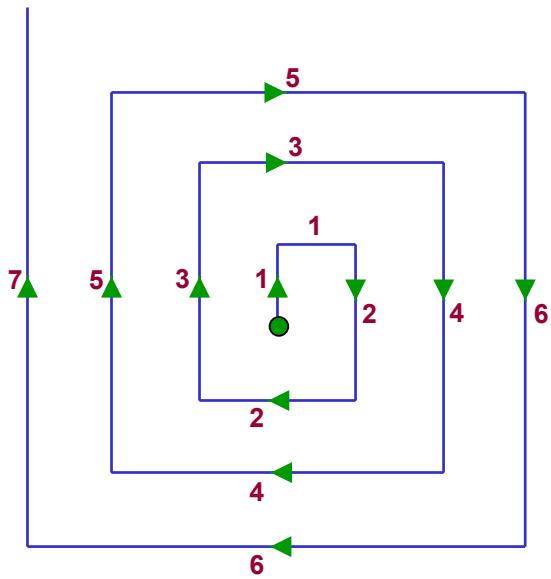
Search Patterns

Expanding Square

The **square search pattern** is used when the last known position of a search object has a high degree of accuracy, the search area is small and a concentrated search is desirable.

Square Single-Unit (SS): In the **SS** pattern, the first leg is normally in the direction of the search object's drift and all turns are made 90^0 to starboard.

Start from a known center point or from a landmark (range and bearing)



Square Multi-Unit (SM): The **SM** pattern is used when two units are available. The second unit begins on a course 45^0 to the right of the first unit's course.

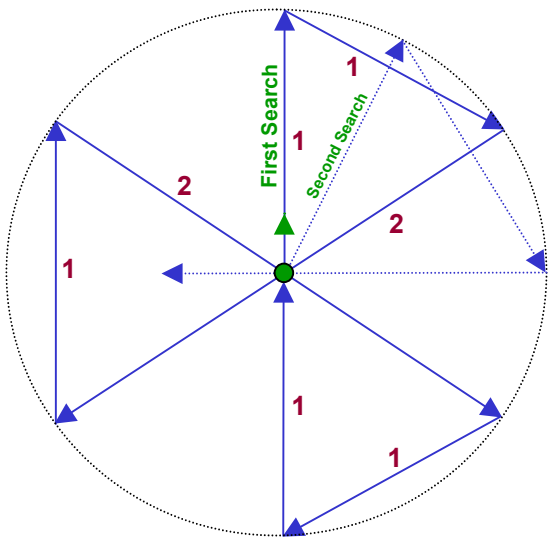
Search Patterns

Sector

The **sector search pattern** is used when datum is established with a high degree of confidence but the search object is difficult to detect, such as a person in the water.

Sector Single-Unit (VS): In the **VS** pattern, the first leg of the search begins in the same direction that the search object is drifting toward. All turns are made 120^{o} to starboard.

Start from a known center point or from a landmark (range and bearing)



Sector Multi-Unit (VM): The **VM** pattern is used when two units are available. The second unit begins on a course 90^{0} to the left of the first unit's course.

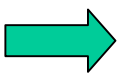
Search Patterns

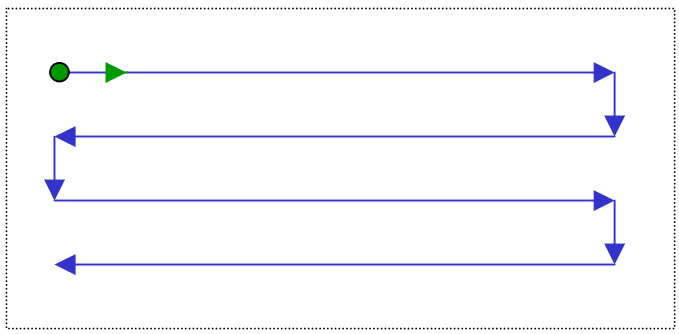
Parallel

The **parallel search pattern** is used when there is an equal probability that the search object could be anywhere in the search area.

Parallel Track Single-Unit (PS): In the **PS** pattern, the legs of the search are run parallel to the long side (Major Axis) of the search area. All turns are made 90° to starboard or port, as appropriate.

Start at a point ½ of the distance selected as the search track spacing inside a corner of the search area.





Parallel Track Multi-Unit (PM): The **PM** pattern is used when two units are available. The SRUs are separated by a single track spacing and they search parallel to the long side of the search area.