



Department of Transportation and Communications
HEADQUARTERS PHILIPPINE COAST GUARD
(PUNONGHIMPILAN TANOD BAYBAYIN NG PILIPINAS)
139 25th Street, Port Area, Manila



05 December 2003

CG3/CG2

STANDING OPERATING PROCEDURES

NUMBER..... 07-03)

GUIDELINES DURING ALERT STATUS

I. GENERAL:

The Philippine Coast Guard, a former major unit of the Philippine Navy, was transferred from the Office of the President to the DOTC on 15 April 1998 by virtue of Executive Order No. 475. Despite the transfer, the agency remains to be an armed uniformed service expected to assist the government in suppressing terrorist attacks and violent actions from threat groups in order to safeguard national interest and security. The agency, however, continues to perform its mandated function of responding to marine casualties/disasters, natural calamities and other crisis situations in the interest of saving lives and property. During these crucial times, the PCG must be able to project and ensure its high state of readiness to respond to emergencies and to defend its own facilities.

II. PURPOSE:

To prescribe policies and procedures governing the declaration of various alert levels in accordance with perceived imminent and actual security threats, marine casualties/disasters, natural calamities and other crisis situations.

III. SCOPE:

This SOP applies to all PCG units afloat and ashore.

IV. DEFINITION OF TERMS:

- a. **Alert** – a condition for action, defense or protection. The period of time during which PCG units stand by in response to an emergency or alarm.
- b. **Blue Alert** – a condition wherein normal situation may possibly be disrupted. Incidence of violence, mass actions and other forms of disturbances might occur. The threat may be minimal but should be carefully studied and monitored.

- c. **Red Alert** – a condition wherein there is unusual incidence of violence, riots, sabotage, terrorism, civil disobedience, rallies, demonstrations and mass actions. The peace and order situation is deteriorating but has not yet reached critical proportions.
- d. **Double Red Alert** - a condition wherein there is perceived or actual threat to national security. The environment is characterized by large-scale acts of violence, sabotage, riots and other forms of violence, rallies, demonstrations and nationwide mass actions including heightened and alarming escalation of violence and disturbances. Imminent danger to people's lives and communities exist. The prevailing situation disrupts government functions, operations of public utilities and the delivery of basic services to the general public. The peace and order situation becomes unstable.
- e. **ART** – Alert Rescue Teams of CG operating units that maintain high state of readiness in terms of personnel and equipment to respond to emergencies, such as marine casualties/accidents, disasters, and natural calamities.
- f. **QRT** – Quick Reaction Teams of CG operating units that maintain high state of readiness to respond to security threats, piracy and other hostile activities at sea to include terrorist activities in port or at sea in coordination or jointly with other cognizant agencies.

V. **POLICIES:**

1. **Blue Alert**

- a) Must maintain 100% of personnel strength during office hours except those who on special cases may be allowed to be absent.
- b) Maintain at least 33% or 1/3 of personnel present during non-office hours on weekdays, weekends or holidays.

2. **Red Alert**

- a) Must maintain 100% of personnel strength during office hours.
- b) Leaves and authorized absences for uniformed personnel are cancelled.
- c) Personnel are recalled immediately.
- d) Maintain at least 50% of total number of personnel during non-office hours on weekdays, weekends or holidays with the other 50% allowed to stay in their respective listed contact addresses but report to units/offices within 24 hours recall period, when directed.

3. **Double Red Alert**

- a) Must maintain 100% of personnel strength during office hours.

- b) Leaves and authorized absences for uniformed personnel are cancelled.
- c) Personnel are recalled immediately.
- d) Maintain 100% of total number of personnel during non-office hours on weekdays, weekends or holidays.

VI. PROCEDURES:

A. ALERT STATUS

1. CPCG is the prime authority to declare/upgrade/downgrade alert status. However, Unit Commanders shall exercise prudent judgment in declaring/upgrading alert level as deemed necessary in their respective AOR, and in informing CPCG of such situation as soon as possible.

2. Quick Reaction Teams (QRT)/ Alert Rescue Teams (ART) maintain 100% presence during Double Red Alert and Red Alert, and 50% during Blue Alert.

3. During Alert conditions, Unit Commanders shall be responsible in accounting and reporting personnel strength to the Coast Guard Action Center (CGAC).

4. Double Red Alert/ Red Alert Uniform – Working Blue.

5. All Unit Commanders and Chiefs of Offices shall ensure dissemination of guidelines to all PCG personnel.

B. SECURITY LEVEL IN REFERENCE TO ISPS CODE (For notation only)

District and Station Commanders shall take note of the security level conditions as set out in the International Ship and Port Facilities Security (ISPS) Code which was made mandatory effective 01 July 2004 under Chapter XI-2 of the 1974 SOLAS Convention, as amended. Appropriate guidelines for its implementation shall be promulgated separately by the agency to be designated as its implementor. The PCG, nevertheless, shall play an important role during its full implementation next year and thus, should prepare accordingly. The distinct security levels in the Code are as follows:

- a. Security level 1, normal; the level at which ships and port facilities normally operate;
- b. Security level 2, heightened; the level applying for as long as there is heightened risk of a security incident; and
- c. Security level 3, exceptional; the level applying for the period of time when there is the probable or imminent risk of a security incident.

VII. RESCISSION:

All previous PCG publications in conflict with this SOP are hereby rescinded.

VIII. EFFECTIVITY:

This SOP takes effect upon publication.

BY COMMAND OF COMMODORE GOSINGAN:

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