

# United Kingdom Fire and Rescue Service (UKISAR)



UK FIRE & RESCUE  
**ISAR**  
INTERNATIONAL SEARCH AND RESCUE

# GBR-01

## Overview

As UK ISAR enter its 30th year of since conception back in 1992 it gives us a great honour to be included in this INSARAG after action review. This deployment certainly tested UK ISAR, with the last earthquake deployment back in 2015 in Nepal. UK ISAR demonstrated that it still has the ability to deploy a highly effective heavy team in excellent response times. Since the recovery phase from Covid-19 duties, UK ISAR has been preparing hard for such a testing deployment and demonstrated intent to improve with the fastest response team since 2001.

This significant event in Turkey has tested the preparation of a newly forming innovative UK ISAR team based on the foundation of a well-established international search and rescue classified team.

The team leader and his 77-strong team with four K9's answered the call with a truly inspirational UK ISAR response supported by UK incident room reach back. The flexibility of the team supported new innovative changes imposed due to the significant risk and challenges faced as the rescuers. The lessons learned from this event will mould the further improvement of the UK ISAR team and the necessary recommendations will be reviewed and the necessary viable improvements made through accepted actions.

UK ISAR Highlights.

UK ISAR received the verbal green light to deploy from UK Government on the 6th February. The full UK ISAR mobilisation followed the recognised process with teams at the National Point of departure (NPOD) by 18:00hrs arriving in Gazientep on the 7th Feb.

The UK ISAR response included 77 personnel from 14 United Kingdom Fire & Rescue Services including 4 search dogs, 5 Usar medical professionals known as UMT, 1 Structural/Demolition Engineer and 1 Vet with all associated equipment and BoO for an INSARAG Classified Heavy Rescue Response. This also included a 24-hour dedicated UK reach back team of a further 8 personnel in the UK Incident room.

UK ISAR supported the UCC and SCC in the area of Hatay in arduous conditions and provided donated in kind assistance on behalf of UK Aid.

This was a very successful mission for UK ISAR with regards to time for response being the fastest since 2001 (22 years previously) and a test of the team since FCDO and the lead authority took over the governance of the team.

## UK ISAR Team learning

- Team arduous condition and cold weather preparations and development ensured UK ISAR was primed for cold weather operations in minus temperatures that this situation posed with the right PPE and previous exposure.
- Team worked tirelessly to support the saving of life in very difficult operations.

- The Structural/demolition engineer was instrumental in the safety of rescuers.
- Coordination save lives.
- Effective use of local information sources/ translators and liaison personnel.



## INSARAG Learning concepts

- The concept of operations documented in the guidelines was not straightforward for the teams attending this disaster as it proved difficult.
- Revision from case studies and experiences within and other disasters is key for improvement.
- Early LEMA support is essential to maximise INSARAG and None INSARAG responders.
- Effective establishment of the UCC and SCC's is essential for success and coordinating all international SAR team efforts. This will save further lives.
- Collaboration of multi skilled teams and live mentoring to be the way forward outside of training and development.
- Remote support for ICMS proved essential.
- ICMS including Survey 123 forms time consuming at essential times, revision of quicker worksite adoption form considered. Innovative solutions or picture location option with what three words.
- Virtual Osocc used as chat room with essential clear information lost in insignificant notifications, potential guardian to be considered.
- INSARAG to consider and identify how to create a safety risk critical flash notification system for all teams. Fast safety information flash.