



Australian Government

POLSAR022 Coordinate police search and rescue operations

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Modification History

Release	Comments
1	This unit of competency was first released in POL Police Training Package Release 11.0.

Application

This unit describes the skills and knowledge required to plan and implement search and rescue (SAR) operations, as well as coordinate SAR resources and employ media strategies.

This unit applies to police staff undertaking police SAR coordination duties.

The skills and knowledge described in this unit must be applied within the legislative, regulatory and policy environment in which they are carried out. Organisational policies and procedures must be consulted and adhered to, particularly those related to resource procurement, stakeholder and family liaison and work health and safety (WHS).

Those undertaking this unit would work within multi-agency teams and often liaise with stakeholders. They would make decisions independently while remaining accountable, as well as demonstrate the ability to display adaptability and situational awareness. They would perform a range of complex tasks across a broad range of contexts, either in the field or within police station/office environments.

Licensing/Regulatory Information

No licensing, legislative or certification requirements apply to this unit at the time of publication.

Pre-requisite unit(s)

No pre-requisite units

Competency field(s)

Search and Rescue

Unit sector(s)

N/A

Elements and Performance Criteria

Elements	Performance criteria
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<i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i>	<i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>
1. Plan for SAR operations	1.1 Identify requirements for a coordination centre/forward command post to facilitate effective management of SAR operation
	1.2 Assess environmental factors to determine impact on SAR operation
	1.3 Determine search patterns in accordance with environmental factors
	1.4 Assess resources required to undertake SAR operations based on information about environmental factors
	1.5 Identify role and capabilities of external SAR authorities and/or agencies to assist in SAR operation
	1.6 Develop rescue plan to assist in managing SAR operation
	1.7 Develop contingency plans to account for dynamic circumstances
	1.8 Review feasibility of plan in accordance with resource availability/ capability and SAR mission
	1.9 Evaluate plan continually taking into account environmental context and nature of SAR incident.
	1.10 Assess resource requirements for protracted operations.
2. Implement SAR plan	2.1 Calculate probability of detection to assess effectiveness of the SAR plan
	2.2 Apply search techniques to support SAR operation
	2.3 Liaise with stakeholders to ensure effective coordination of resources
	2.4 Assess timeframe for survival of subject(s) based on specialist medical advice
	2.5 Evaluate SAR plan implementation continually to maximise probability of detection
	2.6 Modify SAR plan in accordance with dynamic circumstances

	2.7 Continuously assess incident to determine if handover to another SAR authority is required
	2.8 Facilitate family liaison to ensure next of kin are briefed
	2.9 Maintain critical decision records for accountability purposes
	2.10 Identify follow-on actions required for ongoing coordination of SAR operation.
3. Coordinate resources	3.1 Coordinate assets through delegation of roles and responsibilities
	3.2 Assess capabilities of assets to allocate taskings and search areas
	3.3 Monitor completion of tasks to ensure safety and task compliance
	3.4 Monitor welfare and support requirements of SAR members in accordance with health, safety and wellbeing practices
	3.5 Facilitate resupply of resources to support SAR operations.

Range of conditions

N/A

Assessment Requirements for POLSAR022 Coordinate police search and rescue operations

Performance Evidence

Evidence required to demonstrate competence in this unit must be relevant to and satisfy all the requirements of the elements and performance criteria on at least one occasion and include:

- facilitating coordination of SAR operation
- facilitating the allocation/deployment of resources for SAR operation
- sourcing relevant information to inform SAR operation
- liaising with, and coordinating stakeholders to facilitate SAR operation
- evaluating factors impacting on SAR operation
- applying appropriate methods and techniques to facilitate SAR operation
- displaying situational awareness within SAR operation context
- documenting progress of operation including critical decisions.

Knowledge Evidence

Evidence required to demonstrate competence in this unit must be relevant to and satisfy all the requirements of the elements and performance criteria and include knowledge of:

- Commonwealth, national, state and territory legislation and arrangements relating to SAR
- jurisdictional legislation, policies and procedures relating to SAR operations
- jurisdictional legislation, policies and procedures relating to work, health and safety (WHS) and wellbeing requirements
- jurisdictional authorisation procedures for SAR operation
- search area allocation
- search patterns
- calculations relating to SAR operations
- methods for determining current location of subject(s)
- operating procedures for equipment
- SAR resources
- first aid capabilities of SAR resources
- jurisdictional policies and procedures relating to:
 - reporting requirements

- handovers
- media liaison
- family liaison
- cultural liaison, where appropriate
- command and control systems
- roles, responsibilities and capabilities of external stakeholders
- resource requirements for protracted searches
- medical considerations for persons in distress
- work, health, safety (WHS) and wellbeing considerations for SAR members
- communication technology and related legislative requirements
- electronic search tools
- environmental factors that may impact on SAR operation.

Assessment Conditions

Mandatory Workplace Requirements

Assessment of performance evidence may be in a workplace setting or an environment that accurately represents a real workplace.

Unit Mapping Information

Previous Code and Title	Equivalence	Comments
POLSAR012 Coordinate police search and rescue operations	Equivalent	Updated code, application, performance criteria, performance evidence and knowledge evidence.

Links

Companion volumes, including implementation guides, are found on the national training register - <https://training.gov.au/training/details/POL>.