

REVIEW OF UK SEARCH AND RESCUE HELICOPTER PROVISION BY THE UK SAR OPERATORS GROUP

TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. Aim

The United Kingdom Operators Group shall establish a Working Group to review the United Kingdom's Search and Rescue (SAR) helicopter provision, focusing primarily on DETR and MoD facilities but taking into account facilities provided locally by UK emergency services (the Police and Ambulance Service) and to make recommendation to the UK SAR Strategic Committee.

2. Objectives

The review shall have the following objectives:

- a) To complete a risk assessment of potential military and civil SAR populations in order to determine future SAR requirements.
- b) To consider dedicated SAR helicopter coverage criteria and that of adjacent international SAR Regions and propose, as and if necessary, changes to the criteria.
- c) To consider current basing arrangements for dedicated MoD and MCA SAR helicopters and propose operational improvements.

3. Assumptions

The following are assumed:

- a) Military SAR will remain a military function.
- b) RAF SAR helicopters should continue to be crewed wholly by RAF crews with the employment of reservists where appropriate.
- c) Civil maritime and aviation SAR policy will remain the responsibility of the DTLR.
- d) Inland SAR will continue to be supported by UK SAR helicopters.
- e) Police helicopters, subject to operational availability, assist in search for missing persons but, as a general rule, do not become involved in actual rescue activities, subject to individual Chief Police officer's discretion.

4. Consultation

In conducting its Review, the Working Group shall consult the MoD/MCA Harmonisation Working Group, the UK Maritime and Aviation SAR and Inland SAR Consultative Groups and other appropriate parties.

5. Costs

All review costs will generally lie where they fall with the exception of the Secretariat, which will be funded by DTLR. Should there be any costs associated with non-Government officials, these will also be covered by DTLR.

6. Timing

The Review will be completed and a final report submitted to the UK SAR Strategic Committee in preparation for submission to Ministers by 31 March 2001. Interim

reports will be provided to the UK SAR Strategic Committee by 31 December 2000. All reports will be submitted through the Operators Group.

7. Membership

The Working Group membership shall be decided by the Operators Group but as a minimum shall comprise representatives from:

- a) The MoD (RAF) Chair
- b) The DTLR (MCA) Vice Chair
- c) The Police (ACPO and ACPO(S))
- d) The Ambulance Service (ASA and ASA(S))
- e) The Fire Service (CACFOA)
- f) The Home Office
- g) Other members as required by the Review