

**CIRCULAR NR 02-11**  
**STRENGTHENING AND**  
**FURTHER**  
**INSTITUTIONALIZING THE**  
**COAST GUARD**  
**DEPLOYABLE RESPONSE**  
**GROUP**

**23 FEBRUARY 2011**

Department of Transportation and Communications  
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Manila

23 February 2011

CG3/CGAO

CIRCULAR

NUMBER .....01-11

**STRENGTHENING AND FURTHER INSTITUTIONALIZING THE  
COAST GUARD DEPLOYABLE RESPONSE GROUP**

**1. REFERENCES:**

- a) R. A. No. 9993 – The Coast Guard Law of 2009
- b) R. A. No. 10121 – The Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act of 2010.

**2. PURPOSE:**

This Circular sets forth the rationale for strengthening and further institutionalizing the **Coast Guard Deployable Response Group (CGDRG)** as a disaster or incident response unit of the PCG in times of maritime incidents/emergencies/disasters as well as during natural and man-made calamities. Likewise, it sets forth the procedures in the administration, employment, utilization and deployment of the Group.

**3. SITUATION:**

On June 2008, the Command organized, launched and initiated the development of the CGDRG in order to be able to address the myriad of challenges besetting the maritime community to include among others, the ensuing effects of climate change - rising sea level, storm surges, unusually heavy rains, flashfloods, landslides, and other natural calamities.

With these emerging challenges vis-à-vis the PCG's functions provided under RA 9903 (The Coast Guard Law of 2009) and its tasks in support of such functions and the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Plan, there is a need for the organization and cost-effective management of PCG's available assets and resources to address such aspects of maritime incidents or emergencies, more particularly in terms of the unit's preparedness, response and disaster-relief.

Maritime incidents and natural and man-made calamities involve different operational evolutions such as Search and Rescue (SAR), Oil/Chemical Spill Response, Medical Evacuation and Maritime Security operations, among others. Such efforts should be integrated under the basic principles of unity of command, span of control, flexibility of movements of said assets, and economy of operations. Specialized and highly-trained teams of SOG, K-9, Sea Marshals, Medical Service, and OSRT/HAZMAT, FMIT and MRG personnel are combined as a group or as teams to be activated and swiftly deployed in whole or in part as the need arises under one Commander. The CGDRG at its inception, was thus organized as a Task Force type of unit composed of units or teams from the major and support commands which are placed OPCON to augment the operational capability of Coast Guard Districts as the need arises.

Should the situation warrant, PCGA unit/s or member/s may likewise be integrated as part of the CGDRG ready for deployment upon order.

The idea then is to bring together the PCG's various specialized maritime incident or disaster response teams into an integrated and adaptive force component deployable anywhere and anytime they are needed to respond to a broad range of maritime incidents, threats and hazards in the CG Districts' respective operational areas. For more effective command and control, and economy of force therefore, the DRG is placed under a single unified command.

#### **4. MISSION:**

The mission of the unit is to provide organized, equipped and trained personnel for quick deployment to the operational areas to augment the District's operational capability to deliver emergency services and public assistance during or immediately after a maritime incident or disaster in order to save lives and property, protect the marine environment, help reduce health impacts and ensure public safety.

**5. CONCEPT OF ORGANIZATION:**

(a) Chain of Command / Command Relationship

The CGDRG will be directly under the Commandant, PGG who shall exercise strategic direction and control. Once there is actual or impending maritime incident/crisis or potential natural or man-made disaster in a particular area, the said Group may be directed to proceed to the distress scene or disaster area and placed under OPCON of the District Commander to augment the District's operational capability. Should the situation warrants, the Group may be further placed under OPCON of the On-Scene-Commander.

(b) Assignment of Personnel / OPCON of Units

The Headquarters CGDRG will be filled-up by Officers and EP on collateral duty basis and all the teams will come from the major and support units as OPCON units on orders.

(c) Tasks of CGDRG Headquarters

The Group Headquarters will provide operational control to OPCON units. The following are its specific tasks:

- 1) Coordinate joint exercises and training of various Teams.
- 2) Initiate organizational development of the unit.
- 3) Assist the Coast Guard Districts in maritime incident/disaster response action planning as may be necessary.
- 4) Assist the Crisis Management Committee of the CGDs as may be necessary.
- 5) Check on the readiness of the Teams in terms of equipage, equipment and mobility.
- 6) Render reports on the situation during Initial Action, Action and Post Action Phases.
- 7) Assist in the conduct of investigation and debriefing procedures.

**6. CAPABILITIES:**

Deployable to the District's operational area within short notice to provide any of the following activities:

- 1) Assist in the conduct of maritime and inland water SAR operations and disasters-response-relief operations such as during flashfloods, landslides, etc.
- 2) Assist in the conduct of Oil/Chemical Spill Response operations.
- 3) Conduct of Anti-terrorist/ Anti-piracy/ Maritime Law Enforcement operations.
- 4) Emergency Medical Service.

**7. TASKS:**

**a. Commander, Coast Guard Fleet**

- 1) Provide surface and air assets as may be appropriate.
- 2) Provide Team/s with equipage/equipment from the following subordinate units to be placed under OPCON of the DRG upon orders:
  - CGSOG Divers/Rescue Swimmers/ ATU and EODU
  - CGK-9
  - MRGs under CGRF / CGAG
- 3) Provide training facilities for the CGDRG drills/exercises.
- 4) Conduct training for the elements of CGDRG.
- 5) Provide air and floating assets as required.

**b. All Coast Guard District Commanders**

- 1) Prepare organic SOG, K-9, Sea Marshal, OSRT and Medical Team(s) to be placed OPCON to the CGDRG on order.
- 2) Prepare to receive/ take OPCON of the CGDRG Team(s) during maritime incident and other emergency response operations.

- 3) Prepare to provide the following:
- (a) Equipment/equipage for the members of the CGDRG Teams.
  - (b) Service support elements as appropriate.
  - (c) On-Scene-Commander to provide Command, Control and Communications during maritime incidents and other emergency response operations.
  - (d) Appropriate security elements.
  - (e) Dedicated team to coordinate and control public information, media coverage, and community relations functions.
  - (f) Documentation team for video/photo coverage, documentation and training purposes.
  - (g) A public affairs officer to prepare, validate and release approved information to members of the print and broadcast media.

**c. Commander, Marine Environmental Command**

- 1) Provide OSRT with equipment to be placed on OPCON to the CGDRG on order.
- 2) Provide training facilities for the CGDRG drills/exercises.
- 3) Conduct training for the elements of CGDRG.

**d. Commander, Coast Guard Weapons, Communications, Electronics, Information System Service**

- 1) Provide communications and electronics equipment.
- 2) Provide communication technician/s to join the CGDRG Team upon dispatch as required.

**e. Commander, Coast Guard Education and Training Command**

- 1) Provide facilities for the CGDRG training exercises.
- 2) Conduct training for the elements of CGDRG.
- 3) Provide land vehicle(s) as may be appropriate or necessary.

f. **Commander, Headquarters Support Group**

- 1) Provide land vehicle(s) as may be appropriate or necessary.
- 2) Provide firearms and ammunitions on orders.

g. **Commander, Coast Guard Intelligence Force**

- 1) Provide intelligence teams in the area to support the operational intelligence requirement and force protection of the CGDRG.
- 2) Assist in the threat and hazard analysis.

h. **The Chief Surgeon, Coast Guard Medical Service**

- 1) Provide medical personnel with equipment to form the Special Medical Assistance Response Team (SMART) to be placed on OPCON to the CGDRG on order.
- 2) Conduct training for the elements of CGDRG.

i. **Staff Supervision and Support:**

CG-1 – OPR for the fill-up of the staffing/manning requirements of Hqs CGDRG.

CG-2 – OPR for intelligence requirements of deployed CGDRG Team/s and force protection.

CG-3 - Over-all OPR for this activity.

CG-4 - OPR for logistical requirements.

CG-6 - OPR for fund requirements.

CG-7 - OPR for PCGA and community affairs.

CG-9 - OPR on MEP matters.

CG-12 - OPR on training-related activities of the Units.

DCAC - Monitor the movements of deployed CGDRG Team(s)

**8. COORDINATING INSTRUCTIONS:**

- a. In case of an impending typhoon or potential/actual major maritime incident, the Director, CGAC/ Duty CDO may initiate the activation of CGDRG placing them on heightened/full alert if deemed necessary. However, deployment of the Unit will be upon the approval of the Commandant, PCG.

b. Interoperability and inter-agency relationship with other government agencies which are likewise mandated to respond to similar incidents must be maintained and implemented.

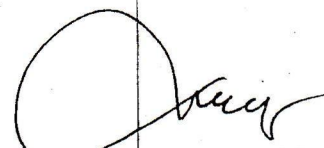
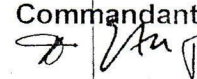
c. Coordination with local AFP, PNP and local government units and NDRRMC/RDRRMC/PDRRMC/MDRRMC/CDRRMC must be maintained at all times.

d. Cross-training and joint training exercises between and among participating teams is highly encouraged.

e. In the operational area, CGDRG Teams/Units will be placed OPCON to the District Commander. They may be further placed OPCON to the Station Commander or On-Scene-Commander as may be appropriate.

f) This concept of operations or doctrine on CGDRG shall likewise be adopted/replicated by respective CG Districts.

9. **EFFECTIVITY:** This Circular takes effect upon publication.

  
WILFREDO D TAMAYO  
Admiral PCG  
Commandant, PCG  


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