

ASRC Training Standards Meeting, 21 January 1989

Attendees:

Carl Solomon	SMRG/ESAR
Scott McCabe	ESAR
Kevin Coyne	BRMRG
Beth Pinkney	BRMRG
Rob Elron	SMRG
Kevin Parkes	SMRG
Steven Ritter	BRMRG
Cady Soukup	SMRG
Bob Koester	BRMRG
Gene Harrison	SMRG
Mark Pennington	RSAR
Gary Mechtel	SMRG

Notes

Summary: 3 motions were approved to be recommended to the ASRC Board at the next meeting:

- Accept the July 1988 VDES SAR *Training and Certification Program Part 1: Ground Search and Rescue* Level I with additional ASRC requirements for FTM, and Level II with additional ASRC requirements for FTL.
- A person who has the equipment listed in section 3.1 of the ASRC Operation Manual, who has a signed ASRC application and who has attended an ASRC SAR and survival orientation, will be called a "Call-out Qualified (CQ) member and is capable of attending a search.
- FTM, FTL, IS, IC and specialty members may wear the ASRC patch.

The group decided to start on a Functional Flowdown of what we need in the field. Gary Mechtel led the group through asking general questions that is roughly summarized in the following chart:

Functional Flowdown

- Define Roles
- Define Priorities
- Address Rescue and Medical needs
- FTL and GSAR equivalencies
- New Entries (new members) & their needs
- Multiple Paths
- Simple, relates to our mission
- General versus Specific Standards
- General versus Specific Testing to the Standards
- Do we need to reinvent the wheel?
- Tradition of compulsory advancement - should we break it?

We started by identifying our mission, as set out in the Articles of Incorporation. We used that statement to identify exactly what types of missions we are called to do, and what types of skills are necessary to accomplish those missions successfully.

1. ASRC MISSION STATEMENT (as it relates to the Training Standards)
 - a. Wilderness SAR in Virginia and elsewhere
 - b. Provide SAR resource information to others
2. Missions in all pertinent environments
 - a. Search - Land: Missing person, Downed aircraft, Evidence
 - b. Rescue: Non-technical, Semi-technical, Technical
Proceeds until the hand-off to "local" medical authority

- c. Other: Disaster, Water search support, Cave SAR support, Public events support, Resource support
- d. Medical - Primary Patient Care, Personal needs, State certification

Basic skills needed for a Lost Person search that is non-technical or semi-technical: Land Navigation, Wilderness Survival, Search Tactics, Basic Communications, Leadership, Command, Medical/Safety, Legal Knowledge, Investigation, Crisis Management, Press Management, Scene Control.

A few easily identified skill levels are paramount for personnel control. The current proliferation of names and categories is difficult to deal with in the field. All groups want standards that are specific enough for accurate field testing and for tracking of the same skill level from one group to another. There are several natural break points for the level of search knowledge.

The most basic level is that of "local volunteers" who may know a great deal about the local area and very little about SAR. Little or no control can be maintained over these resources, other than encouraging them to go with an ASRC qualified member.

The next level is the absolute minimum required to be able to go on a mission. This is the level of a new ASRC member who has some sort of a SAR orientation, the "10 essentials" of field gear, and who has signed an application form. It was felt that getting field-oriented potential members into the field as early as possible was the best way to get them involved in ASRC for the long training process.

A "general knowledge" level. It is from this level that specialization may take place, so the generic quality of the requirements for this level are critical. This level should include an introduction to most of the concepts of field SAR, including basic semi-technical skills. This person should be able to have "On-the-Job Training" (OJT) to run the base radio. This person may be used to go with a dog team as a radio operator and map reader/navigator, so they must have skills in these areas. This person should be able to handle all tasks required of ASRC as a team member, including downed aircraft searches and evidence searches. We established that this member should meet the requirements of GSAR Level I, with additional requirements as needed by ASRC teams in the field.

The most important level is that of the ASRC member who can lead field teams. This person is the basis of our field capability. This person has the most responsibility for dealing with situations in the field. There are rarely enough leaders of field teams on searches. It was generally felt that we could not lower the requirements for the field team leader. The most important, most difficult skill to judge is that of leadership. We established that this member should meet the requirements of GSAR Level II, with additional requirements as needed by an ASRC search.

The second most important level is that of Incident Staff. We agreed on this point and deferred it to the next meeting. (Incident Command qualifications already exist, and have been approved by ASRC.)

We discussed the necessity to follow the established GSAR standards, since it exists on a much larger scale than that of ASRC.

Motion: Accept the July 1988 VDES SAR *Training and Certification Program Part 1: Ground Search and Rescue* Level I with additional ASRC requirements for FTM, and Level II with additional ASRC requirements for FTL.

Motion accepted.

The GSAR level requirements are less than that required for an ASRC member. These changes have been incorporated into the ASRC draft standards that are appended to these notes.

An ASRC-wide written test will be established for examination of both FTM and FTL members. This test will be worked on by members of the Training Committee. FTM field skills will be tracked by the GTOs using a standardized ASRC skills checklist. In this way, testing will be standardized from one group to another. A group may still require additional skills or certifications for a specific level (such as BRMRG does

by requiring an EMT certification). FTL field skills will be tracked by a standardized practical test which will be outlined by the Training Committee. Again, standardization across groups is the goal.

The level of Call-out Qualified member was discussed.

Motion: A person who has the equipment listed in section 3.1 of the ASRC Operation Manual, who has a signed ASRC application and who has attended an ASRC SAR and survival orientation, will be called a "Call-out Qualified (CQ) member and is capable of attending a search.

Motion accepted.

The level of member who is capable of wearing an ASRC patch was discussed.

Motion: FTM, FTL, IS, IC and specialty members may wear the ASRC patch.

Motion accepted.

The "upgrade path" is delineated below. It was strongly felt that we should not require compulsory advancement, whether in our written requirements or in our expectations of what our members do. Medical qualifications exist completely independently from our scheme and are not addressed at all. The ASRC is a licensed BLS agency, which merely requires that an EMT be present when the patient is moved. Whether the EMT is an ASRC qualified field person has nothing to do with the BLS requirement.

CQ -> FTM -> FTL -> IS -> IC
|
Specialities -> (Communications?)
(Rescue Specialist)
(Sign Cutter - Tracker?)

The bulk of the meeting was spent going over the ASRC draft training standards and incorporating them into the GSAR standards.

The next meeting will be 4 March 1989, Blueridge Technologies, 10:30. We plan to look at the Incident Staff requirements, and the Rescue Specialist and other specialties if there is enough time.

Respectfully submitted:

Cady Soukup
29 January 1989