



SARSAT System Update to BMW

May 8, 2026

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NOAA SARSAT USMCC



Space Segment Providing U.S. SAR Region Coverage



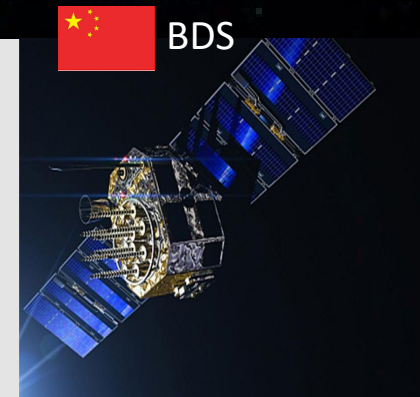
LEOSAR currently operational:

- METOP-B (1): "S13", US contribution operated by EUMETSAT
- RF COSPAS (2): 15, and 16 (15 and 16 undergoing testing)
- GOES (2): GOES-18 (West) and GOES-19 (East)



MEOSAR currently operational:

- DASS (US Distress alerting satellite system): 21 FOC, 2 under test
- SAR Galileo (EC): 26 FOC, 2 under test
- SAR GLONASS (Russian): 2 FOC, 3 launched and to be commissioned in 2026.
- SAR BDS (China): 6 available for ground segment testing (not included in US tracking scheduling)



US SARSAT Ground Segment



Alaska
NOAA Fairbanks, Alaska
Command and Data
Acquisition Station
(FCDA)
2 LEO/MEOLUTs



Guam
Joint Region Marianas Navy Facility
2 LEO/MEOLUTs
Phased Array Antenna underway;
expected to be site accepted ~Fall
2026



Hawaii
USCG COMSTA
2 LEO/MEOLUT
&
6 antenna MEOLUT
Refresh and Phased Array Antenna planned



Miami
USCG COMSTA
2 LEO/MEOLUTs
&
6 antenna MEOLUTs, Phased Array Antenna
site accepted (April 2026)



Maryland (NSOF)
US Mission Control Center
2 GEOLUTs & 1 test GEOLUT
1 Test LEOLUT
1 Test LEO/MEOLUT

SARSAT Beacon Totals

- More than **905,463** U.S. beacons in the NOAA 406 MHz Registration Database as of May 5, 2026
 - **179,699** ELTs
 - **429** ELT(DT)s
 - **330,252** EPIRBs
 - **394,818** PLBs
 - **265** SSAS
- **80,074** DoD devices registered in JSETS (not included total RGDB count)
- Estimated worldwide beacon population at the end of 2025:
 - **2,006,000 (+2.8% annual increase)**



COSPAS-SARSAT Rescues

**300 lives saved
in the U.S. in CY 2025**

**Rescues at sea: 183 people rescued
Aviation rescues: 47 people rescued
Terrestrial rescues: 70 people rescued**



Number rescued world-wide since 1982: over *63,000*

Number rescued in United States since 1982: *11,190*



Other Significant Happening

- MCC Commissioning Efforts
 - Brazil MCC Commissioned in 2024
 - Chile MCC Commissioned for SGB and FGB ELT(DT); declared at IOC May 4, 2026
 - Canada LGM Commissioning in progress; planned completion mid-2026
- Ground Station Status
 - FL MEOLUT upgraded with additional Phased Array Antennas; Site Acceptance Testing completed April 2026; operational checkout underway
 - Guam PAA under development; testing planned ~Fall 2026
 - Hawaii PAA planned late 2026

Florida Phased Array Antenna MEOLUT

- FL Phased Array Antenna MEOLUT commissioning
 - Site acceptance testing conducted April 27 – May 1
 - Performance Moving Beacon testing conducted by internal NOAA Team using beacons on UAS (drones)



Images above courtesy of M. Fitzmaurice, NOAA, depict (L to R) 1) FL PAA 2) FL PAA MEOLUT and 3) SARSAT MEOLUT antenna field at USCG Commsta Miami



Questions

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