



# Virgin Islands Search & Rescue

## Operational Overview

# Facts

- An entirely volunteer organisation
  - Approximately 45 fully trained boat crew members
  - 20 crew undergoing training
  - 3 rescue coordinators
  - 4 deputy coordinators



# Facts

- Rescue crew & coordinators on call 24/7
- VISAR acts as its own RCC
- Self tasking
- Does not officially monitor the VHF
  - The administrative staff does monitor the VHF when the office is manned.
    - Monday to Friday 0930 – 1430 (nominally)

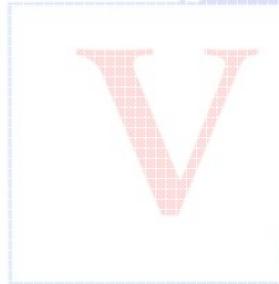
# Assets

- rescue vessels
  - Road Town, Tortola: 1 x 28' RHI
  - Spanish Town, Virgin Gorda: 1 x 21' RHI



# Facilities

- Dedicated Headquarters & Communications Centre in Road Town



# Facilities

- Life Boat Station in Virgin Gorda

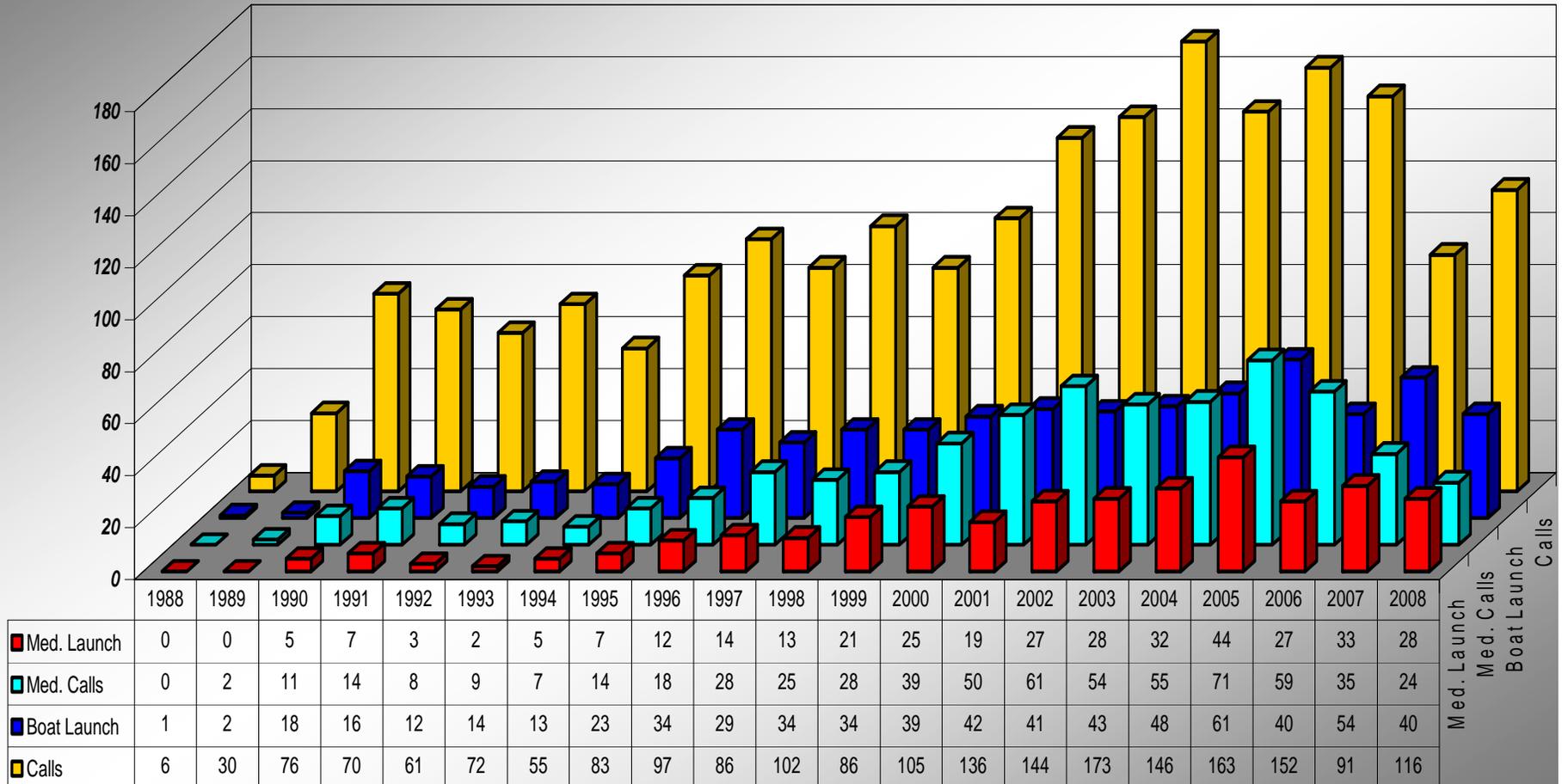


# Launch & Endurance

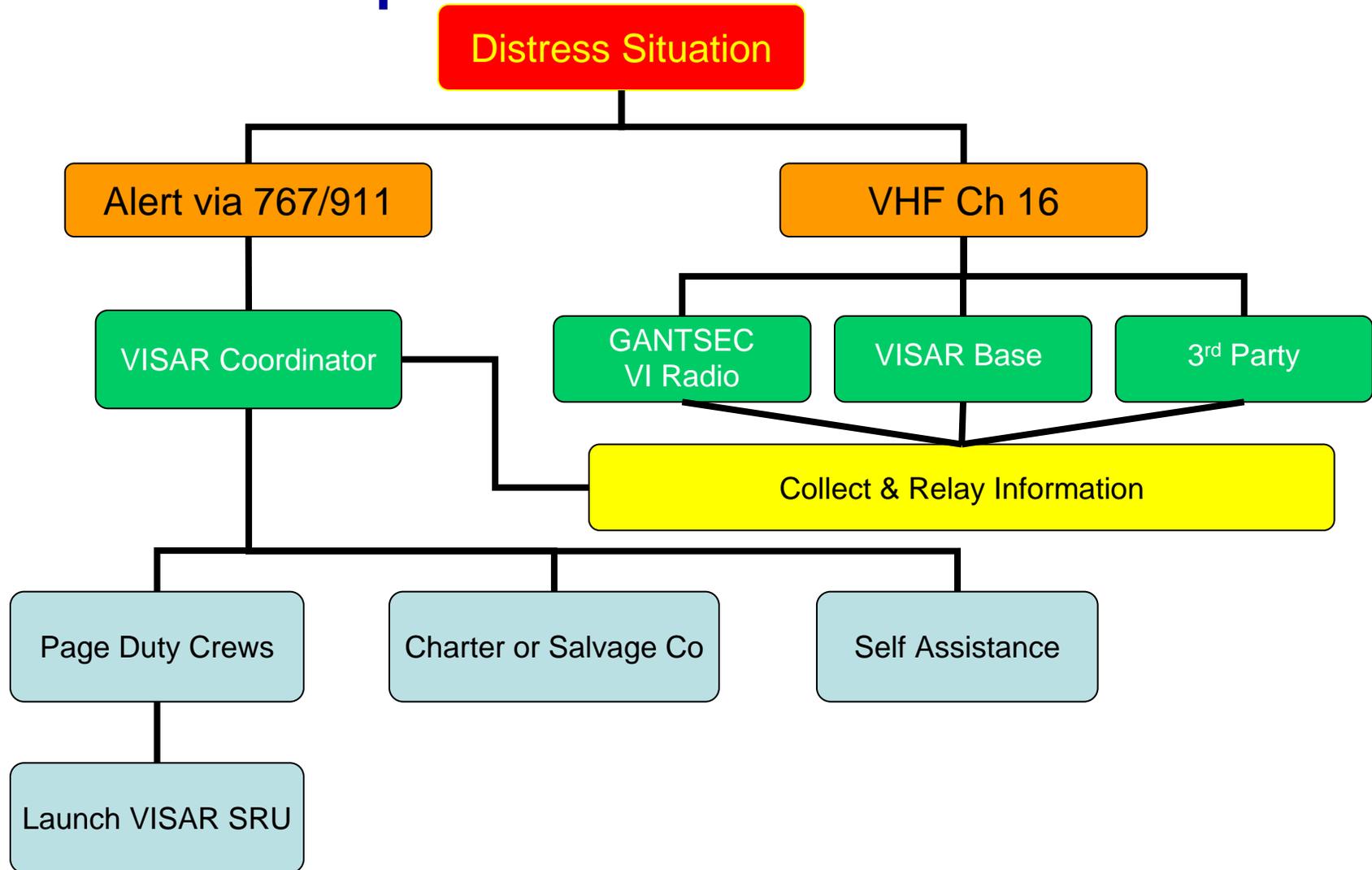
- Average “call to launch” times
  - Road Town: 7 – 10 mins during daylight
  - 15 – 20 mins at night
  - Spanish Town: 10 – 15 minutes daytime
  - 15 – 20 mins at night
- Operational Range
  - Approximately 8 hours @ 35kts
    - Generally regarded as 1 hour out, 6 hours SAR, 1 hour return.

# Statistics

Calls & Launches per Annum from 16 August 1988 to 31 December 2008



# Operational Chart



# Communications

- Alerting VISAR
- The duty coordinators carry dedicated cell-phones and are on call 24/7.
- The number to contact VISAR for SAR purposes is  
**284-499-0911.**
- Once a response is underway, the VISAR Base #  
**284-494-4357** is also a valid number.

# Communications

1 x VHF with mountain-top repeater.

- Approximate working range 60 miles
  - VHF Channels available:

- 
- » 06
  - » 09
  - » 12
  - » 13
  - » 14
  - » 16
  - » 22A, 23A, 24 & 85 (set up as shore facilities)
  - » 67
  - » 68
  - » 72
  - » 73
  - » 74

# Communications

- **Base:**
  - 2 x VHF roof-mounted on the VISAR Base
  - 2 incoming phone lines on 284-494-4357
  - 1 dedicated outgoing line
- **Rescue vessels:**
  - Cell phones
  - Console installed VHF x 2
  - Mobile VHF handsets
- **Mobile DF set available**
  - (problems with manpower, however)

# Equipment

- **Boat Equipment**
  - Trash Pump
  - Night Vision Goggles
  - Self-Righting Gear
- **First Aid Equipment**
  - Backboards with head blocks & spider straps
  - KEDs
  - Oxygen (1 'D' & 2 'Jumbo D' Cylinders)
  - AEDs
  - Suction Units