

Very brief introduction of the



한국해양구조단

KOREA MARINE RESCUE CENTER

About Korea

- Lower GDP than USA, but enjoy a very similar, if not better, standard of living.
- Now one of the world's leading shipbuilding nations (a result of being the world's best steel producer).
- Maritime industry is KING.
- Now that they are a developed nation, they are *hungry* to prove to the world that Koreans are competent leaders deserving respect.

KMRC - Background

- Founded June 30, 2000
- Founder and CEO: Mr. Jo Myung-Rae
 - “Jo” is the surname; prominent accountant in Busan
- Jo’s Personal investment: over \$2 million (US)
- 44 local units organized geographically
- Approximately 4,000 members
- This is the organization we would like to help to become the KCG Auxiliary and KCGAux Association
- This is the project we have been working on since 2009.

KMRC - Three Main Duties

- Maritime Search and Rescue
 - Main difference from USCG Aux: lifeguards
- Maritime Safety
 - Main difference: SCUBA teams
- Marine Environment
 - Main difference: Scope is more limited than Trident program
 - Any citizen can help clean up an oil spill

KMRC - Search and Rescue



Do these images look familiar?



KMRC crews do a lot of coastal patrols and rescue small fishing vessels and leisure craft

KMRC - Marine Safety

KMRC mans lifeguard stations at most beaches and provides patrols on PWC.



KMRC - Marine Environment



Raising awareness about keeping the Marine Environment clean and safe through public education and children's programs.

KMRC - Strengths

- Well-established SAR group
- Well-trained and very active members
- Lots of modern equipment
- Located nearly everywhere
- They want a good working relationship with the USCG Auxiliary
- Very eager to learn the latest and best SAR methods, and very eager to show their competence

KMRC - Weaknesses

- Privately-owned
- Members pay for everything out-of-pocket
 - No reimbursements
- Recognized, but not supported, by KCG
- Completely under-utilized
- They perceive their English-speaking limitation as being an obstacle to international cooperation. That negative perception becomes a self-fulfilling, self-defeating prophecy.

KMRC - Opportunity

- Transform into KCG Auxiliary
 - Official support will help ease the financial burden
- Chance to man KCG sub-stations
 - Work directly with active duty as so many members of USCG Auxiliary do
- Chance to join Asia-Pacific SAR organization
 - APN – Asia-Pacific Network for Maritime Safety and Environmental Concern.

KMRC - Threats

- Political
 - Legislation to approve new KCG re-organization bill put on hold until after next election.
 - Ruling party afraid of the opposition party and media making it seem as if they are buying KCG and KMRC votes.
- Inter-agency rivalry
 - National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) is trying to take over KCG duties.
 - Fire department (under NEMA) trying to take control of life guard stations and near-shore SAR.
 - KCG and NEMA under different departments, and there is no Secretary of Homeland Security to order them to cooperate.

KMRC - Summary

- KMRC is a well-established and respected volunteer SAR organization
- They want to be involved with other international SAR organizations, but are apprehensive due to language barriers
- KCG wants to bring KMRC under their wing officially, but politicking has set this back at least 1 ½ years.