



Co-organized by: RACVIAC-Centre for Security Cooperation and hosted by Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Serbia

Conference on Aeronautical Search And Rescue

Date 24-26 May 2011

Venue Belgrade, Republic of Serbia

Background Search and rescue (SAR) is the search for and provision of aid to people who are in distress or imminent danger. The general field of search and rescue includes many specialty sub-fields, mostly based upon terrain considerations. These include mountain rescue; ground search and rescue, including the use of search and rescue dogs; urban search and rescue in cities; combat search and rescue on a battlefield and air-sea rescue over water. Search and rescue services, especially aeronautical ones, are organized to respond to persons apparently in distress and in need of help. Prompted by the need to rapidly locate and rescue survivors of aircraft accidents, a set of internationally agreed standards and recommendations has been established. Search and rescue organizations are normally described in three different levels of co-ordination: SAR co-ordination, mission co-ordination and on scene co-ordination including the overall administrative management and operational co-ordination. Nowadays, in order to ensure successful aeronautical search and rescue operations, close coordination and cooperation among countries has become mandatory for each country.

Both RACVIAC – Centre for Security Cooperation and the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Serbia recognize the importance of aeronautical SAR as one of the security issues that should be further discussed and explored. This conference will bring together national representatives from the region with knowledge and experience in supporting the SAR capacity building in SEE countries, providing thus a broader platform and a common framework for sharing information and best practices.

Purpose & Objectives The purpose of the Conference is to encourage further development of regional cooperation in Search and Rescue issues and to prepare the ground for additional improvement of cooperation among key players in the Southeast European region, hence to assist the achievement of better cooperation in the field of the Search and Rescue (SAR) within the region.

Objectives are:

- to make an overview on SAR;
- to present national legal basis and documents for providing aeronautical SAR services;
- to discuss the roles of governmental institutions and non-government organizations involved in SAR activities and their coordination;
- to present the functioning and duties of rescue coordination bodies and other coordinating facilities;
- to discuss on-scene coordination and tactical command of military resources;
- to help to define and simplify the procedures for requesting mutual assistance among countries in aeronautical search and rescue;
- to initiate the establishment of an aeronautical search and rescue functional network in SEE, to enhance mutual assistance among search and rescue services, and to optimize the use of search and rescue resources in case of disasters with a view to meeting the challenges.

Participants Audience and speakers, from each of the signatory's countries of the new RACVIAC Agreement. The participants should be either military or civilian officials at a decision-making level and experts representing relevant institutions dealing with the activity's subject matter. Representatives of other MAG countries and relevant international organizations, NGOs and the media are also to be invited.

Methodology The conference will last two working days and the official working language is English. The conference will be conducted as a combination of presentations, speeches and open discussions. All materials presented or produced during the conference, will be distributed in electronic form on a CD.

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