

PROJECT BOARD MEETING ~ 8TH July 2004

Transportation: a paper was submitted identifying the concerns over providing transportation that should be fit for purpose and the types of transport that is required for the future successful operation of the MIRG. This also included the provision of funding to secure an annual allocation of dedicated helicopter flying training hours.

MCA Fire Liaison Manager: A business case identified the need to introduce into the Agency a dedicated MIRG Manager who would be responsible for MCA/Fire liaison in the future. This principal was accepted by the Board ~ subject to funding being provided via the Fire & Rescue Services.

CONTINGENT LIABILITY

The Project Team have been made aware that the forthcoming Fire & Rescue Service's Act may require Fire & Rescue Authorities (FRA's) to **make provision for** responding to 'incidents involving vessels at sea'.

Because of this development (which is subject to ratification) the MCA would no longer pursue the provision of contingent liability as the 'at sea' activity would become a statutory role, i.e., core business.

The Project Team will undertake further work to implement any changes that will be required for a national response group in relation to this item.

THE 'RED BOOK'

In April the first draft of the proposed national agreement in relation to the Maritime Incident Response Group was circulated to the relevant Chief Fire Officers and members of the UKSAR Operators Group.

The 'Red Book' (as it is loosely termed!) contains details on the arrangements for Fire & Rescue Services working together in participation with other key agencies to achieve the project's ultimate goal.

Also enclosed within the document is a template for producing comprehensive, strategic operating procedures for the members of MIRG and its partners.

A number of comments have been received following this initial consultation and these will be considered in the next draft.

SATELLITE COMMUNICATIONS PACKS

As reported in Issue 6 Newsletter the satellite communication packs have gone through the tendering process and are now on order.



The ODPM New Dimensions Team at the Fire Service College are currently arranging the training.

CFOA 'MOG' and 'MIRG' MEETINGS

The next meeting of the Chief Fire Officers' Association Marine Operations Group will take place at the Fire Service College, Moreton in Marsh on the 1st and 2nd September 2004.

This meeting will be limited to CFOA MOG members only, to whom a programme will be circulated shortly.

The meeting will commence at 1830 hours in the main lecture theatre and conclude by 1600 hours the following day.

In an attempt to broaden the discussion and ultimate outcomes of the meeting it is intended to hold an 'operational workshop' where we will be developing the issues surrounding incidents onboard vessels whilst in harbour and at sea.

The MOG meeting will be preceded on the 1st September at 1400 hours by a meeting of the MIRG lead officers.

The MOG meeting benefits all coastal Fire & Rescue Services. Further details on this and previous meetings can be found on the Internet at www.fire-uk.org.

TRANSPORTATION PPE ~ CURRENT STATUS

A number of items of transportation PPE are currently going through tendering and evaluation process;

Transit suits: Two companies have submitted tenders and samples for evaluation. These evaluations are being carried out by MIRG members.

PSTASS: Two companies have also submitted tenders and samples for evaluation. We are currently awaiting the opportunity to carry out the evaluations.

Lifejacket: The specification for a 275 Newton twin chamber manual/automatic lifejacket will be submitted this month to the MCA for tender.



HELICOPTER LOAD BAGS (HLB'S)

Twenty-five of the HLB's have now been constructed and will shortly be delivered to four MIRG members.

TRAINING

The MIRG Training Sub Group recently met at Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Services HQ.

A full review of the progress of each of the training packages was undertaken.

Training storyboards have now been written for a number of Command Support functions which include Embarkation and the newly developed nominal role procedures for both helicopter and support vessel transportation.

The group will now focus on bringing ships construction, including specialist ships, into storyboard format.

Further development on a number of training issues including Stability and Marine Regulations are currently being undertaken by the group.

Training Officers Keith Boswell and John Webb who are currently on secondment to the MCA, are developing training packages for transportation issues.

The Project Team have developed the sea survival course as previously reported and produced draft standards and guidance for both outside providers and those members of the MIRG.

Keith is now currently working on producing storyboards for the sea survival and also support vessel transportation.

John has been working on the storyboard format for helicopter safety, load teams and dynamic risk assessment. These have now been completed and future development on Transportation PPE and pre-flight safety briefings for all the three main carriers is currently being undertaken.

With an agreement now being reached to gain funding for the development of interactive training packages for the group, all work carried out in storyboard format will hopefully be produced as 'Authorware' packages.

Current negotiations between the ODPM and the Project Manager on the practicalities to produce training packages is currently underway and it is believed the green light to hold a production meeting is not far away. We hope to do this during August or early September.

EXERCISE 2005

The exercise currently being planned for spring 2005 has now been put back to late summer/autumn 2005 ~ dates to be confirmed.

MIRG VISITS

The Project Team would like to take this opportunity to thank those Brigades that we have visited over the past month. The visits will be completed by the end of July and feedback will then be made available.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE SEE THE MCA WEB PAGES