ICAO
GLOBAL CIVIL AVIATION
SEARCH AND RESCUE
FORUM

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Personal information

- 1970 Swiss Air Force recruit (EW Radar Unit)
- 1972 internship at Federal Air Office (FOCA)
- 1974 FOCA Air Transport Section
  - 1978 – 1991 FOCA SAR Mission Leader
Swiss Air Force
- 1990 – 1997 Chief Civil Air Operations
How it all started …
ICAO Annex 12, Standard 2.1.1

Contracting States shall, individually or in cooperation with other States, arrange for the establishment and prompt provision of search and rescue services within their territories to ensure that assistance is rendered to persons in distress. Such services shall be provided on a 24-hour basis.
SAR Switzerland : BEFORE

- Rulemaking : FOCA
- RCC : FOCA
- Search : FOCA
  - Cooperation: Swiss Air Force
- Rescue : FOCA
  - Cooperation: Swiss Air Rescue
- Exercises : FOCA
Reasons for change (FOCA)

- Staffing of FOCA RCC and conduct of SEARCH flights based on stand-by service arrangements with a pool of FOCA pilots, instructors and inspectors
- SAR operations not main task of people employed
- Problem of availability, training and overtime
- No professionals for RESCUE activities (doctors)
Swiss Air Force
Reasons for change (Air Force)

Readyness on short notice with:

- Appropriately equipped aircraft
- Sufficient trained pilots
- Operations and communications centre

But mainly: Change in priority of tasks!

(Need to justify their future existence?)
Reasons for change (Swiss Air Rescue)

• Use of an existing „Alerting“ Centre is cheaper than to create and staff an additional 24 hours RCC

• Possibility to transport medical assistance to the scene of the accident

• Possibility to preserve the life or health of victims by appropriate intervention and transportation
Reasons for change (split SAR duties)

• Budget limitations of government agencies
• Changed priorities for Air Force missions
• Better use of Government assets (aircraft, air crews)
• Centralized functions in one and only Alerting Centre
• Professional medical assistance on accident scene
SAR Switzerland – territory, neighbours
SAR Switzerland – AFTER

FEDERAL OFFICE OF CIVIL AVIATION (SWISS CAA)
• Regulator, Oversight, International Relations, Training
• (Normal office hours)

SWISS AIR RESCUE (REGA) / SWISS AIR AMBULANCE
• RCC Zurich (Alerting / Coordination / Rescue operations)
• 24 hours, 7 days

SWISS AIR FORCE (SWISS ARMED FORCES - MILITARY)
• Search flights
• Response time 60 minutes
Federal Office for Civil Aviation
Federal Office of Civil Aviation FOCA

- FOCA Regulator tasks:
  - Rulemaking (law); coordination;
  - ICAO matters;
  - international cooperation;
  - Training of partner’s staff
  - COSPAS-SARSAT;
  - 406 MHz beacon registry, etc.

30% job for dedicated SAR-Expert
RCC Rescue Coordination Centre, Zurich Airport

- Duties / responsibilities acc. SAR-Contract FOCA-REGA
- Cost of 24H RCC operation is paid by FOCA (1700 USD per month)
- Alerting, Coordination
- 6 Duty Officers (main task: REGA flight dispatch)
- RCC staffed 0700H – 2000H; 24H guaranteed by REGA operations centre
- SAR workload: approx. 5 – 30 hours per month
- Training provided by FOCA and „on the job“
Swiss Air Force
Swiss Air Force

- Search flights, 24H stand by
- Costs absorbed within global Air Force budget
- Flight hour budget for training and national/international exercises
- Search missions are conducted by Air Force pilots in normal service
- SAR-Coordinator
Cooperation of partners

The close cooperation between the Civil Aviation Authority (FOCA) as ICAO SAR REGULATOR, the Air Force (providing the air assets for SEARCH missions), together with the private organization REGA (RCC operation and air assets for RESCUE missions) ensure best use of synergies and guarantee cost effective SAR service in the interest of all parties concerned.
Conclusions

• Planning of Search and Rescue operations should be based to the maximum practicable extent on existing facilities, services and resources …

• to obtain a reasonable cost-effectiveness relation by maintaining these services and facilities in the required state of readiness
QUESTIONS ???