



Tahoe 2014



CRISIS MANAGEMENT :
MONT MAUDIT AVALANCHE
JULY 12, 2012

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Gendarmerie Nationale
PGHM CHAMONIX

MONT MAUDIT AVALANCHE

JULY 12, 2012

- **BACKGROUND**

FACTS / ITERATIVE DECISION PROCESS

- **IMPLEMENTATION OF THE METHOD**

CRISIS ASSESSMENT / EMERGENCY MEASURES

COMMAND AND CONTROL ORGANIZATION

OPERATIONNAL ORDERS / PERIPHERAL INPUTS

- **FOCUS**

HIGH MOUNTAIN SPECIFICITIES

EXTENSIONS OF THE CRISIS

MONT MAUDIT AVALANCHE ***BACKGROUND***



MONT MAUDIT AVALANCHE

BACKGROUND

FACTS

- 23 alpinists involved
- 9 dead / 7 injured / 7 shocked
- 40 rescuers on the spot during 11 hours
- ~25 gendarmes in HQ and other tasks
- 3 helicopters / around 30 turns
- Numerous authorities, ministerial visit
- 3 press conferences in 2 days, many interviews

1 : Fracture initiale

2 : Fracture par sympathie.

3 : Dépôt de l'avalanche / Lieu de découverte des victimes décédées.

4 : Secouristes et Hélicoptère (EC 145 Gendarmerie)



Photo Gendarmerie.

MONT MAUDIT AVALANCHE *BACKGROUND*

TIMELINE

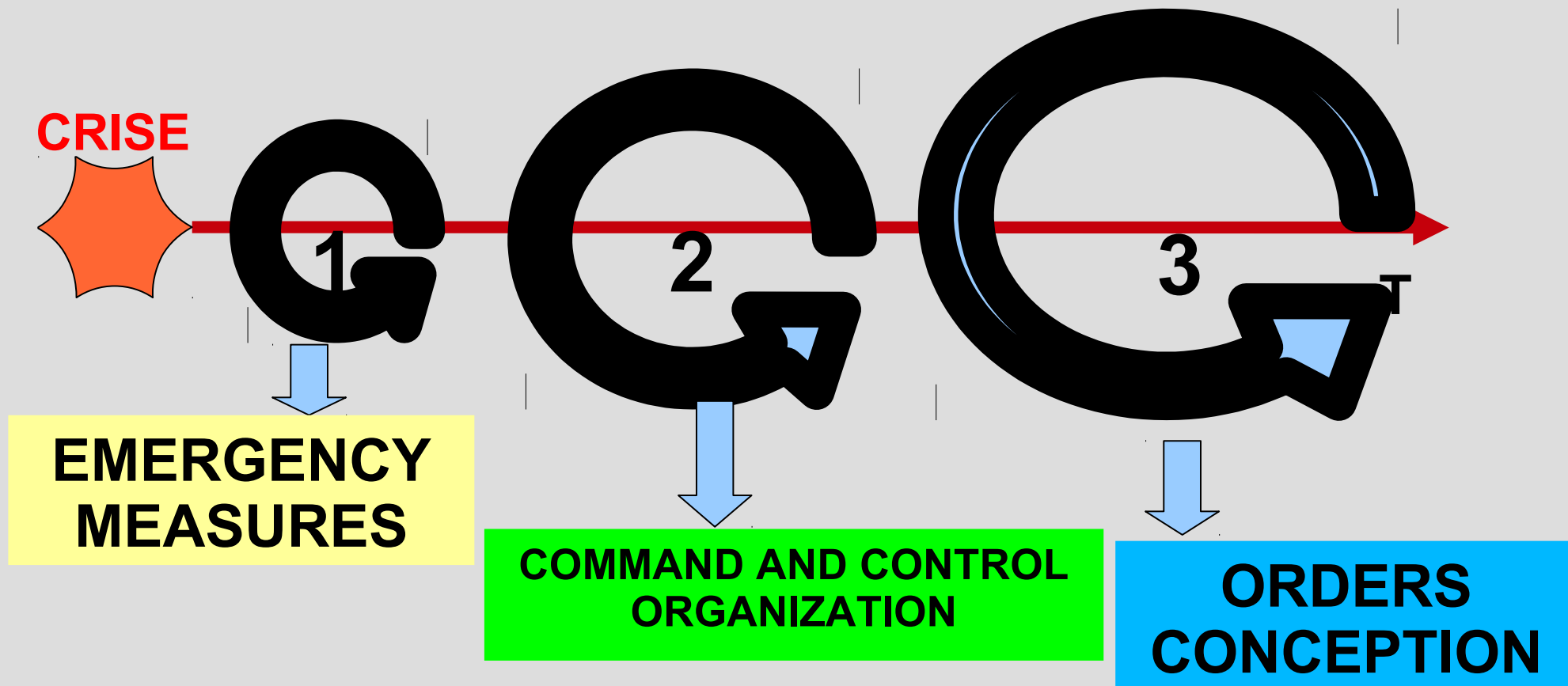
- 1st alert at 5.25 AM, 2nd at 5.45
- First rescue team on the spot at 6.20
- Last victims found around 12.00 AM
- New searches on the spot, over at 14.50
- Ministerial visit and press conference around 16.00
- Last rescuer back at the base at 17.30
- Final casualties account at 19.00
- July 13, identification and host of families, press conference

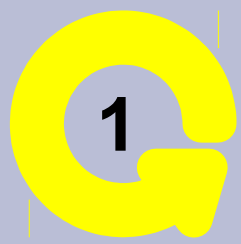


MONT MAUDIT AVALANCHE

PREREQUIS

- ITERATIVE DECISION PROCESS





MONT MAUDIT AVALANCHE

CRISIS ASSESSMENT & EMERGENCY MEASURES

- 1st alert at 5.25 AM - 2nd at 5.45
- First rescue team on the spot at 6.20 AM
- At the same time, investigations from the office, in order to know the number of potential casualties

→ **Right crisis assessment around 7 AM**

- Call of all available manpower
- Information of civilian authorities





MONT MAUDIT AVALANCHE

COMMAND AND CONTROL ORGANIZATION

7 MAIN TASKS TO MANAGE

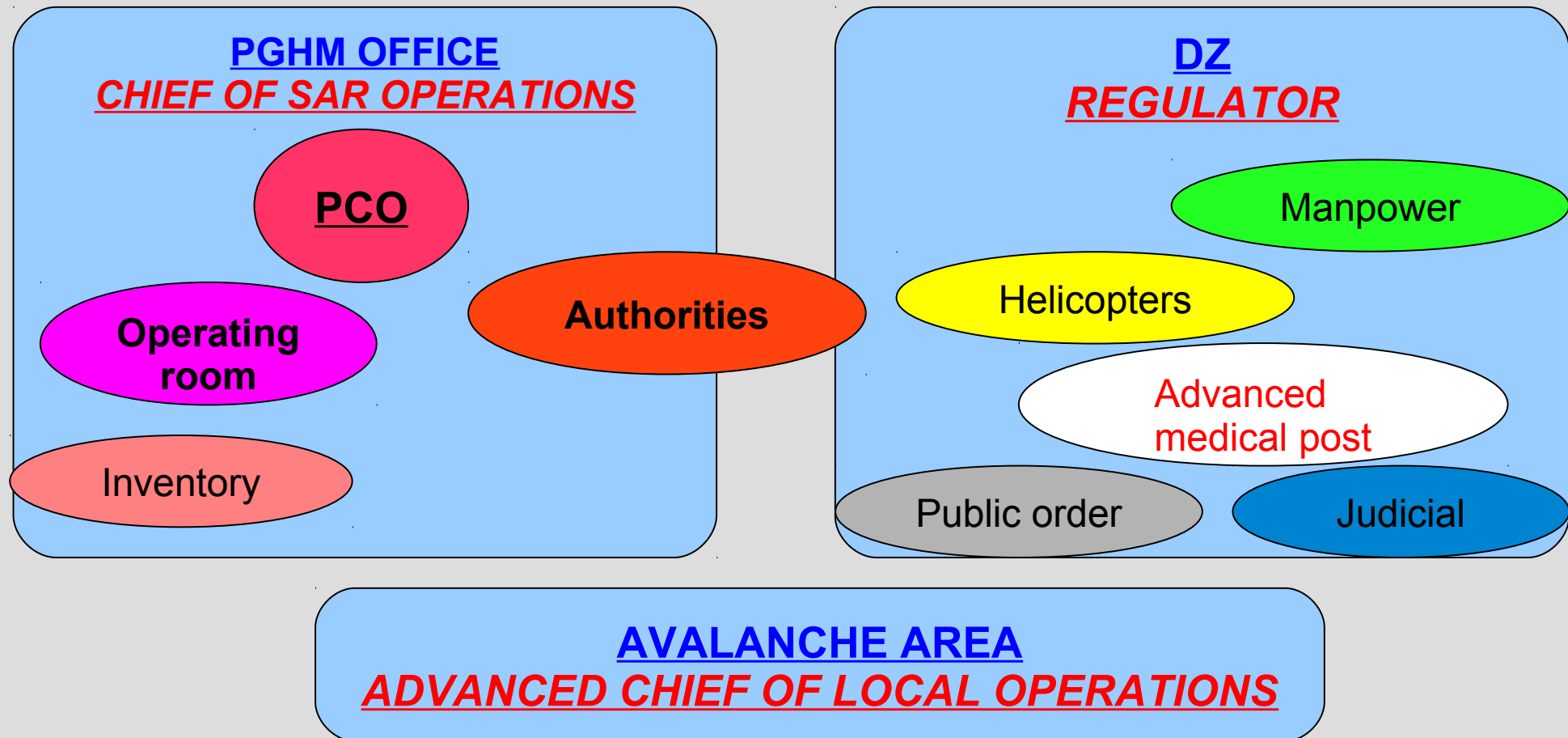
- Command, control, report, communicate (PCO)
- Potential casualties inventory
- Management of the avalanche area
- Medical regulation and support
- Management of the DZ
- Judicial tasks (investigations - identifications)
- Public order



MONT MAUDIT AVALANCHE

COMMAND AND CONTROL ORGANIZATION

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION



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MONT MAUDIT AVALANCHE

ORDRES ÉLABORÉS

Autonomie des éléments sur zone



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MONT MAUDIT AVALANCHE

ORDRES ÉLABORÉS

Autonomous forces on the spot





MONT MAUDIT AVALANCHE *ORDRES ÉLABORÉS*

Improve the crisis intelligence in order to

Focus the research

Build the information for authorities and media

Resize the forces

Prepare for the visit of the Minister

Prepare the repatriation of rescuers



MONT MAUDIT AVALANCHE

ORDRES ÉLABORES

The operational field becomes a background

Other missions are important, but must not hide it. Many important (or not) persons will make you forget the field.

«Big chiefs» want to know events before they happen, forensic don't want you to move victims, media ask for taking place in helicopter instead of rescuers, friends call you while watching TV...

SO PROTECT THE MAIN MISSION !!

MONT MAUDIT AVALANCHE

DEBRIEFING

Quickness of rising up the organization, and calling Supports

Cooperation between services, even international

Rise of means in the spot was not too fast

Protection of operational room from authorities

Helicopters regulation

No doctor at the PCO

MONT MAUDIT AVALANCHE *CONSEQUENCES FOR PGHM*

Hardware modifications

- Ready-to-use OCP into instruction room
- Media-dedicated telephone line
- New organization of operating room
- Multi-victims devices into DZ

MONT MAUDIT AVALANCHE

FOCUS

High mountain specificities

- Limited rise of forces / delays
- Isolation of rescue area
- Easiness to protect the operational sphere
- The repatriation of all rescuers took 2 hours, 9 helicopters revolutions

Extensions of the crisis

- controversial issues about access to the mountain, regulations and overcrowding

THANK YOU !



P G H M CHAMONIX