

AQEC MEMORANDUM 2014-001

SEARCH & RESCUE – DEPLOYING DATUM

QUESTION:

“I heard the USCG starts a search pattern immediately upon deploying datum. What is the purpose of starting a search pattern (mark) when passing datum. You’re only wasting time.”

AQEC/SNC RESPONSE:

I spoke with a USCG Boatswain’s Mate First Class who was a SAR Instructor at Tracen/Yorktown. The question was posed to him and his reply follows;



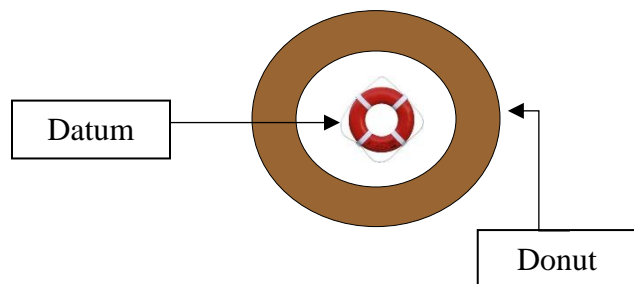
When you are arriving at or near the last known position (LKP), you will contact the Controlling Authority and advise on-scene weather, sea state, and direction of drift. You also need to determine which search pattern, track spacing, and set and drift for the object you are trying to locate. A discussion with your Crew should take place.

Deploy datum and draw an imaginary circle (donut) around datum (20 feet or so) and if you are anywhere near that donut, start your pattern in direction of drift (compass bearing) and get on the determined speed as quickly as possible.

If you are in heavy weather and seas, you don’t have time to maneuver around datum to get exactly at datum before starting the search pattern. Use donut method.

The goal is to develop preliminary information, make contact with the controlling authority, let your crew know the plan and start your search as soon as practical.

Warren Edman
AQEC/SNC
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