



BASRA
BAHAMAS AIR SEA RESCUE ASSOCIATION

<http://www.basra.org>



SEARCH AND RESCUE

ACTIVITIES IN THE BAHAMAS

“Volunteers Saving Lives at Sea”

Senior Lieutenant Raymond King, RBDF



United States Coast Guard
U.S. Department of Homeland Security



SAR ORGANIZATION

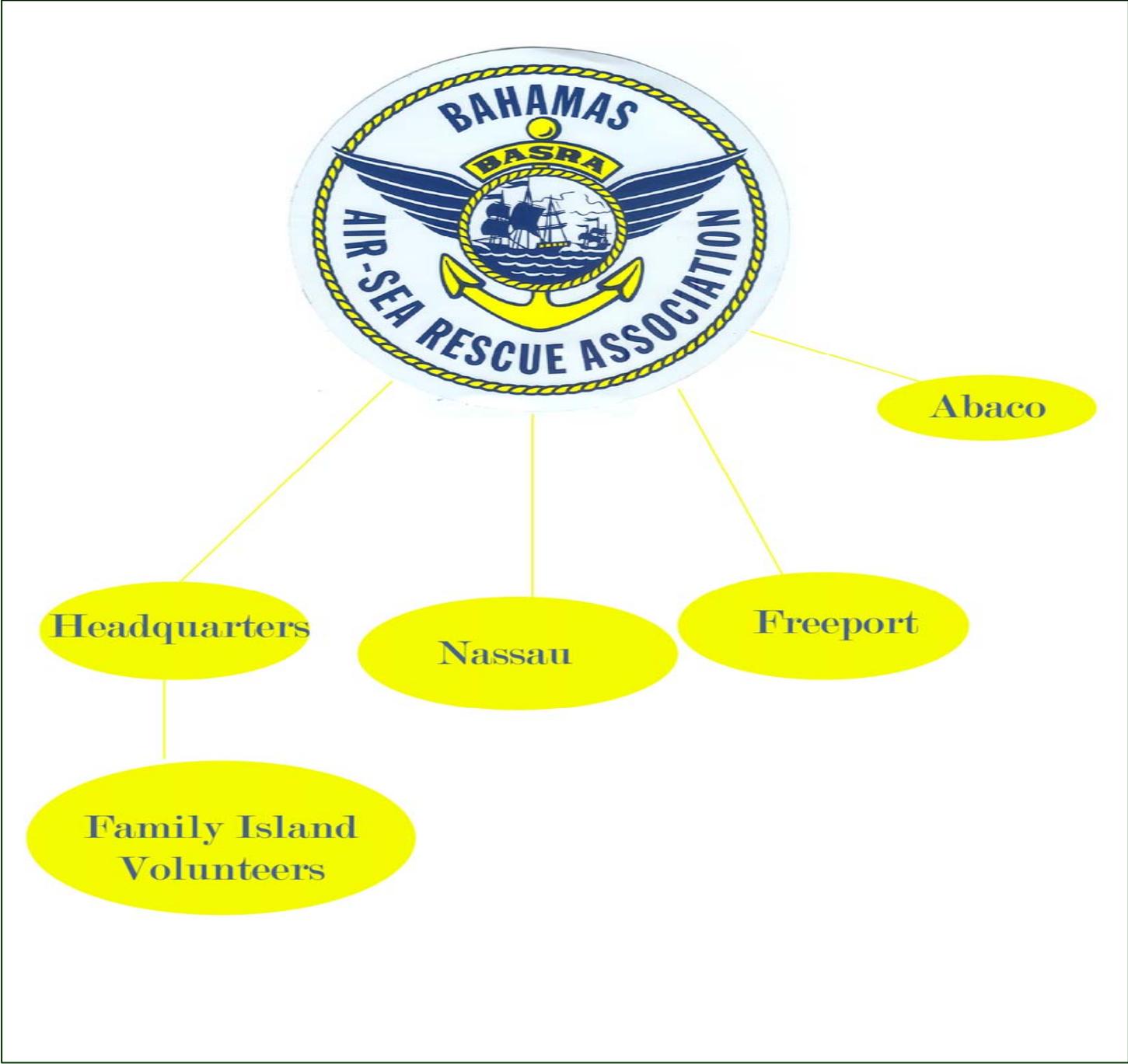


Agencies involved in SAR Cases -

- Royal Bahamas Defence Force
- United States Coast Guard (District 7)
- Royal Bahamas Police Force
- Bahamas Port Authority
- Bahamas Maritime Authority
- American Underwater Testing and Evaluation Center (AUTEC)
- Operations Bahamas Turks and Caicos (OPBAT)
- Many others



United States Coast Guard
U.S. Department of Homeland Security





SAR RESPONSE



- Distress alerts initially routed through Telecommunications Marine Operators to BASRA's Control Officer
- Currently routed through the Police Headquarters Control Room
- BASRA Conducts preliminary communication checks then external checks if necessary to verify distress alert & location
- Air search conducted if communication checks fail
- Once distressed party is located, vessels in the immediate area are contacted or commercial tow organized. If required, search and rescue units are activated – BASRA's Assets, RBDF or USCG assistance if necessary



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SEARCH AND RESCUE ASSETS



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ACCOMPLISHMENT



	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000	1999
Message Relays	15	33	35	42	52	41	54	93	52
Civics	3	3	1	3	-	-	-	-	-
Overdue Vessels	26	33	48	13	57	62	74	72	57
Medevacs	4	8	8	4	11	10	14	18	11
Vessels on Fire	3	1	-	3	3	2	3	2	3
Stolen Vessels	12	4	7	4	5	7	7	15	5
False Alarms/Hoaxes	11	16	5	6	10	4	7	15	10
Navigational Hazards	4	3	8	4	11	4	6	13	11
BASRA Tows	11	9	16	16	15	47	-	-	15
Tow Assistance Arranged, RBDF etc	7	17	32	40	32	44	-	-	-
Lost/Found Vessels	3	11	10	8	18	23	9	15	18
Vessel Aground	10	11	7	5	6	7	5	12	6
Missing POB's	9	5	8	3	4	10	-	17	4
Vessels In Distress	48	59	59	45	102	98	125	128	102
Training Exercises	2	2	3	1	5	5	4	5	5
EPIRB/ELT Activations	9	15	20	6	16	12	18	27	16
Overdue Aircraft	4	9	3	2	10	7	2	6	10
Air Searches	9	4	20	5	21	5	3	27	21
Float Plans	-	1	2	-	2	2	3	6	2
Downed Aircraft	1	2	2	2	2	2	1	5	2

SAR CHALLENGES

False Alarms - Improper handling of distress radio beacons/ non-related distress calls.

False Alerts - 121.5 MHz radio beacons (Non-traceable, negative location indicator and false echoes).

Deficient Vessel Identification Process – Bahamas Maritime Authority is the only agency with ship registry database but remains open 9am to 5pm daily and closes on weekends and public holidays. Also, incomplete ship registry database.

Inadequate MMSI/Delayed Vessel Identification Process – Insufficient MMSI numbers for private boaters delays distress alert identification process as information must be relayed abroad first to supplier/manufacture's address then locally.

Inconsistent Interagency Planning and Support – collaboration, cooperation and coordination