



Inside RCC Miami: Command Center Functions for Rapid Search and Rescue Response Coordination

LT Olivia Gonzalez / JRCC Miami
U.S. Coast Guard Search and Rescue



Search and Rescue: By the Numbers

In an average day, the U.S. Coast Guard:

- Saves 13 lives
- Responds to 64 SAR cases

In 2025, the U.S. Coast Guard:

- Saved 5,220 lives
- Assisted 19,437 people
- Saved or assisted more than \$1.02 billion in property

In RCC Miami:

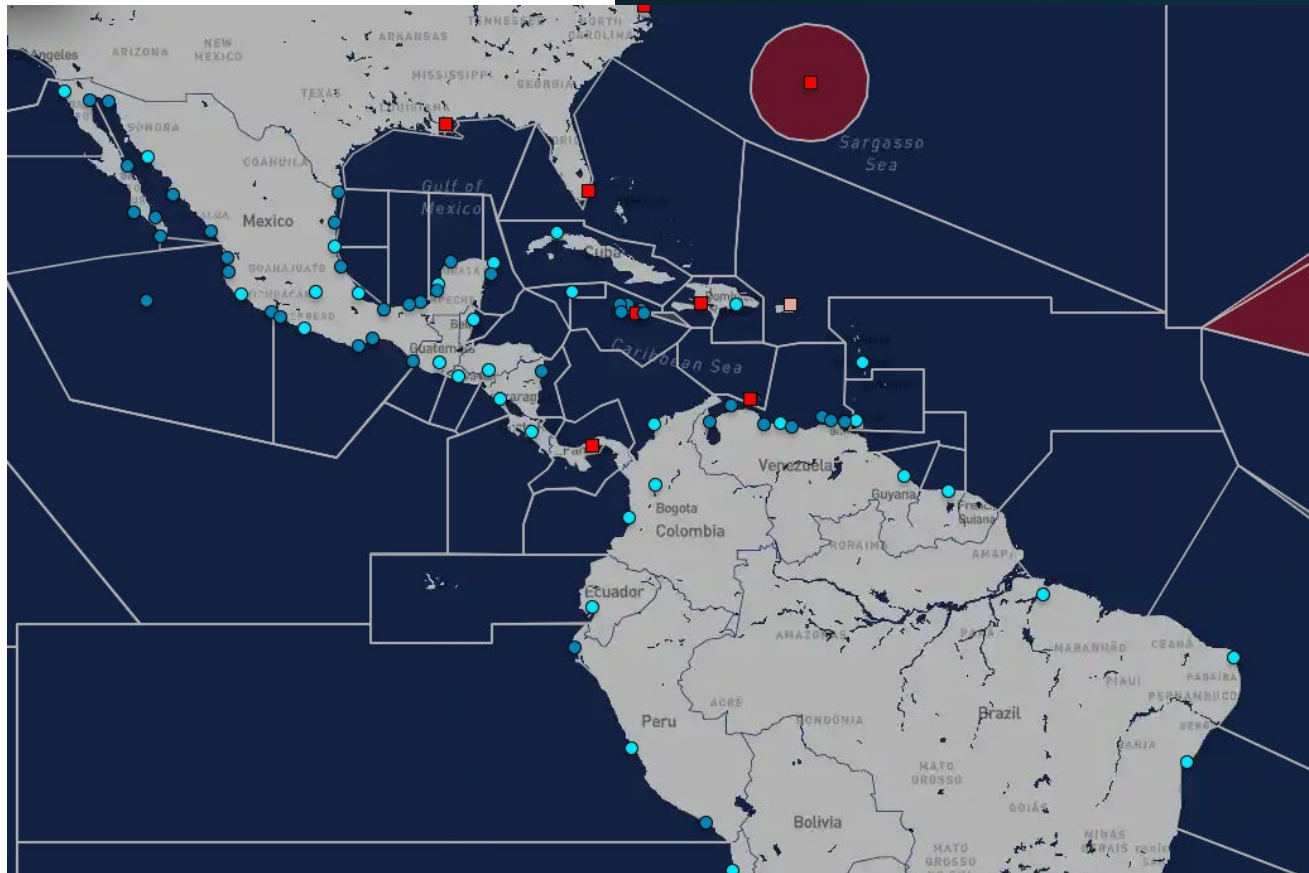
- Over a 43 days period, JRCC Miami has 279 search and rescue (SAR) cases
- 20% average of last 5 years

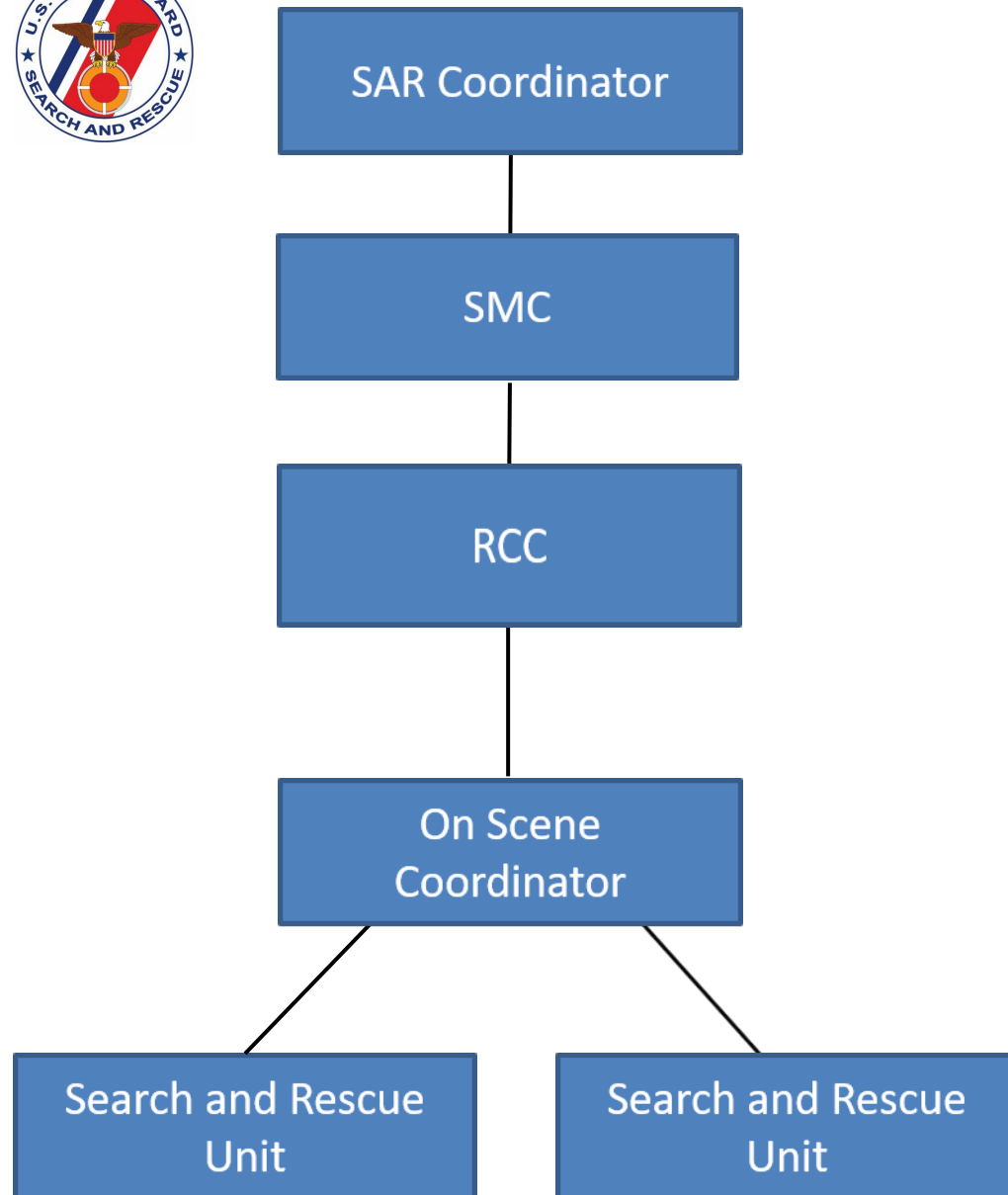




JRCC Miami

- **Extensive Area of Responsibility:** JRCC Miami manages 1.7 million NM operational area covering the Southeastern United States, a portion of the Gulf of Mexico, and a portion of the Caribbean basin.
- **Memorandum of Understandings:** We maintain MOUs with key regional partners, to streamline and enhance coordinated response efforts.
- **Operational Necessity in a Complex Region:** The high volume of maritime and air traffic, including major shipping lanes and tourist routes, makes international partnership essential for effective incident response.
- **A Cornerstone of Regional Safety:** This extensive network of international collaboration is fundamental to the maritime safety and security architecture of the entire region, ensuring a unified effort to save lives.





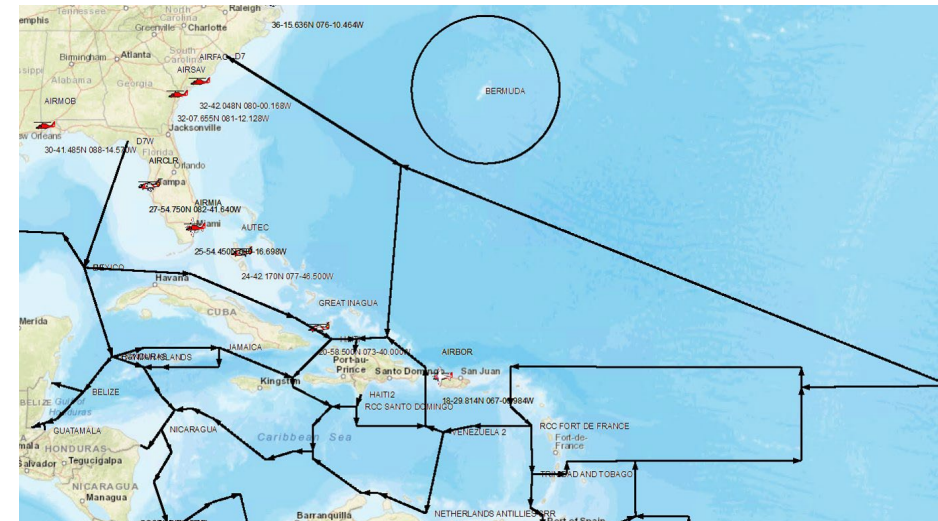


- Integrates actions with international partners, and local agencies to ensure a unified and effective response.

Establish SAR policy, training, and operational doctrine for the entire region.

- The central hub for all GMDSS, EPIRB, and maritime emergency alerts.

- Deploys and manages cutters, aircraft, and small boats for search and rescue missions.





AIPOC

The Blueprint for USCG Search and Rescue



Awareness



Initial
Actions



Planning



Operations



Conclusion

SAR Planning and Response

Awareness

An RCC will often receive first notification that a ship or other craft is in distress from a communications station with which it is associated, or via its own communications facilities.



KNOW YOUR DISTRESS SIGNALS!



SAR Planning and Response

Initial Action

After evaluating all available information and taking into account the degree of emergency, the SMC should be assigned, the appropriate emergency phase declared, and all appropriate personnel and facilities informed.



Appendix G to COMDTINST M16130.2E

Radio Call	Frequency:	High Site:	DF Bearing:
Type of Comm:		Original	Relay
Time:	Date:	UCN:	Initials:

-- Initial SAR Check Sheet --

1. Position		Type of Position:	☐ Lat/Long
			☐ Loran Lines
How determined?			☐ Geographic Reference
2. Number of Persons On Board		Adults:	Children:
			Total:
3. Nature of Distress (If PIW complete additional PIW box below)			
4. Description of Vessel		Name:	Length:
		Make:	Color:
5. Have all persons on board the vessel put on Personal Flotation Devices / adequate number of PFD's available? Y / N			
** ADVISE REPORTING SOURCE OF INTENDED ACTIONS AT THIS TIME **			
6. Determine Initial Severity / Emergency Phase			
☐ Distress		☐ Uncertainty	
☐ Dispatch Resources / Activate SAR Alarm		☐ Alert	
☐ Advise reporting source of Coast Guard's Actions		Additional information is needed	
☐ Issue Urgent Marine Information Broadcast (UMIB)		Complete one or more of the following:	
☐ Brief Sector / District		☐ Supplemental Check-sheet	
☐ Provide emergency instructions to vessel in distress		☐ Overdue Check-sheet	
☐ Complete additional check-sheets as situation dictates		☐ Flare Sighting Check-sheet	
		☐ MEDEVAC/MEDICO Check-sheet	
		☐ Grounding Check-sheet	
		☐ Mass Rescue Operation Supplemental Check sheet	

Persons in the Water		
Number:	Description:	☐ PFD - type/color:
Time:		☐ Exposure Suit
Confirmed? ☐		☐ Light

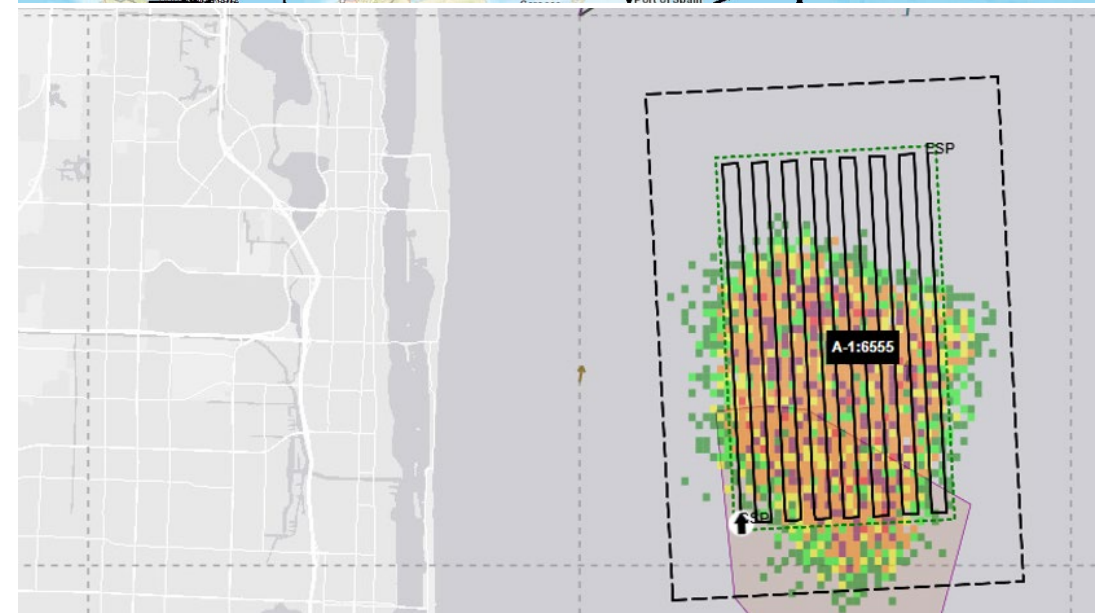
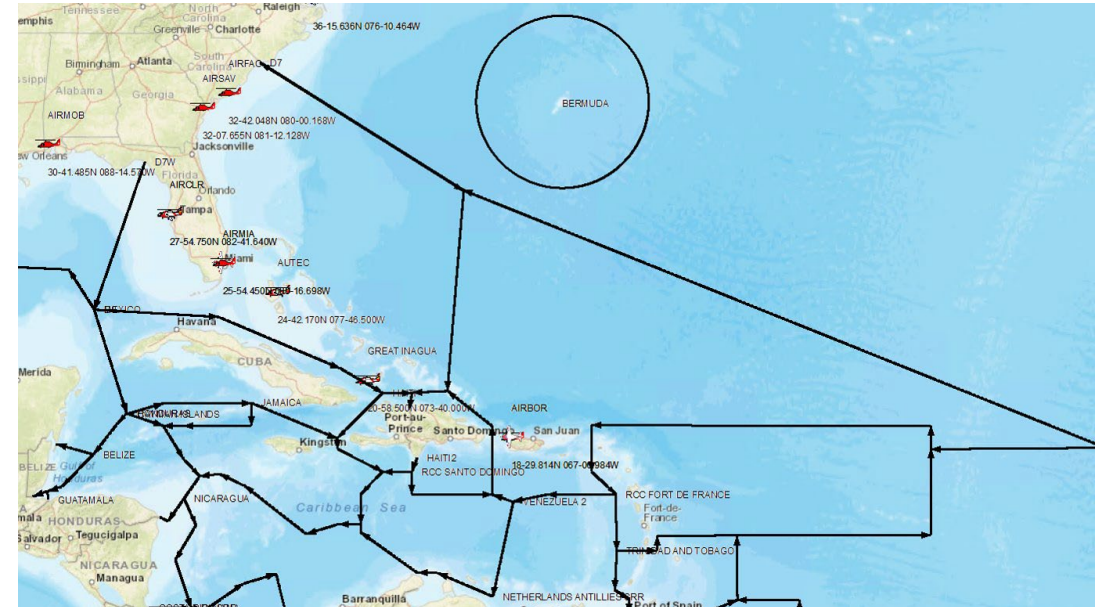
**** Complete all of the above before shifting frequency; Complete below before hanging up phone ****

Reporting Source	
Name:	
Vessel Name:	
Call back number (with area code):	
☐ cell phone	
☐ radio / call sign:	/ MMSI:
Address:	

On Scene Weather			
Wind	Sea	Swells	Visibility
Weather Type			

G - 3

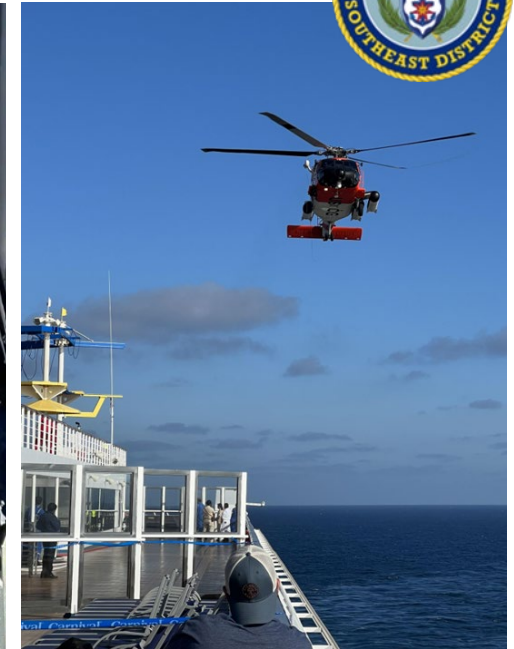
Planning



SAR Planning and Response

Operations

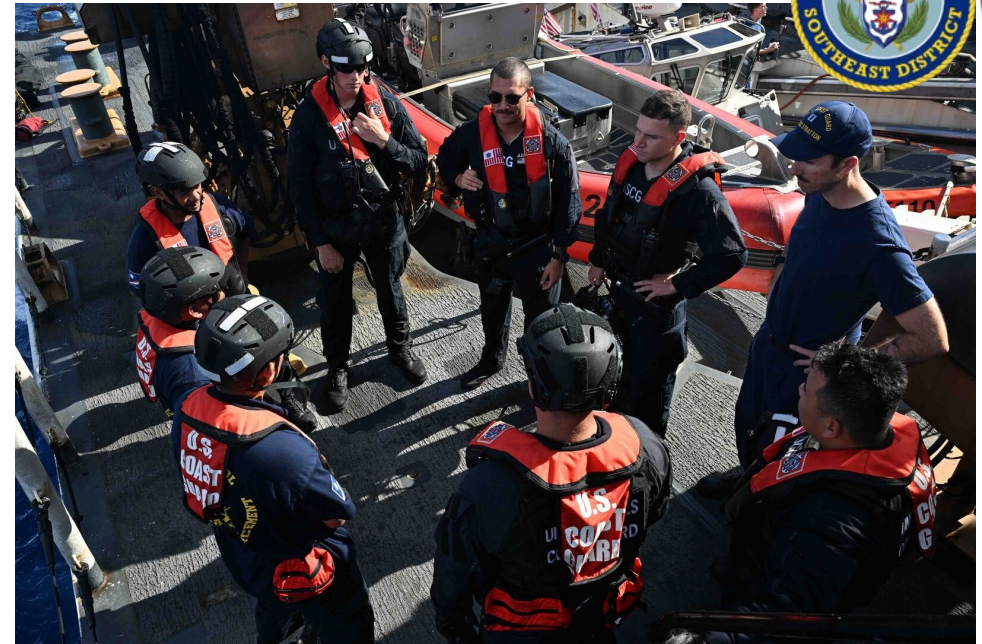
Search and rescue units deploy to the scene to actively search, rescue survivors, and provide emergency medical care.



SAR Planning and Response

Conclusion

Search and Rescue Units return to base, debrief, refuel, and complete full case documentation and reporting.





Thank You!

Questions?

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