

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN

THE STATE OF MONTANA

AND

COMMANDER

**AIR FORCE RESCUE COORDINATION CENTER
TYNDALL AIR FORCE BASE FLORIDA**

1. **PURPOSE:** To further delineate the operational procedures pursuant to the Memorandum of Agreement (dated 22 October, 2007) between the State of Montana and the SAR Coordinator for the Inland Region in Support of the National Search and Rescue Plan. The procedures outlined below are intended for use within the geographical boundaries of the State of Montana. On incidents or missions involving overdue General Aviation (GA) interstate flights, Department of Defense (DoD) aircraft, commercial aircraft or missions of national concern, (e.g. National Special Security Events), the general procedures outlined in the basic Search and Rescue (SAR) agreement will apply.

2. **DEFINITIONS:** To ensure both parties understand a common terminology, the following definitions are provided:

- a. **ADVISE / NOTIFY** - Communication of actions which have been or will be taken regardless of concurrence.
- b. **ALERT NOTICES (ALNOT)** - A request originated by a flight service station (FSS) or an air route traffic control center (ARTCC) for an extensive communication search for overdue, unreported or missing aircraft.
- c. **CIVIL AIR PATROL (CAP) AUTHORIZATION** – When AFRCC authorizes and notifies CAP that it is authorized to participate in a mission in its role as an auxiliary of the Air Force and it becomes a federal asset.
- d. **COORDINATION** - Collaboration between two or more agencies as to the actions taken.
- e. **THE COSPAS-SARSAT SYSTEM** - A system using satellites to detect and locate aviators, mariners and land-based users in distress. The satellites relay distress signals from emergency beacons to a network of ground stations and ultimately to the U.S. Mission Control Center (USMCC) in Suitland, Maryland. The USMCC processes the data and alerts the appropriate search and rescue authorities. SARSAT is the United States representation in the international COSPAS-SARSAT Program.
- f. **EMERGENCY LOCATOR TRANSMITTER (ELT)** - Emergency beacons that most U.S. civil aircraft are required to carry that send signals to satellites (Cospas-Sarsat system) on a

406 MHz frequency or transmit a signal on 121.5 MHz; these beacons also have a low-power "homing" signal on 121.5 MHz. 121.5 MHz beacons, as of 1 Feb 2009, are only reported through airborne and/or ground reports.

- g. EMERGENCY POSITION INDICATING RADIO BEACON (EPIRB) – Devices used in maritime applications that transmit a digital identification code to satellites (Cospas-Sarsat system) on 406 MHz and a low-power "homing" signal on 121.5 MHz.
- h. FEDERAL ASSETS - SAR capable resources belonging to the federal government.
- i. FEDERAL MISSION - Incidents that require the activation of federal air or ground assets and the expenditure of federal funds.
- j. INCIDENT - Notification by any source of a possible distress situation.
- k. MISSING AIRCRAFT MISSION - Searches for missing aircraft believed to be in distress.
- l. MISSING PERSONS MISSION - Searches for persons believed to be in a distress situation not involving an aircraft.
- m. NATIONAL ALERT WARNING SYSTEM (NAWAS) – The NAWAS network consists of two warning circuits: a national warning circuit and a state warning circuit. Warning information will be provided to the State by the National Warning Center (NWC) through the NAWAS Warning System via the national warning circuit. The NWC disseminates warning information to the Primary State NAWAS Warning Point located in a State EOC.
- n. PERSONAL LOCATOR BEACON (PLB) - Portable units that operate much the same as EPIRBs or ELTs. PLBs are designed to be carried by an individual person instead of on a boat or aircraft. They can be activated manually for the sole purpose of transmitting a locatable digital identification code to satellites (Cospas-Sarsat system) on 406 MHz and a low-power "homing" signal on 121.5 MHz.
- o. RESCUE / MEDEVAC / MERCY MISSION – Recovery; medical evacuation; moving donor organs, blood, or SAR dogs to assist in the time critical saving of life or limb.
- p. RESPONSIBLE AGENCY - The federal or state agency with overall responsibility to coordinate the search effort regardless of assets being used.

3. PROCEDURES:

TYPE MISSION/INCIDENT	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY	PROCEDURES
Missing Aircraft Mission	MDT Aeronautics Division	<p>The AFRCC will update all information pertinent to the missing aircraft mission with MDT Aeronautics Division. MDT Aeronautics Division will coordinate with MDT Aeronautics Division volunteers to locate the missing aircraft. MDT Aeronautics Division will update AFRCC with all information pertinent to the missing aircraft mission.</p> <p>The MDT Aeronautics Division will coordinate all federal asset requests (including CAP) through AFRCC.</p> <p><i>NOTE: The AFRCC will be the Responsible Agency for all incidents or missions involving overdue General Aviation (GA) interstate flights, DoD aircraft, commercial aircraft or missions of national concern.</i></p>
Missing Person Mission	County Sheriff	<p>The AFRCC will coordinate all federal asset requests (including CAP) through the County Sheriff as the lead agency.</p>
Alert Notices (ALNOT) Incident	AFRCC	<p>The AFRCC will accomplish the required extensive communications checks on all alert notices and will coordinate with the MDT Aeronautics Division prior to opening a federal mission.</p>
Emergency Locator Transmitter (ELT)	MDT Aeronautics Division	<p>The AFRCC will, in coordination with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), accomplish a communication check.</p> <p>The AFRCC will update all information pertinent to the ELT with MDT Aeronautics Division. MDT Aeronautics Division will coordinate with MDT Aeronautics Division volunteers to locate</p>

		<p>the ELT. MDT Aeronautics Division will update the AFRCC with all information pertinent to the ELT.</p> <p>The MDT Aeronautics Division will coordinate all federal asset requests (including CAP) through the AFRCC.</p>
Personal Locator Beacon (PLB) / Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon (EPIRB)	MT Disaster and Emergency (DES)	<p>PLB/EPIRB alerts will be sent to the MT Disaster and Emergency (DES).</p> <p>The AFRCC will update all information pertinent to the PLB/EPIRB with MT DES. MT DES will update the AFRCC with all information pertinent to the PLB/EPIRB. MT DES will be responsible for notifying local law enforcement agencies.</p> <p>The MT Disaster and Emergency (DES), as the lead agency, will request AFRCC coordinate all federal assets (including CAP) upon mission activation.</p>
Rescue/Medevac/Mercy	AFRCC	<p>The AFRCC will receive the mission request from MT DES or a County Sheriff. The AFRCC will locate and request appropriate resource, accomplish mission, and advise requesting agency.</p> <p><i>NOTE: Mission will be conducted only if local, state or civilian resource is not available. Financial constraints will not be an acceptable reason to not use civilian resources.</i></p>
National Alert Warning System (NAWAS)		Yes, restrictions within the State of Montana with MT Disaster and Emergency (DES).

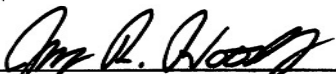
4. POINTS OF CONTACT:

STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY	DSN (Defense Switch Network)	COMMERCIAL
MDT Aeronautics Division	N/A	406-444-2506

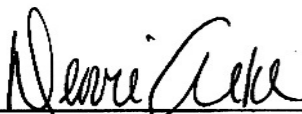
		M-F 8:00 AM- 5:00 PM After hours and holidays MT Highway Patrol, ask for MDT Aeronautics 406-841-7022
For PLBs/EPIRBS MT DES Duty Officer	N/A	406-324-4777 (24 hrs.)
Air Force Rescue Coordination Center (AFRCC)	523 5955	1-850-283-5955 1-800-851-3051
AFRCC Administration	523 5129	1-850-283-5129

5. This MOU is implemented as of the date of the last signature and remains valid only by mutual agreement of all parties. Substantive changes require the agreement of all parties; changes to contact information may be made by notification. Changes may be made verbally, but must be followed up immediately by written correspondence.

6. SIGNATURES:


James R. Woosley, Lt Col. USAF
Commander, AFRCC

7 Jul 16
DATE


Debbie Alke, Administrator
MDT Aeronautics Division

7-1-2016
DATE


Delila Bruno, Administrator
Montana Disaster & Emergency Services

30 JUN 16
Date