Report on the 25th edition of the Joint Antarctic Naval Patrol between Chile and Argentina - 2022/2023

English version provided by the authors

Report on the 25th edition of the Joint Antarctic Naval Patrol between Chile and Argentina (PANC) – 2022/2023

*Information Paper submitted by Chile and Argentina*

Summary

This Information Paper, drafted jointly by Chile and Argentina, provides information on the activities carried out during the 25th edition of the Joint Antarctic Naval Patrol in the 2022/23 Antarctic Campaign.

***Background***

The Joint Antarctic Naval Patrol (PANC) began in 1998, when Chile and Argentina recognised the need to coordinate their efforts in the Antarctic SAR areas of responsibility of both Parties, established in the “International Convention on Maritime Search and Rescue” of 1979 (SAR Convention), which also requires cooperation and coordination among neighbouring States.

Since its creation, the Joint Antarctic Naval Patrol has performed its activities within the framework of the Antarctic Treaty System (ATS). For this reason, both countries have included the participating vessels in their respective pre-season information, notifying other Parties of its configuration.

Likewise, both Parties have permanently informed the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meetings about the PANC’s activities through Information Papers (IP), providing details on support and rescues carried out each season.

***Mission, organization and assignments***

The Joint Antarctic Naval Patrol is performed between **November 15th and March 31st** **of each year**, to conduct activities and exercises of search, rescue, salvaging, pollution monitoring and remediation, with the objective to safeguard navigation, human life at sea and to contribute in keeping waters free from pollution, in the Antarctic Treaty area, south of 60°S, between the meridians of 010°W and 131°W.

In order to execute the SAR missions in the area of the PANC deployment, the SAR Coordination Centers (MRCC) in Ushuaia and Punta Arenas have both Service and Antarctic support vessels and other means at their disposal, so as to handle the emergencies that might arise. Likewise, the secondary SAR Coordination Center (MRSC) in Puerto Williams also provides support for ongoing operations.

Aside from the fundamental purpose of the PANC, the Antarctic Service Vessel performs the following complementary activities, which are carried out insofar as they do not interfere with the purpose of the patrol:

* Aid to navigation: Meteorological support to the vessels and ships navigating in the patrol area. As a mobile weather station, it contributes with data for the elaboration of the area´s forecast through the meteorological services of both countries.
* Maintenance of maritime signaling for both countries within the PANC area.
* Medical assistance at sea: the units that integrate PANC have the capacity to provide sanitary support of low level complexity, and have a physician on board to take care of medical emergencies.
* Support to the Antarctic scientific community through the transport of personnel and/or scientific equipment between facilities or stations.
* Logistics: through the resupplying of facilities and stations of both countries or from third Parties.

The “Southern Naval Area Command” (Comando del Área Naval Austral), based in the city of Ushuaia, and the “Third Naval Zone Chief Command" (Comandancia en Jefe de la Tercera Zona Naval), located in the city of Punta Arenas, have the responsibility of managing the Antarctic Joint Patrol in stages of approximately 34 and 35 days.

The efforts of the PANC during the 2022-2023 period were oriented towards the following aspects:

1. **Maritime safety:**
2. Safety of navigation.
3. Observations on Antarctic cartography.
4. Maintenance, installation and updates for navigation aids.
5. Updates on radio communications and capabilities of the GMDSS.
6. Signals and false alarms COSPAS – SARSAT.
7. SAR cases and maritime assistance.
8. Presentation of maritime safety information (MSI), including weather forecasts and meteorological and glaciological conditions in real time.
9. **Pollution**
10. Observations on special prescriptions for the use or transportation of fuels in the Antarctic area (MARPOL rule 43).
11. Pollution resulting from normal operations or from a collision, stranding or sinking of vessels and platforms:
    1. Pollution from hazardous bulk liquid substances.
    2. Pollution from waste waters.
    3. Pollution from solid wastes from vessels.
12. Atmospheric pollution generated by vessels.
13. Monitoring of pollution in shipwreck areas.
14. Exercises in pollution countermeasures.
15. Use of dispersants, absorbant materials, skimmers and containment barriers.

***Joint Antarctic Naval Patrol 2022/2023***

The 25th edition of the PANC took place between 15 November 2022 and 31 March 2023. During the aforementioned period, the MRCC of both navies permanently maintained an “Antarctic Service Vessel” with Search and Rescue capabilities and the necessary elements to control and combat pollution, in addition to another vessel with similar characteristics as back-up. These ships where the “Aviso A.R.A Puerto Argentino” and “Aviso A.R.A Estrecho de San Carlos” of the Argentine Navy and the vessels “ATF Galvarino”, “AP Aquiles”, and “ATF Janequeo” of the Chilean Navy.

The stages of the 25th PANC where as follows:

**A. ALPHA** (between November 15th and December 18th 2022)

Antarctic service vessel: ATF “Galvarino” - November 15th to December 18th

Antarctic support vessel: AVISO A.R.A. “Puerto Argentino”- November 15th to December 18th

Highlighted activities:

1. Patrol and monitoring within the area of responsibility.
2. Support to Antarctic stations and operators, including transport of personnel and general logistics.
3. Hydrographic work and maintenance work conducted on the existing maritime signalling in the area of responsibility.
4. Season opening of Chilean stations in the Antarctic Peninsula
5. Technical meeting between the “Galvarino” and “Puerto Argentino” crews

**B. BRAVO** (between December 19th 2022 and January 22nd 2023)

Antarctic service vessel: AVISO A.R.A. “Puerto Argentino” - December 19th 2022 to January 22nd 2023

Antarctic support vessel: ATF “Galvarino” - December 19th 2022 to January 22nd 2023

Highlighted activities:

1. Patrol and monitoring within the area of responsibility.
2. Hydrographic work and maintenance work conducted on the existing maritime signalling in the area of responsibility
3. Inspection of the F/V KAI XIN, F/V EXPLORER and Polar Vessel A.R.A “Bahia Paraiso”
4. Medevac at sea: Yacht “Selma Expeditions”. 5 people were evacuated from South Orkney Islands to Ushuaia.

**C. CHARLIE** (between January 23rd and February 26th 2023)

Antarctic service vessel: ATF “Galvarino” - January 23rd to February 26th 2023

Antarctic support vessel: AVISO A.R.A. “Puerto Argentino” - January 23rd to February 26th 2023

Highlighted activities:

1. Patrol and monitoring within the area of responsibility.
2. Support given to Antarctic stations and operators, including transport of personnel and general logistics.
3. Maintenance work conducted on the existing maritime signalling in the area of responsibility

**D. DELTA** (between February 27th and March 31st 2023)

Antarctic service vessel: AVISO A.R.A. “Estrecho de San Carlos” – Feb.25 to March 5

AVISO A.R.A. “Puerto Argentino” – March 6 to March 31

Antarctic support vessel: ATF “Galvarino” – Feb 27 to March 7

AP “Aquiles” – March 8 to March 14

ATF “Janequeo” – March 15 to March 31

Highlighted activities:

1. Patrol and monitoring within the area of responsibility.
2. Hydrographic work and maintenance work conducted on the existing maritime signalling in the area of responsibility
3. Support given to Antarctic stations and operators, including transport of personnel and general logistics.
4. Inspection of wreckage of Polar Vessel A.R.A “Bahia Paraiso”

**Final comments**

The tasks carried out during the 25th PANC have once again shed light on the importance of the joint efforts of Argentina and Chile in support of the international Antarctic community that operates in the aforementioned area of responsibility. In that sense, the results of said joint efforts are supported by these figures:

* Total nautical miles navigated: 17.123 NM
* Time at sea: 111 days.
* Total assistances: 28
* Maritime traffic: Radio contact was established with 21 vessels in SAR area, providing support to navigation and meteorological information.

This joint effort by Chile and Argentina allows for the completion of PANC and at the same time, contributes to a rational use of both countries’ resources.

The intention of both countries is to continue conducting PANC annually, thus contributing to the safeguarding of life at sea, safety of navigation and the preservation of the Antarctic environment.