



New Zealand Search and Rescue Consultative Committee

Minutes of Meeting

New Zealand Search and Rescue Consultative Committee
2:00 – 4:00pm Thursday 19 February 2009
Ministry of Transport
Level 6
Novell House
89 The Terrace
Wellington

Attendees:

Nigel Clifford (RCCNZ)	John Seward (RCCNZ)
Rodney Bracefield (RCCNZ)	Roger Brown (MoT)
Duncan Ferner (NZSAR Secretariat)	Rachel Roberts (Outlook Media)
Bruce Reid (NZ Coastguard)	Tim Marsden (SLSNZ)
Zelda Coetzee (MoT)	Bruce Johnston (NZ Police)
Darryl Carpenter (MSC)	Simon Trotter (Antarctica NZ)
Brett Sullivan (SLSNZ)	Christine Haru (NZ Coastguard)
John Scobie (LandSAR)	Hadyn Smith (LandSAR)
Chris Tews (MSC)	Mike Davies (DoC)
Carl van der Meulen (NZSAR Secretariat)	

Present:

Joe Hayes (Tai Poutini Polytech)	Bill Robertson (FRSITO)
Simon Reid (Seafood ITO)	David Shearer (SARINZ)
Ted Preston (Contractor)	

1. Welcome

Duncan Ferner (NZSAR Secretariat Manager [SSM]) welcomed everyone to the meeting of the NZSAR Consultative Committee.

2. Apologies

Gerry Prins (NZ Police), David Waters (Ambulance NZ), Jeff Sayer (AREC), John Funnel (AIA/Ambulance NZ), Erik Barnes (Antarctica NZ), Collin Small (Coastguard) and John Fogden (CAA).

3. Minutes of the previous meeting

After the addition of an apology for non-attendance by Brett Sullivan (SLSNZ), the minutes of the previous meeting of the NZSAR Consultative Committee held on 19 November 2008 were accepted as a true and accurate record.

4. Matters arising from the previous meeting

Matters arising from the previous meeting were on the agenda for this meeting.

5. SAR Activity for period

Carl van der Meulen gave an update on the status of Service Level Agreements with LandSAR, Coastguard and Surf Life Saving NZ. He compared SAR activities to the previous quarter. Figures confirmed summer as the busiest period for the SAR Sector.

6. 2009 NZSAR workshops (in lieu of seminar)

The SSM confirmed the NZSAR Seminar planned for May 2009 had been cancelled. Objectives of the seminar are still valid and important and the SSM suggested that the seminar be replaced with shorter, more cost efficient regional workshops/meetings. The SSM asked for guidance and comments on possible regional workshops. Comments from the floor included:

- disappointment about the cancellation of the seminar;
- the view of the sector that the NZSAR Secretariat provide leadership and that decentralisation of workshops ran by regions may be less beneficial;
- that the outcome of the Training Review could provide opportunities for workshops; and
- that the NZSAR Secretariat revisit the desired outcomes of the Training Review as investment in training initiatives would be more desirable.

Pending confirmation from the NZSAR Council and the office of the Minister of Transport, the NZSAR Awards will go ahead as planned on Friday 15 May at Parliament.

7. NZSAR Funding Environment

Discussion was held about funding difficulty in the current economic climate. General consensus was that finding corporate funding or sponsorship was very challenging and that the sector had been forced to lower funding expectations and investigate alternative sources of funding in order to sustain essential services. Some in the sector are reviewing overhead spending.

SAR organisations dependent on trust investments for funding are likely to be affected by the current fiscal climate – this may affect aviation operators in particular. SLSNZ described a potential 20% drop in funding for their organisation in the current financial year. All voluntary organisations said that just retaining current sponsorship was proving difficult. MSC noted that goodwill remained but that it was not

necessarily matched with financial support. Coastguard described their lotteries as still being successful but at a reduced level.

The SSM noted the Government's clear communications regarding funding pressures in the public sector and the need to manage existing funding effectively.

RCCNZ indicated that due to potential budget constraints in the next financial year, they may not be able to fully deliver on plans for liaison and development activities outlined at the LandSAR conference.

8. Industry Training Organisations

The SSM welcomed Bill Robertson from Fire & Rescue Services ITO (FRSITO) to the meeting. FRSITO is the Industry Training Organisation for the fire and rescue services in New Zealand and Bill briefed the meeting about the work they do. He talked about working in partnership with industry to ensure that skill, knowledge and experience lead to nationally recognised qualifications and their role in ensuring that individuals have access to the training resources and assessment needed to gain these qualifications. Brochures were available for those in attendance.

9. Draft NZSAR Training Review discussion

The SSM and Ted Preston thanked those who contributed to the Training Review. The Review report has been pitched at strategic level and comments were requested from those present. The SSM was thanked for the leadership taken and the report was very well received. Lengthy discussion followed.

The RCCNZ expressed the strong view that SAR training should be driven by the NZSAR Council and therefore by the NZSAR Secretariat in a coordinating capacity.

General consensus was reached on the following recommendations of the report that the NZSAR Council:

- a) note that, generally, most SAR organisations train their people effectively in the SAR skills appropriate to their organisation's purpose;
- b) note that significant deficiencies exist in the inter-relation of parties engaged in SAR activity, due to a lack of interagency familiarity and collaboration, and variable leadership commitments;
- c) encourage all the organisations in the New Zealand SAR community to foster a consistent culture of interagency goodwill and cooperation;
- d) require the widespread use of Memoranda of Understanding (or Service Level Agreements) to formalize interagency relationships and promote collaborative activities between partners and associates;

- e) confirm that CIMS/IAMSAR is the standard operating procedure for SAR incident management and related training;
- f) endorse the proposed NZSAR integrated training framework;
- g) direct the development of a NZSAR Training Core Curriculum focusing on SAR incident management;
- h) direct the conduct of specific SAR training for the development of particular skills identified as necessary for the good of the collective SAR sector;
- i) direct the NZSAR Secretariat to facilitate a Training Advisory Panel, whose members can advise, assist and promote SAR exemplars across the SAR sector;
- j) seek NZSAR representation on the National CIMS Steering Committee;
- k) direct the programming and facilitation of significant SAREXs throughout New Zealand;
- l) consider the adoption of additional NZSAR strategic goals to:
 - i. encourage the standardization of training within the NZSAR sector;
 - ii. establish tools (including a generic SAREX template) to enable organizers of a *district/local SAREX* to inform the sector of the dates, purpose and nature of that and any analysis that arises from it;
 - iii. establish a project on the implications of dementia for SAR;
 - iv. create forums for:
 - the representatives of various *advisory committees* and *training units* in the sector, to share their interests and directions, and to identify common ground or issues (training or otherwise) that might benefit from a collective view;
 - the identification of issues and possible solutions regarding *SAR communications technology and systems*;
 - SAR '*standards setting organisations*' (e.g. Fire, Ambulance NZ /St John, CAA and relevant ITOs) to share interests, to identify any ready-made SAR-related standards, modules and courses; and to indicate any useful directions for cooperation and standardization.

10. General Business

10.1 Sector update

- Simon Reid from the Seafood ITO described a 40% decrease in the size of New Zealand's fishing fleet and the increasing age of both commercial fishermen and the vessels they use. He noted potential SAR implications due to fewer vessels operating in and around New Zealand.
- MSC and RCCNZ both raised the issue of commercial satellite tracking devices other than 406MHz COSPAS-SARSAT approved distress beacons. RCCNZ clarified that they would respond in an

appropriate manner no matter how they were notified of a potential SAR operation. This included alerts from non COSPAS-SARSAT satellite devices.

10.2 International Observations

The SSM briefly gave feedback on his visits to SARSCENE 2008 in Canada and the United Kingdom Maritime Coastguard Agency. A paper outlining his observations from the visits was distributed. More information is available from the NZSAR Secretariat.

10.3 Beacons

The SSM thanked those who participated in the beacons survey. The survey was about to close and all indications were pointing toward a 94% public awareness from past and present 121.5MHz beacon owners and users regarding the need to switch to 406MHz beacons.

RCCNZ noted that over 16,000 406MHz beacons were now registered on their database. Significant uptake of 406MHz PLB's by the public was also noted.

10.4 Branding

The SSM asked the Committee to use the "NZSAR" acronym when referring to the NZSAR Council, Secretariat or Consultative Committee in order to reduce confusion about names and roles across the sector.

10.5 Other business

No additional items were raised.

11. Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting is yet to be confirmed. A combined NZSAR Council/NZSAR Consultative Committee meeting was proposed for 15 May 2009. *[Later amended to 13 May 2009]*

The meeting concluded at 4:20 pm.

DR Ferner
Chair

Action(s)	Responsibility
Recommend adoption of the draft NZSAR Training review to the NZSAR with discussed alterations	Secretariat
Utilise the “NZSAR” acronym when referring to the NZSAR Council, Secretariat or Consultative Committee	All