



SERT

Salvage Engineering Response Team



Brief Sheet Overview of SERT

Mission

SERT provides immediate 24/7 naval architecture and salvage engineering support to U.S. Coast Guard units in response to vessel casualties, including grounding, sinking, capsizing, allision/collision, and structural damage.

Team Composition

SERT members are uniformed, post-graduate trained naval architects and marine engineers, whose primary focus is conducting structural and stability plan review for certificated commercial vessels. Once selected as a SERT member, these individuals also receive extensive training and qualification in salvage techniques and salvage engineering. Many SERT members also have at sea experience onboard ships, are qualified marine inspectors, and have Professional Engineering (PE) licenses.

Resources

- **Salvage software:** SERT members are experts in the use of state-of-the-art naval architecture and salvage engineering software packages, including GHS and HECSALV.
- **Vessel computer model databases:** SERT has immediate access to thousands of vessel computer models, which can be used to conduct rapid detailed analyses. Members also have access to thousands of additional vessel models through external relationships with classification societies and commercial naval architecture, ocean engineering, salvage and emergency response firms.
- **External relationships:** SERT has extensive history and experience in vessel casualty response and salvage. The team maintains professional relationships with the American Salvage Association and its members, numerous classification societies, commercial naval architecture and engineering firms, and the Navy Supervisor of Salvage (SUPSALV). These partnerships enable SERT to quickly access pertinent technical information and rapidly integrate into a casualty response.

Services Provided

- Immediate 24/7 support for Coast Guard field units in response to vessel casualties of any size;
- Expertise in commercial vessel design, construction, structures, and stability;
- Independent analysis and technical review of submitted salvage plans, lightering plans, and other documents;
- Direct interface with salvage companies, engineering firms, classification societies, and Navy SUPSALV;
- On-scene technical support, including salvage oversight and engineering analysis;
- Assistance with PREP exercises, including scenario development and SERT “player” participation; and
- Assistance with casualty investigations, including technical review and independent analysis of intact stability, damaged stability and structural integrity.

Contact Information (24/7)

SERT should be contacted by Coast Guard units as soon as practical following a vessel casualty, so that pertinent technical information can be gathered and SERT can be integrated quickly into the early phases of the response.

- SERT Duty Officer Phone: **(202) 327-3985**
- SERT Duty Officer Email: **SERT.Duty@uscg.mil**