

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN
THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR (DOI), NATIONAL PARK SERVICE (NPS),
MOUNT RAINIER NATIONAL PARK (MORA)
AND
THE U.S. AIR FORCES NORTHERN (AFNORTH) (VIA
THE AIR FORCE RESCUE COORDINATION CENTER (AFRCC))
AND
THE U.S. ARMY RESERVE COMMAND (USARC) (VIA ARMY RESERVE
AVIATION COMMAND (ARAC))
FOR
SEARCH AND RESCUE OPERATIONS (SAROPS)

SUBJECT: Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) formalizing procedures and guidelines that support Joint Search and Rescue Operations (SAROPS)

1. References and Authorities.

- a. International Aeronautical and Maritime Search and Rescue (IAMSAR) Manual, 2022
- b. National Search and Rescue Plan of the United States, 2016
- c. United States National Search and Rescue Supplement, 2018
- d. Department of Interior (DOI) Manuals 350- 353, as appropriate (These manuals can be located at the DOI Office of Aviation Services (OAS) website, <https://www.doi.gov/aviation/library/dm>)
- e. Department of Defense Directive (DODD) 3025.18, Defense Support of Civil Authorities (DSCA), 29 December 2010
- f. Army Regulation (AR) 95-1 (Flight Regulation), 22 March 2018
- g. AR 525-28 (Personnel Recovery), 5 March 2010
- h. Federal Aviation Authority (FAA) Advisory Circular 91-36D (Visual Flight Rules (VFR) Flight Near Noise-Sensitive Areas), 17 September 2004
- i. TC 3-04.11 (Aircrew Training Program), 14 April 2022
- j. CH-47F Series Aircrew Training Manual, 31 January 2022
- k. Training Circular (TC) 3-04.93 (Aeromedical Training for Flight Personnel), 01 August 2018
- l. Operational Procedures Memorandum 16 US 12, 14d, and 17c (National Park Service (NPS) Search and Rescue (SAR))
- m. Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for Search and Rescue (SAR), F/2-135 General Support Aviation Battalion (GSAB)
- n. National Park Service Organic Act of 1916, 16 U.S.C. § 1, as amended and supplemented
- o. Mount Rainier Operating Plan
- p. Joint Publication 1-02 (Search and Rescue), 8 November 2010.

2. Purpose. This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) formalizes the procedures and guidelines that support Joint Search and Rescue Operations (SAROPS) involving the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) (DOI encompasses all subordinate bureaus, services, and offices), National Park Service (NPS), Mount Rainier National Park (MORA), the U.S. Air Forces Northern (AFNORTH) (via the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center (AFRCC)), and

the U.S. Army Reserve Command (USARC) via Army Reserve Aviation Command (ARAC). This relationship maintains good risk management; adheres to Government policy regarding non-competition with private enterprise; and is in the public's best interest.

3. Scope. The scope of this MOU includes civil SAR training and operations within NPS managed lands in the State of Washington to include Mount Rainier National Park.

a. **The U.S. Army Reserve Command will:**

(1) Upon notification of receiving a SAR mission request from the ARAC, the Army Reserve Operations Center (AROC) will notify the FORSCOM Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and provide periodic updates.

(2) The AROC will track the mission and aid as needed until all USAR personnel and equipment are accounted for upon returning to home station.

b. **The Army Reserve Aviation Command will:**

(1) Provide F/2-135 General Support Aviation Battalion (GSAB) personnel who are current in the CH-47F helicopter to fly training and actual SAR missions in accordance with Army Regulation (AR) 525-28 (Personnel Recovery), Joint Publication 1-02 (Search and Rescue (SAR)), and Field Manual (FM) 3-97.6 (Mountain Operations). Provide Civil SAR support operations as requested by the NPS within the limits of the flight crews and hoist equipped helicopters.

(2) Ensure that F/2-135 GSAB will maintain a mountain flying program in accordance with AR 95-1, FM 3-04.93, and Training Circular (TC) 3-04.11. Participate in Civil SAR Training exercises with the NPS as agreed upon by both parties to maximize mission readiness and safety for both parties. As such, employees of other U.S. Government agencies and technical advisors to DOD component authorities are permitted as passengers.

(3) Ensure that F/2-135 GSAB will conduct Civil SAR operations as directed by the NPS Incident Commander. The pilot-in-command shall retain final authority regarding all use of military equipment and personnel, including modifying or aborting any mission deemed unsafe or when other conditions warrant.

(4) Ensure that F/2-135 GSAB will maintain Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Advisory Circular 91-36C minimum flight altitudes while operating in NPS airspace, except when NPS authorizes lower flight altitudes to meet actual SAR mission or to safely complete training requirements.

(5) Ensure that F/2-135 GSAB conducts After-Action Review (AAR) with to 244th Aviation Brigade, ARAC, and the AFRCC upon mission completion.

(6) Provide at least annually a letter identifying pilots and aircraft that will be provided to support this MOU. Copies of approval letters issued by the Office of Aviation Services (OAS) shall be carried aboard each aircraft and made available upon request.

c. The National Park Service will:

(1) Request U.S. Army Reserve Civil SAR resources, specifically the CH-47F aircraft and flight crew, through the AFRCC when civilian SAR resources are unavailable or if the safe and effective accomplishment of the mission, due to location, requires military resources and capabilities.

(2) Provide qualified aviation personnel to coordinate and participate in training and SAR missions with F/2-135 GSAB. Only qualified and aviation trained NPS personnel are authorized to conduct Civil SAR missions and training support. NPS will conduct annual helicopter safety, orientation and operational training with F/2-135 GSAB.

(3) Follow current military procedures for helicopter insertion and extraction activities.

(4) Retain overall responsibility for the management and direction of all Civil SAR operations within the NPS area of operations. The Army Reserve retains final authority regarding the use of all military equipment and personnel.

(5) Utilize the National Incident Management System (NIMS) – Incident Command System (ICS) to manage all Civil SAR training and mission support.

(6) Allocate NPS training locations that are similar in environmental and topographic conditions to those typically encountered during SAR missions to include training areas with elevations above 10,000 feet Mean Sea Level (MSL).

(7) Coordinate all Civil SAR training with the Commander, F/2-135 GSAB.

(8) Ensure that the Office of Aviation Services, Western Region Office issues an annual letter approving Army Reserve aircraft and personnel to support this MOU. Copies of approval letters issued by OAS shall be carried aboard each aircraft and made available upon request.

(9) Report Situation Reports (SITREPs) to the AFRCC upon mission completion and daily during active SAR missions.

(10) In the event of a mishap, DOI will adhere to the policies, procedures, and regulations in the following DOI Departmental Manuals (DM) and Operational Procedures Memorandum (OPM):

(a) 350 DM 1 – General Administrative, Roles and Responsibilities located at: <https://www.doi.gov/sites/doi.gov/files/uploads/350dm1.pdf>

(b) 352 DM 3 – Aircraft Mishap Notification, Investigation & Reporting – Requests for mishap Investigations may result in an increased fee and modification to this agreement located at: <https://www.doi.gov/sites/doi.gov/files/uploads/352dm3.pdf>.

c. U.S. Air Forces Northern (AFNORTH) (via the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center (AFRCC)) will:

(1) Serve as the SAR Mission Coordinator and validate all SAR requests for Department of Defense (DOD) assets.

(2) Utilize the Alert Notification Roster and Mission Approval Chain contained herein when requesting and executing Army Reserve SAR mission support.

(3) Coordinate for additional federal SAR services and capabilities, if available, to the on-scene coordinator and/or incident commander as requested.

4. SITREP Reporting Requirements to AFRCC

a. Mission

- (1) Agency directing search and rescue (SAR)
- (2) Objective of the search
- (3) Environment at rescue site (terrain, weather, etc.)

b. SAR Forces/Unit

- (1) Number and Type of Aircraft
- (2) Number of Sorties
- (3) Capabilities (e.g., hoist, etc.)
- (4) Number of personnel

c. Extent of SAR effort

- (1) Time enroute
- (2) Time on scene
- (3) Total Flight Hours
- (4) Area/Grid Searched (as applicable)
- (5) POC/POD/POS calculations

d. Future Plans (if applicable)

- (1) Number and Type of Aircraft

- (2) Capabilities (e.g., hoist, etc.)
- (3) Number of personnel
- (4) Area/Grid to Search
- (5) POC/POD/POS calculations

e. Locating Data (Completes a Search mission)

- (1) Time located
- (2) Agency Locating Objective
- (3) Actual location (coordinates)

f. Recovery Data (Completes a rescue mission)

- (1) Agency making the rescue
- (2) Date and time (GMT) of rescue
- (3) Rescue method (hoist, landing, ground, etc.)

g. Disposition of objectives (Alive, Deceased, Injured)

5. Alert Notification and Mission Approval.

a. Alert Notification. All missions shall adhere to the following Alert Notification Chain:

- (1) NPS, Mount Rainier, WA Dispatch 360-569-6600
- (2) AFRCC, Tyndall AFB, FL, 850-283-5955 or 800-851-3051
- (3) Army Reserve Operations Call Center, FT. Bragg, NC, 910-570-9750/9751
- (4) FORSCOM WATCH, FT. Bragg, NC, 910-570-5222
- (5) ARAC EOC, FT. Knox, KY, 502-817-1453
- (6) 244th AVN BDE, FT. Knox, KY, 502-626-5565
- (7) 8-229th AHB, FT. Knox, KY, 502-624-5725 or 502-381-7357
- (8) F/2-135th GSAB, Joint Base Lewis-McChord, WA, 253-966-5295 or Operations at 253-966-3036

(9) I CORPS, Joint Base Lewis-McChord, 253-967-0645

b. Mission Approval. All missions shall adhere to the following Mission Approval Chain:

(1) NPS, Mount Rainier, WA Dispatch: 360-569-6600

(2) AFRCC, Tyndall AFB, FL, 850-283-5955 or 800-851-3051

(3) ARAC, FT. Knox, KY, 502-817-1453

(4) 244th AVN BDE, FT. Knox, KY, 502-626-5565

(5) 8-229th AHB, FT. Knox, KY, 502-624-5725 or 502-381-7357

(6) F/2-135th GSAB, Joint Base Lewis-McChord, WA, 253-966-5295

6. Reimbursement. Reimbursement for Army Reserve SAR support is not required in accordance with the National SAR Plan, paragraphs 53 and 54 as any SAR services intended by the contents of this MOU would not be as a result of any incident of national significance covered by the National Response Plan (NRP).

a. Paragraph 53 of the National SAR Plan states that each Party to this MOU will fund its own activities in response to any person in danger or distress unless otherwise provided for by law or arranged by the Parties in advance.

b. Paragraph 54 of the National SAR Plan states that each Party agrees that unless required for by law, civil SAR services provided to person in danger or distress will be without subsequent cost-recovery from the person(s) assisted.

7. Terms of Agreement. This MOU is effective as of the date of the last signature and will remain in effect for a period of five (5) years.

a. Review of MOU. All parties will review this MOU annually with an email concurrence among the key officials.

b. Modification of MOU. Changes to this MOU are authorized provided that all signatories agree to and approve any change. Authorized changes will be implemented through the use of amendments to this MOU.

c. Termination of MOU. This MOU may be terminated by any Party by giving at least 30 days advance written notice to the other signing Parties. This MOU may also be terminated at any time upon the mutual written consent of the Parties.

d. Entire Agreement. It is expressly understood and agreed that this MOU embodies the entire agreement among the Parties regarding the MOU's subject matter.

e. All parties agree that this MOU is suspended during all periods of mobilization, deployment of F/2-135th GSAB, or limited crew availability due to operational requirements.

f. Supersedes previous MOU. This MOU supersedes the 13 July 2020, MOU with the same parties and subject matter.

8. Administrative Provisions

a. Limitations. The terms of this MOU are effective only to the extent the Parties is authorized to take actions, and to the extent funds are appropriated or otherwise made available.

b. Participation in Similar Activities. This MOU in no way restricts the Parties from participating in similar activities with other public or private agencies, organizations, and individuals.

c. Endorsement. Any of the Parties' contributions made under this MOU do not by direct reference or implication convey endorsement of Parties' projects or activities.

d. Freedom of Information Act. Any information furnished under this MOU is subject to the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) except when such records must be kept confidential and are excepted from disclosure.

e. Nondiscrimination. In carrying out the terms of this MOU, there shall be no discrimination against any person because of race, creed, color, sex or national origin.

9. Point of contact offices for this memorandum.

a. Department of the Interior, Office of Aviation Services, Chief of Technical Services, 208-433-5077

b. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, National Aviation Manager, 208-387-5227

c. ARAC G357, Fort Knox, KY, 502-626-5781, 502-817-1453, usarmy.usarc.arac.mbx.g3-currentops@army.mil

d. AFRCC, Tyndall AFB, FL, afrcc.console@us.af.mil, 850-283-5955/5347/5349 (SAR Controllers)

e. USARC G-3/5/7 Aviation, Fort Bragg, NC, 910-570-9979 / 9129

10. MOU Approval.

SUSAN
BATES

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Susan Bates
Director
Office of Aviation Services (OAS)
Department of the Interior
06/14/23 (Date)

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ROGER F. DEON, Jr.
Brigadier General, USAR
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06/20/23 (Date)

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STEVEN S. NORDHAUS

Lieutenant General, USAF
07/21/23 (Date)

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LANCE J. CALVERT
Brigadier General, USA
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07/05/23 (Date)