



ICAO/IMO JWG



Search and Rescue

Case Histories - Lessons to be Learnt

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ICAO/IMO JWG



Who responds to this incident?





TWA Flight 800

17 July 1999 about 10 miles off of US coast



2030 local time, 747 with 230 people on board

- 1. Large, prolong response involved over 50 vessels and 20 aircraft, 1400 Coast Guard people**
- 2. Lessons learned included:**
 - 1. Close to shore created many 'jurisdiction' issues**
 - 2. Need for efficient overall management structure to coordinate response of multiple agencies (federal, state and local), volunteers, companies**
 - 3. Search phase lasted 4 days, recovery phase lasted 3 months (need a plan to ensure SAR response is sustained)**



EGYPT AIR FLIGHT 990

31 October 1999 about 60 miles off of US coast



0200 local time, 217 people on board

- 1. Massive search involving 9 ships and 6 aircraft covering 10,000 square nautical miles.**
- 2. Lessons included:**
 - 1. Transportable communications to remote site**
 - 2. Senior official to handle media, family**
 - 3. Need for a clear point at which time the incident shifts from SAR to recovery**
 - 4. Many volunteer helpers – not always helpful**
 - 5. Public has expectation of rapid response**



ALASKA AIR Flight 261

31 January 2000 about 11 miles off US coast





Some Observations



- 1. USCG expects rapid alert notification by ATCC to USCG Joint RCCs (aeronautical and maritime)**
- 2. USCG makes use of all available resources**
- 3. Many lessons are relearned or refined (comms, integrate response of multiple agencies,)**
- 4. Plan for shifting from the “search and rescue” to the “search and recovery” phase**
- 5. Multiple agencies involved – need understandings in place and a management structure**
- 6. Intense media, family, and international attention**
- 7. [Night time response – not all facilities have this capability]**



Aircraft Ditching – General Aviation



↑ **June 2006 at 1100**

- **ATCC notified JRCC Honolulu that an aircraft flying to Hawaii was low on fuel and going to ditch**
- **1100NM northeast of Hawaii**
- **Twin-engine general aviation aircraft with 2 pilots**



Aircraft Ditching - Coordination



- ↑ **Coast Guard JRCC communicated and coordinated response with US Aeronautical RCC which handles cases over land.**
- ↑ **JRCC Honolulu assumed SAR Mission Coordinator (SMC)**
- ↑ **Communication through ATCC to distressed aircraft**
- ↑ **U.S. Navy provided long-range search aircraft and pararescue team**
- ↑ **Merchant vessel diverted (ship reporting system/Amver)**



Aircraft Ditching – Response Efforts



- ↑ **JRCC coordinated ditch position with aircraft**
 - **Near merchant vessel location**
- ↑ **Launched Coast Guard C-130 with pararescue team**
- ↑ **Diverted Navy aircraft to escort distressed aircraft**



Aircraft Ditching – Rescue Operations



- ↑ **Merchant vessel prepared its lifeboat for immediate response**
- ↑ **C-130 and Navy aircraft remained overhead during ditching**
- ↑ **Aircraft ditched about 535NM from Hawaii**
- ↑ **Merchant vessel's lifeboat picked up both pilots**
- ↑ **Pararescue team on standby in case of injuries for medical assistance**
- ↑ **Happy ending – 2 pilots had 'cruise' to Hawaii**