



Department of Transportation and Communications
PUNONGHIMPILAN TANOD BAYBAYIN NG PILIPINAS
(Headquarters Philippine Coast Guard)
139 25th Street, Port Area
1018 Manila



HPCG/CG – 3

28 January 2008

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE
NUMBER.....01 – 08

**ESTABLISHMENT OF TASK FORCE
SPECIAL MARITIME RESCUE TEAM (SMART)**

I. GENERAL:

Pursuant to Republic Act No. 5173, the PCG is mandated to render aid to distressed persons or vessels on the high seas and on waters subject to the jurisdiction of the Philippines, and, in this connection, the PCG may perform any and all acts necessary to rescue and aid persons; furnish clothing, food, lodging, medicines and other necessary supplies and services to persons succored; protect, save, and take charge of all property saved from marine disasters until such property is delivered to persons authorized to receive it or is otherwise disposed of in accordance with law or applicable regulations; and collect and take charge of bodies of those who may perish in such disasters;

Consequently, PCG operating units in the area should ensure their high state of readiness to respond immediately within their capabilities to any marine casualty/ accident/ incident/ disaster in their respective areas of responsibility.

II. PURPOSE:

To prescribe the policies and guidelines in the establishment of Task Force Special Maritime Rescue Team (SMART) for immediate response to any maritime casualty/ accident/ incident/ disaster and maritime security situations with the end in view of saving lives and property and protecting the marine environment.

III. DEFENITION OF TERMS:

- a. **Marine Casualty / Accident** – shall mean any casualty or accident involving any vessel, platform or infrastructure which occurs within the navigable waters of the Republic of the Philippines or any casualty or accident involving any Philippine vessel which occurs outside of the country's territorial waters. It shall include any occurrence or incident involving a vessel which resulted in loss of lives and property at sea, damage to the vessel, its apparel and gear, and interalia includes sinking, collision, stranding, grounding,

foundering, heavy weather damage, fire, explosion, failure of gear and equipment and any other damage which might affect and / or impair the seaworthiness thereof.

b. **Maritime Disaster** - the impact of a natural or man-made hazard that negatively affects society or environment which often results to loss of lives and property and injuries to many.

c. **Maritime Territory** – the maritime territorial area being claimed by our country consistent with the guidelines set forth in UNCLOS. Accordingly, the country has jurisdiction over its territorial sea or territorial waters, contiguous zone and exclusive economic zone or EEZ.

d. **Maritime Security Incident** – any suspicious act or circumstances threatening the security of the ship and its crew and/or passengers on board, including but not limited to sea jacking, piracy and armed robbery at sea, hostage taking, bombing and terrorist activities.

e. **Level 1 Response / Containment Operations** – a situation wherein a particular maritime incident transpired within the boundaries of the CG Detachment area of responsibility (AOR). The response / containment operations is within the capability of the Detachment and / or Station Commander.

f. **Level 2 Response / Containment Operations** – a situation wherein a particular maritime incident transpired within the boundaries of the CG Station AOR. The response / containment operations is within the capability of the Station Commander.

g. **Level 3 Response / Containment Operations** – a situation wherein a particular maritime incident transpired within the boundaries of the CG District AOR. The response / containment operations is within the capability of the District Commander and/ or District Commander.

h. **Level 4 Response / Containment Operations** – a situation wherein a particular maritime incident involves the AORs and cognizance of several CG Districts wherein the Commandant PCG designates the On Scene Commander.

PROCEDURES:

Task Force SMART will be activated to pursue the purpose of this SOP. See Annex A for the organization of Task Force SMART and Tasks. The primary function of TF SMART is to conduct rescue, disaster relief and rehabilitation (RRR) operations as well as counter action operations to any maritime emergency situation by employing highly trained and skilled personnel with their peculiar equipment/ equipage. Refer to Annex B for personnel training requirements and Annex C for logistical requirements.

V. POLICY GUIDELINES:

1. The HPCG Crisis Management Committee shall be activated during major maritime incidents or disasters involving considerable loss of lives and property or when the emergency situation is declared at level 4.
2. All District Commanders shall ensure the preparedness of assets under their OPCON to respond to a marine casualty/ incident/ disaster within their AOR.
3. The Task Force shall adhere to the alert condition status as declared by higher authorities.
4. All operational support commands must ensure that respective units under their administrative control are deployed or are readily deployable in the operational areas in accordance with the deployment plan or as directed by higher headquarters.
5. The command shall conduct prompt and sustained response to a marine casualty/ incident/ disaster more particularly in terms of rescue and/ or disaster relief operations.
6. Under the underlying principles of unity of command/ effort and integration/ inter-agency approach, District or Station Commanders acting as On Scene Commanders shall coordinate and consolidate SAR, disaster relief and security response efforts primarily involving organic assets and likewise, the available assets of local government agencies / NGO's. (Military and Police, BFAR, DENR, PCGA, etc).
7. In addition to organic assets and those assets coordinated with other government and non-government agencies, CG Districts/ Stations/ Detachments shall utilize or tap nearby fishing boats and commercial vessels for the conduct of initial response operations.
8. The District/ Station Crisis Management Committee shall be activated to address emergency situations as they occur in their AOR.

VI. RESPONSIBILITIES:


- a. Commanders of Coast Guard Districts shall organize, train, equip and maintain Task Group SMART assets under their OPCON or deployed in their respective AORs and coordinate or make available all other equipment/ items needed by the Task Group.
- b. PCG Operational/ Administrative Support Commands shall provide support to the Task Force/ Task Groups as required or directed by higher headquarters.
- c. Crisis Management Committees at various levels of Command shall plan, direct, deploy, supervise and monitor all TF/TG response/ containment operations pertaining to particular marine casualty/ incident/ disaster and other maritime emergency situations.

VII. COORDINATING INSTRUCTIONS:

- a. This SOP is effective upon publication.
- b. Direct coordination with lateral units and HPCG authorized and encouraged.
- c. Peculiar supplies and equipments will be provided by the Command.
- d. Unless otherwise specified by separate orders, commander, Maritime Security and Law Enforcement Command (MSLEC) assumes CTF.
- e. All involved PCG units to issue respective SOP's.

BY COMMAND OF ADMIRAL ABINOJA PCG:

OFFICIAL:


MARIFEM UBONGEN-ISAAC
LTJG PCG
Coast Guard Adjutant

RODOLFO D ISORENA
COMMO PCG
Chief of Coast Guard Staff

TASKS:

TASK FORCE

1. COMMANDER TASK FORCE (CTF)

- a. Provide Command and Control to Task Groups participating in response/containment operations at the national level.
- b. Responsible for the execution of the rescue operations.

2. DEPUTY COMMANDER TASK FORCE (DCTF)

- a. Assist the Commander Task Force (CTF) in providing Command and Control to Task Groups participating in response/containment operations at the national level.
- b. Perform other tasks as directed.

3. TASK FORCE HEADQUARTERS (TF HQS)

- a. Provide service support to the Task Force in the execution of the response/containment operations at the National level.
- b. Perform other tasks as directed.

4. SURFACE GROUP

- a. Ensure the preparedness of surface assets for immediate deployment/dispatch.
- b. Perform other tasks as directed.

5. AIR GROUP

- a. Ensure the preparedness of aircrafts for immediate deployment/dispatch.
- b. Perform other tasks as directed.

6. SOG RESCUE GROUP

- a. Ensure the preparedness of divers, swimmers and anti-terrorist personnel for immediate deployment/dispatch.
- b. Perform other tasks as directed.

7. DETECTION GROUP

- a. Detect hazardous substance and weapons of mass destruction (WMD). Organize, equip, and maintain one assistance and rescue unit.
- b. Perform other tasks as directed.

8. MEDICAL GROUP

- a. Ensure preparedness of medical personnel for immediate deployment/dispatch.
- b. Perform other tasks as directed.

9. MEP GROUP

- a. Ensure preparedness of MEP personnel/specialists for immediate deployment/dispatch.
- b. Perform other tasks as directed.

10. TRAINING GROUP

- a. Responsible for the training of different Task Groups and Task Units.
- b. Perform other tasks as directed.

11. PUBLIC RELATIONS GROUP

- a. Responsible for crowd management and control, media coverage, press releases and public information in coordination with PIO.
- b. Perform other tasks as directed.

TASK GROUP

1. COMMANDER TASK GROUP (CTG)

- a. Provide Command and Control for Task Units participating in the response/containment operations in the District level.
- b. Responsible for the execution of the response/containment operations.

2. DEPUTY COMMANDER TASK GROUP (DCTG)

- a. Assist the Commander Task Group (CTG) in providing Command and Control to Task Units participating in response/containment operations at the District level.
- b. Perform other tasks as directed.

3. TASK GROUP HEADQUARTERS (TG HQS)

- a. Provide service support to Task Group in the execution of the response/containment operations at the District level.
- b. Perform other tasks as directed.

4. SURFACE UNIT

- a. Ensure preparedness of surface assets for immediate deployment/dispatch
- b. Perform other tasks as directed.

5. AIR UNIT

- a. Ensure the preparedness of aircrafts for immediate deployment/dispatch.
- b. Perform other tasks as directed.

6. SOG RESCUE UNIT

- a. Ensure the preparedness of divers, swimmers and anti-terrorist personnel for immediate deployment/dispatch.
- b. Perform other tasks as directed.

7. MEDICAL UNIT

- a. Ensure preparedness of medical personnel for immediate deployment/dispatch.
- b. Perform other tasks as directed.

8. MEP UNIT

- a. Ensure preparedness of MEP personnel/ specialists for immediate deployment/ dispatch.
- b. Perform other tasks as directed.

9. TRAINING UNIT

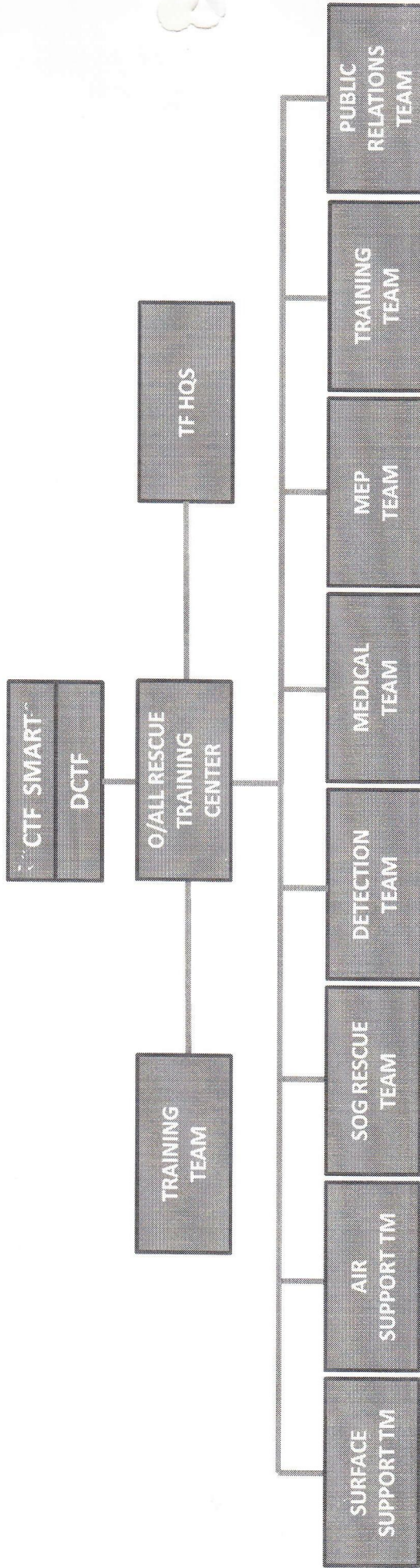
- a. Responsible for the training of different Task Units.
- b. Perform other tasks as directed.

10. PUBLIC RELATIONS UNIT

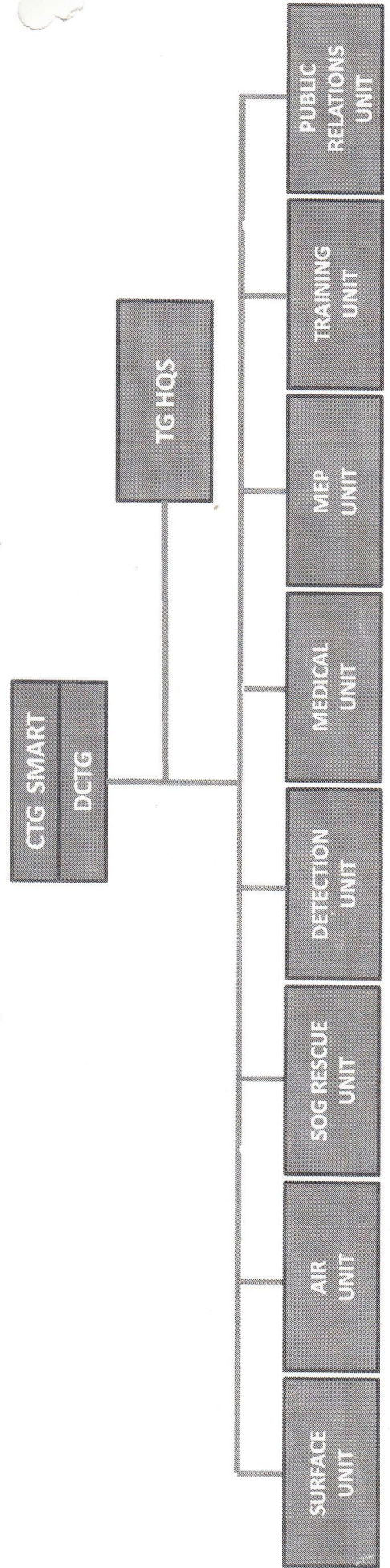
- a. Handle crowd management and control, public information, media coverage, press releases in coordination with PIO.

ANNEX A

TASK FORCE SPECIAL MARITIME RESCUE TEAM (SMART) LEVEL 4 – HPCG/ NATIONAL LEVEL



TASK GROUP SPECIAL MARITIME ALERT RESCUE TEAM (SMART) (LEVEL 1 TO LEVEL 3 - DISTRICT LEVEL)



ANNEX B: PERSONNEL TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

1. 3-month 'boot camp' refresher training at the facilities of the PCG, SALT, etc.
2. Emergency Medical Service Training from EMR to Paramedic (i.e. Advance Life Support/ Disaster Medicine/ Tactical Medicine, CBRNE)
3. Technical Rescue Training (Retrieval/ Extrication, Confined Space Entry and Rescue, High Angle, Trench Rescue, Helicopter Rescue, Underwater Rescue, Collapsed Structure, etc)
4. Fire Rescue Training
5. Special Rescue
6. Hostage Rescue
7. Rescue Swimming/ Diving
8. Detection (Explosives, Chemicals, Hazardous Substances, etc)
9. Crowd Management

ANNEX C: PERSONNEL LOGISTICAL REQUIREMENTS

PECULIAR EQUIPMENT AND PPEs PER RESCUER

1. Seat harness
2. 4 pcs steel carabiners
3. Petzl White Helmets
4. Goggles for trauma
5. Fire coat and pants
6. Fire helmet with visors
7. Fire boots
8. Magnum rescue boots
9. Head lamp
10. Utility rope
11. Rescue 8
12. Knee and elbow pads
13. Rescue pack fully loaded with EMS rescue items
14. Disaster duffel bag
15. HazMat PPEs disposable

UNIFORMS

1. EMS polo T shirt, navy blue and navy blue EMS pants
2. International Orange cover all, summer
3. Navy blue swimming shorts
4. Sleeveless orange training shirt (sando)
5. Dry fit training t-shirt, navy blue
6. EMS cap black
7. Lousy hat, navy blue
8. Disaster vest, personalized, bandolier type, reflectorised
9. Tactical polo and pants, black
10. Escape belt