BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE

AIR FORCE INSTRUCTION 13-208

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Space, Missile, Command, and Control

RESCUE COORDINATION CENTER COMBAT SEARCH AND RESCUE OPERATING PROCEDURES

COMPLIANCE WITH THIS PUBLICATION IS MANDATORY

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This instruction implements AFPD 13-2, Readiness, Guidance, Policies, and Operating concepts dictated by JCS 3-50 series publications, and AFDD 34 , which govern the coordination of active and reserve component forces committed to operating of Rescue Coordination Centers during contingency or combat operations. It establishes guidance for command, communication, control, and coordination of Air Force forces to accomplish search and rescue (SAR) and combat search and rescue (CSAR) operations. This instruction applies to all Air Force major commands involved in establishing Rescue Coordination Centers and the Air Force component element of the Joint Search and Rescue Center (JSRC). This instruction contains information and procedures previously found in Air Rescue Service Regulation 55-3 which is now rescinded.

1. Operations.

1.1. Rescue Coordination Center (RCC) Responsibilities. The RCC is the primary search and rescue (SAR) command and control agency responsible for the execution of SAR and combat search and rescue (CSAR) operations for the Air Component Commander within the area of responsibility. The RCC will initially assume the duties of CSAR mission coordinator, initiate CSAR planning, and report any incident to the Joint Search and Rescue Center (JSRC). As the SAR mission coordinator, the RCC tasks and coordinates with subordinate CSAR capable units, coordinates mission requirements, passes mission information and ensures taskings are clearly understood. If mission execution requires assets outside the operational control (OPCON) of the Air Component Commander, the RCC coordinates all requests thorough the JSRC. JP 3-50.2 further outlines RCC responsibilities and the command and control structure.

1.1.1. Establish Center Operations. Upon deployment, RCC personnel are responsible for establishing and maintaining center operations and ensuring facilities meet operational needs. When planning for and establishing RCC operations consider the following items:

1.1.1.1. Environmental Requirements.

1.1.1.1.1. Work space must accommodate a deployed staff of up to 10 personnel per shift for continuous 24-hour operations. Give appropriate consideration to the space required for office and communications equipment.

1.1.1.1.2. Auxiliary Power. An auxiliary power source is required for critical mission equipment to prevent mission degradation in the event normal power is lost. A 5KW to 7KW generator will normally supply sufficient power. At locations where RCC personnel might operate the emergency power equipment, a written operating instruction or checklist will be provided for proper operation.

1.1.1.1.3. Environmental Conditions. Ensure sufficient air cooling and heating is available at the deployed location to maintain satisfactory temperature ranges for efficient radio and computer operation.

1.1.1.2. Mission Displays. Mission displays are visual presentations used to quickly and accurately assess information to prosecute and monitor CSAR missions. The display may be a status board or computer generated product.

1.1.1.2.1. Threat Map Display. Each RCC maintains or has access to a threat map of their operational area. The threat map depicts the enemy orders of battle. For example: enemy radar sites, threats to primary rescue vehicles such as helicopters, antiaircraft artillery (AAA), armed enemy helicopters and fixed wing aircraft, enemy weapons and troop deployments with terrain and weapon ranges denoted.

1.1.1.2.1.1. Each RCC maintains or has access to a display showing the orbits for support aircraft such as, airborne C2 platforms, electronic warfare platforms, and tanker support.

1.1.1.2.2. CSAR Alert/Aircraft Status. All RCC personnel must thoroughly know the responsibilities and capabilities of the rescue forces within their operational area. The RCC will maintain a status display reflecting the alert and aircraft status of primary SAR units. This display should contain as a minimum the following: unit location, type of aircraft, call sign, alert response time (e.g., 15 minutes, 30 minutes), operational limitations, if any.

1.1.1.2.3. Component/Theater CSAR Resources. In order to facilitate planning and response to any CSAR incident, the RCC maintains a resource display of available component and theater CSAR capable forces. This display includes as a minimum: contact numbers, location, assets and forces available, known capabilities and limitations.

1.1.1.2.4. Aircraft Wreckage Locator. The RCC must maintain a display of known crash locations. To the furthest extent possible, the RCC ascertains from available resources the approximate location of the wreckage site. This display provides information that could possibly prevent the mis-identification of crash sites during CSAR missions. It includes as a minimum: the known location, type of aircraft, date of crash, remarks, and a reference to the incident or mission number assigned.

1.1.1.3. Operating Checklists. In-depth procedural checklists play a critical role in executing CSAR operations. Maintain and keep current checklists outlining RCC and controller actions for all known contingencies. Thorough and concise checklists must lead controllers through an

orderly sequence from initiation to completion. As a minimum, maintain checklists that address initial RCC set up, RCC daily operations and procedures, CSAR mission decision matrix, incident and mission opening and closing, CSAR operations in a hostile or permissive environment, as applicable.

2. Deployments.

2.1. Mission Kits. Deployments supporting OPLAN and contingency taskings require mission coordinator kits. These kits ensure instantaneous availability of administrative materials, supplies and publications for immediate CSAR operations. Each RCC will maintain an appropriate mission coordinator kit capable of supporting RCC operations for thirty days. Recommended contents are as follows:

2.1.1. Publications. Charts of anticipated operational area (if available) for mission planning purposes, operating checklists, JP 3-50.2, Doctrine For Joint Combat Search And Rescue, JP 3-50.21, Joint Tactics, Techniques and Procedures for Combat Search And Rescue, appropriate command regulations to support operations, USMTF Handbook, pertinent unit operating instructions (OI's), AFI 13-RCC Vol. III.

2.1.2. Forms. Controller Log AF Form 3960, Mission Folders AF Form 3963, Aircraft Incident AF Form 3961, Non-aircraft Incident AF Form 3962, ELT Incident AF Form 3959.

2.1.3. Miscellaneous Equipment. Plotters and dividers, colored pencils, pens, erasers, markers, writing paper, classified cover sheets, log book, staplers, rulers, scissors, computer equipment and supplies.

3. Controller CSAR Training.

3.1. General. During combat operations, RCC controllers may staff either a JSRC or an RCC. For this reason, train all RCC controllers thoroughly in operations, plans, coordination and responsibilities at both command levels. When possible, enhance all CSAR training by individual participation in command and joint exercises. It is imperative all units include CSAR training as part of initial controller training. When tasked by OPLAN or contingency operations, commanders should assign only the most capable personnel to key CSAR positions. During combat operations this training may be accomplished as OJT, if required. This section prescribes training responsibilities and requirements for RCC personnel.

3.2. Responsibilities.

3.2.1. The RCC commander will:

3.2.1.1. Appoint a training manager to develop, implement, maintain, and administer the unit training program.

3.2.1.2. Ensure training starts as soon as practical after a controller arrives.

3.2.1.3. Ensure all controllers receive initial and recurring training to maintain proficiency and certification.

3.2.2. The training manager will:

3.2.2.1. Be certified and current in CSAR operations.

3.2.2.2. Develop, implement, maintain and administer the CSAR controller training and certification program as prescribed in Paragraph **3.3.**.

3.2.2.3. Develop a Unit Training Outline (UTO) for the unit as prescribed in Paragraph **3.4.** .

3.2.2.4. Ensure controller training is administered by knowledgeable controllers.

3.2.2.5. Ensure trainees have the appropriate security clearance prior to discussing classified information.

3.2.2.6. Develop, maintain, and periodically update a master question file of examination questions for initial and recurring training and controller certification.

3.3. CSAR Training Outline (CTO). The CTO (**Attachment 1**) provides Air Force-wide learning objectives. Its purpose is not to be an all-encompassing list of RCC CSAR training objectives, but to provide a framework of minimum training requirements upon which to build.

3.4. Unit Training Outline (UTO). Each unit will develop and maintain a UTO. The UTO will incorporate all of the objectives listed in the CTO. Units will expand on the topics listed in the CTO and include theater or command unique procedures and requirements, or other materials the unit deems necessary. Maintain a copy of the UTO for each trainee and contains the following:

3.4.1. A unit mission statement.

3.4.2. Sequentially numbered learning objectives.

3.4.3. Spaces to document start dates, completion dates, and trainee and trainer initials for each learning objective.

3.4.4. Study references for each learning objective.

3.4.5. Subject matter grouped by learning objectives (e.g., information security, physical security, communications, mission movement monitoring, etc.).

3.4.6. Include written, oral or practical procedural evaluations and examinations after each phase as appropriate.

3.5. RCC CSAR Controller Training Program. Each RCC will establish a training program to include:

3.5.1. Initial Training. Training administered to all newly arrived personnel. Those with previous RCC experience may proficiency advance through training. Schedule the trainee for periods of instruction, study, and written examinations.

3.5.1.1. Prior to entering training, construct a training folder for each trainee, to include as a minimum the UTO and a log for trainer comments.

3.5.1.2. The unit training manager will review the training folder on a weekly basis to determine the trainee's progress and ensure completeness of training. Document this review in the training folder.

3.5.1.3. Upon completion of initial training units will develop their own policy on disposition of the training folder.

3.5.2. Recurring Training. Ensure controllers remain knowledgeable in all assigned duties. This training should consist of formal review, self-study, or examination, and conform to the basic

requirements established in attachment 1. Accomplish all areas of training detailed in the UTO on a yearly basis.

3.5.3. Remedial Training. Training administered to requalify or recertify controllers failing to maintain prescribed certification standards. The training manager will determine the depth and scope.

3.5.4. Refresher Training. A condensed version of initial training designed to train controllers in local procedures or to update controllers returning from absences of 60 days or more.

3.6. Training Projections. Develop annual training projections to identify requirements and frequency of training. The training manager will maintain training projections to develop monthly training requirements, lesson guides, formal training meeting agendas, self-study letters, etc. Modify the annual training projection as required to include revised directives, message changes, OIs, QRCs, OPLANs, etc.

3.7. Controller Certification. All controllers must be trained and certified in CSAR controller procedures. Begin this training when practical after completing peacetime SAR certification. Certification is accomplished for initial training, remedial training, refresher training and when recertification is directed by the Commander or designated representative. Failure to maintain established certification standards results in immediate decertification.

3.7.1. Controllers will certify after completing all training requirements and successfully completing a 50 question closed book examination. The examination will consist of questions from the master question file. Minimum passing score for certification is 85%

3.7.2. Record certification and decertification on an AF Form 1999 modified as follows: type in the specific certification category in which the controller is being certified (e.g., CSAR Controller Certified), and the name, rank, and position of certifying official.

3.7.2.1. If a trainee fails to certify within the locally established time frame, the training manager will document the reason for delay and estimated certification date in the trainee's folder.

3.7.3. The RCC Commander or designated representative will ensure that controllers remain proficient, take action to correct deficiencies, and remove controllers from certification if not maintaining standards or proficiency

3.8. Controller Decertification. Each unit will determine decertification standards and establish written guidance. Decertify controllers for: extended periods of absence, failure to maintain established certification standards, discontinuance of duties requiring certification, failure of recurring tests or removal of security clearances. The certifying authority will accomplish decertification and document it on the AF Form 1999.

3.8.1. If decertification is required: draw a red line through the applicable block on the AF Form 1999. Enter a statement on the rear of the form as to why the controller is decertified.

3.8.2. Controllers decertified for test failures will retrain in the area(s) of weakness and recertified if applicable. The Chief of the RCC will determine the amount and length of training requirements.

4. RCC Communications.

4.1. Communications Requirements. Communications play a major role in the normally short-notice and rapidly evolving dynamics associated with CSAR operations. Joint and component command, control, communications, computers and intelligence (C4I) planning should include potential CSAR requirements and inter-service and functional component C4I interoperability as it relates to communicating from air-to-air, air-to-surface, or surface-to-surface. The facilities and equipment detailed in this chapter are the minimum required for the RCC to meet its responsibilities for successful rescue operations in response to OPLAN and contingency tasking. Rapid and reliable communication with all primary and secondary rescue agencies is essential for prompt receipt of distress information, alerting assisting agencies, launching rescue forces, and directing or coordinating subsequent rescue operations. Maintain close liaison with local communication representatives to obtain assistance, to evaluate communications needs and support, and to ensure effective and adequate service. The theater of operations should provide communications capabilities or make them accessible. Theater RCC's must train unit personnel on the use, care, and routine maintenance of all deployable communication and associated support equipment.

4.2. Command and Control. All RCC's will have communication with: appropriate command echelons, AWACS, ABCCC, or other possible airborne mission controller platforms; wing operations centers (WOC), weather agencies, intelligence agencies, dedicated CSAR units.

4.3. Modes of Communication. For optimum RCC operations, the following systems should be available: theater C4I computer systems (e.g., CTAPS, CAFMS, etc.), telephones, class A telephones with multiple lines and wired with rotary capability, secure telephone, DSN telephone with world-wide access, radios (SATCOM, UHF, VHF, HF, and FM all with secure and non-secure capabilities) and associated frequencies, secure facsimile machine, secure message receipt/transmittal capability, computer with modem capability, and pager system capability.

4.4. Bare Base Requirements and Operations. When deployed to a bare base location, the theater RCC has the same communication requirements listed in paragraph **4.3.**. If not providede by the theater of operations, the deploying RCC is responsible for providing its own communications equipment.

4.5. CSAR Communications Plan. Communications between the RCC and theater rescue forces are critical to the efficient execution and accomplishment of any CSAR operation. The RCC will ensure a thorough CSAR communications plan is coordinated, established and published in the theater Air Tasking Order (ATO)for the execution of CSAR operations.

5. RCC Controller Forms.

5.1. General. This section standardizes procedures by RCC controllers to ensure effective, efficient, and accurate documentation of each incident and mission accomplished. This documentation will provide clear, concise information for controllers who will handle or plan a mission on subsequent shifts. Use the following forms to collect, maintain and track essential information.

5.2. RCC ELT/EPIRB Incident Log, AF Form 3959. Use this form to document all emergency locator transmitter (ELT) incidents received by the RCC.

5.3. RCC Non-Aircraft Incident Log, AF Form 3962. Use this form to document receipt of, and response to all non-aircraft, non-ELT incidents.

5.4. RCC Aircraft Incident Log, AF Form 3961. Use this form to document awareness of, and response to, aviation related rescue incidents.

5.5. RCC Controller's Log, AF Form 3960. Use this form to maintain a chronological record of activities for all incidents.

5.6. Mission Folder, AF Form 3963. Use this form each time an incident upgrades to mission status.

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Attachment 1

RCC CONTROLLER CSAR TRAINING OUTLINE (CTO)

This outline is designed to familiarize the RCC controller in the operations and responsibilities of an RCC, JSRC, the relationship between them, the command structure of a Joint Task Force (JTF) and execution requirements for a CSAR mission. This training outline does not encompass all aspects of CSAR, many items are theater or command specific. It is the unit's responsibility to ensure that topics specific to the unit or command are trained as required. The following information as a minimum must be covered during initial and recurring CSAR controller training:

A1.1. Joint Task Force (JTF) Organization.

A1.1.1. JTF headquarters staff directorates, organization, and responsibilities.

A1.1.2. Joint Operations Center (JOC) organization and responsibilities.

A1.1.3. JSRC organization and responsibilities.

A1.2. Joint Force Air Component Commander (JFACC) and Air Operations Center (AOC) organization.

A1.3. AOC Organization.

A1.3.1. Combat Operations Center Organization and Responsibilities.

A1.3.2. Combat Plans Organization and Responsibilities.

A1.3.3. RCC Organization and Responsibilities.

A1.3.3.1. Responsibilities of personnel assigned. (i.e. SAR duty officer (SARDO), SAR liaison officer SARLO, intelligence(INTEL), etc.).

A1.3.4. Establishing RCC Operations and setup.

A1.4. CSAR Execution.

A1.4.1. Familiarization and requirements of a theater CSAR concept of operations (CONOP's).

A1.4.2. Familiarization and completion requirements of all CSAR forms.

A1.4.3. Familiarization, use, and purpose of an Air Tasking Order (ATO).

A1.4.4. Familiarization and requirements for CSAR special instruction (SPINS).

A1.4.5. Primary component CSAR capable aircraft and forces.

A1.4.6. CSAR notification and coordination process.

A1.4.7. Combat Search and Rescue Task Force Organization (CSARTF) Roles and Responsibilities.

A1.4.8. RCC interaction/coordination with other service components, staff offices, etc.

A1.5. Planning Responsibilities.

A1.5.1. Threat assessments.

A1.5.2. Use of charts.

A1.5.3. Precautionary CSAR.

A1.5.3.1. Lifeguard.

A1.5.3.2. Duckbutt.

A1.5.3.3. Airborne Orbit.

A1.5.3.4. Strip Alert.

A1.5.4. Suppression of enemy air defenses (SEAD) aircraft.

A1.6. Evasion, Authentication, and Recovery.

A1.6.1. RCC responsibilities concerning isolated personnel reports (ISOPREPs), evasion plan of action (EPA), designated area for recovery (DAR),selected area for evasion (SAFE) areas, and survivor communication capability.

A1.6.2. Survivor responsibilities concerning ISOPREPs, EPA, DAR and SAFE areas, and communications/signaling.

A1.6.3. Survivor authentication procedures and methods.

A1.7. Familiarization with applicable CSAR publications.

A1.7.1. Joint Pub 3-50, National Search and Rescue Manual Vol I: National Search and Rescue System.

A1.7.2. Joint Pub 3-50.1, National Search and Rescue Manual Vol II: Planning Handbook.

A1.7.3. Joint Pub 3-50.2, Doctrine for Joint Combat Search and Rescue (CSAR).

A1.7.4. Joint Pub 3-50.21, Joint Tactics, Techniques and Procedures for Combat Search and Rescue (CSAR).

A1.7.5. Joint Pub 3-50.3, Joint Doctrine For Evasion and Recovery (S).

A1.7.6. Air Force Doctrine Document 34, Combat Search and Rescue Operations.