

UNITED KINGDOM SEARCH AND RESCUE (UKSAR) OPERATORS GROUP

MARITIME AND AVIATION CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

REPORT OF MEETING OF 9 JUNE 2004

The minutes of the meeting of 9 December 2003 were agreed.

The Committee were provided with an update on the Firefighting at Sea project, and the progress towards helicopter harmonisation.

The Committee were informed that Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) were in the process of updating the Framework document for the UK and would welcome any amendments for the next update of the publication.

The Committee received a report from the Operators Group meeting of 23 February 2004. One of the major achievements of UKSAR had been the provision of dedicated channels for the use of inland SAR. Access to these Channels was controlled by the MCA and the use of the Channels was governed by a Control and Implementation document which explained the protocols for the Channels used.

The Committee were made aware of the difficulties which UKSAR faced with regard to the recruitment and retention of volunteers in the future.

Reports of the Committee's meetings had been made available via the UKSAR website. Members of the Committee were asked to submit any ideas and suggestions for the site to the Secretary. It was suggested that there should be a members area set up for different organisations to keep in touch and to discuss areas of good practice and highlight concerns.

The Committee were provided with an update on the MCA's prevention strategy. The MCA were keen to stress that they wanted the strategy to be a partnership with other SAR and safety organisations with in the UK.

The Committee were advised of the current state of play with regard to the introduction of the International Ship Port Security (ISPS) Code, which would come into effect on 1 July 2004.

There had been no requests to join the Committee.

The Committee were asked to consider the future format of meetings to ensure that the meetings met their expectations. The members of the Committee were content with the current format.

The Committee were advised on the latest position on the Helicopter Harmonisation project.

The Committee were informed of the changes to the dedicated headset watch on VHF Channel 16.