawkes Bay Land SAR "Inc" , in the disciplines applied to a Land Search & Rescue Operation.

3.5 Exercise objectives

Incident Management Team (IMT);

Succession Planning / Experience , Incident Controller role , 2 x NZP SAR Squad

Succession Planning / Experience, Op Manager & Intell/Planning roles , 2 x LandSAR

Field Team members;

Succession Planning / Experience , Team Leader role

Navigation skills, Search Methods , Fitness

AREC

Capability / Resources

3.6 Exercise Scenario

SAREX Incident Control Point (ICP) – Hawke Bay Volunteer Coastguard Headquarters, Meeanee Quay, Westshore, Napier

Search Area – Golden Crown Range, north eastern Ruahine Forest Park. The area of focus was the Mangleton area around the Golden Crown track towards the Three Fingers.

Lost Parties

LP1 - Both experienced bushmen, not unfamiliar with the area.

LP2 – Both fit, little known of their experienced in the bush, unfamiliar with area. Well equipped.

One of the party in each team is carrying a PLB. Minimal food and gear as they were staying in the block's shelters and only expecting to be in the area for 3 days/2 nights.

Lost Party Intentions:

Enter Ruahine Forest Park at same place , split and go in opposite directions , meet up and exit at the same time.

4. Evaluation Methodology

4.1 The agreed outcomes of the evaluation activity

A forthright report outlining observations of the Land SAREX's, (Operation GOLDILOCKS) relationship to stated objectives, with particular focus on the conduct / procedures of the Incident Management Team (IMT).

4.2 Evaluation scope

Assess Interagency relationships.

Identify strengths and limitations within current Standard Operating Procedures.

Identify strengths and limitations in personnel training.

Recommend improvements and strategies for future implementation.

4.3 Aspects of the exercise observed, what was not observed

Observed:

SAREX management and coordination

VHF radio communications

Local area knowledge and subject matter expertise

Not Observed:

In Field activity – monitored remotely via Radio and SarTrack

4.4 The process followed in preparing and submitting the report

There was no interaction with the Exercise planners (*scenario*) prior to the SAREX.

The details of the SAREX and the location were forwarded the week previous to the SAREX.

It was agreed the evaluator would focus on the objectives , observe the SAREX activity and submit an evaluation report accordingly.

Activity from the evaluator during the SAREX included;

- Observe SAREX IMT activity and conduct.
- Attend IMT Hot debrief

4.5 Other information

NZ Police SAR Mentor

A number of senior NZ Police SAR Squad members presented during the course of the SAREX, offering advice to members of the IMT.

A visit from a member of the Eastern Police District Leadership Team added a high degree of realism to the exercise.

Personal Locator Beacon (PLB) Training.

Separate from, but in parallel to the SAREX , a member of one of the Lost Parties carried a Training PLB. The plan was for an activation to which the Rescue Helicopter would respond.

Due predicted high winds and a deteriorating weather pattern this aspect of the plan was abandoned prior to the commencement of the SAREX.

HB Volunteer Coastguard Headquarters.

Excellent venue to manage a search from. It is spacious, easy to access, good facilities for IMT members and also for returning Search Team members.

5. Findings

Planning Preparedness:

Comprehensive Exercise Plan was generated.

Identified key decision makers, agencies and property owners

Detailed Emergency & Hazard Management Plan . “HF would have been an additional communication option – the plan was silent , it did not identify the HF Channel.

Team kits contained essential items , aligned to each Team, Radio’s, 1st Aid kits, PLB’s and maps.

Integrated Response:

Appropriate agencies involved in planning – LandSAR, AREC, DOC – Landowners and Iwi were also consulted.

Operation and participants aligned to CIMs model and principles.

Incident Management Team

Structured in accordance with CIMs

Role and responsibilities assigned

Personnel used CIMs terminology

Information shared appropriately

Situational awareness was a constant focus.

Whilst IAP was updated on whiteboard, incoming Op’s Manager may have benefited from a more formal written handover.

I/C called regular “up-date meetings”

I/C briefings followed GSMEAC format.

Transport logistics required some lateral thinking.

AREC provided required Comms. Requested co-operation from neighbouring area to monitor HF Ch:57

Taskings were, in general, well considered , revisited, and adjusted as required.

One of the containment teams could have been better utilised as the SAREX unfolded.

The IT system, was activated in a timely manner and used to good effect.

SARTrack was used to good effect. The operator was experienced enough to recognise malfunctions and offer solutions.

There was good discipline with Radio messages – delivery/recording/retention and filing.

Optimising the purpose built Ops Room would have reduced the tension that is associated with mobilising a Search and Rescue Response.

Managing Communications:

There was good regular communication maintained with all teams , to the point that it was easily recognised when a Team was behind schedule, activating alternative measures to maintain communication.

IWI Relationships:

There was good communication with Iwi during the planning phase prior to the SAREX.

Consultation during the SAREX was lacking initially.

DOC & Landownership:

There was good communication and involvement during the planning phase.

Including involvement of Landowner during the SAREX.

Risk Management:

Exercise Plan had a dedicated section addressing possible scenario's and action to action to take should a "No Duff" be called.

The expectations of the IMT should a Team be out of contact for a period of time was also articulated.

This part of the plan was invoked when a "Lost Party" and Search Team were out of contact for a period.

This was useful because it;

- Highlighted the vagaries of the terrain had on Communications.
- Highlighted the value of HF and the ability of AREC members outside of the region being able to monitor the channel.
- Highlighted the need for a more robust HF capability - (efforts to address this are underway)

The I/C and IMT as a collective emphasised Safety / Risk in its broadest sense throughout the SAREX.

Field Response:

There was no, on the ground "In Field" assessment.

Field Teams were fully briefed prior to deployment.

The evaluator was able to speak with a Team member, prior to deployment. This member was able to articulate without hesitation the tasking assigned to his Team.

Appropriate search techniques were employed , with clarification sought on occasions.

Teams provided regular updates. This became important because it was quickly realized when Teams were out of sync or their radios were not registering on SarTrac correctly.

Missing Parties, although challenging at times , were dealt with appropriately.

Radio communication was maintained at all times and when Teams were not able to be contacted , assistance was sought from neighbouring AREC members.

Health & Safety

The SAREX relied upon a Risk Planning document as a reference . Appendix 1.

Additionally, as mentioned above, the SAREX Exercise Plan had a very prescriptive Emergency and Hazard Management Plan.

6. Conclusions

Incident Management Team (IMT);

Succession Planning / Experience , Incident Controller role , 2 x NZP SAR Squad

This Objective was met.

This was the SAR Squad Sergeant's first SAREX in the role of I/C, his skills as a frontline supervisor clearly came to the fore. There were regular progress meetings to ensure there was a focus on the matters to hand.

Whilst there was a strong theme of planning as a Team with all the factors up for discussion, he was unafraid to make the call on the "next course of action".

The 2nd SAR Squad member more than adequately filled the role of I/C.

Given the challenges placed in front of them by the SAREX – difficult terrain, two sets of Lost / Overdue parties, a "No Duff" call for an injured member, together with a real time deteriorating Weather Pattern for the search area – both members have gained an immense wealth of knowledge, acquitting themselves well.

The most valuable experience for both members would have been the impact of FATIGUE. Both members had intense work commitments leading up to the beginning of the exercise.

The complexities of getting the SAREX underway, formulating a plan and dispatching Search Teams , a late finish on the Friday night , disturbed night's sleep and an early start Saturday morning materialised into an urgent need to take a break. As there was some redundancy built into the exercise plan, both members were spelled out with no obvious effect on the SAREX.

Succession Planning / Experience, Op Manager & Intell/Planning roles , 2 x LandSAR

This objective was met. The 1st Operational Period, Ops Manager did a stellar job in getting the SAREX underway, mentoring staff on the call-out procedure, setting up the Ops area, allocating tasks and organising responding volunteers into Teams. Unfortunately overnight illness precluded further participation.

Fortunately two members from within the LandSAR ranks stepped up and shared the responsibility over the next two days. They were complete novices to the functioning of the IMT but it was not obvious. Their strength, and that of the whole of the IMT was that they drew on their own field experience, that of other Team members, consulted widely, were unafraid to ask questions which ultimately enabled them to make good, well considered decisions. One member in particular commenting on the benefit of attendance at a recent CIM's Course.

Field Team members;

Succession Planning / Experience , Team Leader roll

Navigation skills, Search Methods , Fitness

All Team Leaders, acquitted themselves well.

Navigation skills were tested, heavily influenced by terrain and vegetation.

No Field Team members were withdrawn from the exercise due to fitness. Given the nature of the terrain all participants had a very physical experience.

One field member withdrew during the SAREX due to illness at home, this provided valuable experience for the IMT in managing the risk whilst the member made his exit, along with the logistical requirements required to return him home.

Search Methods were not assessed.

AREC

Capability / Resources

The nature of the terrain and distance from the SAREX HQ created some issues. Good considered decisions on the placement of the repeaters ensured Communications, in most instances were of a good quality. The organisation is now better informed, on the complexities the terrain in this area will throw up and reinforces the need for a HF capability.

The proximity of the "Comms Cell" to the Ops room was distracting at times.

Overall, a very professional and valuable contribution to the SAREX.

7. Appendix

Appendix 1:

The following are hazards associated with search and rescue training and operations

Hazards, once identified, need to be managed. The Health and Safety in Employment Act 1992 prescribes three control measures that can be implemented. The control measures are elimination, isolation and minimisation.

Elimination involves totally removing the hazard.

Isolation involves reducing the hazard potential by removing the hazard from people or people from the hazard.

Minimising involves reducing the effect of the hazard on people.

This hazard assessment divides hazards into the following key areas:

- People
- Equipment
- Environment

PEOPLE	Hypothermia	Death/injury	Yes	Minimise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure teams are aware of the danger and carry sufficient appropriate clothing, shelter and food 	Field Team Leaders	Equipment check prior to deployment . Frequent monitoring of team members by leaders during adverse weather conditions or if temperature drops below comfortable levels, so
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							ongoing during operations.
Burns	Death/injury	Yes	Isolate Minimize	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staying away from heat sources Using protective equipment or clothing Team Leaders to ensure that team members are conversant with the use of their cooking equipment. 	Field Team Leaders, Operation Safety Officer	Ongoing during operations	
Eye damage	Injury, permanent damage	Yes	Minimize	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensuring personnel wear eye protection equipment if required Ensure personnel turn their head away from wind blown dust or helicopter landings/takeoffs Be aware of damage to eyes from vegetation at head level 	Air Operations Manager, Field Team Leaders	Ongoing during operations	
Hearing damage	Permanent damage	Yes	Isolate Minimize	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Personnel to remove themselves from source of noise as soon as possible Those that have to remain wear hearing protection 	Air Operations Manager, Operation Safety Officer	Ongoing during operations	

PEOPLE	Poisonous fume inhalation	Death/injury	Yes	Isolate Minimise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cookers used with adequate ventilation • Personnel to remove themselves from sources of fumes 	Operation Safety Officer, Field Team Leaders	Ongoing during operations
	Heat illness (hyperthermia)	Injury, death	Yes	Minimise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure teams are aware of the danger and carry appropriate clothing and sun protection. • Ensure personnel are fit for deployment. • Ensure adequate fluids are consumed 	Field Team Leaders	Equipment check prior to deployment, monitoring of team members by leaders
	Bee/wasp stings or allergic reactions	Injury, death	Yes	Minimise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Persons known to have allergic reactions to carry appropriate medication • Team leader to establish medical conditions of team members prior to deployment and brief the rest of the team • Ensure all team members have current First Aid training, which will include the treatment of Anaphylaxis symptoms 	Field Team Leaders And IMT	Prior to deployment into field

					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that all personnel are conversant with radio protocol and the 'No Duff' signal when calling for medical assistance over the radio and accurately convey the type of medical emergency at hand 		
	Fatigue	Injury, death	Yes	Minimize	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure teams get appropriate rest breaks Remove fatigued teams from field Ensure teams members are fit and healthy prior to deployment in field 	Field Team Leaders, Operations Manager	Prior to deployment and periodically in field
	Becoming disoriented	Injury, death	Yes	Minimize	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Field personnel supplied with maps, GPS, radios Only trained personnel deployed Inexperienced people put with experienced team leaders 	Operations Manager, Logistics Manager, Team Leaders	Prior to deployment into field

EQUIPMENT	Heavy lifting (packs, stretchers, etc)	Injury	No	Minimise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use recognised techniques for lifting • Sit down to put heavy packs on, or have team members lift it • Use multiple members to lift heavy objects • Follow training for stretcher carries 	Field Team Leaders	Ongoing during operations
	Helicopter operations (including winching, hover un/loading)	Injury, death	Yes	Minimise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure all personnel receive helicopter safety briefing from air operator before boarding • Ensure all personnel being winched undergo ground training (including those who have done it before) before winching • Ensure all personnel receive hover un/loading training prior to flying • Follow helicopter safety guidelines in LandSAR field guide 2010 • Have a qualified winch trained crewman on the helicopter who can give 'on the spot training and guidance' before any helicopter operations. 	Aircrew, Team Leaders and Air Operations Manager	During training and flight operations
	Fixed wing aircraft operations	Injury, death	Yes	Minimise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All personnel to obtain safety briefing from 	Air Operations Manager	During training and flight operations

					crew prior to flight		
	Vehicle operations	Injury, death	Yes	Minimise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use trained drivers Drive to conditions Use of appropriate vehicle safety equipment 	Drivers, Field Team Leaders	Constant during vehicle operations
	Packs (overbalancing, catching on objects)	Injury, death	Yes	Minimise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure no loose objects hanging off pack Ensure field teams members are fit and given appropriate rest periods during operations Remove fatigued teams from field 	Operations Manager, Field Team Leaders	Ongoing during operations
ENVIRONMENT	Radiant Heat	Injury	No	Eliminate Minimise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avoid lighting fires Move away from flames Wear protective clothing 	Operation Safety Officer, Field Team Leaders	Constant when radiant heat sources are present
	Falling trees and branches	Injury, death	Yes	Isolate Minimise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Helmets can provide some protection Avoid high windfall area during strong winds Avoid camping under susceptible trees 	Field Team Leaders	Ongoing during operations
	Dislodged rocks	Injury, death	Yes	Isolate Minimise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Helmets can provide some protection Use alternative search methods in high risk area (air search, lookouts, sign- 	Field Team Leaders	Ongoing during operations

ENVIRONMENT					cut around edges)		
	Bluffs, cliffs, mineshafts	Injury, death	Yes	Isolate Minimise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carefully assess escape and safe travel routes Determine whether you have to go there at all Consider using specialist resources (ACR, air support) 	Field Team Leaders	Ongoing during operations
	Rough terrain	Injury	Yes	Minimise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure team members have appropriate footwear, experience and training Ensure teams take rest breaks Remove fatigued teams from field 	Field Team Leaders, Operations Manager	Ongoing during operations
	Night operations	Injury, death	Yes	Isolate Minimise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IMT to assess need to operate at night Restrict tactics used at night (track search etc) Ensure teams are experienced, trained and have enough light sources 	Operations Manager, Field Team Leaders	Ongoing during operations
	Working on or near roads or railways	Injury, death	Yes	Minimise Isolate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use high visibility equipment and clothing Use appropriate traffic management Use alternative search techniques (air) 	Operations Manger, Incident Controller	Constant while staff on or near road or railway

	Rivers and waterways	Injury, death	Yes	Minimise Isolate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determine need to cross • Consider alternatives (bridge, air) • Use trained team members and recognised techniques • Camp a safe distance from waterways 	Field Team Leaders	Constant before and during waterway crossing
	Avalanches	Injury, death	Yes	Minimise Isolate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure risk assessment conducted prior to teams being deployed • Ongoing risk assessment by team leaders in field • Use different search techniques (eg air search) to stay out of danger area 	Incident Controller, Operations Manager, Field Team Leaders	Prior to deployment into field, constant while in potential avalanche area
	Snow blindness	Injury	No	Minimise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure personnel wear appropriate protective eyewear 	Team Leaders	Prior to deployment (equipment check) and while in field
	Contaminated drinking water	Illness	No	Minimise Isolate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid drinking possibly contaminated water • Use water purification treatment techniques before consuming suspect water. 	Team Leaders	Ongoing during field operations
	Vegetative Fire in the wilderness	Injury, Death	Yes	Minimise Isolate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Constant monitoring of Cooking equipment, hut fires and open fires. 	All personnel	Ongoing during field operations.

					<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Constant monitoring of camp fires.• Do not light open ground fires of any sort in a fire ban period.		
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Appendix 2:

HAWKES BAY SEARCH AND RESCUE EXERCISE.
6th – 8th of November, 2020.
LANDSAR and Police SAR Squad.
Golden Crown, Mangleton, Hawkes Bay.

This will be a 'live, in the field, real time' exercise from initial call out to conclusion/extraction of the field search parties to the search base.

OBJECTIVES:

- **Succession Planning – IMT:** Both LandSAR and the Hawkes Bay Police SAR squad leaders see a need for succession training within the squads. So one of the major objectives for this exercise is to introduce new personnel, from the Police Squad and from LandSAR, who have completed the Manage the Initial Response course, to the IMT roles. Police and LandSAR personnel to rotate through the roles of Incident Controller's, Ops Manager's role and Intel/Planning Roles. There will obviously need to be formal 'hand overs' during the different phases. Senior Constable HALSE to act as a mentor for the IMT, along with the very experienced Monitor for this exercise, Mike WRIGHT, to oversee the operation and provide guidance and advice, when necessary. Although Sergeant Shane GREVILLE will be the lead Incident Controller for the majority of the exercise, he will also participate in mentoring the new IMT personnel.
- **Succession Planning – Team Leaders:** To continue the succession training further down the ranks, another objective is appoint 'up and coming' field team leaders to that position with a more experienced team leader as a mentor for guidance and safety.
- **Practice Navigation Skills:** After canvassing the local LandSAR group, one of the areas they wanted to focus on and practice was navigation. The chosen search area will require teams to navigate in open tops with no designated / marked tracks as well as in thick bush. The objective is to challenge, reinforce and practice map and compass and GPS knowledge of all team members so that they are able to navigate their way around the chosen area in an efficient way.
- **Practice and Reinforce all skills sets required for a successful search:** Another objective is for the field teams to utilise and practice all available search methods, such as sign cutting, tracking, and sound lines to locate and recover the lost parties. It is envisaged that all of the search methods will need to be used to find the lost parties.
- **Test Fitness and suitability of Equipment Carried:** With a number of new personnel with the LandSAR and Police SAR groups, another suggested focus area is to test the fitness of the field teams and the suitability of the equipment they carry in a reasonably controlled arena. Once again, the area chosen for the exercise is challenging country. Their equipment will also be also be tested as there are limited huts or bivvys available for them to overnight in, so a number of personnel will have to camp out for the night.
- **Test the Capability and Resourcefulness of AREC:** A further and very important objective of this exercise is to test the capability and resourcefulness of the AREC personnel who work with LandSAR. Without good communications between the searchers and the search managers, a search will be 'rudderless', so good communications is a must. Over the previous years the SAREX's have been held in areas where communication channels have been tried and tested. The chosen area

this year is some 75 kilometres from where AREC will set up their base. Half of the search area will be on the western side of a large mountain range (Golden Crown Ridge), potentially blocking communications from the base and requiring lateral thinking to achieve effective communications. There is a DOC channel available for teams to use but it also has limitations in the search area due to terrain factors. HF frequency will also be an option, if not slow and difficult to monitor due to sound quality).

HAWKES BAY POLICE AND HAWKES BAY LANDSAR 2020 SAREX

OPERATION “GOLDILOCKS”



Forget about the porridge, I made Goldilocks stew

Exercise Plan

DISTRIBUTION LIST:

Insp Andy SLOAN 1
Insp Martin JAMES 1
Michael WRIGHT (NZSAR Moderator) 1
Ian NEWMAN (LandSAR) 1
Detective Michael SIGNAL 1
Eastern DCC 1
DOC 1

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1.0

Outline

Police SAR and LandSAR Hawkes Bay will conduct an annual Search and Rescue Exercise (SAREX) over the weekend 6th, 7th & 8th of November, 2020. The SAREX will be conducted in the North Eastern Ruahine Ranges, around the Golden Crown Range area. The SAREX will encompass a wide variety of terrain; from tussock and open tops to mature beech forest and some river travel.

The exercise will be run from the Coastguard base situated at 704 Meeanee Quay, Westshore, Napier. The search area is approximately 75 kilometres west of the Coastguard base.

There will be two Lost Parties (LP), each consisting of 2 experienced personal per team. Two LP's parties will allow a greater number of search teams to have the opportunity of utilising their tracking and searching techniques.

The objectives of the exercise are as per the attached Objectives Document.

2.0

Locations

Map in Use

Topo50 – BK37 Tikokino

Exercise Locations

Location	GPS Ref.	Comment
Vehicle locations	E1885800 N5607250	Last Known Point (LKP) for Lost Party 1. Masters Shelter carpark.
	E1881800 N5603750	LKP for Lost Party 2 - Sentry Box carpark.
Intentions for LP 1		Head up Golden Crown on Friday, spend night in Mistake Biv, Saturday walk up Apias Creek and find suitable location to camp for the night.
Intentions for LP 2		Walk up Sentry Box, lunch at Parks Peak, spend night in Upper Makaroro hut. Saturday walk up Makaroro River 2-3km, find suitable location to camp for the night.

3.0

Key Personnel

Function	Name	Contact Number
Exercise Controller	Andy WALKER (Police)	021 191 3313
Mentors/Moderators	Michael (Jimmy) WRIGHT (NZSAR)	

Function	Name	Contact Number
Management Team	Shane GREVILLE (Police) Brian HALSE (Police) Dom BROWN (Police) Jessie KYLE (LandSAR) Peter BOWKER (LandSAR)	021 191 3192 021 191 3390 021 192 0332 021 236 9193 022 060 7461
Field Team Leaders	Andrew CHANTREY (Police) Pat NOISEUX (Police) Bill MADDOX (Police)	
Lost Party 1	Gerald BLACKBURN (LandSAR) Michael HAWTHORNE (LandSAR)	027 4211028 027 2453717
Lost Party 2	Dave ROSE Gaylene ARROWSMITH	021 231 9261
Lost Party Liaison	Andy WALKER	021 1913313
Communications	John NEWSON	027 2303642

4.0

Logistics

Function	Responsibility	Comment
ICP(Incident Control Point) Set Up	Management Team,	To be set up Friday, 06/11/2020 by 1900hrs
Lost Party Communications	Andy WALKER	Final check in with LP's on Friday 6 th at 0800. Further Comms to be via cell phone, DOC11 or DOC8 VHF.
Search Teams Communications VHF Hand held radios	AREC + Logistics	Start to be put into place on Friday evening and completed Saturday morning. LandSAR group is to bring their own hand held VHF radios. Base set/s and repeater units will be set up by AREC (Amateur Radio and Emergency Communications).
VHF Repeaters HF Mountain Radios	Base Support + Logistics	LandSAR repeater/s on VHF and DOC8 + DOC11 VHF as back up. HF sets will also be deployed and can be used for night and morning scheduled transmissions/taskings. (Police and AREC)
GPS Receivers	Local SAR Group + Police for lost parties.	Search Teams Supplied by LandSAR set up for SAR Track.
EPIRB (PLB's. Personal Locater Beacons).	LandSAR Police SAR	Each search team is to ensure that an EPIRB is carried and all members are aware of where it is located. The team leader is responsible for briefing team members in respect of this. Lost parties will have 1 EPIRB per party.
Laminated Maps and Photos	Andy WALKER	Maps for lost parties, search teams and ICP use from Police store room, Napier Station. Coded map supplied to LP's

Computers and Printers	LandSAR	SAR laptops and printer.
First Aid Equipment	Police LandSAR	Each team to be deployed with first aid kit. Full first aid kit to be held at ICP
Accommodation	Individual Management	Exercise participants to provide personal equipment for overnight accommodation in the field. As the ICP is located in town, ICP staff will be able to go home at the conclusion of each days exercise. Accommodation has been arranged for out of town moderators and mentors.
Transport	Individual	Transport to and from the ICP to be an individual responsibility. Police vehicles able to assist with deployment to the search area on Saturday Morning. Police vehicles will meet transport requirements during the SAREX and extraction on Sunday.
Catering	NZ Police – Constable WALKER + helpers,	Individuals who are in the field will provide their own food for Saturday lunch/dinner and Sunday breakfast/lunch. Late lunch will be provided on Sunday at the conclusion of the exercise at the SAREX Base for all participants on their return from deployment. Management team will have access to food for lunch on Saturday and dinner on Saturday Evening.
Misc ICP equipment	Police SAR Squad members. LandSAR	Police SAR storeroom, Napier. LandSAR Trailer.
Department of Conservation Liaison	Andy WALKER	Area Manager, Napier and Palmerston North DOC have been informed LandSAR Teams will be travelling through the Golden Crown area and the use of DOC radio channels if required as per MOU. Facebook notification of exercise in the area – Completed by DOC.
Private Farmland	Andy WALKER	Access has been granted through Kereru Station, Big Hill Station and No Mans Private Maori Land.
Hawkes Bay Rescue Helicopter.	Wayne STEED	Will conduct EPIRB location training, most likely Saturday afternoon weather permitting.

5.0

Communications

Within Exercise

Exercise activities	ESB57 DOC 11 - Wakarara DOC 8 – Hawkes Bay HF
Lost parties	DOC 11, DOC 8 and Cell Phone.

External

Police vehicle radio.

6.0

Emergency and Hazard Management Plan

First Aid facilities will be maintained at the ICP. A register of exercise personnel with First Aid Certificates is held in the Field Headquarters by respective LandSAR and Police managers. External assistance will be through normal emergency services.

Injury Related Emergency

Specific Responsibilities

- 1 **The Patients** – The highest priority is the provision of first aid. This includes ensuring that the patients are not exposed to further harm. The senior person at the site will select the most appropriate person to administer the first aid. This decision will be based on skills, experience and currency. This decision making process must not delay the administering of first aid.
- 2 **Other Team Members** - Steps must be taken to ensure the safety of the remaining team members. The activity should continue if the safety and wellbeing of the remaining participants and the patients are not compromised by the accident.
- 3 **Summon Assistance** – At the earliest opportunity contact should be made with base via VHF (in the case of lost parties, DOC8, DOC11 or cell phone) advising them of the incident and that it is "NO DUFF". Police will assume control and follow emergency procedures to extract the injured person/s. In the event you are unable to contact base via VHF call 111 from a cell phone (if possible) and ask for Police and advise them of the incident. If these methods fail then activate your personal PLB. (if applicable)

General

- **The responsibility for the injured persons remains with the SAR IMT and Leaders until the injured persons leave the site, whether by helicopter, ambulance, Police Transportation or private car.**

Missing Members Emergency

A situation may be considered to be a missing person emergency where two or more of the following circumstances occur:

- No voice or radio communication with the party for a significant period of time (Time A*)
- No visual contact with the party for a significant period of time
- The party has insufficient experience to resolve a situation without assistance
- One or more members of the party may have a medical condition or is at risk of a medical condition including hypothermia
- A **river crossing** may have been involved – this event has higher priority than the Time A* threshold and action will be taken within (Time B*)
- Initial efforts to find the party have failed
 - Efforts to include tracking from LKP plus sign cutting intended and most likely routes
 - Known track traps in the area have been checked
 - Sound and light lines done through the area

* **Time A** – around 4 hours (where the 4 hour time frame excludes what would be normal sleeping hours for the party).

* **Time B** - around 30 minutes

- The times are suggested for planning purposes. Actual times will be determined on the day based on many factors including weather, party experience etc

Specific Responsibilities

- 1 IMT at base, Steps to be taken to ensure that all remaining members are available to assist with a search.
 - a. All relevant equipment has charged batteries and is ready for deployment
 - b. All activities are recorded
 - c. Formal search planning is done by the base IMT including consensus and scenario analysis
- 2 This is to be treated by base IMT as per normal callout procedures.

Hazard Identification

Task hazard identification will be carried out by individuals continuously during the exercise. Existing hazards and the proposed controls are as per the attached **Hazard Identification/Control Plan**:

7.0

Equipment/Food

The SAREX officially starts at 1800hrs on Friday the 6th of November, 2020. There will be opportunity for IMT to deploy one or two teams to road ends Friday night to search carparks and vehicles.

The remainder of the Police and LandSAR personnel to muster at 0730 hrs Saturday 7th November 2020 at Coastguard Building and deployment of search teams is expected to start at 0830 hrs.

All SAR members are to bring their full 24hr kit for the over-night exercise, with the appropriate tools to complete skills that may be required, ie: TOPO 50 Map of the area, compass, tracking sticks, ice block sticks, acetate, pens, note book, GPS, whistle and whatever else you normally use to complete these tasks.

FIELD STAFF:

Own food for Saturday lunch/dinner and Sunday breakfast/lunch. Late lunch will be provided on Sunday afternoon in the form of a BBQ at the Coastguard Base approximately 1430 hrs.

MANAGEMENT / BASE STAFF:

Lunch and Dinner will be provided on the Saturday and lunch on Sunday. Other meals will be their own responsibility.

VEHICLES:

Search teams accessing through Big Hill Station are to be transported to search locations by Police 4 wheel drive vehicles, driven by 4WD qualified staff members. Drivers of vehicles will be briefed by Constable WALKER on any requirements set down by private land owners.

8.0

Program

Friday 06th November 2020

Time	Event	Comment
08:00 hrs	Lost parties to deploy to Mangleton Road	Lost parties to deploy to designated carpark's on Mangleton Road and walk in to their respective search areas.
1200hrs	Police SAR Personnel to muster at the Hastings Police station to assist with the preparation of the exercise.	Transport equipment to Coastguard base, final check to ensure all batteries are charged on radios, GPS, field equipment, gas bottle full for BBQ, cooking gear in SAR trailer.
1800hrs	Call to be received by I/C to initiate exercise.	Constable GREVILLE as I/C. Mentor/assistance provided by S/Const HALSE. Etext to be sent out as per protocol with normal search.
1900hrs	IMT pre-planning	IMT notified of scenario and conduct any pre-planning (if necessary).

Saturday 7th November 2020

Time	Event	Comment
0730hrs	SAREX participants arrive at Coastguard Base and SIGN IN.	Travel to the Coastguard Base individuals' responsibility. O/C Logistics to check in LandSAR staff on arrival and to distribute equipment for the field.
0800hrs	Welcome, Exercise outline, Safety Briefing	Andy WALKER, Shane GREVILLE and Brian HALSE. All exercise personnel Teams to be confirmed by LandSAR.
0830hrs	All teams to be deployed on exercise.	IMT to manage and task accordingly. Use Police vehicles to deploy teams in the field. Police members qualified in 4x4 vehicle use to deploy teams using the Police 4WD vehicles.
1200hrs	Meal breaks to be taken as required.	Breaks taken at discretion of field team leaders.
1900hrs	Lost parties and search teams.	Scheduled contact with teams. Confirm location. SITREP/Taskings.
1900-0700	Field teams to overnight in chosen camps.	No movement of teams during night

Sunday 8th November 2020

Time	Event	Comment
07:00hrs	SAREX resumes	
11:00hrs	Extract all Lost Parties and Search Teams to ICP	IMT to task Police staff to retrieve teams using Police 4x4 vehicles and van
1400hrs	Team Assessments	IMT to debrief individual teams leaders on arrival at the ICP
1430hrs	Debrief + Lunch	Mentors and Moderators.
1530hrs	Demobilisation	O/C Logistics to confirm all persons departing are in a fit state to drive home and sign them out. If any person is in an unfit state to drive a motor vehicle the incident controller (Sergeant Shane GREVILLE) is to be notified immediately to ensure arrangements can be made to return the member and their vehicle home.

Prepared by Constable Andy WALKER
HB POLICE SAR
20/10/2020