

# Singapore Civil Defense Force (SCDF)



## SGP-01

In response to the request for humanitarian assistance in the aftermath of the earthquake, SCDF deployed an Operation Lionheart contingent (SGP-01) to assist in USAR efforts. We worked closely with the National Disaster Management Authority (AFAD) and members of other international rescue teams through the UCC and SCC2. The strength and resilience of the local responders who were able to overcome personal difficulties, and close coordination between the AFAD and international teams was humbling and left a lasting impression on members of SGP-01. We offer our sincerest condolences to the people of Türkiye who have lost loved ones in this disaster.



### Wins and Challenges

- SGP-01 did well to deploy a first wave within 56 hours of the earthquake, which was within the 72-hour 'golden window' to conduct search and rescue. This was despite the distance and logistical challenges in getting into Türkiye, which fell within INSARAG's 'Africa, Europe and Middle East' theatre. SGP-01 was also able to conduct successful USAR operations, including 2 live rescues by the advance team, and importantly, to contribute towards the coordination of international USAR efforts through SCC2.

- USAR coordination is pivotal in ensuring that available resources are effectively organised and deployed to save lives. In line with the operational capability of an INSARAG Heavy USAR Team, SGP-01 attached USAR coordination officers to the SCC2 to assist in coordinating the incoming international relief. SCDF's support in this aspect was appreciated by UN OCHA.

- SGP-01 was well-equipped with network connectivity and computing devices which supported the work of SCC2 and facilitated the sending of reports to VOSOCC and ICMS at the base camp and while surveying worksites.

- The inclusion of two Emergency Behavioural Sciences and Care (EBSC) Unit officers in this deployment underscores SCDF's commitment to ensuring psychological well-being in OLH missions. They conducted morale sensing to ascertain if contingent members had any concerns arising from their operations. The psychological support provided by the EBSC officers was integral in managing team morale and strengthening the SGP-01's resilience in the face of adversity.



### Lessons Learned

- As non-INSARAG classified or local rescue teams did not have access to ICMS, the worksites that they had triaged were not marked in ICMS. As such, SCC2 assigned the same worksites to other rescue teams for ASR2, which resulted in duplication of efforts. INSARAG might consider issuing temporary accounts to non-INSARAG classified/local teams at the RDC or UCC to coordinate rescue efforts more holistically.

[Team Website](#)