

[Creating A Conference-wide Exercise Program for the ASRC](#)

Introduction

In recent years, the ASRC has engaged in a conference-wide field exercise once per year at the AGM. I believe that most teams and individuals found these exercises to be value added. This proposal extends this concept to a series of exercises throughout the year, a “*conference-wide SAR exercise program*”.

A conference-wide SAR exercise program yields these benefits:

- Improves the integration of our teams between and within each other;
- Provides opportunities to practice critical skills;
- Provides a context to try out new and innovative approaches to our SAR challenges;
- Provides a mission context for certifying some components of our new credentialing framework; and
- Provides a simulated operational backdrop for certain research projects.

Additionally, we can use the exercises to collect and document lessons learned for use on future missions.

Approach

I propose that, initially, we schedule *two field exercises each year*. This could include one field exercise centered around the AGM, and another approximately six months from the AGM. In addition to the field exercises, we schedule *two table-top management exercises* during the year.

One management table-top exercise is held face to face. The other could be held “virtually” using a combination of “remote support” technologies and approaches.

A member team or a group of member teams can host an exercise.

The yearly operational rhythm of the exercises would look like this:

1. Field Exercise (with AGM)
2. Management Table-Top (face to face)
3. Field Exercise (six months from AGM)
4. Management Table-Top (virtual)

These quarterly, or so, exercises would provide for a range of skills, innovations, and thought leadership to be practiced. Also, they could be highlighted with our SAR stakeholders that want to “try out” their own ideas in a simulated mission context.

If there is interest from the board and member teams, I would be happy to expand on this concept and help orchestrate this effort.