

Acronyms and Abbreviations of BRMRG

SEARCH	The Big Picture; also what we do
ACA	Area Command Authority; ASRC rank above IC
AR	Agency Representative; ASRC person in charge when an IC isn't on scene; Not to be confused with RA
Base	Search headquarters; sometimes, but not always, the CP
BK's	Bendix-King's; Type of handheld radio owned by BRMRG
BRO	Base Radio Operator; the person in charge of search communications
Call-Out	The request for the ASRC to respond; of three types: Overhead Team, Limited, and Full
CISD	Critical Incident Stress Debrief; done after particularly long or emotional searches
CP	Command Post; where the decisions are made
CQ	Call-Out Qualified; First training level in the ASRC; Minimum training required to respond to searches
DF	Direction Finding; Used in downed aircraft searches; can be a type of task
ELT	Emergency Locator Transmitter; Found on almost all civilian planes; Designed to go off if plane crashes
EPIRB	Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon; Similar to ELT but used on ships
FLIR	Forward Looking InfraRed;
FTL	Field Team Leader; Individual in charge of field team; Backbone of ASRC
FTM	Field Team Member; A person on a field team; With in the ASRC, a highly trained searcher
Full	Type of Call-Out; Everybody goes!
Handheld	Small man-portable radio that can be held in the hand
IC	Incident Commander; Head-Honcho at search, usually an ASRC member
ICOM	Type of handheld radio owned by BRMRG
ICS	Incident Command System; Command structure used by ASRC
IS	Incident Staff; people responsible for planning and managing search operations
Limited	Type of Call-Out; Some but not all ASRC personnel respond
Litter	Any type of stretcher used to carry out the subject
LKP	Last Known Position; Place where subject was last known to be; Not necessarily the same as the PLS
LPER	Device used by ground teams to DF for downed aircraft
LZ	Landing Zone; Clear, flat area for landing helicopters
Medic	Person on field team designated to provide medical care
Motorola	Type of handheld radio owned by BRMRG
MPQ	Missing Person Questionnaire; Form used for the interviewing of persons with knowledge of the lost person; Found in the Ops Kit
OHT	Overhead Team; An IC plus 1-3 IS who will manage a search without any other ASRC involvement; Also a level of Call-out
Ops	Operations; Referring either to the Operations Section of ICS or the Operations Section Chief; Responsible for managing the current operations of the search; AKA Ops Chief
Ops Kit	Operations Kit; Search management kit containing forms, documentation, resource lists, and general office supplies for use by the IS
PIO	Public Information Officer; Individual responsible for dealing with all press inquiries
Plans	Refers to either the Planning section of ICS or to the Plans Section Chief; Responsible for formulating the next operational shift's plans; AKA Plans Chief
PLS	Point Last Seen; location subject was last seen
POA	Probability of Area; Probability that the subject is in a given search sub-sector; Arbitrarily assigned by the Incident Staff based on lost person behavior, terrain, weather, subject information, etc.
POD	Probability of Detection; Probability that the team will spot clues or the subject using a given searching technique

QRT	Quick Response Team; OHT plus 4-8 FTL's; Could be used in the event of only a rescue being necessary
RA	Responsible Agent; Person who is legally responsible for the management of the search; Usually a law enforcement official, never the ASRC
RO	Radio Operator; Person on the field team designated as responsible for radio communications
RS	Rescue Specialist; Person on field team designated as responsible for any rescue operations
SAR	Search and Rescue; What we do; What has been the subject of some really bad TV shows
SARDO	SAR Duty Officer of VaDES; who the AO and IC talk to
SARSAT	Search and Rescue Satellite Aided Tracking; How ELT's and EPIRB's are found
SCO	State Coordinating Officer; The Virginia State Trooper assigned to the missing person case
SIS	Subject Information Sheet; Form providing searchers with pertinent information about the subject and mission; Prepared by the IS
Stokes	Stokes Litter; Type of litter commonly used in SAR and owned by the Group
Subject	The missing person; AKA the victim
TAF	Task Assignment Form; Form describing a field team's task
Task	A search job generated and assigned by the IS to a field team which is responsible for completing it
Topo	Topographic Map; Usually an USGS 7.5 minute quadrangle; We own lots
Tracker	Mantracker; A search resource

Terms within BRMRG

ADC	Alert Dispatch Coordinator; An officer in the group in charge of dispatch
Alpha's	Alphanumeric pagers owned by the group
Anna's	Anna's Pizza #5; The traditional after-training social activity; AKA an 888 on the pagers
AO	Alert Officer; Person who answers the initial call for a search, finds an IC, and alerts the ASRC
Bailey	Lauren's dog; Not a search dog
BOD	Board of Directors; In BRMRG, three members elected to lead the group; In ASRC, two representatives from each member group to run the conference
CIO	Contracted Independent Organization; Students groups at UVA like BRMRG
Commo	BRMRG Communications Officer; Responsible for maintaining the group's communication equipment
Dispatch	Unit of search structure for contacting members and for personnel accountability; BRMRG dispatch functions as the ASRC dispatch as well as the group dispatch
DO	Dispatch Officer; Person Dispatching; AKA Dispatcher
DS	Dispatch Supervisor; An experienced DO who can answer dispatch questions
EMT	Emergency Medical Technician
Equipment	BRMRG Equipment Officer; Person responsible for maintaining group equipment
Finance	BRMRG Finance Officer; Person responsible for maintaining the group's finances
GSAR	Ground Search and Rescue; Training offered by the state
GDO	Group Dispatch Officer; Our contacts in the other ASRC groups when a search is in progress
GTO	Group Training Officer; Person responsible for overseeing the training of new members
HAT	Hug-A-Tree; Presentation for children about being lost; Also an officer in the Group
Locker	BRMRG's home in the basement of Peabody Hall; A cavernous room with great artwork and a comfortable sofa
Maya	Jason and Jessica's dog; Will someday be a search dog
MEDCOM	Medical Command; Handles all emergency medical communications at a hospital; UVA MEDCOM sometimes alerts BRMRG
Medical	BRMRG Medical Officer; Person responsible for maintaining group medical equipment and handling group medical responsibilities

Ops	BRMRG Operations Officer; Person responsible for maintaining the group's operational readiness
Pegasus	UVA Medical Center's aeromedical evac unit; AKA a helicopter
PSAR	Preventative Search and Rescue; AKA HAT
SAF	Student Activities Fund; Fund from which BRMRG, as a CIO at UVA, requests and receives money
Scout	Allison's dog; Air-scent dog trained for missing person, water, and cadaver search
SNP	Shenandoah National Park; BRMRG occasionally trains here
WEMT	Wilderness Emergency Medical Technician
ASRC	Appalachian Search and Rescue Conference; Based in Charlottesville; That's us

ASRC Member Groups

AMRG	Allegheny Mountain Rescue Group; Pittsburgh, PA
BRMRG	Blue Ridge Mountain Rescue Group; Charlottesville, VA; That's us
MSAR	Maryland Search and Rescue; Columbia, MD; Explorer Scouts, all under 18
PSAR	Piedmont Search and Rescue; Richmond, VA; A new ASRC group
PVRG	Potomac Valley Rescue Group; College Park, MD; Students from the University of Maryland
SMRG	Shenandoah Mountain Rescue Group; Vienna, VA; Professionals (i.e. they have jobs) from around DC
SWVaMRG	Southwest Virginia Mountain Rescue Group; Blacksburg, VA; Students from Virginia Tech
TSAR	Tidewater Search and Rescue; Norfolk, VA; Professionals from around the Tidewater

Other SAR Agencies

AFRCC	Air Force Rescue Coordination Center; Langley Air Force Base
Blue & Grey	Primarily air scent dogs
CAP	Civil Air Patrol; Primarily involved in downed aircraft search
CSAR	Commonwealth Search and Rescue; Primarily horse and ground teams
Dogs East	Primarily air-scent dogs
EOC	Emergency Operations Center; An office of VaDES
K-9 Alert	Primarily air scent dogs
NASAR	National Association for Search and Rescue
NCRC	National Cave Rescue Commission
RAGSAR	Rockingham-Augusta Search and Rescue; Primarily ground teams
SSA	Search Services of America; Beth Barkley's group
Triangle	Triangle Rescue Group; Based in Bristol; Primarily ground teams
VaDES	Virginia Department of Emergency Services; State department responsible for overseeing search and rescue, among other things
VaSARCo	Virginia Search and Rescue Council; Organization composed of most of Virginia's search and rescue resources
VTa	Virginia Tracking Association

Other Agencies

ARES	Amateur Radio Emergency Services
NPS	National Park Service; Manages national parks
PATC	Potomac Appalachian Trail Club; Sponsors SMRG
RACES	Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services
TJEMS	Thomas Jefferson Emergency Medical Services Council; Organization of local hospitals, rescue squads, and local governments to which BRMRG belongs to as an EMS agency
USGS	United States Geological Survey; Publishes topographic maps
VSP	Virginia State Police