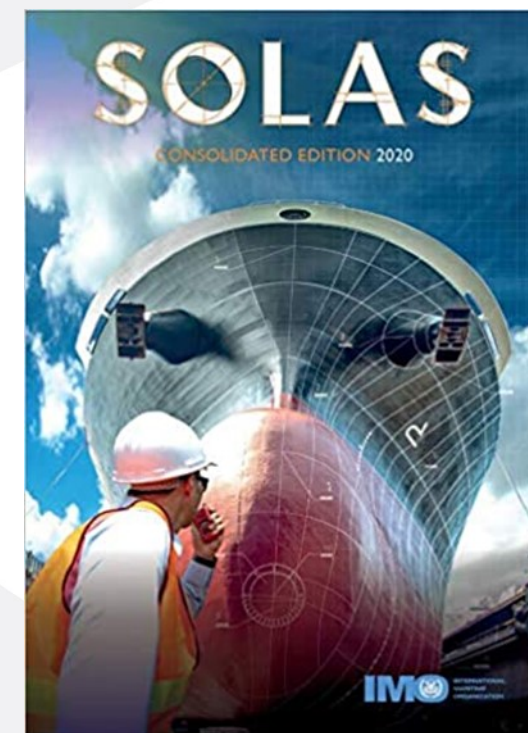
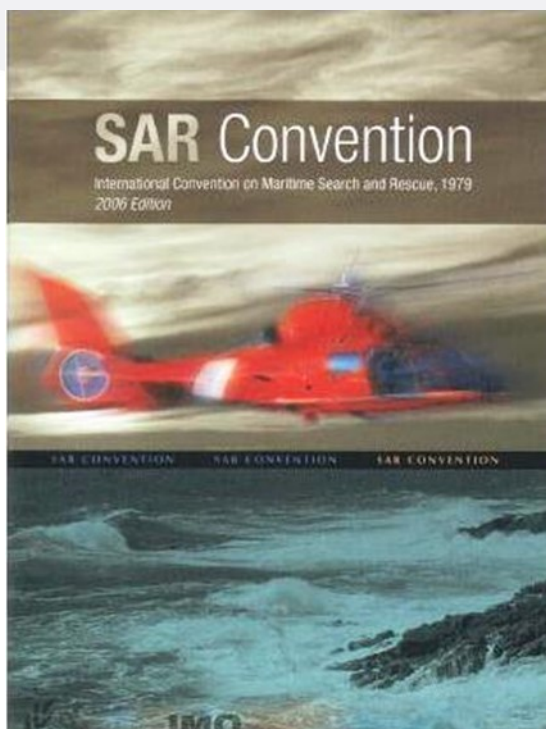


Maritime SAR in Finland

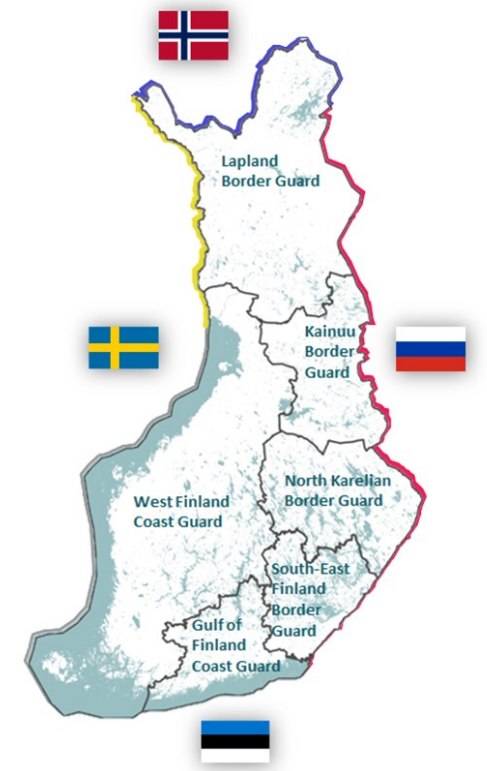
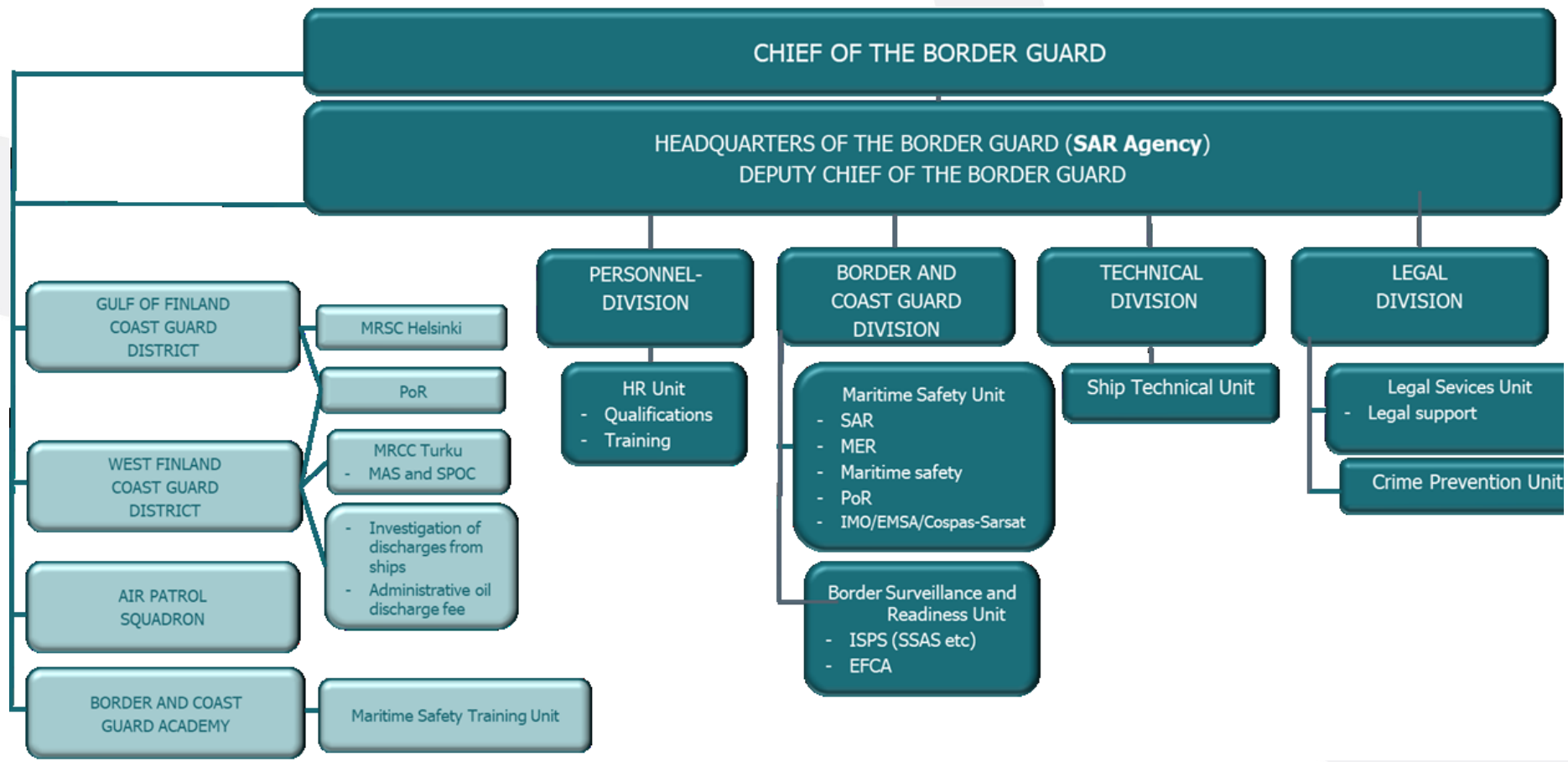
Finnish Border Guard HQ – SAR Agency
Maritime Safety Unit
LTCDR Sami Järvenpää



Finnish Border Guard

(= Coast Guard)

Organization from the view of maritime administration



Maritime SAR in Finland

- International Convention on Maritime Search and Rescue (SAR Convention) was implemented in Finland in 1986 (Treaty Series 89/1986).
 - Decree 1243/1986
- International Convention for Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS Convention) was implemented in Finland in 1981 (Treaty Series 11/1981).
 - Decree 111/1981
- Essential obligations related to search and rescue and conduct of emergency radio communications are laid down in the Maritime Search and Rescue Act (1145/2001).
 - Unofficial English translation: [en20011145_20191352.pdf](#) (amendments up to 1352/2019 included)
- The Government Decree on Maritime Search and Rescue (37/2002) complements the Act.
 - Not available in English: [Valtioneuvoston asetus meripelastuksesta 37/2002 - Ajantasainen lainsäädäntö - FINLEX ®](#)

Finnish Border Guard and maritime SAR

The Finnish Border Guard is the leading maritime SAR authority and responsible for delivering maritime SAR services. It maintains round-the-clock preparedness to coordinate and carry out operations. Maritime search and rescue means saving people in distress or in danger at sea.

(3 § Maritime Search and Rescue Act 2001/1145)

- Border Guard is responsible for radio communications in emergency situations and the maintenance of the related preparedness in accordance with section 24 of the Maritime Search and Rescue Act (1145/2001).
- FBG is responsible for the planning, development and supervision of maritime search and rescue services, and for the coordination of the services between different operators. In addition, the Border Guard takes part in preventing accidents and incidents and provides MAS and TMAS services to the ships.

Functions

(3 § Maritime Search and Rescue Act 2001/1145)



The Border Guard is the leading maritime search and rescue authority and responsible for the provision of maritime search and rescue (SAR) services. For this purpose, it:

- 1) is responsible for the planning, development and supervision of maritime SAR services and the harmonisation of the activities of the authorities and volunteers participating in maritime SAR services;
- 2) coordinates and conducts SAR operations;
- 3) is responsible for emergency-phase radio communications and the transmission of telemedical assistance services for vessels (TMAS);
- 4) participates in emergency prevention;
- 5) is responsible for the maritime assistance services (MAS);
- 6) is responsible for receiving distress alerts sent by Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacons, Emergency Locator Transmitters and Personal Locator Beacons via the COSPAS-SARSAT system and relaying them to the national responsible party, and for the national harmonisation of issues relating to the COSPAS-SARSAT system;
- 7) provides maritime SAR-related coordination training and, where necessary, also other training and public education relating to maritime SAR services
 - Including international OSC and ACO courses

Maritime Search and Rescue services

International regulation/agreements



International

- International Convention on Maritime Search and Rescue (89/1986), including amendments. **"Hamburg convention"**
- International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (**SOLAS**), 1974, including amendments.
- International Aeronautical and Maritime Search and Rescue Manual (**IAMSAR**).

Bilateral

- Finland has concluded bilateral agreements with EST, RUS and SWE to clarify AOR and maritime/aeronautical SAR cooperation arrangements and established complementary protocols with the relevant national competent authorities.
 - SRR boundaries are agreed with neighboring countries = FIR (for maritime and aeronautical SAR)
 - Exercises and meetings on regular basis

Multilateral

- Arctic SAR Agreement (Finland, Sweden, Denmark, Norway, Iceland, Russia, USA, Canada)



Regulations and plans on national level

- Maritime SAR Act (1145/2001)
- Government Degree on Maritime SAR (37/2002)
- Ministry of the Interior guideline on maritime search and rescue (based on SAR act)
 - [Meripelastusohje 2010 | Rajavartiolaitos](#)
- National Administrative Maritime Mass Rescue Plan (MoMeVa) – national “MRO plan”
 - [Monialaisiin merionnettomuuksiin varautumisen yhteistoimintasuunnitelma | Rajavartiolaitos](#)
- Regional Mass Rescue Operational plans (Coast Guard Districts)
- Maritime SAR Communication Manual
 - [Meripelastustoimen viestiohje 2024](#)
- Cooperation agreements with (inter alia):
 - Aeronautical Rescue Service
 - Vessel Traffic Service
 - MIRG (Maritime Incident Response Group)
 - Defence forces
 - Emergency Response Center
 - Life Boat Societies
- Finnish Border Guard internal guidance:
 - SAR training system (standing order RVLPAK C.22)
 - SAR management system (standing order RVLPAK C.16)
 - Finnish Border Guards follow-up system for operations and profitability (standing order RVLPAK A.9)
 - Lessons learned process



Resources

- Employees on management/coordination level
 - Management 4 + 1 (FBG HQ + Coast Guard Districts HQ's + Border and Coast Guard Academy)
 - MRCC/MRSC 45 (estimated)
- The Border Guard participates in rescue operations using own resources.
 - Vessels and air assets

Other authorities and organizations conducting maritime SAR-missions under the coordination of the FBG (cooperation is coordinated through national SAR committee ja CGD's management boards:

(4 § Maritime Search and Rescue Act 2001/1145)

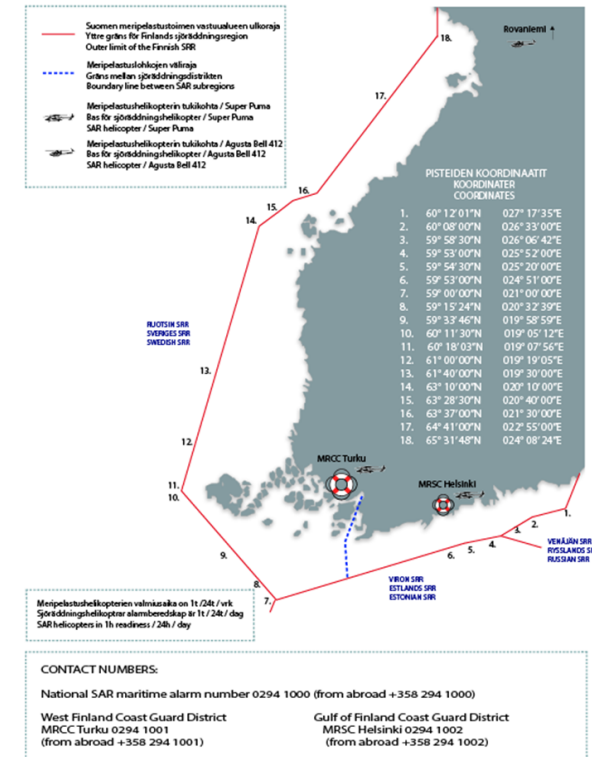
- Emergency Response Centre
- Police
- Regional Fire and Rescue services
- Finnish Defense Forces
- Finnish Customs
- Transport and Communications Agency
- Meteorological institute
- Healthcare and social welfare
- Environmental authorities
- Finnish Transport Infrastructure Agency
- Air Traffic and Vessel Traffic Service providers
- Volunteer associations

Maritime Rescue Command centers

- **MRCC Turku/ Command Center** - West Finland Coast Guard District
 - Search and Rescue Point of Contact (SPOC)
- **MRSC Helsinki/ Command Center** - Gulf of Finland Coast Guard District
- MRCC/MRSC have continuous 24/7 communication and coordination preparedness
 - Responsible for emergency phase radiocommunication
 - VHF/VHF-DSC, MF/MF-DSC, 121,5 and 123,1 MHz
 - + Inmarsat, TETRA, satellite phone etc
 - Back up communication agreed with VTS-service (VHF/ VHF-DSC)
 - VTS centers located in the same premises as MRCC Turku and MRSC Helsinki
- MRCC/MRSC are capable to back up each other

SUOMEN MERIPELASTUSTOIMEN ALUEJAKO

DEN FINLÄNDSKA SJÖRÄDDNINGSTJÄNSTENS ANSVARSOMRÅDE
FINNISH SEARCH AND RESCUE REGION
(SRR)



Maritime SAR Coordination Committee and rescue sub-region management boards

- For the cooperation, coordination and monitoring:
 - The **Maritime SAR Coordination Committee (an advisory board)** assists the Border Guard in the planning, development and monitoring of maritime SAR services.
 - Members from all stakeholders mentioned in Maritime SAR Act
 - One of the tasks of the advisory board is to monitor the arrangements of the maritime SAR in Finland and to coordinate related cooperation between the authorities and voluntary organizations.
 - A joint action plan for preparedness for multisectoral maritime accidents (the national Mass Rescue Operation Plan, MRO) has been drawn up at national level, defining roles and responsibilities of each operator involved in maritime rescue operations.
- The Coast Guard Districts are assisted by the **search and rescue sub-region management boards**, which task is to assist the Coast Guard District in the planning of the maritime SAR services.
 - Where required by an emergency phase, the task of the management board is to support the maritime search and rescue coordinator and the maritime search and rescue mission coordinator in harmonizing the tasks belonging to the field of maritime SAR services of the authorities, volunteer associations and other organizations and other actors.

Objectives

- Objectives are set by the Ministry of Interior
 - "Performance Agreement" between Ministry of Interior and the Finnish Border Guard 2020 -2024
 - Finnish Border Guard TS 2024 TTS 2025-2028 (performance plan and the operating and financial plan process)
- Annual report 2023: [Maritime security and search & rescue at sea | The Finnish Border Guard](#)
 - The Finnish Border Guard maintained uninterrupted command and operational readiness and monitored the emergency radio traffic for maritime rescue needs.
 - All maritime SAR emergencies were provided assistance as required.
 - Despite the increasing challenges related to the maritime operating environment, the average response time for the first SAR unit to reach the location in maritime emergencies was 26 minutes.
 - Maritime rescue capacity was further developed through fleet and equipment acquisitions, by improving plan-based preparedness and by developing the maritime rescue information system, which was taken into use in 2022.
 - Maritime SAR capabilities were maintained and developed by means of active exercise activities, with representatives of various stakeholders participating.
 - The Finnish Border Guard contributed actively to international maritime rescue activities and collaborated with neighbouring countries, especially Estonia and Sweden.

Evaluation of performance/efficiency and reporting

- The performance of maritime search and rescue (SAR), maritime environmental protection, and the monitoring of ship discharge and the sanctions arising from them, are tracked by the Finnish Border Guard's operations and performance monitoring system
 - Border Guard standing order RVLPAK A.9
- To support the monitoring of operations and finances, the Border Guard has a performance information system, which monitors, among other things, the performance of the Border Guard's operations, the monitoring targets of operational activities and the social impact of the activities of the Border Guard.
- The activities are reported annually in the Annual Report and the Financial Statement of the Border Guard.
 - [Maritime security and search & rescue at sea | The Finnish Border Guard](#)
 - [Rajavartiolaitoksen tilinpäätös 2023](#)
- All maritime SAR and environmental response assignments are recorded (MSAR and MERT).
- The statistics can be used to monitor, for example, the development of quality/quantity of SAR tasks, phenomena, causes of accidents, the time spent by units on SAR tasks, response time.
- The readiness and performance is monitored through regular exercises.
- MRCC/MRSC inspections are made by the SAR Agency

Evaluation of performance/efficiency and reporting

- Finnish Border Guard 's performance as a SAR authority is examined every year as part of the management review of the maritime administration
- Border Guard reviews (audit) all search and rescue units (SRUs) at regular intervals to ensure the appropriateness of their equipment and competence level (including IAMSAR requirements)
- Shipowners' ship-specific SAR cooperation plans are reviewed in cooperation with Traficom (guidance can be found from FBG www-page and from)
 - [SAR Co-operation Plan](#)
 - Regular meetings with Finnish shipping companies (1/year)
- Reports are prepared on maritime SAR exercises, highlighting possible development targets in operations and equipment.
- Complex maritime rescue missions are processed according to the lessons learned process.
- FBG internal control (standing order RVLPAK A.21) and FBG internal legality control (standing order RVLPAK A.22)

Border Guard vessels



1 pcs

Offshore patrol vessel Turva



1 pcs

Offshore patrol vessel Tursas



1 pcs

Offshore patrol vessel Uisko



8 pcs

Coast Guard Boat



22 pcs

Patrol Boat



25 pcs

Fast Boat



2 pcs

Hovercraft Ivanoff IH-6 (IA08)
+ 5 pcs in 2023-2025



1 pcs

Alucat W18 CAB6 RVL

Border Guard air assets

Super Puma 5 pcs



AS332-H215 Super Puma -
helicopter



AS332-H215 Super Puma -
helicopter

3 pcs



AB/B 412 - helicopter

Koala 4 pcs



AW119 Koala - helicopter



AW119 Koala - helicopter

2 pcs



DO228 Dornier - plane

Finnish national MRO plan



- 1. Instructions for the regional operational planning (Coast Guard Districts)**
- 2. National and international legal basis**
- 3. Maritime SAR risk assessment**
- 4. Classification of maritime accidents**
- 5. Command and coordination structure of MRO**
- 6. Role of national SAR advisory committee and regional management board**
- 7. Maritime SAR training systems and responsibilities**
- 8. Inspection of SRU's (audit system)**
- 9. Command structure and responsibilities in marine environmental disaster**
- 10. SAR communication plan**
- 11. Emergency medical service and TRIAGE**
- 12. Evacuation from the sea**
- 13. Evacuation centres/ Landing sites**
- 14. Registration of casualties**
- 15. Place of Refuge – decision making, responsibilities**
- 16. Use of air assets**
- 17. MIRG and other support provided by rescue service**
- 18. Use of resources of state enterprises and agencies**
- 19. Role of Red Cross and Life boat society**
- 20. Weather services**
- 21. Media plan**
- 22. Investigation of maritime accidents**
- 23. Host Nation Support (not ready)**

Finnish Border Guard – safety and security in all circumstances



Reliability – Competence – Cooperation