

AGREEMENT BETWEEN  
THE STATE OF OREGON  
AND  
THE EXECUTIVE AGENT FOR INLAND SAR  
  
IN SUPPORT OF  
THE NATIONAL SEARCH AND RESCUE PLAN

1. **Purpose:** To insure the effective use of all available facilities for search and rescue (SAR) activities, to incorporate SAR agencies of the various states into the basic SAR network, and to provide an avenue for further agreements between the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center (AFRCC), and the State of Oregon.
2. **Scope:** This agreement is the basis for mutual coordination and cooperation for direction of SAR operations by the State of Oregon and the AFRCC.
3. **Roles and Responsibilities:**
  - a. The National Search and Rescue Plan designates the United States Air Force as the federal agency responsible for coordination of SAR within the continental United States (inland SAR area). The U.S. Coast Guard maintains facilities and may perform SAR operations on, over, and under high seas and waters subject to the jurisdiction of the United States.
  - b. The Chief of Staff of the United States Air Force has designated the Commander, Air Combat Command (ACC), as the Executive Agent to implement the National SAR Plan in the United States. The ACC has established the AFRCC to act as the SAR coordinator for the inland area. Therefore, the AFRCC, at Langley Air Force Base, Virginia, is the agency responsible for coordinating federal SAR activities in the inland area.
  - c. The Civil Air Patrol (CAP) is a corporation created by federal statute and is established by law as the auxiliary of the United States Air Force. The prosecution of SAR missions for the Air Force is one of the tasks CAP performs.
  - d. Oregon Emergency Management Division (OEM) is the state agency responsible for conducting air SAR missions within the State of Oregon. The Sheriff's Office within each county is the responsible agency for conducting ground SAR for missing persons within the State of Oregon. OEM shall be the state agency for coordinating all SAR with the AFRCC, County Sheriffs, other law enforcement agencies, or any private or public SAR group.
  - e. This agreement provides for federal assistance to local or state agencies conducting SAR missions. Also, state agencies, when possible, will provide assistance to the AFRCC. Provisions of assistance provided by both parties will be subject to availability of facilities at the time of the request.
4. **Agreements:** This agreement addresses two types of SAR incidents: Civil incidents and non-civil incidents.

a. Civil SAR Incidents:

- (1) A civil SAR incident is defined as a SAR mission to aid distressed civilian persons when such events occur within the boundaries of the State of Oregon, except as noted in paragraph 4b.
- (2) All civil incidents will normally be under the operational control of Oregon Emergency Management; however, this will not preclude the state from requesting that the AFRCC assume operational control.
- (3) The AFRCC will be notified if federal assistance, to include CAP, is desired by the state. OEM will inform the AFRCC of the status and termination of searches.

b. Non-Civil SAR Incidents:

- (1) Non-Civil SAR incidents are defined as those incidents involving scheduled air carriers, aircraft operating under the provisions of the International Civil Aviation Organization agreements, aircraft on interstate flights, missions of national concern, and missions involving military personnel.
- (2) All non-civil SAR incidents will be under the operational control of the AFRCC. The State of Oregon may be requested to assist the AFRCC on non-civil SAR incidents on that portion of the search conducted within the state borders.
- (3) The AFRCC will notify OEM prior to initiating any active search within the State of Oregon. A determination will be made at that time as to the assistance the state may provide and which agency has operational control. The AFRCC will keep the State of Oregon informed on the status and/or termination of a search.

5. **General:**

- a. Implementation of this agreement will be by Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the state agencies having designated responsibilities under this agreement and the AFRCC Commander. Such an MOU will provide for specific mission procedures, channels of communications, points of contact, etc. The MOU may be revised as frequently as necessary without requiring a revision of this agreement, so long as responsibilities as outlined herein do not change.
- b. This agreement does not encompass SAR for such activities as emergencies affecting the public welfare as a result of civil disturbances, public disasters, or equivalent emergencies which endanger life and property or disrupt the usual process of government. However, the SAR organization and its facilities may be used to the maximum extent feasible for direct SAR in connection with the above activities.
- c. Direct or indirect expenses incurred by facilities pursuant to this agreement will be borne by the organization or agency that provides the resource. Federally appropriated funds may not be used to reimburse expenses incurred by individuals except to members of the CAP as authorized by applicable USAF instructions and regulations.
- d. No provision of this agreement is to be construed as an obstruction to prompt and effective action by federal, state or local SAR officials to relieve distress wherever and whenever

found.

- e. Press releases will be made by the organization or its designated representative exercising operational control over the mission.
- f. This agreement shall become effective upon the date of final signatures and will remain in effect unless modified by mutual written agreement or terminated by either party with 60-day advanced written notice or if operational control of the AFRCC is transferred to any agency other than the US Air Force.

**ERVIN C. SHARPE**  
Major General, USAF  
Inland SAR Coordinator

**JOHN A. KITZHABER, M.D.**  
Governor, State of Oregon

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