

Jul 77


SEARCH AND RESCUE AGREEMENT

between

THE STATE OF WASHINGTON

and

THE AEROSPACE RESCUE AND RECOVERY SERVICE

in support of

THE NATIONAL SEARCH AND RESCUE PLAN

1. Purpose: *To insure the effective use of all available facilities in all types of Search and Rescue (SAR) missions.*
2. Scope: *This agreement is the basis for mutual coordination and cooperation for direction of search and rescue operations by the State of Washington and the Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Service (ARRS).*
3. General:
 - a. *The National Search and Rescue Plan designates the United States Air Force as the federal agency responsible for coordination of search and rescue operations in the Inland SAR Region.*
 - b. *The Inland SAR Region is defined in the National SAR Plan as the Inland area of the Continental United States except navigable waters under the jurisdiction of the United States Coast Guard, (The U.S. Coast Guard has primary responsibility for these waters).*
 - c. *The Chief of Staff of the United States Air Force has designated the Commander, Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Service, as the Executive Agent to implement the National SAR Plan in the United States. Within the Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Service, the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center (AFRCC) has been established to act for the SAR Coordinator in the Inland Region. Therefore, the AFRCC, located at Scott AFB, Illinois, is the agency responsible for coordinating federal SAR activities in the Inland Region.*
 - d. *The National Search and Rescue Plan recognizes the desires of state and local agencies to direct and control their own rescue organizations in SAR missions resulting from local or intrastate emergencies. Therefore, any*



plans or agreements, including this one, in support of the National SAR Plan will not in any way contravene the responsibilities or authority of local or state governments.

e. The AFRCC is responsible for organizing all search and rescue agencies, both federal and non-federal, into a cooperative, national network. Appropriate agreements may be made between the AFRCC and respective states, federal agencies, and other organizations to accomplish this end.

f. Agreements will provide for federal search and rescue assistance, when needed, through the AFRCC, to local or state agencies conducting search and rescue missions. Also, state and local agencies through such agreements should recognize the responsibilities of the AFRCC and provide support to the AFRCC on missions, when requested.

g. The Civil Air Patrol (CAP) is a corporation created by federal statute and is established by law as a voluntary, civilian auxiliary of the United States Air Force. The prosecution of search and rescue missions for the Air Force is one of the tasks performed by CAP.

h. This agreement is general in scope and is designed to be the initial document from which additional specific agreements and plans may be written. These additional agreements and plans will provide for specific mission procedures, means of communications, points of contact, listing of search and rescue agencies, etc. All such future plans and agreements will refer to this basic agreement.

i. The Division of Aeronautics (DOA) is the state agency that has established the State Air Search and Rescue organization and has statutory responsibility for conducting air search and rescue missions in the State of Washington. Aerial search and rescue for civil incidents within the jurisdiction of the state shall continue to be under the direct supervision of this agency in accordance with this agreement and the National Search and Rescue Plan.

j. Ground searches shall be the responsibility of the Sheriff within each of the counties. The State Department of Emergency Services shall coordinate ground searches with the AFRCC, County Sheriffs, other law enforcement agencies, or any private or public search and rescue group, when requested per RCW 38.52.030, as amended.

4. Agreement and Procedures:

a. This agreement is in six categories: Military Incidents, Civil Incidents, Scheduled Air Carrier and Missions of National Concern, Civil Air Patrol Utilization/Incidents and Ground Search and Rescue.



(1) Military Incidents.

(a) A search and rescue mission to aid distressed military personnel.

(b) All military incidents will be under the complete operational control of the AFRCC.

(c) All search and rescue efforts by assisting agencies will be coordinated through the AFRCC.

(d) All press releases will be made by the AFRCC or its representative and will give proportional mention to all assisting agencies.

(e) The AFRCC will advise the appropriate state agency within the State of Washington when a military incident has occurred in Washington. Notification will include a statement as to whether or not assistance is requested. The AFRCC will keep the appropriate agency within the State of Washington informed on the status and/or termination of a search and rescue effort.

(f) Responsibilities:

<i>Military Incidents</i>	<u><i>Control</i></u>	<u><i>Assist</i></u>
<i>Active Duty Forces - Dept of Defense and Coast Guard</i>	<i>AFRCC</i>	<i>State of Washington</i>
<i>Reserve Forces</i>	<i>AFRCC</i>	<i>State of Washington</i>
<i>National Guard Aircraft</i>	<i>AFRCC</i>	<i>State of Washington</i>
<i>Foreign Military</i>	<i>AFRCC</i>	<i>State of Washington</i>

(2) Civil Incidents:

(a) A civil flight incident is a search and rescue mission to aid distressed civilian persons when such flight incidents occur within the boundaries of the State of Washington, except scheduled air carrier incidents and missions of national concern.

(b) All civil flight incidents will normally be under the complete operational control of the Division of Aeronautics, however, this agreement will not preclude the state from requesting that the AFRCC assume full control of a civil incident.



(c) The AFRCC will be notified if federal or Civil Air Patrol assistance is desired by the Division of Aeronautics.

(d) The Washington Division of Aeronautics will advise the AFRCC upon notification of a civil flight incident within state boundaries when a request for assistance is desired. The state will keep the AFRCC informed on the status and/or termination of a search, when federal or Civil Air Patrol assistance has been requested.

(e) Responsibilities:

<i>Civil Flight Incidents</i>	<u>Control</u>	<u>Assist</u>
<i>Intrastate</i>	<i>State of Washington (DOA)</i>	<i>AFRCC</i>
<i>Interstate</i>	<i>AFRCC (Coordinates that portion of search outside State of Washington)</i>	<i>State of Washington (DOA) (Coordinates that portion of the search within State of Washington)</i>

(3) *Scheduled Air Carrier Incidents and Missions of National Concern: The AFRCC will control all search and rescue efforts for scheduled air carriers, incidents involving persons of national or international importance, and aircraft operating under provisions of International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) agreement.*

<i>Scheduled Air Carriers</i>	<u>Control</u>	<u>Assist</u>
<i>Supplemental or Charter; Domestic and International; U.S. or Foreign Registry</i>	<i>AFRCC</i>	<i>State of Washington (DOA)</i>

SAR Missions of National Importance

<i>Involving People, Aerospace Aircraft/Vehicles or Hardware</i>	<i>AFRCC</i>	<i>State of Washington (DOA)</i>
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(4) *Civil Interstate Flight Incidents: Searches for civil aircraft on interstate flights in the State of Washington, will be coordinated by the Division of Aeronautics. The AFRCC will coordinate that part of the search outside the boundaries of the State of Washington.*



Civil Flight Incidents

Control

Assist

Intrastate

State of Washington (DOA)

AFRCC

Interstate

*AFRCC
(Coordinates that portion of search outside State of Washington)*

*State of Washington (DOA)
(Coordinates that portion of the search within State of Washington)*

(5) Civil Air Patrol

Civil Air Patrol Incidents

When conducting SAR activities under Air Force authority

AFRCC

State of Washington (DOA)

Classified as General Aviation when not operating under Air Force authority

State of Washington (DOA)

AFRCC

When a downed CAP corporate aircraft is the object of the search

AFRCC

State of Washington (DOA)

(6) Ground Search and Rescue

Ground Search and Rescue

Control

Assist

Aircraft incidents - normally the agency having responsibility for control of air search and rescue on a particular mission has the responsibility of coordinating ground search and rescue efforts associated with the mission.

County

*State of Washington (DOA)
AFRCC*

Persons lost or in distress - responsibilities are normally assumed by county, state, or federal agencies in areas under their jurisdiction.

*County/State
Federal*

State/AFRCC

Air Search Assistance

County

State/AFRCC



Direct communication and liaison is authorized between the appropriate agency within the State of Washington and the AFRCC staff for the initiation of this plan, and to coordinate mission activity.

5. Alerting, Conducting and Reporting

a. Alerting

(1) Air Incidents.

(a) AFRCC and the Washington Division of Aeronautics receive FAA Flight Service Station/Air Route Traffic Control Center Information Requests (INREQ) and Alert Notices (ALNOT) on overdue aircraft.

(b) AFRCC and the Washington Division of Aeronautics receive notice of ELT signal activation.

(c) Alerting may be received from other air or ground sources, i. e., National Warning Center, Law Enforcement, local agencies, etc.

(d) On receipt of an INREQ or like notice of a possible air incident, immediate coordination is not required unless either agency has reason to believe that INREQ or like notice contains implications that a distress phase is imminent.

(e) On receipt of an ALNOT or like notice, immediate coordination action will be taken.

The Washington Division of Aeronautics and AFRCC will coordinate to determine who will "control" and "assist." If a mission is opened, the AFRCC will assign a mission number if federal or CAP resources will be involved.

(2) Ground Incidents.

(a) AFRCC normally receives alert from agency having jurisdiction in area (Local, State, or Federal).

(b) Washington Department of Emergency Services will notify and coordinate if assistance is requested.

b. Conducting. During the conduct of a SAR mission, it is essential that there be a close interchange of mission information and requirements between agencies and the AFRCC, regardless of who has mission control responsibilities. Such information and requirements should include, but not be



limited to:

(1) *Mission numbering.*

(a) *AFRCC mission numbers assigned consecutively throughout calendar year, prefixed with CAP region number. Example: AFRCC 8-361, 15 Jul 77.*

(b) *Missions controlled by state. Numbering as determined by the appropriate state agency.*

(2) *Mission Logging. AFRCC maintains an official log of all SAR activity associated with an AFRCC mission.*

(3) *Mission Coordination/Control. Each SAR mission must have a SAR Mission Coordinator (SMC); either a designated official of the AFRCC, Civil Air Patrol, State, DOA, or some other agency who is in a position to coordinate and control a particular SAR mission.*

(a) *On-scene Commander (OSC) - is subordinate to the SMC and is designated by the SMC, or AFRCC when providing forces to assist.*

(b) *Military component and Civil Air Patrol commanders may retain command supervision of their own forces involved on a SAR mission.*

(c) *When a force is provided to assist in a SAR mission, the unit commander will retain command control of his forces; however, consistent with its capability, the force will be employed in search areas, designated by the SMC.*

(d) *Where practical, State and Federal units may utilize joint facilities at a forward base.*

c. *Reporting.*

(1) *By directive, AFRCC is required to submit opening, progress, and closing/suspending reports to higher headquarters on all federal agencies participating in SAR missions.*

(2) *When the State provides forces to assist on missions controlled by the AFRCC, it is essential that the following information be reported by telephone to AFRCC at the end of each mission day:*

(a) *Number of aircraft and/or persons used.*



(b) Total sorties and flying hours.

(c) Areas searched by grids/square miles.

(d) Estimated effectiveness.

(e) Number aircraft or forces estimated to be available the next day.

(3) Similarly, AFRCC will provide the State controlling agency like information when the AFRCC is providing assisting forces.

6. Information and Legal Aspects

a. Public information.

(1) The controlling agency will have primary responsibility for:

(a) Insuring that news media within or adjacent to the search area have been requested to utilize their facilities to solicit search information from the general public that may assist in locating the SAR objective.

(b) Being the focal point for release of overall mission progress information to include the identification of all participating SAR forces.

(c) Providing the assisting agency the essentials of mission statements that have been released to the news media.

(d) Taking every possible action to relieve the on-scene commander of the news media pressure that will invariably be applied locally because of the "Humanitarian Interest" aspects of a SAR mission. In this respect, either provide an overall mission statement for release or attempt to have news media queries referred to the controlling agency.

(2) Assisting agencies will respond to news media queries under the general guidance of mission statement releases provided by the controlling agency.

(3) News media releases by participating forces which identify local SAR personnel who are involved in a portion of the SAR mission are encouraged, provided the essentials of the overall mission statement releases of the controlling agency are included.

(4) A possibility exists that on a classified military SAR mission, the participation by non-military SAR forces may be requested and required. In this case, the assisting SAR forces will be requested to refer all news media queries to the AFRCC.



b. Notification of Kin.

(1) Although the controlling agency does not have specific responsibilities in this matter, experience has proven that they do get involved and there can be many ramifications, particularly in general aviation type incidents.

(2) In a majority of general aviation incidents, contact with the kin by the controlling agency has been made during the ALNOT and early stages of the distress phases to obtain information that may assist in SAR operations. Conversely, the controlling agency may have received the first SAR alert from the kin.

(3) Therefore, as a moral obligation, the controlling agency should:

(a) Make every effort to notify and keep the kin apprised of the progress of the SAR mission when contact has been made either prior or subsequent to opening the SAR mission. When one or more families are involved, it is helpful at the outset for the controlling agency to establish a single point of contact through which all SAR mission information is passed to all concerned.

(b) Insure, insofar as possible, that when the SAR objective is found and deceased are involved, the appropriate law enforcement agency or coroner's office have taken action for notification of kin.

c. Recovery of Human Remains.

(1) The remains of military personnel, or civilians employed by the military, shall be removed only upon approval of a medical officer. In the absence of a medical officer at the crash site, approval will be obtained from proper authorities.

(2) The remains of other civilian personnel will be removed in accordance with applicable laws of the local jurisdiction. Authority for removal can usually be obtained through the law enforcement authority for the area.

d. Security and Marking of Aircraft Wreckage.

(1) Since all aircraft accidents are subject to military and/or CAB/FAA investigations, every reasonable effort should be made by the controlling agency to identify a ground agency which will accept responsibility for security of the wreckage until an investigation team arrives on the scene.



(2) For military aircraft wreckage that is not removed from the scene, it is incumbent upon the nearest military installation to properly mark the wreckage.

7. The State of Washington and the AFRCC may request assistance from each other in the conduct of search and rescue missions. Provision of such assistance is subject to the availability of facilities and resources at the time of the request.

8. This agreement does not encompass SAR for such activities as: Emergencies affecting public welfare occurring as a result of civil disturbances, earthquake, fire, flood, or other public disasters or equivalent emergencies which endanger life and property or disrupt the usual process of government. However, the SAR organization and its facilities may be used to the maximum extent feasible in connection with the above activities.

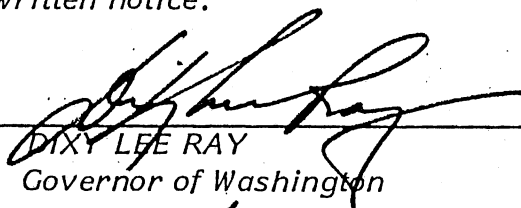
9. Direct or indirect expenses incident to search and rescue operations are not reimbursable through federally appropriated funds.

10. No provision of this agreement is to be construed as an obstruction to prompt and effective action by the State, the Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Service, or individual to relieve distress wherever and whenever found.

11. This agreement shall become effective upon date of final signature and will remain in effect unless modified by mutual written agreement or terminated by either party with sixty-day advance written notice.



RALPH S. SAUNDERS, Maj Gen, USAF
Commander



DIXY LEE RAY
Governor of Washington

25 Sept 77
(Date)

2 Nov. 1977
(Date)