

**BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY  
OF THE AIR FORCE**

**AIR FORCE POLICY DIRECTIVE 10-45**

**11 SEPTEMBER 2020**



**Operations**

**SUPPORT TO CIVIL SEARCH AND  
RESCUE**

**COMPLIANCE WITH THIS PUBLICATION IS MANDATORY**

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This directive implements Department of Defense Instruction (DoDI) 3003.01, *Civil Search and Rescue (SAR)*. It establishes the policy for a coordinated civil SAR program to reduce the loss of life, suffering, and property damage caused during an emergency or incident. This publication applies to Regular Air Force, Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard units. Submit proposed changes to this directive through functional channels to the office of primary responsibility (OPR) using AF Form 847, *Recommendation for Change of Publication*. Ensure all records created as a result of processes prescribed in this publication are maintained in accordance with Air Force Instruction 33-322, *Records Management and Information Governance Program*, and disposed of in accordance with the Air Force Records Disposition Schedule located in the Air Force Records Information Management System. The authorities to waive requirements that are directed by agencies external to the Air Force are identified with a Tier zero ("T-0") following the compliance statement. See DAFI 33-360, *Publications and Forms Management*, for a description of the authorities associated with the Tier numbers. Submit requests for waivers through the chain of command to the appropriate Tier waiver approval authority.

**SUMMARY OF CHANGES**

This document has been substantially revised and needs to be completely reviewed. Major changes include: (1) updates to the governing policy documents, (2) updated Major Command responsibilities, (3) deletion and addition of Major Commands with responsibilities.

**1. Policy.** The United States Air Force will provide support to civil Search and Rescue (SAR) to the fullest extent practicable, on a non-interference basis with primary military duties, under the authorities set forth in, and with regard to the content within, the following documents:

- 1.1. United Nations International Maritime Organization, *International Aeronautical and Maritime Search and Rescue Manual*, current edition. (T-0).
- 1.2. Department of Homeland Security, *National Search and Rescue Plan*. (T-0).
- 1.3. Department of Homeland Security, *National Search and Rescue Addendum to International Aeronautical and Maritime Search and Rescue Manual*. (T-0).
- 1.4. DoDI 3003.01, *DoD Support to Civil Search and Rescue*. (T-0).
- 1.5. Department of Homeland Security, *Catastrophic Incident Search and Rescue Addendum to the National Search and Rescue Supplement to the International Aeronautical Maritime Search and Rescue Manual*. (T-0).
- 1.6. Homeland Security Presidential Directive 5, *Management of Domestic Incidents*. (T-0).
- 1.7. Department of Homeland Security, *National Response Framework*. (T-0).
- 1.8. Federal Emergency Management Agency, *Emergency Support Function #9-Search and Rescue Annex*. (T-0).
- 1.9. Department of Defense Directive (DoDD) 3025.18, *Defense Support of Civil Authorities (DSCA)*. (T-0).
- 1.10. Air Force Policy Directive (AFPD) 10-8, *Defense Support of Civil Authorities (DSCA)*.

**2. Roles and Responsibilities.**

2.1. The Air Force Deputy Chief of Staff, Operations (AF/A3) interprets and implements civil SAR policy and shall:

- 2.1.1. Provide oversight and approval of guidance pertaining to United States Air Force support to civil SAR.
- 2.1.2. Designates the SAR mission coordinator as the civil SAR expert to serve, in close coordination with the Senior Analyst Personnel Recovery, Counter-Terror Policy, as a member of the Joint SAR Working Group the International Civil Aviation Organization and the International Maritime Organization sponsor jointly.

2.2. Headquarters Air Combat Command. In accordance with AFPD 10-30, *Personnel Recovery*, Air Combat Command is the lead command for Personnel Recovery, and identified by Air Force senior leadership as the Core Function Lead Integrator, to include United States Air Force support to civil SAR. Furthermore, in accordance with AFPD 10-27, *Civil Air Patrol*, Air Combat Command shall:

- 2.2.1. Serve as the Major Command-level force provider of Civil Air Patrol to the appropriate Combatant Commander and will provide program advocacy. Air Combat Command staff will provide programmatic support for Civil Air Patrol. Air Combat Command Logistics Contracting is authorized to approve and take all other appropriate actions with respect to Civil Air Patrol's Cooperative Agreement, consistent with statutes, program guidance, and/or Air Force directives.

2.2.2. Provide appropriate instructor staff for the National SAR School for resident and field training in the areas of aeronautical and land civil SAR. (T-0).

2.2.3. Develop, maintain and sustain 24-hour operation of the Joint Search and Rescue Satellite-Aided Tracking electronic tracking system. (T-0). Ensure the system contains a mission management tool for both the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center and Alaska Rescue Coordination Center enabling continuous availability to users and responder organizations. Maintain the currency of the system's underlying software and web-enabled features as well as adequate system back-up and mirroring. (T-0).

2.2.4. In coordination with the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center, Alaska Rescue Coordination Center, and Federal SAR coordinator, identify requirements, funding and manpower needed to operate fully functional Rescue Coordination Centers to promote efficient organization of SAR services, and coordinate the conduct of civil SAR operations within the inland U.S. Search and Rescue Region corresponding to the 48 contiguous States and Alaska, in accordance with the guidance in DoDI 3003.01. (T-0).

2.2.5. Provide funding, manpower and personnel services needed to operate a fully functional Rescue Coordination Center to promote efficient organization of SAR services and coordinate the conduct of civil SAR operations within the inland U.S. Search and Rescue Regions corresponding to the 48 contiguous States, in accordance with the guidance in DoDI 3003.01. (T-0).

2.3. National Guard Bureau. In accordance with *Program Change Request 93-03*, Chief, National Guard Bureau shall provide funding, manpower and personnel services needed to operate a fully functional Rescue Coordination Center to promote efficient organization of SAR services and coordinate the conduct of civil SAR operations within the inland U.S. Search and Rescue Regions corresponding to Alaska in accordance with the guidance in DoDI 3003.01.

2.4. Pacific Air Forces. In accordance with AFPD 10-27. Pacific Air Forces shall serve as the responsible Major Command responsible for Air Force Auxiliary operational missions within its area of responsibility.

BARBARA BARRETT  
Secretary of the Air Force

**Attachment 1****GLOSSARY OF REFERENCES AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION*****References***

AFI 33-322, *Records Management and Information Governance Program*, 23 March 2020

AFPD 10-8, *Defense Support of Civil Authorities (DSCA)*, 4 June 2018

AFPD 10-27, *Civil Air Patrol*, 2 July 2018

AFPD 10-30, *Personnel Recovery*, 28 August 2018

DAFI 33-360, 33-360, *Publications and Forms Management*, 1 December 2015

DoDD 3025.18, *Defense Support of Civil Authorities (DSCA)*, 29 December 2010

DoDI 3003.01, *DoD Support to Civil Search and Rescue (SAR)*, 26 September 2011

Department of Homeland Security, *Catastrophic Incident Search and Rescue Addendum to the National Search and Rescue Supplement to the International Aeronautical Maritime Search and Rescue Manual*, Version 3.0, June 2012

Department of Homeland Security, *National Response Framework*, 29 October 2019

Department of Homeland Security, *National Search and Rescue Plan*, 14 November 2016

Department of Homeland Security, *National Search and Rescue Addendum to International Aeronautical and Maritime Search and Rescue Manual*, 23 April 2018

Federal Emergency Management Agency, *Emergency Support Function #9-Search and Rescue Annex*, June 2016

Homeland Security Presidential Directive 5, *Management of Domestic Incidents*, 28 February 2003

*Program Change Reques.*, 93-03

United Nations International Maritime Organization, *International Aeronautical and Maritime Search and Rescue Manual*, current edition

***Prescribed Forms***

None

***Adopted Form***

AF Form 847, *Recommendation for Change of Publication*

***Abbreviations and Acronyms***

**AFPD**—Air Force Policy Directive

**DoDD**—Department of Defense Directive

**DoDI**—Department of Defense Instruction

**DSCA**—Defense Support of Civil Authorities

**OPR**—Office of Primary Responsibility

**SAR**—Search and Rescue

**U.S.**—United States

### *Terms*

**Civil Search and Rescue (SAR)**—Search and rescue operations in the air, on the land, and on the water to assist persons and protect life in a permissive environment. Examples of these rescue scenarios include, but are not limited to, downed aviators, stranded sportsmen, lost boaters, and mass rescue operations.

**Core Function Lead Integrators**—Secretary of the Air Force/Chief of Staff of the Air Force-designated leaders who serve as the principal integrators for their assigned Service Core Functions and the corresponding Core Function Master Plans. Core Function Lead Integrators guide Service Core Functions maturation and Service Core Function-related investments by orchestrating the development of Service Core Function strategy in collaboration with key stakeholders across the Air Force, including Headquarters Air Force functionals, Major Commands and the Air Reserve Components.

**Defense Support of Civil Authorities (DSCA)**—Support provided by U.S. Federal military forces, DoD civilians, DoD contract personnel, DoD Component assets, and National Guard forces (when the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Governors of the affected States, elects and requests to use those forces in Title 32 of the United States Code status) in response to requests for assistance from civil authorities for domestic emergencies, law enforcement support, and other domestic activities, or from qualifying entities for special events. Also known as civil support.

**International Aeronautical and Maritime Search and Rescue Manual**—A publication that contains guidelines for search and rescue in terms of shipping and aviation to ensure cooperation between the two areas of operation is effective and that operational cooperation can be carried out in actual rescue operations between different countries, organizations, and rescue units. The primary purpose of the manual is to assist States in meeting their own search and rescue needs, and the obligations they accepted under the *Convention on International Civil Aviation* (Chicago, 1944), the *International Convention for Maritime Search and Rescue* (Hamburg, 1979) and the *International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea* (London, 1913).

**Non-Interference Basis With Primary Military Duties**—The performance and support of **Search and Rescue Services** that does not interfere with combat or homeland defense operations or interfere with the deployment or redeployment activities of combat or homeland defense operations. The Under Secretary of Defense for Policy delegates to the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations/Low-Intensity Conflict ASD(SO/LIC) the authority to waive non-interference requirements on a case by case basis.

**Search and Rescue Services**—The performance of distress monitoring, communication, coordination and search and rescue functions, including provision of medical advice, initial medical assistance, or medical evacuation, through the use of public and private resources, including cooperating aircraft, vessels, and other craft and installations.

**Service Core Functions**—Service Core Functions delineate the appropriate and assigned core duties, missions, and tasks of the Air Force as an organization, responsibility for each of which is assigned to a Control Function Lead Integrator. Service Core Functions express the ways in which the Air Force is particularly and appropriately suited to contribute to national security. Service Core Functions are an integral aspect of the Air Force Strategic Planning System, and provide the framework for Air Force organizing, training, and equipping efforts, however, they do not necessarily express every aspect of what the Air Force contributes to the nation.