



APPALACHIAN SEARCH & RESCUE CONFERENCE, INC.

2617 Jefferson Drive

Alexandria, Virginia 22303

REPORT ON THE ASRC: MARCH, 1976

The Appalachian Search and Rescue Conference (ASRC) provides valuable search and rescue (SAR) capabilities to Virginia and nearby areas. Each local group of the ASRC has members trained and experienced in ground SAR techniques, including search operations, emergency medicine, and mountain rescue. Each group can provide transportation, specialized equipment, and support facilities for its teams. No payment is required or requested for emergency services.

The ASRC serves as a ground SAR information resource for the Virginia area, and is establishing a library and information file available to the interested public. In addition to training for group members, the ASRC can provide special training sessions for organizations involved in SAR (fire departments, Forest Service, etc.).

Emergency Operations

ASRC emergency services are available at any time by calling the University of Virginia police (804-924-7166) and requesting SAR assistance. The police dispatcher will refer the caller to an ASRC Alert Officer, who will take down sufficient initial information to institute the proper action. In most cases this will involve the appointment of an ASRC Mission Coordinator (who will gather more information in order to prosecute the mission) and the dispatch of a Quick Response Team from the nearest ASRC group. This team will consist of several members fully equipped for any weather or terrain found in this region, including night and winter conditions. Team members

will be capable of operating for up to 48 hours without resupply. The team will carry a portable medical kit, communications equipment, and technical rescue equipment. The QR Team can make an initial search or interrogation, stabilize a victim, and provide an immediate rescue capability.

If local law enforcement personnel and the QR Team are unable to locate the lost victim, the ASRC can institute a large scale search as detailed in the ASRC Search and Rescue Operations Plan (SAROP. The SAROP should be available April 1.)

Although the ASRC prefers to receive calls from law enforcement agencies, any request involving possible danger to life or limb will be acted upon if the ASRC can be of assistance.

Training

The ASRC is establishing standards for certification of members, to be published in the ASRC Training Manual. Part 'A', the standards of training, will be available April 1. The technical manuals, part 'B', will be issued as they are completed.

Training standards and material will be drawn from many sources, including the National Search and Rescue Manual and publications of the Mountain Rescue Association, Civil Air Patrol, and the Oregon State Sheriffs' Association.

Capabilities

The ASRC presently has approximately fifty active members, divided into two groups: the Blue Ridge Mountain Rescue Group in Charlottesville, Virginia, and the Potomac Mountain Rescue Group in the Washington, D.C. area. Approximately one-third of the members are Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT's), a number are amateur radio operators (Hams), and most are experienced cavers, climbers, or both. All members are experienced in

outdoor travel and survival, have first aid training, and have had some mountain rescue training.

Each group has its own medical kits, mountain rescue litters with rigging, communications gear, and transportation. Each group maintains a list of available equipment and personnel.

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