

Reply to:
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David A. Carter, ASRC Chairman
TSAR ASRC Delegate
803 Townsend Court
Norfolk, VA 23502

Dear Dave:

SUBJECT: Pittsburgh Air Crash

Mike Kuga was the one who agreed to answer the request for ASRC assistance from Beaver County, so maybe he should say more about this than me. A timely response might have meant saving many lives. Therefore responding to the staging area pending AO approval certainly sounds like the right thing to do to me, and even sounds consistent with the existing Operations Manual draft. I can't imagine the ASRC delaying the response of its members for hours for AO approval for such a situation; we'd be the laughingstock of the emergency response world if we did. If this had been a backcountry crash with survivors, our rapid presence would have been critical.

Mike Kuga was initially AR, then I arrived and could function as an ASRC IC. I can personally testify to our extensive efforts to contact DES to reach an ASRC AO; the phone circuits for miles around were totally jammed. We tried cellular phones, we tried

pay phones, we tried phone patches through ham repeaters in different exchanges, and nothing worked for several hours. We just couldn't **reach** an ASRC AO until it was clear that, unfortunately, there was nothing the ASRC could do to help.

All of us were there in ASRC uniform. I for one am not going to take off my uniform shirt during an operation just because we can't reach DES to get an AO, no matter what kind of stupid rules we've saddled ourselves with. Maybe we need to revise the rules. Doing what is best for the victims, acting in a professional manner, and following common sense when the rules don't seem to apply is the best I can do. My apologies if you think it inadequate.

Yours truly,

Keith Conover, M.D.
AMRG ASRC Delegate
cc: Mike Kuga, Rich Worst