

Exercise Evaluation Report

Exercise St Arnaud

Location: St Arnaud

Date: 31st October and 1st November

Report version: Final

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1. Executive Summary

The Tasman Search and Rescue “Exercise St Arnaud” was Tasman’s district main training event for the calendar year. It was held over the weekend of the 31st and the 1st November.

It was supported by Land SAR groups from throughout the district and included additional agencies that would likely support the district during any large-scale search operation.

The exercise format consisted of a range of Round Robin activities giving participants the opportunity to select a variety of options to suit their individual or group training needs.

All objectives were achieved to an acceptable level.

The SAREX had good attendance from throughout the District, with healthy enthusiasm from all participants.

Some recommendations have been made around the preparation and planning of the event.

1. Recommendations

- 1 Continue with this style of SAREX, with the focus on SAR competencies.
- 2 Encourage the involvement of multi-agency participation.
- 3 Promote a pre SAREX registration system.
- 4 Develop SAREX objectives early to compliment the proposed activities.
- 5 Incorporate feedback (survey monkey) to develop future SAREX's.

2. Introduction

The Tasman District Search and Rescue Exercise was their major training event for the 2020 and 2021 calendar year. It included Land SAR groups from throughout their District and involved partner agencies that might be included that might be involved in significant SAR activities or operations.

The Tasman District covers a vast area, it includes alpine, rugged thick bush environments and harsh weather systems that can impact search and rescue operational responses. The district attracts a wide range of recreational users and tourist activities throughout its region. Land SAR groups and partner agencies are regularly called upon to assist police in Category 1 search operations.

Due to its range of geography Land SAR and partner agencies need to cooperate and coordinate their skills, often sharing those abilities to reach a successful conclusion to search operations.

Exercise St Arnaud with its modular “round robin” format was an excellent way to enhance the skills of participants but also develop relationships with people from partner agencies and neighboring Land SAR groups.

The 14 search and rescue related modules were grouped together into a variety of options allowing participants to select what best suited their needs. These were all located within walking distance or a short drive from the ICP. There were a mixture of Land SAR or Police were managing each activity.

3. Background

3.1. Background to the Exercise

Tasman's Round Robin style SAR Exercise allowed for smaller groups to complete selected training effectively. It allowed smaller manageable groups to target specific training activities.

3.2. Dates, location, organising agency(s), key people.

Dates: 30th October preparation, 31st October and 1st November

Location: St Arnaud, Nelson Lakes

3.3. Participating organisations

NZ Police Tasman SAR Squads

Land SAR Groups, Golden Bay, Motueka, Nelson, Marlborough, Karamea, Westport, Reefton, Murchison, Greymouth, Hokitika, South Westland, Haast

Land SAR Dogs

Canyon SAR

FENZ Tasman

AREC Tasman

DOC St Arnaud

Lake Rotoiti Community Hall

Land SAR GSO

Murchison Helicopters

3.4. Exercise aim

To provide multi agency search and rescue training to participating IMT and field members, to develop SAR skills, and gain feedback.

3.5. Exercise objectives

- participants refresh in a range of SAR field activities.
- IMT participants to refresh in NZSAR Response guidelines
- field team members to receive helicopter safety briefing, complete practical load hover load/unload training.

3.6. Exercise Scenario

Tasman District SAR exercise was based on Round Robin activities, it offered the participants 8 programmes covering the 2 days, 5 based on field and 3 on IMT activities.

The field programmes gave participants the option to select activities to suit their needs, with everyone completing the helicopter safety exercise. Other activities included First Aid, Navigation, Stretcher, Track and Clue Comms and DF activities.

The Saturday IMT training included, IMT, Canyon IMT, use of drones and search dog sessions, Sunday was a scenario-based tabletop exercise.

4. Evaluation Methodology

4.1. The agreed outcomes of the evaluation activity

A report outlining observations of the SAREX relating to the objectives and the KPI's.

4.2. Evaluation scope

To observe the management team at the ICP, to measure how well the field and IMT activities achieved the objectives set for the exercise.

4.3. Aspects of the exercise observed, what was not observed.

Observed:

- Initial welcome/briefing to all participants
- Safety briefing (general)
- The majority of Round Robin activities
- SAREX hot debrief.

Not observed:

- Some Round Robin activities

4.4. The process followed in preparing and submitting the report.

Several months before the SAR Ex spoke with Sergeant Malcolm York, he discussed the intended theme for the SAREX, he forwarded me planning documents showing the structure and of and the objectives for the SAREX.

I spoke with GSO Aimee MacDonald prior to the SAREX, she was tasked with organizing a considerable amount of logistics for the event.

I attended the setting up of the SAREX on the Friday afternoon, the welcome briefing on Saturday morning through to the hot debrief at the conclusion of the SAREX on Sunday midday.

As time allowed, I spoke to many of the participants either during rest periods or while they were participating in the activities.

4.5. Other information

A post SAREX survey was sent to all participants to gain their feedback, this was via Survey Monkey.

5. Findings

Exercise Planning

The exercise was well planned the ICP utilizing the recently built Lake Rotoiti Community Hall, this had the benefit of having a commercial kitchen for food preparation and large area for briefings. Other locations included DOC administration buildings and Red Deer Lodge.

Tasman currently does not have a dedicated SAR/DVI Coordinator, an event of this type and size takes a lot of organizing, many volunteers from LandSAR, Police SAR Squads and external agencies dedicated a considerable amount of time and effort to make this SAR Ex happen, and achieve the outcomes gained, well-done.

More time could have been spent on developing the objectives for the SAREX, making sure they were fit for purpose and achievable within the proposed SAREX.

Exercise Conduct

The exercise was well run, there was a comprehensive briefing and welcoming to participants, the SAREX aims were discussed.

A registration area was set up at the Community Hall entrance, participants signed in on arrival, if they had not selected their preferred choice of activities for the weekend this was completed then, this became a choke point and took considerable time to clear.

A white board was set up with the locations of the various activities. There was plenty of people there to assist with this process. Consideration could have been made to having a map of the area the activity location marked to take away any confusion.

There was good emphasis on safety with a with a comprehensive briefing covering the management and expectations of participants. This theme was continued throughout the SAREX with individual safety briefings held at each activity.

Senior District Police Operation Managers attended the SAR Ex, initially welcoming participants and thanking them for their commitment to training and attendance at search operations. They remained at the SAREX for a period getting involved with some of the activities and mixing with SAREX participants.

- ***participants refresh in a range of SAR field activities.***

It was good to see many of the activity leads and support people made up from a combination of Police, LSAR or FENZ.

All the activities visited were well presented, with good briefing and session information, the instruction was aimed at the level and were catering to a wide range of abilities and experience. Generally, there were plenty of assistants to assist "one on one" with participants when required, this ensured the activity could keep moving and not slow the session down.

The navigation activity would have benefited with additional assistants being able to guide participants through that activity, as the skill levels were quite broad.

It is important with an event of this nature that timings are strictly adhered to, as any overrun impacts directly on the following activity.

- ***field team members to receive helicopter safety briefing, complete practical load hover load/unload training.***

The helicopter activity was conducted by a local operator, with a good practical safety briefing, load and short flight to a hover unload. The group remained at this location and were hover load picked up with the following group.

Although this process was time consuming (and expensive) it ensured participants achieved to the desired level.

- ***IMT participants to refresh in NZSAR Response guidelines***

The IMT session on the Saturday was a refresher covering NZSAR response guidelines, it was well presented, and an engaging activity it followed the chronological process of a SAR Operation for initial action.

Then this was supported with tabletop activities covering and reinforcing the same process.

Participant numbers for the IMT sessions were reasonably low, it would be good to see succession planning and more SAR volunteers involved in getting training for IMT SAR Operations.

Sunday's IMT activity was scenario-based tabletop exercise, there were two separate IMT groups running, this gave a realistic participant levels for the CIMS roles and functions, it was a challenging exercise with regular injects based on intel questions and the search progress.

The group I sat in on would have benefited from a larger area assigned, with those involved and a few observers there was little free space between the CIMS roles. This was a good opportunity for those considering being involved in IMT roles to observe or be mentored in CIMS roles.

6. Conclusions

This Round Robin SAREX was well planned and organised, the aim and objectives of the SAREX were achieved and met.

This SAR EX provided a valuable training event to a wide range of SAR participants.

Feedback from speaking with participants, they really enjoyed the activities and this style of SAREX, it gave them good learning opportunities, and allowed them to work closely with other SAR groups from their District.

Both the field team and IMT objectives were easily met. The helicopter objectives were also met.

Tasman District now with this SAREX behind them will find it much easier manage a SAREX of this type, improving on that they have already achieved.

7. Appendix

01 Below is the summary of the Survey Monkey Questionnaire

Survey Monkey Results

- people thought it was well organised
- had enough variety with good outcomes.
- most people wanting a modular SAREX next year.

Written responses

- people liked the engagement and mixing with other volunteers.
- have volunteers working with Police on the teaching modules.
- have a night-time module.
- have it in a more confined area

The common themes were:

- that everyone enjoyed the SAREX
- there were good learning and outcomes.
- well organised and catered.

02 SAREX Invitation

The poster features a background image of a group of people in high-visibility vests gathered around a blue helicopter. The text is overlaid on this image. At the top left is the New Zealand Police logo. At the top right, the dates 'St Arnaud Friday 30th October to Sunday 1st November 2020' are listed. The main title 'Tasman District SAREX 2020' is in large yellow font. Below it, 'Modular Based training weekend' is written. A list of activities is provided on the left, and the 'LAND SEARCH & RESCUE' logo is at the bottom right. A call to action is at the bottom center.

NEW ZEALAND POLICE
Ngā Pirihimana o Aotearoa

St Arnaud Friday 30th October to Sunday 1st November 2020

Tasman District SAREX 2020

Modular Based training weekend

- Visual Tracking
- First Aid for SAR
- Advanced Clue Processing
- IT for IMT - the future
- Drone use for SAR
- Navigation
- Canyon SAR
- Search Dogs
- Rope Work
- And more...

LAND SEARCH & RESCUE
New Zealand | Rapa Taiwhenua

Book it in now with your training officer. More information to come....

03 Tasman District Police SAREX 2020: Joining Instructions

LOCATION



Lake Rotoiti Community Hall

Website

Directions

Save

4.8 ★★★★★ 18 Google reviews

Community center in Saint Arnaud

Address: 22 Main Road St Arnaud, St Arnaud 7072

Phone: 022 487 7168

The Community hall will be the primary location for meeting and meals. A variety of other locations will be used over the weekend and these locations will be advised on Friday night as some are weather dependant.

The hall will be open for arrival from 14:00 on Friday for sign in and registration.

NOTE: No boots/Outdoor mess to be brought into the hall facility please.

TIP: Feel free to bring any comfortable camp chairs or inflatable couches you have to make the Saturday evening event more comfortable.

ACCOMODATION

The bulk of us will be camping across the road from the hall at the Lake Rotoiti School. Please bring any pop-up shelters or banners you have to make the camp look the part. There will be some space at the school or at the Community hall for campers or any caravans. There will also be a toilet available in our campground. For those not camping (and have already booked with Aimee MacDonald) the accommodation is the Red Deer Lodge.



Red Deer Lodge

Directions

Save

Lodge in Saint Arnaud

Address: 4 View Road, Nelson Lakes National Park 7072

SHOWERS

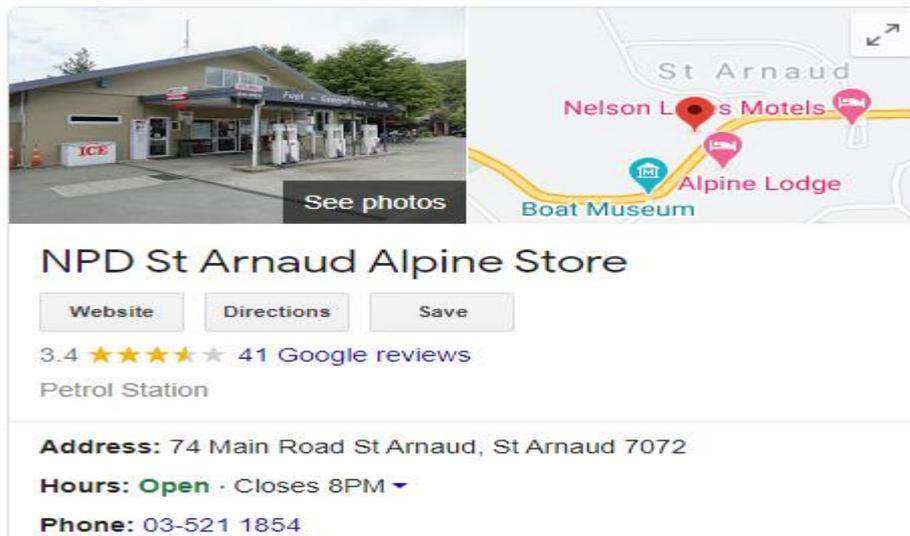
Our main shower facility will be at the DOC Kerr Bay Campground. A token is needed for a hot Shower and Mal York will have these to give out. There are also showers at the Red Deer Lodge that can be used.

CATERING

Friday night – Sort your own. The alpine Lodge kitchen will be open until 20:45 - NOTE nothing available in St Arnaud after that but the Hall kitchen will be available for your use.

Saturday Breakfast – Sunday Lunch will be supplied.

The Alpine store is also available and has a café attached.



TRAINING SESSIONS

Please see attached the session timetable.

You will see that all teams get to do every session apart from **Team 1 Field** (see **note**).

So it's just a matter of selecting a team to be in, I would encourage you to not all go in the same team with other members from your own group – this way we can make the most of the opportunity to work with members from other groups. You can select a team when you arrive or preselect your team by emailing Aimee MacDonald – aimee.macdonald@landsar.org.nz and let her know what Team you would prefer to join – **this will be on a first in, first served basis**.

Team 1 Field – This team will have a heavier focus on working with SAR Dogs and would be suited to field team members who are interested in working as part of a SAR Dog team in the field.

GEAR REQUIRED FOR THE WEEKEND

Sleeping gear – Tent, sleeping bag, towel, etc.

Field Teams – normal 24hr pack (compass, torch, notebook etc.) – Bug

Spray/Sunscreen, wet weather gear

IMT – Notebook, and any laptops or other equipment that you might normally use in a IMT.

For those staying at Red Deer lodge you will need sleeping bag, pillow etc.

Please also bring your own reusable water bottle and a sense of humour!

TRANSPORT

Drivers, please keep your mileage readings if you are planning to claim mileage.

We will have 2 mini vans with drivers to assist with transport between sessions.

EMERGENCY CONTACT

Will be Sergeant Malcolm York **0211908245**.

HEALTH and SAFETY

A health and Safety briefing must be attended by all participants at 08:00 on Saturday morning in the Community hall. Everyone will also need to sign a registration sheet on arrival.

Any participants with health or medical issues that could impact on their ability to safely participate in the SAREX are to notify Mal York or via the Safety Officer (TBC) on arrival.

QUESTIONS:

Sessions – Reuben McCormack reuben.mccormack@police.govt.nz 021921408

Accommodation/Catering/Logistics – Malcolm York Malcolm.york@police.govt.nz
0211908245

04 SAREX Modules

Modules for Tasman Police District SAREX 2020

Module: Navigation

Field or IMT: Field

Tutor: Steve Garside

Location: West Bay

Description:

Brush up on your navigation skills using both map and compass and GPS while getting to explore some of the National park.

Module: Track and Clue Processing

Field or IMT: Field

Tutor: Kerry Lammas & Jason Monroe

Location: Black Valley Stream

Description:

Develop and extend your tracking skills and fine tune your clue processing and profiling skills.

Module: COMMS & Beacon DF

Field or IMT: Field

Tutor: Mark Kirkwood & Paul Rennie

Location: St Arnaud primary school

Time Slots available: Saturday and Sunday

Description:

Set up, use and discover some of the communication systems we use within search and rescue and practice the art of using a direction-finding aerial.

Module: Stretcher / ropes

Field or IMT: Field

Tutor: Kane Turner

Location: Black Hill

Time Slots available: Saturday and Sunday

Description:

Develop your skills on how to safely move a stretcher through some tricky terrain.

Module: SAR Dogs (1)

Field or IMT: Field & IMT

Tutors: Craig Moor, Kyle White, Jonny Fris, Duncan Hamilton & Anthony Oakley

Location: TeeTotal

Time Slots available: Saturday

Description:

Demonstrations and exposure to working along side both LandSAR search dogs and Police dogs and find out the abilities and restrictions on being able to use the dogs as an asset on a search.

Module: SAR Dogs (2)

Field or IMT: Field

Tutors: Craig Moor

Location: Dip Flat

Time Slots available: Sunday

Description:

This is a training scenario for each Operational Handler. Field team members will go as part of the team to cover Comms, Nav, Visual tracking duties. If you are interested in working as part of a combined team with a SAR dog this is an excellent opportunity to see what's involved.

Module: Helicopter Safety and FENZ command truck

Field or IMT: Field

Tutors: Rob Hunt (Pilot) Dave Colville & Ricki Hayward

Location: Lake Station

Time Slots available: Saturday only

Description:

Run through helo safety, including a short flight, pick up and drop off for those that are needing to tick off their helicopter competencies also get to see the ins and outs of the FENZ command truck and how it can operate remotely.

Module: Drone

Field or IMT: Both Field and IMT

Tutor: Stefan James

Location: Outside St Arnaud community hall

Time Slots available: Saturday only

Description:

Demonstration on the capabilities and practical SAR use of new all-weather night capable Police drone system.

Module: First Aid Advanced Application of Basic Principles

Field or IMT: Field

Tutor: Rob Stokes

Location: St Arnaud Fire station

Description:

Rob spent 24 years with the ambulance service, 15 of which he spent on the Christchurch Rescue Helicopter from its inception as winchman and intensive care paramedic. He has since been a member of Police for 15 years and is a member of the Christchurch Police Search & Rescue Squad. In that capacity he has deployed at Pike Mine, White Island and the Christchurch Mosque. Rob has instructed on the Police National SAR course for 8 years which includes the delivery of medical training.

This session is an advanced application of basic first aid principles. It will consist of a power point seminar containing graphic images and discussions around real case studies from Rob's experience. This training session is based on training Rob delivers at the Police National SAR course and has had excellent feedback from those who have attended. The content is based on the understanding that LandSAR are a specialist resource and a suitable audience for advanced content. The case studies are all taken from Ambulance and SAR jobs and therefore are realistic of what LandSAR members might be exposed to on any deployment.

Module: IT for IMT

Tutor: Stefan Lerbs

Field or IMT: IMT

Location: St Arnaud community Centre

Description:

Get an insight into latest technology and explore the options of software and systems that will be compatible across the region.

Module: Canyon IMT

Tutor: Richard Bramley

Field or IMT: IMT

Location: St Arnaud Community Centre

Description:

Introduction to the unique challenges of Canyon SAR and working together to achieve success.

Module: IMT - Saturday

Tutor: Aaron Nicolson

Field or IMT: IMT

Location: St Arnaud Community Centre

Description:

Refresh on the principles of managing the Initial Response, Trusting the process, Role Definition, The value of good IAPs and Management by Objectives.

Module: IMT - Sunday

Tutor: Aaron Nicolson

Field or IMT: IMT

Location: St Arnaud Community Centre

Description:

All IMT staff - Wilderness Scenario utilising a Forward Base.

05 SAREX Images



