



To: AMRG Members
From: Don Scelza, ASRC Representative
Re: June ASRC Rep report
Date: June 1, 2015

On May 15, 16 & 17 the ASRC held its 2015 AGM (Annual Group Meeting) at Ohiopyle State Park. This year's meeting was co-hosted by AMRG and our sister group in Morgantown, MARG.

Activities on Friday night and Saturday centered on team building and field SAR activities. On Friday night a number of people were involved in running night tasks with K9 handlers. Activities on Saturday centered on the SAR Olympics. There were five stations where teams, each made up of members from all of the groups attending the event, performed SAR related tasks, but with a twist. Can you and a partner untie a knot by holding the ends of the rope and stepping through the loops? Can you locate a subject by asking yes or no questions about their surroundings? Can you carry a litter with a water container and not lose any water, and, oh by the way, the litter team is blindfolded? The AMRG team, along with help from others, did a great job of setting up and managing this event. Taking part in the SAR Olympics were:

SAR Volunteers	50
DCNR Rangers	2
K9s	11
Bruderhof members	4 (The Bruderhof is a religious community that is active in supporting SAR in the area. They provided lunch for us on Saturday)

Sunday was dedicated to the business of running the Conference. There are a number of large changes in the works in the ASRC and, while over the last 18 months there have been discussions about the changes, the 2015 AGM was the formal roll out. The changes being made fall into two large categories.

The first is the transformation of the ASRC from an organization of members who happen to belong to groups to an organization of groups that have members who are also members of the ASRC. In general, this change is a reflection of the current status quo so, while there may be significant changes in the Conference documentation (By-Laws, Administration manual...), there is little change in any day-to-day operations.

In the second, the larger of the changes, the ASRC will transform from a response agency to a credentialing agency. Over a number of years it has become clear that the AHJs (Agency Having Jurisdiction) want to call on a local team for assistance. In our area the

AHJs want to call AMRG, not the more nebulous ASRC (this is a large part of the driving function for the previous change). While the AHJs want to call a local team, they want to call a team that they have confidence in. The level of training and operational expertise that comes along with training to the ASRC standards is second to none. The ASRC needs to make sure that the AHJs continue to have confidence that when they call an ASRC group, they know they are getting highly trained resources. Having the ASRC, not the groups, issue credentials is a necessary step in maintaining the AHJs' confidence. This is the current state for the issuance of SM IV – SM I certifications. The ASRC is bringing the FTM & FTL certifications under the same structure.

Proposed ASRC Credentialing System

May 2015

Description

As ASRC enters its fifth decade of service to lost persons throughout the mid-Atlantic region, it is time for us to update our policy for certifying members of ASRC teams and issuing ASRC credentials. Work is underway to update the ASRC Bylaws, credentialing policy and companion position task books (PTBs) to implement a new credentialing system for the ASRC.

The proposed ASRC credentialing system follows best practices for third-party review and improved governance oversight by the ASRC Board of Directors, through an ASRC Credentialing Board. Figure 1 on the back of this document provides a flowchart summary of the proposed process.

The cornerstone of this credentialing system remain the ASRC Training Standards (currently v 7.1) describing what a candidate for certification must do. Group Training Officers will still provide the training and oversee primary evaluation of candidates for field certifications. This does not change. An obvious change is the addition of position task books (PTBs), PTBs give specific guidance on evaluation of candidates and provide documentation of a candidate's completed demonstration of various SAR skills.

Review by an ASRC Examiner eliminates a possible administrative concern about "self-certification," as does review and oversight by the ASRC Credentialing BOD.

Issues Yet to Define

What is the expiration period for skills check-offs in the PTBs?

How will recertification be managed? Based on what combination of experience and skills review?

How does a member become an ASRC Examiner?

Will we need to develop guidance for evaluators and examiners?

How is the ASRC Credentialing Board established and sustained?

If a candidate is not credentialed, how is critical feedback and remediation provided?

Definitions

Candidate: Person applying for an ASRC certification

Member: A member of an ASRC team

Group Training Officer: The GTO is responsible for developing the training program for an ASRC team.

Qualified Evaluator (QE) - A person holding an ASRC certification of FTM, FTL, or SM-I through SM-IV. By definition, every GTO is a qualified evaluator.

ASRC Credentialing Board: A group of senior ASRC members chosen by the ASRC Board of Directors to administer the ASRC credentialing system

ASRC Examiner: A senior ASRC member selected by the ASRC Credentialing Board to review candidates for field certification.

Position Task Book: A document to manage the evaluation of candidates for certification.

References

ASRC Training Standards (v 7.1)

ASRC Position Task Books
(forthcoming)

ASTM F3068-14

FEMA Qualification System Guide
and PTBs (available online via
fema.gov)

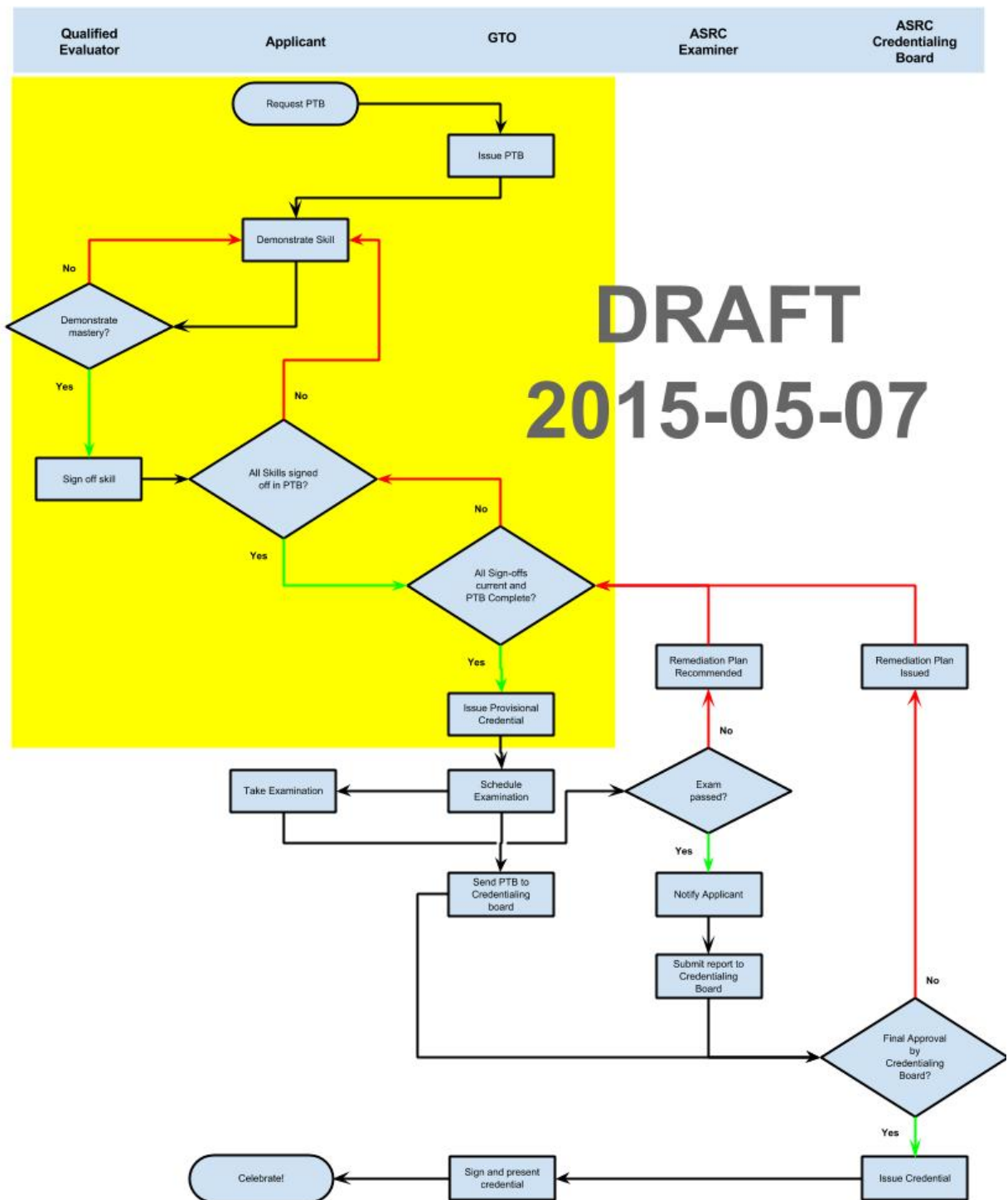


Figure 1. Flowchart depicting the system proposed for governance of ASRC credentials. The portion in yellow represents current policy and practice, with group checklists filling the role of PTBs.



Work to Update ASRC Credentialing

Document to Change	Work to Complete	Status	Expected Completion
ASRC Bylaws	A few small changes for credentialing; tied to broader review and update of ASRC Bylaws	Draft language for ASRC Bylaws is in hand, for initial review by the ASRC BOD	ASRC AGM Via membership vote Spring 2016
Credentialing Policy	Develop system of governance for issuing ASRC credentials Draft and gain BOD endorsement of the policy documents that specify this system	Draft system description in hand (as another handout)	ASRC BOD meeting Via BOD vote Spring 2016
PTBs*	Position Task Books, following current ASRC Training Standards (v 7.1), for each position in the standards	Initial draft of FTM and FTL PTBs in hand, for initial review by the ASRC BOD (example of the FTM PTB is another handout)	ASRC BOD meeting Via BOD endorsement Spring 2016
Implementation	Implementation of the ASRC-level elements of the Credentialing Policy	In discussion	ASRC Training Officer to lead this, beginning Spring 2016 CTO plan to be readied by early 2016

* The team drafting the credentialing policy and PTBs assumes that development of PTBs does not entail changes to the ASRC Training Standards.



Project Schedule

Date & Event	Bylaws Progress	Policy & PTB Progress	Implementation Progress
May 2015 AGM	• Describe direction for Bylaws, Credentialing Policy, PTBs, and implementation to membership at the AGM		
May 2015 BOD	• Working discussion of draft Bylaws changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce draft system description • Working discussion of policy changes • Introduce draft PTB 	• Working discussion of implementation
July 2015 BOD	• Working discussion of draft Bylaws changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalize draft system description • Review draft policy changes • Review draft PTBs 	• Working discussion of implementation
Oct 2015 BOD	• Final BOD input to finalizing proposed Bylaws changes	• Final BOD input to finalizing Credentialing Policy and PTBs	• Outline for implementation of new policy
Jan 2016 BOD	• BOD endorsement of changes to ASRC Bylaws	• Provisional BOD approval of new credentialing policy and PTBs	• Full draft of CTO's implementation plan
Apr 2016 AGM	• Membership vote on bylaws updates		
Apr 2016 BOD		• ASRC BOD votes on new credentialing policy and PTBs	• Implementation begins