

Abstract

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Towards efficient coastal Search and Rescue operations

A search & rescue operation is initiated generally as a result of receiving a distress signal, either directly from a distressed vessel aircraft, via a third party. Saving human life is the primary responsibility of all participants in Maritime search & rescue operations. Although vessels, for the most part merchant vessels, on high seas coastal waters are not designated as maritime search & rescue facilities, they are obliged by various international maritime conventions to provide assistance to persons in distress at sea. In order to face extraordinary circumstances, the efficient & well-prepared plans & urgent procurements for maritime search & rescue operations should exist, & all participants must acquaint the maritime search & rescue regulations & conventions. Moreover, the required ideal & effectual monitoring for search & rescue processes in the event of a major & prolonged, very complex, maritime search & rescue operations can be achieved by the front-line search & rescue organizations, that are responsible for ensuring the most effective arrangements to save lives & properties, in addition to mitigate the threat of vessels catastrophe. To accomplish such appropriate manners, nations and/or authorities involved in responding to vessels emergency & casualty, should take on suitable great efforts in the developing the efficiency of human elements, that operates maritime search & rescue of coastal regions control centers, supply the rescue coordinating centers- RCCs, by electronic aids for controlling, planning & monitoring the SAR operations, & activate & encourage the role of the volunteers in maritime SAR systems. The paper reveals a vision illustrates the importance of maritime SAR human element in SAR operations, & demonstrates the experience of Saudi Border Guards in training & preparing such members, as a case study. Also the consequences of usage of electronic instruments as aids to control & monitoring on scene maritime SAR operations, & finally the role of volunteers in increasing the efficiency of maritime SAR systems, explain the Canadian volunteers system as an example. Key Words: SAR – Volunteers – Human element - SARMAP- SARIS – CCGA - Border Guard – Frontier Guard