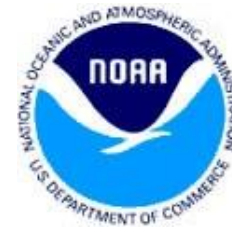# CG SARSAT Policies

SAR Controllers Training 2012
14 February 2012

CDR Mark Turner
USCG
Coast Guard Liaison to SARSAT

Agenda

- IHDB (Incident History Data Base) Later agenda item

- What is RGDB (USA Beacon Registration Database maintained by NOAA)

- What is IBRD (International Beacon Registration Database maintained by C/S)

- How do we register for these accounts

Access to RGDB &IHDB by USCG

- Anytime a new user joins the USCG RCC, the following needs to happen:

  - An email request needs to go to USCG headquarters to:

    - (SARSAT Liasion Officer)

    - CDR Mark Turner

      # Mark.W.Turner@uscg.mil

IBRD

- The International Beacon Registration Database (IBRD) can be accessed with a password that is shared by all SAR responders in the US (all controllers at each Command Center should already have it)

Coming soon/ideas

- 5 days to complete entries
- Paste MISLE entry right into comments section of IHDB

Things that keep me up at night

- /91622 00000/3660/11 355 1645
- /160/366F
- ********************* 406 BEACON UNLOCATED FIRST ALERT *********************
- BEACON ID: ADC90 40C34 130D1   SITE ID: 25774
- ***************** DETECTION TIME AND POSITIONS FOR THE BEACON *************
- PROB SOL LATITUDE LONGITUDE   DETECT TIME SAT SOURCE SRR /BUFFER
- N/A N/A N/A   21 1640 DEC G13 CHMcc PACARE
- ************ BEACON ID CONTAINS THE FOLLOWING ENCODED INFORMATION ***********
- COUNTRY   : USA   CRAFT ID : 338058
- MID CODE   : 366   HOMING   : 121.5 MHZ
- MANUFACTURER: MODEL   :
- SERIAL NUM :   BEACON TYPE: EPIRB MARITIME USER
- ************* USMCC REGISTRATION DATABASE INFORMATION ************
- REGISTRATION DATA IS NOT AVAILABLE IN THE USMCC DATABASE
- *********************** SUPPORTING INFORMATION *************************
- USMCC PROCESSING TIME: 21 1645 DEC
- THIS ALERT MESSAGE IS BEING SENT TO:
-      PACAREA
- ALERT MESSAGES FOR THIS SIGNAL PREVIOUSLY SENT TO: N/A
- PREVIOUS PASS INFORMATION: N/A
- NEXT TIME SIGNAL SHOULD BE DETECTED: N/A
- QQQQ
- /LASSIT
- /ENDMSG
-      ========================

Cool Trick

- RCC's can search the US 406 Registration Database using a wildcard for the first five characters of the Hex ID plus the first 10 characters of the 15 Hex Id on the alert, e.g. search using "*21FFD43C01" for a 15 of 21FFD43C014A36B sent in an "Unknown Beacon Alert" message as a starting point for their investigation.

How People use a 406 Beacon

During our trip from Grenada to USVI, we were pursued about 90 miles off the coast of Martinique by an unknown power vessel (no markings, no country flag, and would not answer any radio calls). They appeared to our west on the horizon, parallel to our vessel. We tried to hail them on the radio, but they did not respond. Once we started evasive action, they altered course to try and catch us. The sea conditions prevented them from making headway, but they were still able to get within 3/4 mile. Fortunately, there was a wind shift, just enough for us to hold them off and gain ground. Apparently they decided to give up, and made a 90 degree turn directly towards Martinique. It was clear that the pursuit of our vessel was not a coincidence.

We had sent out MayDay calls, and set the EPIRB off when it looked like there was no avoiding them.....not knowing what they could've done to us or the vessel. The only response we received was 7 hours later, the French Coast Guard, who flew over us and communicated via radio where we told them we were OK.

Suggestions On How RCC Personnel Can Help

- Inform new and existing beacon owners regarding the option to register, make updates to registration information or re-register the beacons via Web.

- Inform the owner to make sure they list phone numbers for owner/operator information which will add value to Search and Rescue efforts if the beacon is activated.

- Inform the owner/operator not to list the same phone numbers under owner operator section and the emergency point of contact section

- Emergency point of contacts should be someone who will not likely be involved if there is an emergency.

- Inform owners to make updates when information changes and not wait till the renewal time.

- Remind owners about a battery change.