

INCIDENT BRIEFING DOCUMENT

This document is to be used to brief the DOD, Duty Maritime and Coastal Commanders, and other relevant Duty Officers.

GIN: 041497		ENGLISH CHANNEL – FRENCH SRR	
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1. BACKGROUND

This Briefing Note is intended to share information and observations following today's migrant incident within the French SRR with multiple casualties.

2. INFORMATION and OBSERVATIONS

1258UTC. Dover Ops received a call from Cross Gris Nez requesting air support following a report from a fishing vessel concerning multiple persons (15) unconscious in the water in the French SSR. The position given was approx 0.2NM from the zonal boundary to the UK SRR. (51 05.58N 001 43.41E)

French military vessel 'Flamant' and a rotary wing aircraft from Belgium were tasked to the scene, shortly followed by R163 from Lydd due to the French air asset being unserviceable..

Flamant recovered 3 persons initially, 2 of which were conscious. Soon after, R163 carried out a sector search and reported locating multiple fatalities to French CG. No casualties were recovered by R163, and she was released by Gris Nez at 1435UTC on completion of search. Recovery operations are ongoing with both French and Belgian air assets.

At 1540UTC, French CG requested R163 be re tasked following information received via assets on scene reporting 28 fatalities and 6 still missing. R163 re tasked in order to utilise FLIR due to onset of darkness.

French CG coordinated throughout, and at no point were any casualties reported to be within the UK SRR.

3. CONCERNS

Information not easily available from Gris Nez due to workload, Sitrep requested.

OFFICIAL

4. REPUTATIONAL IMPACT

Believed to be migrants attempting to cross into the UK, numerous other small boat incidents were being coordinated at the time by both UK and French CG with a number of assets deployed. (3 ALBS, 2 X rotary wing, 1 x Fixed wing, 1 x drone, 2 x CRT & Border Force assets)

5. FURTHER ENQUIRY

Via Duty Maritime Tactical Commander/Air Commander

6. CONCLUSION/RECOMMENDATIONS

SAR Ops ongoing