

RESPONSIBILITIES OF PMSA IN SAR OPERATIONS

Reference: (NMDCP Ed 2019 Part II Ch-2)

1. Operational responsibilities for maritime search and rescue are associated with internationally recognized geographic maritime search and rescue regions. PMSA has been given the primary responsibility for coordinating and initiating SAR operations. PMSA is maintaining an efficient MRCC in order to readily respond to emergencies and to exercise tactical control in SAR operation. Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre at HQ PMSA is directly working under DG PMSA through Director Operations and Maritime Rescue Coordination Officer. Each information received in the center is carefully processed to augment SAR efforts with the help of assets available. Distress situations involving maritime aircraft ditched in sea will normally be handled by PMSA along with support of Pakistan Air Force and CAA.

ZONE LIMITS OF SAR AREAS

2. PMSA is responsible for initiating/ conducting maritime SAR operations in Pakistan Search and Rescue Region irrespective of vessel/ aircraft position in the region. However, if in case, the assistance of other governmental and non-governmental organizations is required for providing help to vessels or aircraft in distress, different search zones are marked to facilitate these organizations in rendering their assistance. These zones are as follow:

| <u>Zone</u> | <u>Limits</u> |
|-------------|------------------------------|
| Zone – A | Upto 12 NM (from coast line) |
| Zone – B | From 12 NM to 200 NM |
| Zone – C | From 200 NM and beyond |

3. Looking at the zones it is considered that in zone 'A', small crafts like fishing boats or small fishing trawlers will normally be fishing which may need rescue in case of any emergency on board. It is further envisaged that location of the scene of incident in this zone can easily be detected through PMSA Defender aircraft and similarly easily accessible for the nearest RCC to provide an autonomous help. The nearest RCC can also call for the required phase of emergency with intimation to MRCC. However zone 'B' and zone 'C' are the deep-sea routes in which deep-sea trawlers and merchant shipping is expected. To provide assistance in these zones, MRCC will be required to send the deep sea going crafts e.g. PN ships and PMSA corvettes or the helicopters. Two or more RCCs can also be tasked collectively to undertake any single SAR operation, depending upon the severity or position of the incident.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF REGIONAL COORDINATION CENTRE (RCC)

Reference: (NMDCP Ed 2019 Part II Ch-2)

RCCs are responsible for following:

- a. Timely report of incident to MRCC if any accident takes place in their area of responsibility.
- b. Gathering maximum possible information about the incident in their area of responsibility.
- c. Update the MRCC on hourly basis or whenever any significant information is received.
- d. Render assistance using own and assigned assets as directed by MRCC.
- e. Keep liaison with other RCCs, relevant SAR agencies and MRCC.
- f. Maintain good control over the situation in their respective area.
- g. Inform concerned local civil/ military authorities for pooling in their SAR assets.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF PAKISTAN NAVY

Pakistan Navy being a well-organized and resourceful organization is responsible for following:

- a. Assist PMSA in carrying out SAR operation.
- b. Alert the unit nearest to the scene of incident for immediate help.
- c. Bring the assigned aircraft to 1(one) hour notice.
- d. Bring the ready duty ship to immediate notice to proceed to sea.
- e. Provide assistance in deep sea SAR operations.
- f. Provision of SAR equipment as requested by MRCC.
- g. Provide medical facilities.

PMSA SEARCH AND RESCUE PROCEDURES

SAR AT HQ PMSA-SOP

Information by

- a. Karachi Radio
- b. Karachi Wireless
- c. MHQ
- d. JMICC
- e. KFHA
- f. FCS
- g. HQ Civil Aviation Authority
- h. Pakistan Air Force
- j. Pakistan Army
- k. Electronic Media

MEANS OF NOTIFICATION/ INFORMATION

- a. SARSAT (Satellite Based System)
- b. INMARSAT C
- c. INMARSAT Mini C
- d. FAX
- e. Telephone
- f. Wireless Communication
- g. Neighboring Rescue Coordination Centers

SAR AT HQ PMSA-SOP

- a. Upon reception of Distress Message "**Plot the position**" immediately.
- b. If the distress is in the neighboring SAR region e.g OMAN/ INDIA/ UAE, then the concerned RCC is informed via fax.
- c. If the distress is outside our own and neighboring SRR and also outside the INDIAN OCEAN REGION, then no action is taken except recording the incident.

DISTRESS MERCHANT VESSELS/ CARGO DHOW IN OUR AoR

- a. Irrespective of national or international flag carrier, if distress call receives, following actions will be generated immediately:
 - Inform PMSA Coastal Bases & Ready Duty Ship.
 - Inform MHQ, JMICC, KFHA, FCS etc
- b. Following will be confirmed by MRCC:
 - PMSA units in area, if no unit is at sea then ready duty ship will sail ASAP.
 - Air surveillance planned by Defender Aircraft.
 - PN ships operating in area from MHQ
 - Any air mission sorties planned from MHQ
 - ERF operating in area from MHQ

- PNSC ships in area from Shipping Cell, MHQ/ JMICC
- Merchant shipping in area from MHQ, JMICC & Internet
- Fishing Boat in area from KFHA, JMICC

PAKISTANI FISHING BOATS IN DISTRESS

- a. Contact all PMSA Pickets to confirm following and verify same from VIS software:
 - Date when boat left harbor
 - Duration of PC (issued by Pakistan Custom) issued to boat
 - Number of crew onboard
 - Name of Nakwa & Owner and their contact numbers
 - Status of life saving equipment onboard
 - Expected area of fishing
 - Status of communication sets onboard
 - Details of Ration onboard
 - Size of boat
- b. Inform CO Coastal/ COMOSRON-26/ COMOSRON-23/ COMOSRON-22 Available unit (as applicable) to prepare for sailing and approach the distress boat ASAP.
- c. Ask owner to arrange a boat, if he can, and take the boat in distress in tow or transfer its crew to other boat.
- d. Ask any boat in vicinity to take the boat in tow or transfer its crew to other boat.
- e. Talk to Nakwa and ask about current situation.
- f. Generate template after coordination with JMICC.
- g. Ascertain from MHQ about any PN ship operating in the area.
- h. Ascertain from MHQ about likely PN Sorties in the area.
- j. Obtain AIS picture from available resources in PMSA Ops Room/ MOC/ MRCC.