

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN

MARYLAND STATE POLICE

AND

THE APPALACHIAN SEARCH & RESCUE CONFERENCE, INC.

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding is to define the operational relationship between the Maryland State Police and the Appalachian Search & Rescue Conference, Inc. (ASRC) whenever the ASRC provides volunteer ground search and rescue services to the Maryland State Police.

2. BASIC GUIDELINES

The Maryland State Police is the designated search and rescue services coordinator and responsible agent in Maryland. When the ASRC provides services to the Maryland State Police, the ASRC comes under the operational control of the Maryland State Police. A responsible agent is defined as a governmental official and/or agency having legal responsibility for search and rescue incidents.

3. TERMS OF UNDERSTANDING

- A. When the Appalachian Search & Rescue Conference is considered a "state resource," operating under the authority of the State of Maryland in responding to a search and rescue incident, the following terms and conditions will be recognized.
- (1) When the Appalachian Search & Rescue Conference is requested to respond to a search incident by the Maryland State Police, the State Police will advise the ASRC of the incident number and enter a note in its operations log authorizing the ASRC to respond as a resource of the State of Maryland.
 - (2) If the Appalachian Search & Rescue Conference is requested to respond to an incident in Maryland by anyone other than the Maryland State Police, i.e., local or county government authorities, the ASRC will contact the Maryland State Police and advise them of the request. It is understood that the procedure of advising the Maryland State Police of that request does not constitute any level of authorization by the Maryland State Police.
 - (3) Where volunteer search and rescue resources from the Appalachian Search & Rescue Conference are used as a state resource, those ASRC resources, acting within the scope of a recognized volunteer service, are protected by the Maryland Tort Claims Act [Maryland State Government Code Annotated, §12-101 through 12-110] to the extent that coverage is provided and subject to any applicable limitations.

- B. The Maryland State Police reserves the right to allocate Maryland state resources to a particular search and rescue incident based on availability, appropriateness and the resource needs of other incidents that may be in progress or that may develop.
- C. The Appalachian Search & Rescue Conference may provide services to any agency, group, or individual to whom it wishes to respond. The State of Maryland does not assume any responsibility, nor does it exercise any control, in situations where a response is not at the State's request or with the State's authorization.
- D. When the Appalachian Search & Rescue Conference provides services in Maryland, it is understood the Conference will select a representative at the incident site to serve as the Conference's agency representative to the responsible agent.
- E. This Memorandum does not preclude the Appalachian Search & Rescue Conference from participating in ground search and rescue activities for lost persons in which the Maryland State Police is not a participant, and conversely this Memorandum does not require the Maryland State Police to include the Appalachian Search & Rescue Conference in its search and rescue activities.
- F. It is understood that information obtained by, or discussed with, ASRC members during a search and rescue operation is confidential and will not be discussed during or following an incident. Further, it is understood that no ASRC member will discuss information pertinent to an incident with the media. And, it is understood that all media will be referred to the investigating officer(s) or appropriate spokespersons of the Maryland State Police.

4. DURATION

This Memorandum shall remain in effect until superseded or rescinded by either party.

6/10/93
DATE
L.W. Toliver
FOR
MARYLAND STATE POLICE

6/21/93
DATE
[Signature]
FOR
APPALACHIAN SEARCH &
RESCUE CONFERENCE INC.

SUGGESTED REVISIONS
TO THE JUNE 1993
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN THE
MARYLAND STATE POLICE
AND
THE APPALACHIAN SEARCH & RESCUE CONFERENCE, INC.

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding is to define the operational relationship between the Maryland State Police and the Appalachian Search & Rescue Conference, Inc. whenever the Conference provides volunteer ground search and rescue services to the Maryland State Police.

Suggested Change:

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding is to define the operational relationship between the Maryland State Police and the Appalachian Search & Rescue Conference, Inc. (ASRC) whenever the ASRC provides volunteer ground search and rescue services to *either* the Maryland State Police, *or county law enforcement services when such services are coordinated or requested through the Maryland State Police.*

2. BASIC GUIDELINES

The Maryland State Police is the designated search and rescue services coordinator and responsible agent in Maryland. When the ASRC provides services to the Maryland State Police, the ASRC comes under the operational control of the Maryland State Police. A responsible agent is defined as a governmental official and/or agency having legal responsibility for search and rescue incidents.

Suggested Change:

The Maryland State Police is the designated search and rescue services coordinator and responsible agent in Maryland. When the ASRC provides services to the Maryland State Police, the ASRC comes under the operational control *or coordinating management* of the Maryland State Police. A responsible agent is defined as a governmental official and/or agency having legal responsibility for search and rescue incidents.

Coordinating Management of the Appalachian Search & Rescue Conference by the Maryland State Police specifies that during each operational period of a ground search and rescue incident being conducted by local or county government authorities in Maryland, or at least during every twelve (12) hours, the senior ASRC representative on scene at the incident shall make telephone or in person

contact with a designated designated representative of the Maryland State Police to provide a narrative brief of incident objectives and accomplishments during the current operational period, and plans for the next operational period. It is understood that subject operational period briefings are only for information purposes, and that operational management control of the incident, if maintained by local or county authorities. [Note: The ASRC representative on scene is designated by the ASRC in its procedural protocols as the Agency Representative (AR) explained further in Section D below.]

3. TERMS OF UNDERSTANDING

A. When the Appalachian Search & Rescue Conference is considered a “state resource,” operating under the authority of the State of Maryland in responding to a search and rescue incident, the following terms and conditions will be recognized.

- (1) When the Appalachian Search & Rescue Conference is requested to respond to a search incident by the Maryland State Police, the State Police will advise the ASRC of the incident number and a enter a note in its operations log authorizing the ASRC to respond as a resource of the State of Maryland.

Suggested Change:

When the Appalachian Search & Rescue Conference is requested to respond to a search incident by the Maryland State Police, ***or coordinated by the Maryland State Police***, the State Police will advise the ASRC of the incident number and a enter a note in its operations log, ***at the Maryland State Police Barrack operational area***, authorizing the ASRC to respond as a resource of the State of Maryland.

- (2) If the Appalachian Search & Rescue Conference is requested to respond to an incident in Maryland by anyone other than the Maryland State Police, i.e., local or county government authorities, the ASRC will contact the Maryland State Police and advise them of the request. It is understood that the procedure of advising the Maryland State Police of that request does not constitute any level of authorization by the Maryland State Police.

Suggested New subsection replacement:

If the Appalachian Search & Rescue Conference is requested to respond to an incident in Maryland by local or county government authorities, those authorities have the responsibility to contact the Maryland State Police. It is understood the procedure of advising the Maryland State Police of a request for ground search and rescue services by the Appalachian Search & Rescue Conference does not constitute any level of authorization by the Maryland State Police.

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Section 1

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Section 2

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Section 3

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(B) ...no change...

(C) ...no change...

(D) ...no change...

(E) ...no change...

(D) ...no change...



APPALACHIAN SEARCH & RESCUE CONFERENCE, INC.
 440 Newcomb Hall
 Charlottesville, Virginia 22904

ORGANIZATIONAL BRIEF

The ASRC serves the mid-Atlantic states of Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia with a developing capability to provide services to surrounding states in its service region. The ASRC ground search and rescue training program is based on uniform training and operational standards for all ASRC units. ASRC teams are located in Howard County and College Park in Maryland; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Morgantown, West Virginia; and in Virginia in Vienna, Blacksburg, Charlottesville, Norfolk, and Richmond. ASRC dispatching operations occurs at this time from Charlottesville, Virginia. However, regional dispatching operation centers are being planned.

ASRC services are flexible to the needs of the government agency and responsible agent (RA) requesting services.

Service	Description
Overhead Team	One IC. 1-2 IS persons and 2-3 FTLs to assist the RA access the incident and develop a response plan
Quick Response Team	One IC 2-3 IS persons and 3-5 FTLs to work with RA. usually with local resources. to provide immediate hasty search team capabilities.
Limited Call Out	A shaped response responding to the specific needs and the request of the RA for services. One IS person serves as the ASRC Agency Representative (AR) providing liaison services to the RA. This response can also include requests for trained trackers and sign cutter personnel.
Full Call Out	All available ASRC resources are requested to respond to an incident at the RA's request so as to provide maximum service.

All ASRC units are equipped and trained to operate on a 24-hour clock with full capability for night searching. Communication resources traditionally include hand held radios and associated equipment. ASRC personnel are trained and have the experience to serve as team leaders for local groups of volunteer searchers who are without search experience. Learning to quickly train local volunteers is a regular part of ASRC training.

While ASRC personnel resources vary from year to year, as is the case with any professional volunteer organization, the ASRC table of organization usually includes the following personnel.

ASRC Qualifications	Number
Incident Commanders	12
Incident Staff	32
Field Team Leaders	90
Field Team Members	175
Call Out Qualified	225

ALERT AND CALL-OUT PROCEDURES

1. All ASRC groups operate under a unified response system which responsible government officials at local, county, or state levels may access by contacting the Emergency Operations Center at the Virginia Department of Emergency Services.
 - The Virginia Department of Emergency Services (VA/DES) passes requests for assistance in lost person searches to an ASRC Alert Officer, including requests from responsible Government authorities in other states. Requests from other states are routinely processed by the VA/DES through interagency agreements at state and Federal levels.

When the ASRC Alert Officer receives a request for service, he or she calls the responsible authority requesting assistance at the incident site for more complete information and details. The ASRC Alert Officer has the authority to commit ASRC resources..

The VA/DES Emergency Operations Center may be contacted by telephoning:

From Maryland (804) 674-2400

2. Calls for assistance for lost person search operations in Maryland may also be made by responsible authorities by calling the following state emergency management agency operations centers:

- Maryland Emergency Management Agency
Operations Center (410) 486-4422