

AQEC MEMORANDUM 2014-020

SAR COMMUNICATIONS



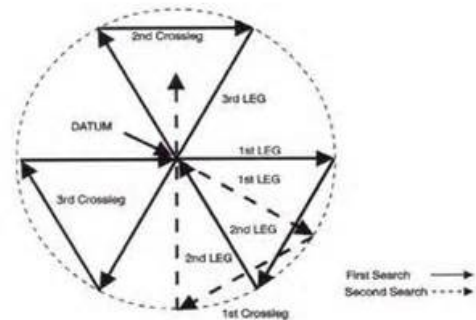
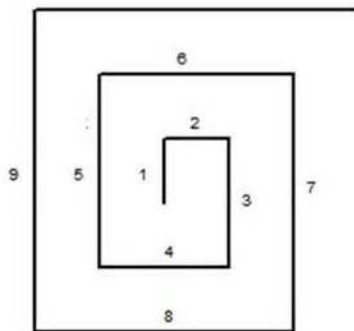
QUESTION:

“How often does the Search & Rescue Unit (SRU) conduct OPS and POS communication with the Controlling Authority while conducting search patterns?”

AQEC/SNC RESPONSE:

In checking with active duty USCG small boat stations, the preferred time to do an OPS & POS report with a vessel conducting a search pattern is every 15 minutes (depending on weather and sea state). Any more frequent may break concentration and disrupt the search.

The goal is for the Rescue 21 Watchstander and the SAR vessel (SRU) to have an understanding of the time when an Ops / Position report (every 15 minutes) is required. It would be appropriate for the vessel to contact the Controlling Authority Watchstander during long legs of a search pattern to do the Ops / Pos report. The vessel operator knows the best time to contact the Controlling Authority rather than the Watchstander initiating the call, although the Controlling Authority has the responsibility to know where the SRU is at all times.



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AQEC/SNC
11/01/2014

From Quotations with Character by W. David Edman

“Teaching mariners about risk assessment is to explain their actions may affect their life expectancy.”