

## **UNITED KINGDOM SEARCH AND RESCUE (UKSAR) OPERATORS GROUP**

### **REPORT FROM THE MEETING OF 19 FEBRUARY 2001**

1. The minutes of the last meeting held on 15 November 2000 were agreed.
2. The Group were asked to submit their ideas for the UKSAR website by the next meeting.
3. Work was ongoing with the Radiocommunications Agency (RA) to establish whether the use of Channel 73 could be used as a common air to ground frequency.
4. The Helicopter Provision Working Group was working to allocate a risk scoring system, which would probably be based upon the Thames SAR methodology. The group were also in the process of producing a coverage criterion.
5. Part 1 of the National SAR Framework Document had been produced and was circulated to the Group for comment. The UKSAR Consultative Groups would be consulted on the document prior to its publication.
6. The Terms of Reference for the SAR Communications Working Group had been circulated for comment.
7. Work was ongoing to revise the Memorandum of Understanding between the Chief and Assistant Chief Fire Officers Association (CACFOA) and the former Coastguard Agency to take account of the changes to the Coastguard Agency to the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA).
8. The Group discussed the concerns regarding the tasking of assets to search and rescue incidents. It was agreed that a Working Group would be formed to look at ways of tackling the problems.
9. The Terms of Reference for the two Consultative Groups were discussed, once agreed the Terms would be ratified by the Operators Group.
10. The Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister for Shipping had announced that SAR on the River Thames would be taken over by the MCA through HM Coastguard. The RNLI would be establishing Lifeboats on the river as part of the new set up.