**INSARAG Light team Working Group (LTWG)**

**LTWG meeting Santiago, Chile, 6-8 October 2019**

**Chairman Summary**

**Background**

The LTWG has been developing the concept of INSARAG Classified Light USAR teams according to the project assignment of the ISG 2016. The INSARAG Classified Light USAR team standard was endorsed in 2019 by the ISG, and the LTWG was asked to pilot the first Classification of a Light USAR team using the new standard and checklist. During the team leader’s meeting in Chile a number of LTWG members worked to assist the first Light USAR Classification, and prepared a paper for future classifications which will follow.

**Pilot INSARAG Light USAR IEC**

Several teams from a variety of countries and regions are interested in the Classified Light USAR standard, and the concept was discussed with LTWG members that attended the Team Leader meeting in Chile. There are currently two Light USAR teams (GEA, Turkey and @fire, Germany) preparing for the Light team Classification process. In June 2020 @fire will participate in the first Light USAR IEC as part of the joint Classification/Re-Classification exercise in Switzerland. This joint exercise will include IER2 Suisse Rescue - Heavy (SUI-1), IER2 PUI France – Medium (FRA-2), plus the IEC @fire – Light (GER-3) as the first Classification of a Light USAR team. The Mentor for @fire, the Classification Team Leader and the management of the @fire team are processing the classification exercise program, as described in the INSARAG [Quality Assurance explanations](http://www.insarag.org/images/LTWG/QA_Process_final.pptx) for the development of Classified Light USAR teams.

**Guidance note for implementation**

Throughout the development of the Light IEC project the LTWG members identified that Classified Light teams have different opportunities to prepare the team for International operations, exercises and Classification. Because Light teams have diverse backgrounds and considerable opportunities to respond and work with other teams, the LTWG identified that a guidance note will be helpful for all INSARAG members and affiliates. The updated INSARAG Guidelines (2020) will include a guidance note for the development and implementation of Classified Light USAR teams.

The LTWG drafted a guidance note prior to the Team Leader’s meeting to assist teams to develop a Classified Light USAR team, under the INSARAG Guidelines. The capability of Light, Medium and Heavy USAR teams are based on a staged capacity model, with all teams undertaking the five functions of USAR. The USAR tactical operations capacity for Light, Medium and Heavy USAR team operations are different, with the five USAR Capabilities remaining constant. The preparation of a Light USAR team for Classification remains consistent with that of a Medium or Heavy team, and all teams maintain the same standards for deployment and INSARAG engagement.

Light USAR teams are the smallest INSARAG classified teams, and provide only one person to assist with RDC/UCC operations. IEC exercise set up and Exercise Control are also a large undertaking for any USAR IEC exercise. These two items represent a considerable undertaking for Light teams, and as a result, the guidance note for development of Classified Light USAR teams has been prepared based on these two subjects.

On 10 October, during the Team Leaders meeting in Santiago, Chile, the @fire team provided a presentation of their experiences so far, in preparing for the first Light team IEC in 2020.