



## Salvage & Marine Operations

### What is Salvage & Marine Operations?

The Salvage & Marine Operations (S&MO) Integrated Project Team, part of the Defence Logistics Organisation, has been in existence for several years: its primary role is to support the UK Armed Forces. It authorises and project manages salvage, specialist mooring, blue-water towing and heavy lift transportation services on behalf of the three Armed Services, the Defence Procurement Agency and, on request, other government departments such as the Department for Transport and the Home Office.

### How is S&MO structured?

The S&MO team is led by Morgyn Davies, the Chief Salvage & Mooring Officer (CSALMO), who is the MoD Head of Profession for Salvage and Mooring. He is supported by 63 staff, based at the S&MO headquarters in Bath and at the Naval Bases at Devonport, Portsmouth and on the Clyde. Team members are drawn from all areas of the marine industry to ensure a good multifunctional operational capability. It has the capability to undertake or oversee all aspects of marine work, including coastal and amphibious-based operations using hired platforms from which to conduct operations.

### What operations does S&MO undertake?

The team is maintained at a high state of readiness and forms an integral part of the MoD's emergency response capability, and is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

The team aims at all times to provide a quality service and has achieved ISO 9001:2000 accreditation, which is reassessed every six months to ensure continuing compliance. In attaining this high international standard it has ensured interoperability with commercial regeneration resources, consistency of output in line with best commercial practice and the underlying health and safety of team members working on potentially hazardous operations.

### What is S&MO's output?

#### Marine Salvage Unit operations

Marine Salvage Units (MSUs) hold a minimum of specialist equipment with which they are tasked to provide an emergency response package to the ports. Except when deployed onboard a 'casualty' (eg a disabled ship), the MSUs operate from 'platforms of opportunity' (chartered commercial platforms appropriate to the task). Rapid Response Units (RRUs) and commercial equipment specifically tailored to each task are provided in support of the operation. MSUs may also be required to supervise/undertake the laying, maintenance and recovery of tri-Service moorings.

#### Salvage

In practical terms recovery of crashed MoD military aircraft has historically absorbed some 30% of S&MO resources; however, the requirement for marine salvage and assistance to the Navy remains the highest priority. The team managed the recovery of HMS *Nottingham* from her grounding off Australia in 2002 and

provided emergency towing services to HMCS *Chicoutimi* following a serious fire in 2004.

#### Moorings

S&MO is responsible for the safety of specialist MoD moorings and manages all UK and overseas mooring work undertaken by contractors on behalf of the Armed Forces.

S&MO is currently the design authority for moorings and ensures that mooring equipment is maintained at the agreed standard through periodic reviews to reduce the number of these expensive assets to the minimum commensurate with operational commitments. The CSALMO is also responsible for the safety of all MoD moorings and supervises all UK and overseas mooring work. The latter is managed entirely by the CSALMO using contractors, while the work is overseen by a Salvage & Mooring Officer (SALMO).

#### Towing

CSALMO has had responsibility for the project management, design and oversight of all MoD ocean and coastal blue water towing operations since 1995. While the majority of tows are undertaken using chartered vessels, S&MO retains the capability to manage and man a tow where this provides best value for money. As well as surface ship tows, the S&MO team has also designed and prepared overseas nuclear-powered submarine tows. Recent tows have included HMS *Ark Royal* and RFA *Lyme Bay*.

#### Heavy lift

The team are the MoD specialists in Heavy Lift Transportation, establishing an MOU with their counterparts in the US Navy. Recent operations include the recovery of HMS *Grimby* from Norway in 2006, and advising Norway on the transport of a decommissioned Russian Federation nuclear submarine.

#### Pollution control

As part of his responsibilities, the CSALMO is also required to provide pollution control expertise and a (limited) worldwide response in support of the Armed Forces. MSU staff are therefore trained to deal with pollution issues. S&MO personnel may also be required, at the request of other government departments, to respond to any marine emergencies in the UK and adjacent Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) waters in support of marine pollution control.

### How can I find out more about S&MO and its requirements?

*For further details or to discuss a specific requirement, please contact:*

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