

## Glossary of Terms

**Alert Phase** – An alert phase exists when a craft or person is experiencing some difficulty and may need assistance, but is not in immediate danger or in need of immediate response. Apprehension is usually associated with the alert phase.

**Alpha Search Pattern** – Type of SAR search pattern.

**Automated Mutual-Assistance Vessel Rescue System (AMVER)** – Amver is a worldwide voluntary ship reporting system for SAR sponsored by the U.S. Coast Guard. Amver's primary function is to quickly provide SAR authorities with accurate information on the positions and characteristics of ships near a reported maritime or aviation distress that may be able to provide assistance.

**BM2 (Boatswain's Mate, Second Class)** – Enlisted Coast Guard member; fifth enlisted pay grade (E-5); nautical/seamanship military operations specialty.

**Callout** – Radio transmission attempting to establish communications with a specific vessel; no implication or requirement of a state of urgency.

**Coast Guard Cutter (CGC)** – Coast Guard afloat asset ranging from 65 to 418 feet in length.

**District One Command Center (D1CC)** – First Coast Guard District's command location responsible for SAR mission coordination and tactical control of search and rescue units in its area of responsibility.

**Captain** – Senior Coast Guard officer; sixth officer grade (O-6).

**Command Duty Officer (CDO)** – Direct representative of the unit's commanding officer or officer in charge during specified watch period; responsible for handling unit business and coordinating emergency responses.

**Commander** – Senior Coast Guard officer; fifth officer grade (O-5).

**Common Operating Picture (COP)** – Graphical, real-time display of military units in a particular area.

**Coast Guard District One (D1)** – First Coast Guard district; headquartered in Boston, Massachusetts.

**Extended Communications (EXCOM)** – Additional Coast Guard information-gathering about subject vessel(s) from non-traditional sources (e.g. inquiring at the local fishing pier about where the subject vessel usually conducts fishing operations).

**Hi-Site** – Radio communication broadcast station; also known as "high site."

**Incident Management** – Coast Guard position responsible for district-level response to and management of emergent situations.

**LTJG (Lieutenant Junior Grade)** – Junior Coast Guard officer; second officer grade (O-2).

**Marine Information for Safety and Law Enforcement (MISLE)** – The primary means of collecting and storing information relative to all Coast Guard SAR operations.

**Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA)** – The effective understanding of anything associated with the global maritime domain that could impact the United States' security, safety, economy, or environment.

**Maritime Emergency Distress Signals** – Tracking transmitters which aid in the detection and location of boats, aircraft, and people in distress; capable of deploying automatically upon contact with water. Also known as Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacons (EPIRBs).

**Maritime Mobile Service Identity (MMSI)** – The equivalent of the international radio call sign for establishing digital selective calling (DSC) communications.

**Officer of the Day (OOD)** – Direct representative of a unit's commanding officer/officer in charge; responsible for conducting routine business and coordinating emergency responses during specified duty day.

**OS1 (Operations Specialist, First Class)** – Enlisted Coast Guard member; sixth enlisted pay grade (E-6); watchstanding/communications military operations specialty.

**OSC (Operations Specialist, Chief)** – Enlisted Coast Guard member; seventh enlisted pay grade (E-7); watchstanding/communications military operations specialty.

**Operations Unit Controller (OUC)** – Responsible for coordinating Coast Guard responses to operational situations to include SAR, homeland security, and pollution response in a given unit's area of responsibility.

**Overdue Check Sheet** – SAR response checklist initiated by Coast Guard watchstanders when a subject vessel is overdue.

**Personnel Qualification Standard (PQS)** – System of skills-based requirements, completion of which is necessary for qualification as a Coast Guard watchstander.

**Preliminary Communications Search (PRECOM)** – Coast Guard information-gathering conducted prior to initiating communications attempts with the subject vessel.

**Quick Response Card (QRC)/Quick Response Guides (QRG)** – Step-by-step instructions for Coast Guard SAR personnel to guide the prosecution of a SAR case.

**Response** – Coast Guard Sector department head that focuses on command and control activities associated with an emergency incident response and/or heightened threat situation that requires swift enforcement actions.

**Search and Rescue Optimal Planning System (SAROPS)** – Computer-based simulation tool that assists Coast Guard personnel with planning search areas during SAR operations.

**SN (Seaman)** – Enlisted Coast Guard member; third enlisted pay grade (E-3); no designated military specialty.

**Search and Rescue Unit (SRU)** – Coast Guard/military units participating in a SAR operation.

**Sector Duty Officer (SDO)** – Direct representative of sector commander during specified watch period; responsible for conducting routine business and coordinating emergency responses.

**SUC (Situation Unit Controller)** – Responsible for maintaining maritime domain awareness for Coast Guard sectors and updating information and status boards in the command center as necessary.

**SAR Mission Coordinator (SMC)** – The official designated by the SAR response system for each specific SAR mission who coordinates and manages the overall response to a SAR incident

**Trackplot C2PC** – Software used to track vessel movements.

**Uncertainty Phase** – An uncertainty phase exists when there is knowledge of a situation that may need to be monitored, or to have more information gathered, but that does not require moving resources.

**Urgent Marine Information Broadcast (UMIB)** – A tool used by Coast Guard SAR Mission Coordinators to alert the maritime public to a distress or potential distress situation.

**Vessel Monitoring System (VMS)** – Satellite-based tracking system run by the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) which provides various data, including the vessel's name and position.