406 MHz Beacon Registration Database (RGDB)

SAR Controllers Training 2014

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RGDB Lead

Overview

- RCC Controller accounts on Registration Database (RGDB) and Incident History Database (IHDB)
  - Creating accounts
  - Resolving account lock-outs
  - Deactivating accounts
- RCC feedback in the IHDB on RGDB information
- RGDB statistics based on RCC Controller feedback
- Ways that RCCs can help improve RGDB information
- Use of RGDB data to distribute unlocated alerts

Access to RGDB & IHDB by USCG

- For an RCC Controller at a USCG RCC to gain access, USCG personnel should send an email request to:
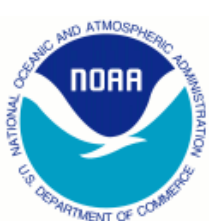
    LCDR Aaron Ortenzio

    U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters

    Office of Search and Rescue (CG-SAR-2)

    SARSAT Liaison Officer

    Tel: (202) 372-2089

    Aaron.J.Ortenzio@uscg.mil

Access to RGDB & IHDB by USCG

- ## LCDR Ortenzio
  - Validates the request for access
  - Sends an Excel file to the USMCC Administrator with the following information:
    - User name
    - First name
    - Last name
    - Organization name
    - Phone number
    - Email address

- The USMCC administrator then:
  - Creates a user account and password in RGDB and IHDB for each new RCC Controller
  - Encrypts the new output file with the password information
  - Sends the encrypted file to LCDR Ortenzio to be distributed to the respective USCG RCCs

Access to RGDB & IHDB
by AFRCC & AKRCC

- AF/AK RCC personnel send an email request sent to Dan Conley:

  Dan Conley, USAF

  AFRCC Chief of Operations (and current alternate contact for AKRCC)

  Tyndall AFB, FL

  850-283-5688

  Danny.Conley@us.af.mil
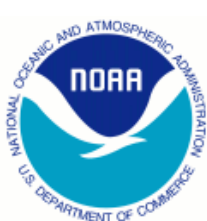
Access to RGDB & IHDB
by AFRCC & AKRCC

- After Mr. Conley makes the request to the USMCC Administrator, the Administrator:
  - Creates a user account and password for RGDB and IHDB for new RCC Controllers
  - Relays the user IDs and passwords for IHDB by phone to Mr. Conley
    - AFRCC and AKRCC cannot currently receive encrypted files
    - In future, USMCC hopes to exchange user account information electronically with AFRCC and AKRCC

Resolving Account Lock-Outs

- If an RCC Controller is locked out of the RGDB or IHDB:
  - Call the USMCC 24/7 at +1 301-817-4576
    - Provide the specific user ID, system (RGDB or IHDB), and associated organization for the RCC user
    - A new password will be issued to the user for this system
- Do not use the phone number displayed on the RGDB website when a Controller is locked out
  - +1 301-817-4515 is for beacon owners, not for RCC Controllers

Deactivating User Accounts

- When an RCC Controller leaves, the RCC Administrator requests that the USMCC Administrator remove their access to the RGDB and IHDB by providing an electronic file containing:
    - User name
    - First name
    - Last name
    - Organization name
    - Phone number
    - Email address
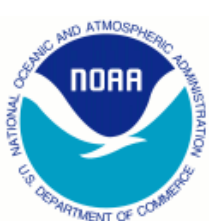
406 MHz Beacon Registration Requirements

- All 406 MHz beacons coded with a USA country code must be registered with NOAA
  - Title 47 - Parts 80, 87, and 95 in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR)
    - Owners should be informed of the following:
      - ``WARNING--failure to register their beacon with NOAA before installation could result in a monetary forfeiture being issued to the owner.''

406 MHz Beacon Proof of Registration

- NOAA letters state the following:
  - The letter is the proof of registration
  - Decals are issued for EPIRBs, PLBs, and SSAS beacons, but are no longer considered as proof of registration
  - Decals are no longer issued for ELTs

406 MHz Beacon Proof of Registration

- In the future, NOAA will customize proof of registration letters by beacon type.
  For example:
  – Decals are no longer issued for ELTs
  – Decals will be issued for EPIRBs
  – Decals will be issued for PLBs

RCC IHDB Feedback on RGDB Information

- The RCC Controller should provide new phone number information when it is available.
  - Provide a name with a phone number if possible
  - "John Doe's new cell number is XXX-XXX-XXXX"

- Sample RCC feedback: "NONE OF THE BEACON REGISTRATION CONTACT NUMBERS WORK" – more details are preferred, such as:
  - Tried all owner/operator phone numbers
  - Tried all vessel numbers, looked up the vessel by documentation number, tried all emergency point of contact numbers. They all had a recording to indicate the number is disconnected or out of service or re-assigned to someone else.

RCC IHDB Feedback on RGDB Information

- Sample RCC feedback: "Vessel was sold multiple times and is in Mexico. Contacted RCC Mexico to attempt to locate with negative results."
  - USMCC administrator updated the RGDB with: "7/1/09-per CDG07 Vessel was sold multiple times"
  - The registration had expired (not updated in 2 years); adding comments may assist with a rescue
  - The registered owner may still have the beacon although the vessel was sold; RCC should clarify when it contacts the registered owner

- "OWNER RPTED SELLING VESSEL IN 2012"
  - What happened to the beacon? Was the beacon sold with the vessel or did the owner keep it?

- "BEACON IS ON A DIFFERENT TAIL"
  - If a beacon is on a different aircraft, indicate that the beacon on a different aircraft than on registration and provide the current tail number
  - Report if this change is temporary or permanent
  - Ask the owner to update the registration if the change is permanent

NOAA Action on RCC Feedback

- When the RCC provides the new beacon owner's name and phone number, NOAA will
  - Update the RGDB additional data
  - Call old owner to confirm change of ownership
  - Request that new owner registers the beacon
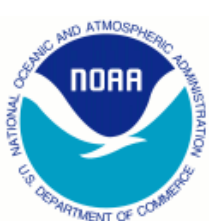
NOAA Action on RCC Feedback

- When the RCC indicates that the vessel or tail number has changed, NOAA will
  - Update the RGDB additional data with the change
  - Contact the registered owner to review the registered information
  - Provide guidance to owner to make changes to the registration information

- The RGDB staff uses the IHDB feedback and information available to them from the current registered owner (if the beacon is registered) to attempt to contact the owner so the beacon can be:
  - Updated
  - Registered

RGDB Statistics – RCC Usage in 2013

	Contributed to Case Resolution	Primary Means to Resolve Case	Total Usage	Registration Data Not Used	Total
Distress	114	88	202	13	215
Non-Distress	2,021	2,135	4,156	103	4259
Ceased	466	129	595	255	850
Total	2,601	2,352	4,953	371	5324

Measure of Usage when Registration is available:			93%		
Distress:	94.0%	Non-Distress:	97.6%	Ceased:	70.0%

RGDB Statistics – RCC Accuracy in 2013

			Owner Info		Contact Info		Vessel Info	
			Counts	Percentage	Counts	Percentage	Counts	Percentage
Marked As Accurate			4,060	77.53%	3,982	77.17%	4,113	79.91%
Marked As Not Accurate			1,177	22.47%	1,178	22.83%	1,034	20.09%
Totals When Verified			5,237		5,160		5,147	
Marked As Not Verified			138		208		212	
Not Marked			11		18		27	
Totals			5,386		5,386		5,386	
Overall Accuracy when verified:			78.2%					

- RCCs can help improve the integrity of information in the RGDB by informing beacon owners/operators:
  - That 406 MHz beacons are most efficiently registered via the website
  - To provide phone numbers for individuals who can readily provide information about beacon usage (e.g., trip plan) to assist SAR efforts if the beacon is activated

– Not to list the same phone numbers under "owner/operator" and "emergency points of contact"

- Emergency points of contact should be individuals who will not likely be involved if there is an emergency

– To update registration information when it changes and not wait until the renewal time

RGDB Data Used to Distribute Unlocated Alerts – US Home Ports/Addresses

- For ELTs and EPIRBs, RCC is based on
  - Home port state (unlocated alert/NOCR destination)
  - Owner mailing address state (if home port state not provided)
  - Mailing address city for NJ & FL (EPIRBs only)
- For PLBs, RCC is based on
  - Owner mailing address state (if no home port state provided)
  - Mailing address city for AK

RGDB Data Used to Distribute Unlocated Alerts – Non-US Home Ports/Addresses

- An RCC (unlocated alert/NOCR destination) is not assigned for many beacons in the RGDB with a home port or mailing address outside of the US

RGDB Data Used to Distribute Unlocated Alerts – Non-US Home Ports/Addresses

- NOAA will assign RCC based on home port country
  - Coordinate assignment with USCG and Air Force
    - Address ELTs, EPIRBs, and PLBs separately
  - When the home port country is not provided, will assign the RCC based on owner mailing address country
  - RGDB software needs to be modified