



# Search and Rescue Framework



**United Arab Emirates**



## Agenda

- Background
- Civil Aviation Law
- History
- Search and Rescue – Regulatory Oversight
- UAE National SAR Center
- Civil-Military Cooperation in SAR
- SAR Challenges
- SAR Updates



## Background

- The United Arab Emirates became a member of the Chicago Convention on Civil Aviation in 1972
- The UAE codified the Convention in various legislative acts:
  - Civil Aviation Law of 1981
  - Federal Decree 6/224 of 1986 and 3/384 of 1995 (Establishment of military control of aeronautical search and rescue in the Southern Emirates; Dubai Police controlled Northern Emirates)
  - Federal Law 4 of 2013 (Unified the UAE SAR System by establishing the National Search and Rescue Center)



## **United Arab Emirates Civil Aviation Law**

### **ARTICLE 58**

**Search and rescue are intended to mean every assistance, even by way of information, rendered to an aircraft facing the risk of destruction or threatened by any danger or difficulties. This also covers the cases where a suspicion or an apprehension exists as to the safety of an aircraft. Included in this definition is the assistance rendered to those on board.**

### **ARTICLE 59**

**No person shall refuse to render, when so requested by the Competent or appropriate authority, search and rescue assistance if he is able to do so, or if the nature of his work is likely to enable him to render such assistance.**



## United Arab Emirate Civil Aviation Law

**Article 4:** requires that the Authority oversees civil aviation services in the UAE.

**Article 60:**

- The Competent Authority ***shall establish jointly with the Appropriate Authorities, search and rescue regions for which it shall be responsible, and shall establish search and rescue coordination centers in such regions, in accordance with requirements prescribed by the International Civil Aviation Organization.***
- The Competent Authority shall, in conjunction with the concerned authorities, ***organize the rescue units in the State and ensure their readiness to act in accordance with the search and rescue plans.***
- The Competent Authority shall coordinate and cooperate with other States, especially the neighboring ones, to facilitate joint search and rescue operations when necessary.



## United Arab Emirate Civil Aviation Law

### According to Article 60:

- ✓ **Certification of SAR Service Providers:** The Competent Authority is responsible for issuing certificates to SAR service providers, ensuring they meet the necessary standards and requirements.
- ✓ **Establishment of SAR Regions and Coordination Centers:** In collaboration with appropriate authorities, the Competent Authority must establish SAR regions and corresponding coordination centers. These should align with the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) standards to ensure effective SAR operations.



## History

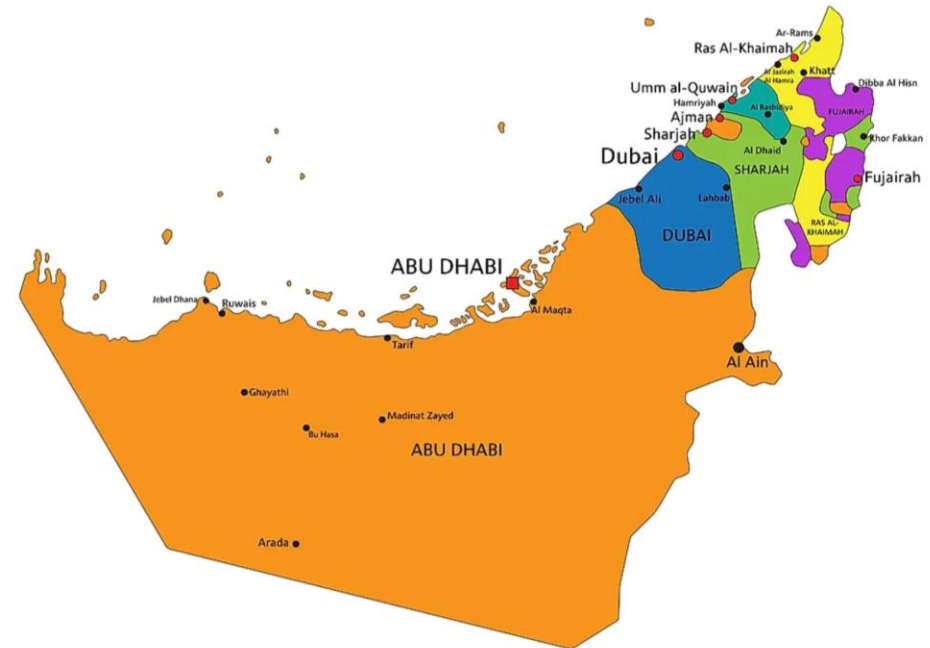
- Federal Decrees 6/224 of 1986 and 3/384 of 1995 divided the Emirates into two SAR regions
- Dubai Police granted authority to control aeronautical and maritime rescue operations in Northern Emirates.
- General Headquarters of the Armed Forces controlled aeronautical and maritime rescue activities in the Southern Emirate (Abu Dhabi)





## Search and Rescue Background

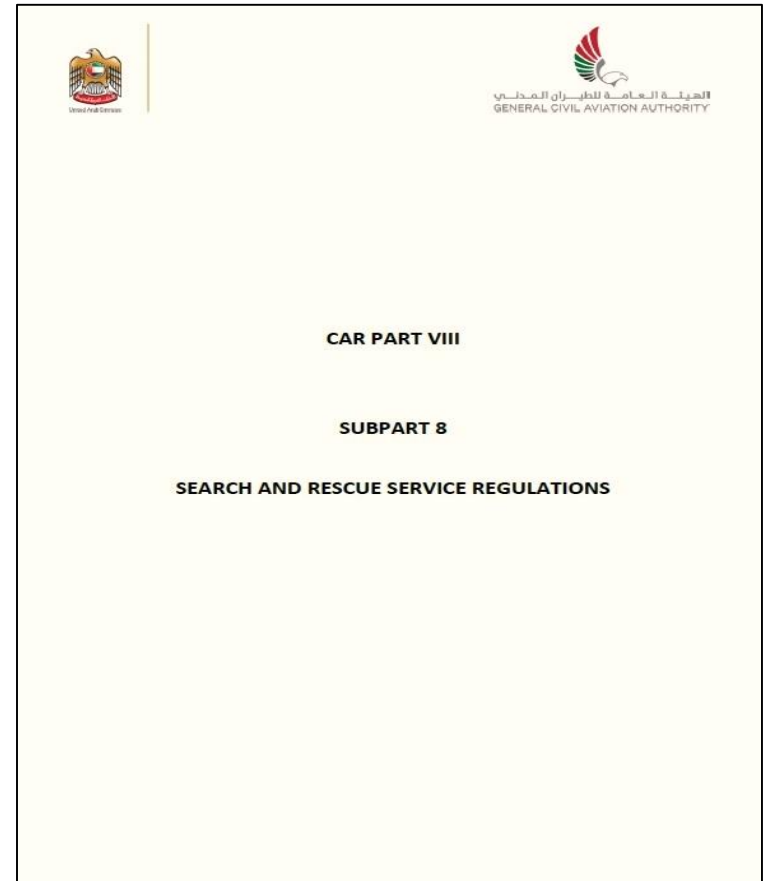
- Federal Law 4 of 2013 established the National Search and Rescue Center to unify the search and rescue system under a single Rescue Coordination Center in Abu Dhabi.
- The National Search and Rescue Center is the SAR Coordinator for the UAE
- The General Civil Aviation Authority provides oversight of the UAE SAR System and treaty compliance issues per the Chicago Convention





## Search and Rescue – Regulatory Oversight

- Civil Aviation Regulations Part VIII, Subpart 8 is issued by the Authority
- Ensures enforcement of accepted international regulations and standards
- Oversees all civil aviation activities specifically pertaining to search and rescue services within the Emirates Search and Rescue Region





## Search and Rescue – Certification Requirements

- **Post-holders:**
  - ✓ Accountable, Safe, Qualified and Trained with Operational Oversight
- **Manuals:**
  - ✓ Exposition of the Organization
  - ✓ Operations Manual
  - ✓ Safety Management System
  - ✓ Quality Control
  - ✓ Training Policies
- **Communication:**
  - ✓ Memorandums of Understanding with ANSPs
  - ✓ MOUs with SAR Units
  - ✓ National SAR Plan
  - ✓ Agreements with Neighbor Countries



## Search and Rescue – Regulatory Oversight

- **Certified Rescue Coordination Center**
  - ✓ National Search and Rescue Center
- **Certified SAR Units**
  - ✓ Ministry of Interior Air Wing
  - ✓ Dubai Police Air Wing





## UAE National Search and Rescue Center

- The National Search and Rescue Center was Certified in 2019 By UAE General Civil Aviation Authority
- **The certificate was the first in the region**
- The Authority provides the NSRC an annual audit to ensure progression and enhancements to the UAE SAR System



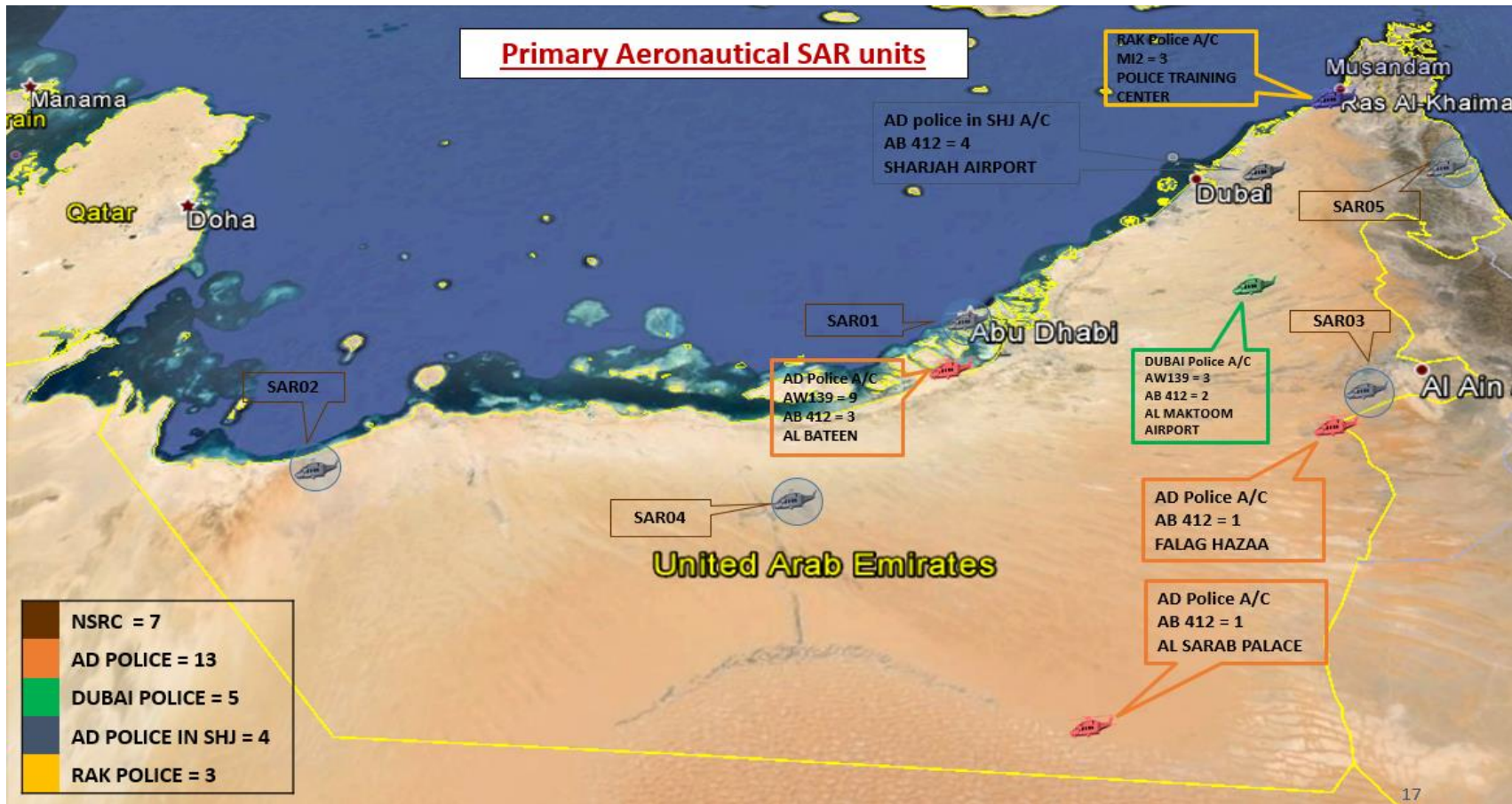


## UAE National Search and Rescue Center

- In coordination with the concerned authorities NSRC shall; Conduct and control land, maritime and aeronautical search and rescue operations in the UAE SRR.
- Represent the State in the field of search and rescue operations in association with the concerned agencies at the national, regional and international levels.
- Propagate search and rescue culture in UAE.



# UAE National Search and Rescue Center





## Civil-Military Cooperation in SAR:

- The NSRC and military have an agreement to utilize military capability to the greatest extent possible not to interfere with its military missions
- Providing effective SAR services would be impossible without military support
- The NSRC and military engage in multiple workshops and exercises to ensure close coordination





## SAR Challenges

- Communication and coordination between neighbor states.
- Lack of English language proficiency to describe unusual events
- Improve the communication between aeronautical and maritime SAR
- Intense media pressure and political involvement distracted personnel from core duties





## SAR Updates

- The Telecommunications and Digital Government Regulatory Authority manages a modern beacon database and satellite distress signal system to coordinate rescue efficiently across land, sea, and air.
- ELT website for the national carriers in UAE
- First Draft of SAR Regulation Update 2025
- SAR Forum in UAE which includes all the stakeholders
- COSPAS SARSAT International Conference
- Search and Rescue Entry Requirements Working Paper

