

## Background

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At the INSARAG Steering Group Meeting (ISG) in 2016 the group directed the secretariat to initiate the establishment of an INSARAG Light Teams Working Group (LTWG) with clear terms of reference and to request INSARAG regional groups to nominate suitable members. Relevant members from existing working groups could be co-opted. The LTWG will take the lead and, following consultations with the regional groups in 2016, present the recommendations to the ISG of 2017 for a decision.

The LTWG is made up of representatives coming from the three INSARAG Regional Groups, and are selected from different USAR Teams Heavy, Medium and non-classified teams selected by the Secretariat. The LTWG is chaired by Arjan Stam, Team leader from the Dutch USAR team, chair of the UCC in the earthquake of Nepal, IEC/IER Team leader and member of the GRG. (see Annex A for members in LTWG)

The first meeting of the LTWG was held in Geneva from 15-17 June 2016, and was also attended by the chair of the TWG Mr. Dewey Perks.

## Welcoming address

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Arjan Stam, LTWG Chairman welcomed all participants, and expressed his appreciation for their involvement and motivation to the task. The Chairman also explained the expected steps which would be necessary to achieve the results of the working group, highlighting the importance of the involvement of the INSARAG network in the process.

Mr Jesper Lund, Chief of Field Coordination Support Section (FCSS), OCHA-Geneva, welcomed all participants and highlighted the strength of the expertise that the LTWG members provide to the group. He also explained the expected outcome of the LTWG assignment and the need to have a transparent consultation process.

## Project design

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The Chairman described his view on the design of the project and the necessary steps to provide logic in the design of Light teams operating in an International environment. The working group acknowledged the proposed project design and agreed on the following deliverables;

Recommendations on tasks for a Light team in an international environment

Recommendations on a possible organisation of a Light team in an international environment

Recommendations on a quality assurance of a Light team in an international environment

## Outcome 15<sup>th</sup> of June

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The LTWG shared experiences of the members on earthquake incidents of the last years including the earthquake of Ecuador in April 2016 and exchanged knowledge about the work which has been done within INSARAG on domestic Light teams. The working group agreed to use as much as possible information and logic which is already available in the INSARAG environment.

### **Tasks of Light teams in an International environment :**

The working group agreed on;

- Light is revered to as a reference to the weight and complexity of the construction of a building.
- Operations on one work site for 12 hours.

- The five functions Medical, Logistics and Management should be part of a Light team in an International environment. Search and Rescue combination is going to be based on the result of the task discussion following in the process.
- International Light teams should add value to the local emergency system and should be self-sustainable for a minimum of 5 days.
- A Light team configuration will be a benefit to Medium and Heavy classified teams who can reform their configuration or organisation if there is a need to do so.
- Light teams in an international earthquake incident can enhance the capabilities and support the INSARAG coordination principals.
- Light teams working in an international environment need a “light” form of quality assurance.

The working group started with describing the tasks which should be performed within the Medical function of a Light team in an international environment. This was done by splitting the working group in two separate groups which simultaneous prepared the tasks. Afterwards the gathered information was shared, discussed and agreed upon within the LTWG.

## Outcome 16<sup>th</sup> of June

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The LTWG used the complete day in describing the tasks for the other four functions finishing the complete set of tasks for a Light team in an international environment. The working group started with the design of the organisation of a team by defining the number of persons which are needed for a task within the five functions.

The experience and knowledge of the LTWG provided the necessary general and technical input for this discussion.

## Outcome 17<sup>th</sup> of June

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The LTWG continued the discussion about the number of persons which are needed to perform a task per function. A good discussion followed about the possibility to combine a Light team with only a search component to a Light team with only a rescue component during an earthquake incident. The LTWG has the opinion that separating these two disciplines and having only Light teams capable of, for example search, would not be suitable for safety and operational reasons. Teams who work together after an earthquake should integrate before an incident and so make it possible to train their search and rescue procedures together to minimize the occupational risks which can occur during an urban search and rescue operation. Therefore the LTWG will work with a complete set of five functions for the configuration for the Light team concept which is also used for Medium and Heavy teams.

Based on tasks for the five functions and the possibility of integration of tasks and team functions the working group had a discussion on the total capacity of a Light team in an international incident. According to the LTWG the minimum amount of people could be 17 members based on the maximum of integration of the different tasks. Due to the fact that the ability to integrate is a result of occupational laws which differ between countries, the LTWG advice on the amount of personal is between 17 and 20. And at the same time use the prescription of the tasks in the five functions to set the capabilities of a Light team working in an international earthquake incident.

The LTWG had a good discussion on the quality assurance of the international Light concept. The working group is unanimous on the need for some form of quality assurance and the need to have a form of recognition as a badge. A suggestion is prepared for the discussion with the regions and the team leaders meeting.

## Next steps

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The following points were agreed among the LTWG.

- The next LTWG meeting will be held in Geneva after the ISG of 2017 if necessary.

- All of the LTWG members are asked to attend the Team Leaders Meeting in Tokyo in September 2016 to have a back to back meeting. They will organize a program for breakout sessions in the TL meeting.
- The LTWG will provide representatives to each regional meeting in 2016. They will deliver a presentation about the results of the LTWG.
- A technical writer has been asked for and will support the LTWG if possible in language and format consistency on the final product.
- The different tasks have been divided between the working group members and are going to be delivered before the 15<sup>th</sup> of July 2016.

## Concluding remarks

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The chairman of the LTWG expressed his appreciation to the dedication that LTWG members provided during the meeting, and also thanked the cooperation and support from FCSS for organizing the meeting.

## Annex A: List of participants

	Name Surname	Country/Org	Function	email
1	Arjan Stam	USAR.NL	Chairman	arjan.stam@brandweer.vrhm.nl
2	Rob Davis	SARAID UK	Dep. Chairman	Rob.Davis@avonfire.gov.uk
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4	Brad Commens	Aus-1 QLD	Member (Asia/Pacific)	Brad.Commens@qfes.qld.gov.au
5	Ruihua Zhao	China	Member (Asia/Pacific)	ceazhaoruihua@126.com
6	Sebastian Hodapp (Johannes Gust)	AtFire	Member (Africa/Europe/Middle East)	s.hodapp@at-fire.de
7	John Ball	IRO	Member (Africa/Europe/Middle East)	johncball@hotmail.co.uk
8	Carlos Julio la Mota	BOMBEROS DE GUAYAQUIL	Member (Americas)	cjlamota@gmail.com
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