

UNITED KINGDOM SEARCH AND RESCUE (UKSAR) OPERATORS GROUP

REPORT OF MEETING OF 8 JANUARY 2003

1. The minutes of the meeting of 12 September 2002 were agreed.
2. The domain name for the UKSAR website had been agreed. Members of the Group were asked to supply suitable items and links for the site.
3. It was agreed that minutes from the Communications Working Group and Satellite Communications Working group would be exchanged to ensure that information was kept up to date. Following the suggestion of using 5 additional channels for inland SAR use it was agreed that the MCA would need to agree the administration of the channels. The Communications Working Group were also reviewing the communications fit in SAR aircraft with a view to ensuring commonality between aircraft and Mountain and Lowland Rescue Teams.
4. The Inland Consultative Committee had raised concerns regarding the increasing costs of insurance for the teams.
5. The Maritime and Aviation Consultative Committee discussed the problems with regard to the use of mobile phones to alert the SAR services. The Committee was given a presentation by the MCA's prevention manager on the Agency's future prevention policy. The MCA prevention manager assured the committee members that any policy would be taken forward in conjunction with all interested parties.
6. There were concerns with regard to the increasing costs for insurance for voluntary teams.
7. The first meeting of the UKSAR Satellite Communications Working group had been held on 28 November.
8. The MCA would be funding a project to look at establishing permanent teams around the coast to undertake firefighting at sea. It was anticipated that the project would complete by March 2004.
9. The Group were asked to provide comments on the revised draft of the Dealing With Disaster publication.
10. The MCA were considering introducing a programme of secondments within the UKSAR organisation to help promote better communications and understanding of each organisations area of responsibility.