Rationale for ASRC Credentialing

ASRC Culture of Excellence ⟷ **ASRC Governance of Certification and Credentialing**

- **ASRC culture of excellence is what dominates ASRC's acceptance by Responsible Agents (Authorities Having Jurisdiction)**

- **We assume the culture of excellence prepares members to deliver outstanding SAR services**

- **GTO's and group evaluators remain primary source of candidate evaluation**

- **ASRC Credentialing Board provide independent, secondary evaluative review of certification candidates**

- **Best practice for evaluation of personnel (NIMS-compliant)**

- **The ASRC certification/credentialing governance structure provides confidence in certified personnel**

- **Credentialing Board effectively provide QA of candidates (and group training programs)**

ASRC Credentialing Board
Presentation for AGM & Group Outreach, July 2019

May 2016: ASRC BOD passed ASRC Credentialing Policy, v 1.0
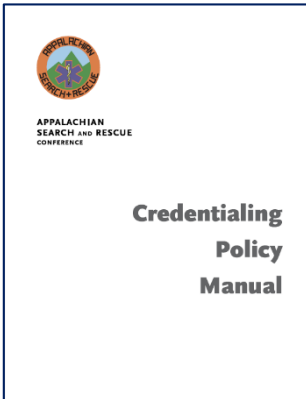
Rationale:

- ASRC BOD regained authority over certifications for FTM and FTL
- Established governance comparable to similar bodies (e.g., NASAR)
- Retained regionally appropriate standards as basis
- Eliminated "self-certification" criticism

> This change of policy establishes "best practice" organizational governance.
> **Important Caveat:** There is no concern with technical skills of ASRC-certified personnel.

Important Elements of ASRC Credentialing Policy:

- Groups remain primary source of field training and evaluation of candidates
- Adoption of Position Task Books (PTBs): [These function much like a group's existing checklists]
- Established the ASRC Credentialing Board to manage certification
- Final ASRC field credentials will require examination by an ASRC Examiner
  - ASRC Examiners represent the ASRC Credentialing Board, which in turn is overseen by the ASRC BOD
  - Written test
    - Delivered via on-line service
    - Completion and grading are validated by ASRC Credentialing Board
  - Field practical testing are designed as "spot checks": We are still relying on GTO for primary evaluation of candidates
    - Two "subject matter blocks": FTM has Land Nav, Search skills, Litter handling and belays, Knots
    - At least one skill area evaluated by an ASRC Examiner outside candidate's group

Implementation of ASRC Credentialing

Summer 2016: ASRC Credentialing Board members were selected

August 2016: ASRC Credentialing Board convened
- Chair selected
- Board charter drafted

September 2016: Finalized charter, developed work plan

October 2016: Presented work plan to ASRC BOD

… working on FTM written test and practical tests …

March 2017: Beta version of FTM written test ready; practical FTM testing to be piloted at AGM

September 2017: ASRC Annual General Meeting

… revise and finalize practical testing …

February 2018: Issuance of ASRC FTM certification follows new review and testing procedures

September 2018: Issued first ASRC FTM credential attained through the Credentialing Board

July 2019: Beta version of FTL testing to be piloted at AGM

<u>**Impact on groups**</u>

- **ASRC-wide written test for field levels**
  - Will need to ensure group course materials align
  - Replaces current test, can begin use now

- **After GTO endorsement, request practical testing through ASRC Credentialing Board**
  - Examiners assigned and scheduled
  - Roughly half day (or less)
  - Seek to minimize schedule delays and travel inconvenience
  - Available at AGM and other multi-group events

- **Grandfathering process for transition to ASRC Credentialing Board as the singular authority to issue ASRC credentials**

How Does a GTO Implement Credentialing?

- Issue new PTBs
  - PTB design and layout accommodates group-specific requirements
  - Work with candidates to ensure previous training evaluations are not lost
- Use the on-line ASRC FTM (ready to go) and FTL written test (forthcoming)
  - GTO contacts the ASRC Credentialing Board (credentialing@asrc.net) for the
- When a PTB is complete, GTO contacts the ASRC Credentialing Board (credentialing@asrc.net) to schedule field practical examination by one or two ASRC Examiners (one Examiner must be a member of group other than the candidate's group)

Procedures for Credentialing

Steps to taking the written test

- GTO determines Candidate is ready for the written test (or Candidate makes a request to the GTO to take written test)

- GTO contacts ASRC Credentialing Board (credentialing@asrc.net) with member/s ready to test (cc's ACB member from candidate's group)

- Assigned a member of the ASRC Credentialing Board to proctor the test (default is ACB chair) sends test link to Candidate (cc's GTO on email)

Steps to Taking the Practical Test

- GTO determines Candidate has completed a Position Task Book and is ready for practical testing

- GTO contacts Credentialing Board with member/s ready to test

- GTO contacts Credentialing Board with member/s ready to test (cc's GTO)

- Credentialing Board:

- Works with GTO on location/plan/schedule

- Decides on the ASRC Examiners who will be evaluators for the practical (at least one from an ASRC member-group other than the Candidate's group)

- Minimum of Candidate/s and Examiners meet at previously determined location for evaluation

Impact of Standards Update

- Credentialing Board has been anticipating update to ASRC Training Standards, v 8.0

- Transition issues:
    - Grandfathering:
        - ASRC FTM > ASRC Field 2 (or Field Level 3 at GTO's discretion
        - ASRC FTL > ASRC Field 1
        - GTO discretion on transferring candidate completions under Standards v. 7.2 and/or current group checklists