ASRC Training Officer (CTO) Report
Saturday, October 14, 2006 – FINAL
William Dixon

A. Decisions made on behalf of the BOD since the last meeting

A.1.) Interpretation of IC-II requirement for IS-195 which doesn't exist any more.

CTO: "I recommend ASRC accept the replacement for IS-195 being IS-100 and IS-200. Here is the formal replacement notice from FEMA: http://www.training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/is195.asp"

A.2.) Interpretation of what CPR level is required for CQ, FTM and FTL

CTO: "Based on these BOD minutes, ARC "CPR/AED for the Professional Rescuer" is required for FTM and FTL, in addition to ARC First Aid."

> Refer to ASRC BOD messages 961 and 973.
> Also the BOD minutes for 10 Jan 2004 document the approved position. See Section 7, which states:
>
> 7. FA/CPR Requirements
> The following was approved by vote of the BOD:
> A) It was agreed that all members are required to pass the Health Care Provider CPR or equivalent and the Red Cross Standard First Aid or equivalent. The CPR standard is important as the course includes an element on infection control.
> (MO,CTO,GTO)
> B) Equivalent courses would be examined by the Medical Officer and the BOD's consent sought for approval. Equivalencies would then be posted on the web site. (MO)
> C) All members with current CPR qualifications below the required standard have until July 1 to recert. It was suggested a recert session be arranged for the second day of the General Meeting (MO, BRMG)
> D) It was agreed that the grace period between the expiration of a certificate (and recommended dates as printed on certificates would be taken as definite dates of expiration) and automatic demotion to CQ status in the absence of recertification would be 90 days. (CTO)

Discussion during the presentation of the CTO report on Oct 14th, ASRC BOD members indicated that at the last retreat, the ASRC BOD decided that only basic CPR was required. A motion in the minutes should have been recorded during that meeting. In any case, a motion during this meeting should have been recorded to direct that the training standards be updated to reflect the previous BOD decision.

B. Recommendations for member training level certification, recertification, downgrade or decertification

B.1.) Steve Weiss (SMRG, IC-III) is nominated for IC-II. I have reviewed all documentation and found it to meet and exceed the ASRC IC-II standard.

ASRC BOD considered this nomination and approved. A motion should be reflected in the minutes to this effect.

B.2.) Working on Doug Moore (MARG) IS nomination. Not ready yet.

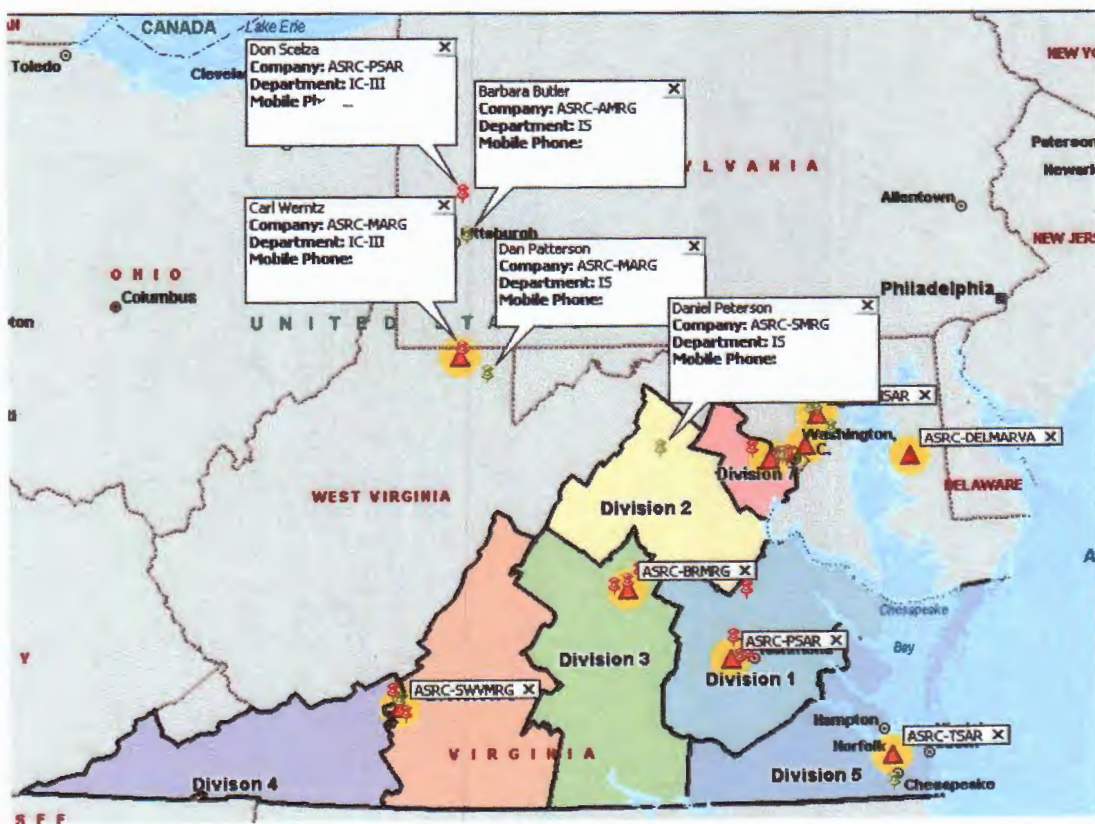## C. Status on previous important issues reported to the BOD

C.1.) 5 of 10 groups have provided status to Steve Weiss on NIMS training. NIMS target is 80% of personnel in 3 years. BOD NIMS policy training is still required and this should be updated in the ASRC Training standards. We did ask groups to include NIMS status into group rosters.

C.2.) VDEM self-certification status - no details from Mark Eggeman yet. Feedback from multi-state task force is that certification must not be done within the team itself. An external certifier is the common denominator. Question is whether ASRC is one group or whether certification can be done by one group for another group.

C.3.) Conference Dispatch Officer (CDO) standard and training package almost ready. Details in ADC report. Recommend ASRC Standards be updated with CDO.

D. New issues the BOD should be aware of

D.1.) Based on geographical analysis, ASRC doesn't have "enough" incident staff resources that can respond to Tidewater VA, WVA, South Central VA, Mid/North PA, and SW tip of VA. We need to investigate further with the groups that primarily cover these regions to determine if the analysis is correct and what barriers there are to training staff.
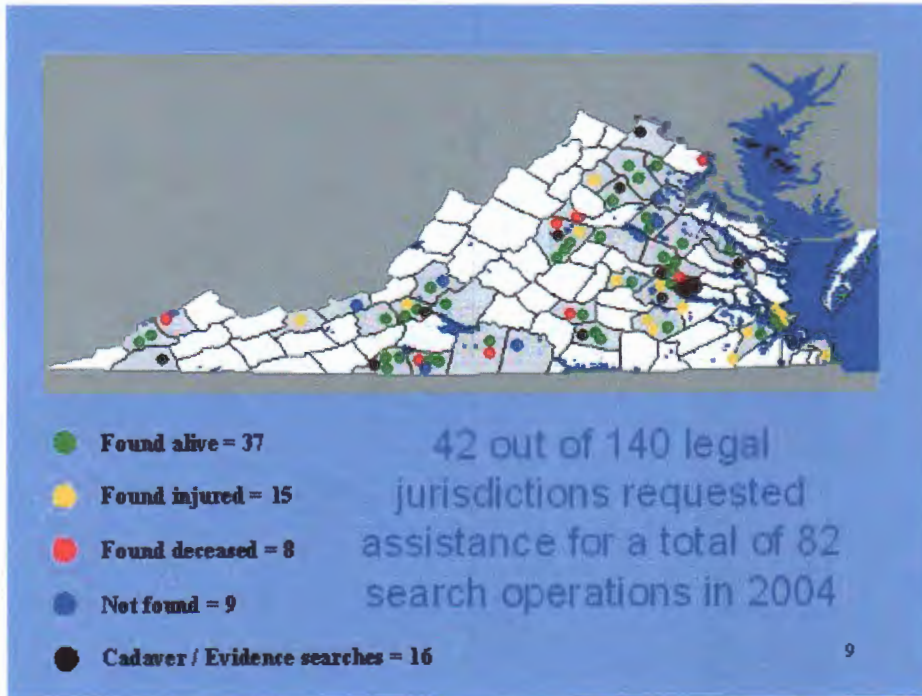

The diagram above shows all ASRC IC and IS as of the ASRC IS/IC roster that was effective September 29th 2006. Red pins are for Incident Commanders. Yellow pins are for ASRC Incident Staff. The red triangles are the locations of ASRC groups, both certified and probationary. The colored regions in VA correspond to the regions that VA define for regional state police and VDEM offices.

There are a number of observations we can make from this diagram:

- ASRC needs to purposefully focus training efforts in MARG, SWVMRG, AMRG and TSAR to develop staff resources
- ASRC may want to consider explicit mutual aid agreements with VA state MOU organizations and other well-trained SAR teams that use similar standards in order to provide initial incident management.

Below is a slide I obtained from Mark Eggeman regarding VDEM 2004 incidents. The 2005 summary was not available.
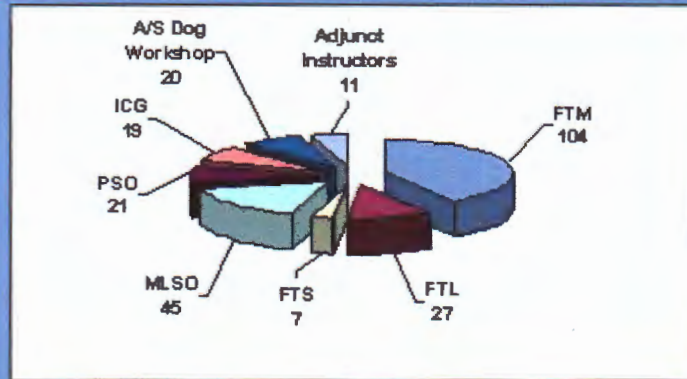

At least for VA, it is clear that there is a need for TSAR and SWVMRG to have stronger management capability.

D.2.) Low availability of VDEM state training for ASRC field and management.

VDEM has the following training in 2004

VDEM 2004 Training

VDEM provided training to 254 individuals at an average cost of $268.51 per person.

VDEM's training in 2005 provided 2-4 MLSO and 1 PSO course. However, as of today 10/4/06, VDEM has conducted only 1 MSLO and no PSO training in 2006. We have members who have met all other staff requirements but lack the PSO class. This is a very important class because it teaches the efficient & best-practice hands-on practical side of SAR incident command post paperwork and information tracking that is critical to maintaining search effectiveness through operational period & personnel transitions.

In the next year, VDEM has the following management classes scheduled that might be open to ASRC members:

Jan 26 – MLSO
Feb 16 - MLSO
Feb 2 - IC:GSAR

http://www.vaemergency.com/train/calendar_results.cfm

Note that PSO training is still not available. The reason for this is not yet known.

Of further concern, there are just a few PSO (3 ?) instructors and this class is a class which VDEM licenses from SARTA. So if SARTA is unable to teach this under any circumstances, be it through a VDEM sponsorship or an ASRC sponsorship, then we can not meet our incident staff training standard. The ASRC IS standard allows the use of a class called Search Operations for Staff (SOS) which at the time that the standard was last updated was a class offered by DBS Productions, LLC. However, this class was not adopted by VDEM nor continually sponsored by ASRC, so it is not being taught by DBS at this time.

Yet these classes are required for ASRC IS and IC qualifications in the ASRC Training Standards. The reliance on VDEM for providing classes appears not to be practical, for VA groups because the training is not offered very often, and not practical for non-VA groups, as well as some VA groups, because of the distance of travel.

Consequently, it is URGENT that ASRC focus on developing the capability to self-train MLSO, PSO and IC:GSAR, or change the ASRC training standards such that other classes more widely available are recognized.

While missing person geographical summarized data is not available for 2005 and 2006, I believe the current deficit in staff results in a number of things:

- The ASRC should take the initiative by sponsoring 4 PSO/SOS and MLSO courses in the TSAR, SWVMRG, MARG and AMRG areas.
- A detailed cost estimate needs to be developed (CTO action item)
- Existing ASRC staff and ICs should be developed into ASRC instructors for these classes.
- We need to be sure VDEM is comfortable with recognizing the training provided by these classes – such as a VDEM qualified instructor should be involved for each VA class and supervise testing.
- These classes should be open and an invitation extended to VA MOU SAR groups and others in the non-VA areas to ensure adequate students, cost sharing and facilitate cross-training with groups, as well as increasing the number of trained persons available to help subjects regardless of group affiliation.

E. Status on current objectives, including "no progress" status & an explanation

E.1.) There are not a set of CTO proposed & BOD approved training objectives yet. This is a CTO action item for next meeting. Primary concerns known to the CTO at this time are:

1. Need for management training in primary response areas – this directly impacts subject care
2. VA self-certification resolution – need a framework that is acceptable to all states that may set state SAR standards
3. ASRC training standards need
   a. Clarification of CPR medical requirement (issue above)
   b. Clarification and improvement of ASRC certification process. The CDO standard was written with the new recommended areas to be addressed Standard, Training, Certification, Recertification, Qualification, Credentialing, Accreditation)
   c. Standardized written & practical tests that all groups can use
   d. To be updated to meet or exceed NASAR SAR Tech I, II, and III standards, and to have "bridge" process defined for GTOs so that they can consistently transition someone from NASAR levels to ASRC levels
   e. Incorporation of CDO standard (issue above)
4. ASRC groups should have a training program review as part of the new group & group review process. Goal is to provide oversight to ensure that groups are able to train to ASRC standards & manage certifications.
5. Review of training requirements to meet FEMA resource typing of teams, Wilderness SAR Type I, II, etc

I had estimated availability of about 10hours per month for the CTO position. The position would seem to require more. Since 7/15, I've spent 30 hours (not including this Oct 14 meeting), detailed as:

ASRC BOD Meeting 7/15 - 9 hours total (incl drive time)
ASRC IC/IS distribution in mid-Atlantic region - 5 hours (installing, learning tool, cleaning up data, report formatting)
ASRC Closest IC/IS resources analysis for 7/29 Rockingham Co incident & in ASRC response area - 5 hours
ASRC IC/IS candidate reviews - 1+1+0.5+0.5 = 3 hours
ASRC Medical training requirement interpretation - 2 hours
ASRC CDO standard draft review & comment - 2 hours
ASRC IS/IC requirements review & discussion - 1.5 hours
ASRC CQ requirement for NIMS/IS-100 training - 1 hour
ASRC CTO admin - 0.5+0.5+0.5 = 1.5hrs

End of report