

(START OF YEAR)

G-5 University Gardens  
Charlottesville, VA 22903  
(804) 296-2269 (H)  
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2 April 1980

To all organizations involved  
with search and rescue in  
Albemarle County:

The cornerstones of effective search and rescue operations are coordination and cooperation. For their development we need a foundation of understanding; understanding the desires, limitations, and capabilities of other organizations involved in search and rescue. The time to discuss our mutual concerns is not during the next mission, but now. Our discussion and preplanning will bring us closer to our common goal; whether you call them subjects, victims, or patients, those in need will benefit.

Just before Christmas, several area organizations worked together on a lost person search in the western part of Albemarle County. At a critique session held a few weeks after the mission\*, representatives of several of the organizations proposed a meeting or series of meetings where search and rescue problems could be informally discussed. At their request, I am setting up a first meeting. It will be Tuesday, 22 April, at 7:30 p.m. in the Conference Room of Newcomb Hall at the University of Virginia. The topics of discussion will tentatively be:

1. Lost person search in rural and wild areas;
2. Downed aircraft search; and
3. Rescue and evacuation from areas distant from road access.

Unless the group objects, we will not discuss disaster response, urban search, or urban and rural rescue; adequate forums already exist for the discussion of these subjects. To keep the group from being unwieldy, please send only a small number of representatives (i.e. one or two) from your organization.

I hope this meeting enables area organizations to combine their strengths more effectively on future search and rescue missions, and I look forward to meeting your representatives the night of the twenty-second.

cc: Albemarle Co. Amateur Radio  
Emergency Services; Albemarle Co.  
Sheriff's Dept.; Appalachian Search  
and Rescue Conference; Augusta Co.  
Amateur Radio Emergency Services;  
Blue Ridge Mountain Rescue Group;  
Charlottesville-Albemarle Airport  
Safety and Rescue Office; Char-  
lottesville-Albemarle Emergency  
Services Coordinator; Charlottes-  
ville-Albemarle Fire Chief;  
Charlottesville-Albemarle Rescue  
Squad; FAA Control Tower; Monti-  
cello Squadron, Civil Air Patrol;  
Scottsville Rescue Squad; Shenan-  
doah National Park; Va. Office of  
Emergency and Energy Services;

Sincerely,

Keith Conover

Virginia Search and Rescue Dog  
Association; Virginia State Police;  
Western Albemarle Rescue Squad;  
Jefferson Country Firemen's Assn.

\*If you requested a copy of the mission  
report and critique notes, they are  
enclosed; if you did not get a copy  
but wish one, please contact me.

ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED WITH SEARCH AND RESCUE IN ALBEMARLE COUNTY

Kenn Conover

NAME, EMERGENCY CONTACT	CHIEF OFFICER, ADDRESS	REPRESENTATIVES IN ATTENDANCE, COMMENTS
1. Albemarle County Amateur Radio Emergency Services Morris Jones, N4AAW (804) 293-5203, 924-3972 John Critzer, WD4SKS (804) 293-3543, 296-5141	Emergency Coordinator: Morris Jones c/o Morris Jones 1812 Barracks Rd. Charlottesville, VA 22903	
2. Albemarle County Sheriff's Department (804) 296-2112	Sheriff George Bailey P.O. Box 203 Charlottesville, VA 22901	
3. Appalachian Search and Rescue Conference (804) 924-7166 (UVA Police)	Chairman, Board of Directors: Christopher W. Stubbs 295-9703 P.O. Box 440 Newcomb Station Charlottesville, VA 22903	
4. Augusta Co. Amateur Radio Emergency Services Ken Wooley, WA4EGW (703) 942-6719 John S. Harvey, WB4KIT (703) 943-5440	Ken Wooley, Emergency Coordinator P.O. Box 177 Crimora, VA 24431	TOM
5. Blue Ridge Mountain Rescue Group, ASRC (804) 924-7166 (UVA Police)	James L. Dooley, Chairman 295-2034 P.O. Box 440 Newcomb Station Charlottesville, VA 22903	JIM
6. Charlottesville-Albemarle Airport Safety and Rescue Office (804) 973-8342	Mr. Pahuta P.O. Box 6367 Charlottesville, VA 22906	BILL 4 EMTS, 4 WDR TEAM TRUCK
7. Charlottesville-Albemarle Emergency Services Coordinator (804) 296-6151	Linda Peacock P.O. Box 911 Charlottesville, VA 22902	

Albemarle SAR Organizations page 2

NAME, EMERGENCY CONTACT	CHIEF OFFICER, ADDRESS	REPRESENTATIVES IN ATTENDANCE, COMMENTS
8. Charlottesville-Albemarle Fire Departments and Jefferson County Fire-fighter's Association (804) 295-1125	Julian Taliaferro, Chief 203 Ridge St. Charlottesville, VA 22901 (804) 296-8118	
9. Charlottesville-Albemarle Rescue Squad (804) 295-1191	Joshua Fritchett, Captain P.O. Box 160 Charlottesville, VA 22902 (804) 296-4825	
10. Federal Aviation Administration Charlottesville Control Tower (804) 973-4458	Mark Sissons, Chief Controller P.O. Box 7186 Charlottesville, VA 22906	STATE POLICE THROUGH RCC LEESBURG
11. Monticello Composite Squadron, Civil Air Patrol Available through Virginia CEES or through USAF Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Service at Scott AFB	William Jesser, Commander 295-1758 c/o William Jesser Montview Charlottesville, VA 22901	
12. Scottsville Rescue Squad (804) 286-2111	Alvin Gentry, Captain P.O. Box 33 Scottsville, VA 24590 (804) 286-3979	
13. Shenandoah National Park (703) 999-2227	Chief Park Ranger Luray, VA 22835 (804) 999-2243	JOHN RITENOUR OVERHEAD TEAM

NAME, EMERGENCY CONTACT	CHIEF OFFICER, ADDRESS	REPRESENTATIVES IN ATTENDANCE, COMMENTS
✓ 14. Virginia Office of Emergency and Energy Services (804) 272-1441	George L. Jones, State SAR Coordinator 7700 Midlothian Turnpike, Richmond, VA 23235	MIKE CLINE OCTOBER LO I-PAT WORKSHOPS
✓ 15. Virginia Search and Rescue Dog Association (703) 659-4131	Alice Stanley Rt. 9 Box 477 Fredericksburg, VA 24401	+ LINDA + BILL DICKINSON 1 hr.
✓ 16. Virginia State Police (800) 552-0962	Sgt. B. T. Leonard P.O. Box 6187 Charlottesville, VA 22906 (804) 293-3223	SGT. WARD + SCUBA TEAM ③ Choppers
✓ 17. Western Albemarle Rescue Squad (804) 823-5102	Sam Walkup, Captain P.O. Box 188 Crozet, VA 22932 (804) 823-5103	
✓ 18. Virginia Wing, Civil Air Patrol (Call Va. OES or Scott AFB)	Wing Commander P.O. Box 237 Sandston, VA 23150 (804) 222-0074	MAJ. LAFFORTY
○ 19. Va. OES Region II	Bill Whitehead 612-C Rio Rd. Charlottesville, VA 22901 (804) 973-1841	

# National Organization Pools Rescue Ideas

By ROBERT MATTSON  
Lt. Col., USAF  
HQ. CAP-USAF

Two years ago I wrote an article in this column about the National Association for Search and Rescue (NASAR). I have recently heard several misinformed comments concerning NASAR and believe it is again time to outline what NASAR is all about.

NASAR! What is NASAR? Who is NASAR? Does NASAR's goal include a program to replace the mission of Civil Air Patrol? The answer is an unqualified no!

Since its inception in 1988 many CAP and even Air Force people have expressed personal concern of what NASAR was supposed to be. I assure you that such concern is based on misconception, rumors, or misunderstanding. Some time ago NASAR sent each unit a short fact sheet which outlined who they are and what they are trying to accomplish. In case you didn't receive a copy, or still have some questions, allow me to give you our view of the National Association for Search and Rescue.

First, what is NASAR? It is an organization of people and agencies devoted to saving lives. Who are they? There is Civil Air Patrol, the United States Coast Guard, the Mountain Rescue Association, the Department of Emergency Services of many states, numerous sheriffs, rescue dog teams, the National Park Service, the National SAR School, and on and on. Many individuals in CAP are also members of NASAR. Therefore,

the bulk of NASAR membership is individuals from numerous independent local rescue teams and other benevolent groups.

What is the real purpose of forming such a national organization? Basically, they are all tired of re-inventing the wheel. NASAR was formed with the express purpose of pooling ideas and eliminating duplication of effort. Since its inception, NASAR has been the forum for new ideas in search and rescue. For the first time people in all phases of SAR work are able to see exactly what others have developed, and they can adapt some of these innovative ideas for their specific problems.

NASAR is now in its 11th year and its members are attempting to speak with one voice to represent the SAR community. Through their conferences and by individual effort, they have identified problems areas, (such as lack of common communication equipment and differences in data collection systems) and have formed committees to attempt to offer some suggestions on how to solve them.

Is NASAR a threat to Civil Air Patrol's role in search and rescue? Of course not! First of all, there is no staff overhead to get involved with organizations such as CAP. In fact, NASAR has only one paid employee—the executive secretary at \$2 (yes, I said two dollars) per year. Further NASAR has no airplanes, radios, ground vehicles, dog teams or any equipment.



Its membership is made up of individuals interested only in certain parts of the full range of search and rescue and their primary purpose is to share ideas and work together to solve common SAR problems.

NASAR is similar to other professional associations, such as banking associations, associations of lawyers, accounting associations, etc. They discuss problems of common interest, but the organization does not perform the duties of its members. Each member is free to act independently and joins the association only for the information and support it may provide.

CAP members can and should be a large part of this organization since we are probably the largest private search and rescue organization in the world.

CAP does not have all the answers. We should be the finest aerial searchers, and we have more communications equipment than almost anyone else. But we don't have all of the jeeps, horses, mountain rescue teams, snowmobile rescue units, helicopters, search dogs, man-tracking specialists, or many of the special talents needed in search and rescue.

NASAR is trying to bring us all together so that someone in need of help can get expert assistance more quickly. NASAR is concerned with improving the quality of SAR assistance. To help accomplish this, they encourage SAR-dedicated people, such as yourself, to share ideas and experiences with others.

Experts in the search and rescue field have contributed articles to Search and Rescue Magazine, the official publication of NASAR. These articles have covered all areas of search and rescue. Communications, search theory, strategies for ground search, a bibliography of emergency services publications, aerial reconnaissance in SAR, land search organization, vehicle tracking, establishing search area priorities are only a few of the topics covered.

NASAR's annual conference is another way to get updated on the latest SAR techniques, equipment and thinking. The 11th NASAR conference will be held Sept. 13-16 in Baton Rouge, La. For details of the conference, write to: NASAR '79, Northwestern State University, Natchitoches, La. 71457.

Many topics and much information will be covered during the conference and, if you are able to attend, you will find a most dedicated group of search and rescue personnel.

It shouldn't take you long to realize that "they" are all involved in trying to help people in trouble. "We" are also involved

in trying to help people in trouble and it takes many skills and the dedication of many people.

Civil Air Patrol has nothing to fear from the National Association for Search and Rescue because CAP is NASAR and our friends in NASAR, on the ground, in the mountains, have much to share with us. All of us involved in search and rescue activities must cooperate to provide the very best emergency services in the communities which we serve.

Let us all work together "that others may live."

## VIRGINIA STATE POLICE

The State Police can provide helicopters and fixed-wing aircraft for search and rescue missions; both are suitable for aerial survey search. The helicopters do not have hoists, but they do have lights suitable for illuminating a large area. If the helicopter is requested for the evacuation of a patient, please indicate this in the request, so the aircrew may make arrangements for a litter patient. The State Police also have tracking dogs (ground-scenting) which may be requested for SAR missions.

Requests for State Police assistance should go directly to the local office, or if there is no answer there, to the Appomattox office. Requests need not come from a Responsible Agent or a law enforcement agency; any organization may request assistance.

## CIVIL AIR PATROL

The Virginia Wing, Civil Air Patrol (CAP) effectively serves as Responsible Agent for downed aircraft search in Virginia, through agreements with the State Corporation Commission, which is assigned authority for intra-state downed aircraft SAR, with a few exceptions. (Those exceptions are under the authority of Scott AFB, so many of those go to the CAP as well.) The CAP also provides services for lost person search, disasters, and other emergencies.

Virginia Wing CAP can provide:

1. fixed-wing aircraft for aerial survey search,
2. vehicles, including four-wheel drive ones, with VHF communications,
3. an extensive VHF and HF communications net covering the state, including mobile communications vans with emergency power, and
4. Ground Search and Rescue (GSAR) teams which are trained and equipped to work in the field for lost person searches. Specify GSAR College-trained teams in your request, as the majority of CAP personnel are no better than local volunteers for lost person SAR work.

If CAP assistance is desired for a lost person search or other emergency, the request must be routed through proper channels. Requests for disaster or other similar assistance should be made to the Virginia Office of Emergency and Energy Services; requests for lost person search assistance should be made directly to Scott Air Force Base. Scott AFB will honor only requests made by, or approved by, a local Responsible Agent. If it is not clear who the Responsible Agent is, Scott will honor a request or approval from the local law enforcement agency.

## APPALACHIAN SEARCH AND RESCUE CONFERENCE (ASRC)

The Appalachian Search and Rescue Conference (ASRC), of which the Blue Ridge Mountain Rescue Group is a local "Group" or chapter, provides search and rescue information and training services, and provides certain specific SAR capabilities. It is committed to preventive search and rescue through survival education, and also provides training in certain SAR subjects and techniques to other SAR organizations.

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(ASRC Continued)

The ASRC can provide three major types of assistance for lost person searches:

1. Quick Response Team. A Quick Response Team (QRT) from the Blue Ridge Mountain Rescue Group can be on the road travelling to the scene within 30 minutes of a call to the ASRC emergency phone number. The value of a QRT is that in the initial stages of a lost person search, a quick response of trained searchers able to search in any terrain or weather, day or night, may be able to find a victim quickly. In many cases, an ASRC Quick Response Team may be able to start searching earlier than other agencies can (e.g. the first night someone is missing).
2. Base Camp Mission Staff. The ASRC can provide a management team for lost person searches, so as to free members of the Responsible Agent's staff for other important search needs. The ASRC Mission Staff functions to keep the search efforts coordinated, keeping track of all teams' progress, plotting search efforts, and registering searchers in and out of the mission. The ASRC Mission Staff members have considerable experience and training; several members are graduates of the National Search and Rescue School.
3. Searchers for Difficult Terrain or Weather. The ASRC has Basic Members with hundreds of hours of training in search and rescue, who can be used as Field Team Leaders with other personnel, or combined to form teams capable of searching in any weather or terrain found in Virginia. The ASRC can also call on a pool of about 80 Auxiliary members, all of whom have outdoor experience and equipment, and have had the training necessary to serve as members of Field Teams in rigorous outdoor conditions.

An ASRC Quick Response Team (or the ASRC personnel at a search) can perform rescue tasks in wild or back-country situations. Each QRT carries personal equipment for 48 hours without resupply, can work in any weather or terrain, and can work at night. The Team carries VHF-FM radios for communications, mountain rescue equipment and litters, and medical equipment (all Basic Members have at least basic Emergency Medical Technician certificates; some have advanced EMT certification). ASRC QRTs can also provide rescue, extrication, and evacuation services for backwoods airplane crash victims.

## AMATEUR RADIO EMERGENCY SERVICES (ARES)

Radio amateurs have provided much-needed communications, both short and long range, in many disasters. High-frequency (HF) ham communications can pass messages to anywhere in the state, the country, or the world. However, the very high frequency (VHF) communications capability of hams is perhaps the one with the most potential for search and rescue missions. Many hams have mobile, portable, or hand-held radios on the ham VHF frequencies; combined with the large number of ham repeaters (automatic relay systems) and the fact that SAR communication on the ham bands do not generally interfere with important operations (unlike police, rescue squad, or fire channels), this means that hams can provide excellent communications for missions with a minimum of disruption to other services.

Annex I-AA to Volume II, Commonwealth of Virginia Emergency  
Operations Plan - Peacetime Disasters

Subject: Search and Rescue

DEFINITIONS:

- A. Search and Rescue (SAR) - The employment and coordination of personnel and resources in:
1. locating persons who are reported lost, trapped, stranded, or missing, and
  2. removing persons who have been found from the site of the hazard to a place of safety.
- B. SAR Coordinator - Official or agency responsible for coordination of SAR operations within a given geographical area.
- C. Mission Coordinator - The person designated by the SAR Coordinator for coordinating and controlling a specific SAR mission. At local government level the SAR Coordinator frequently assumes this task also.
- D. AFRCC - Air Force Rescue Coordination Center, Scott Air Force Base, Illinois.
- E. CGRCC - U. S. Coast Guard Rescue Coordination Center, Fifth Coast Guard District, Portsmouth, Virginia.

I. REFERENCES:

- A. Search and Rescue Agreement between the State of Virginia and the Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Service in support of the National Search and Rescue Plan.
- B. The National Search and Rescue Plan.

II. SITUATION:

The Commonwealth of Virginia is subject to incidents requiring air, ground, or water search and rescue efforts.

- A. Requests for SAR assistance emanate from several sources:
1. The public as a result of hearing or seeing apparent incidents or through personal knowledge of an incident.
  2. Official sources such as a Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) facility or law enforcement agencies.

3. Distress signals - visual, audible, or electronic.
- B. Search and Rescue missions are conducted to locate and assist:
1. Overdue, missing or downed aircraft.
  2. Lost, stranded or entrapped persons.
  3. Disabled, sinking, or lost boats.

III. MISSION:

The SAR mission is to use available resources and personnel effectively to locate and render necessary assistance to persons who are in distress.

IV. ORGANIZATION AND TASKS:

A. Organization:

1. The State Coordinator of Emergency and Energy Services, by direction of the Governor, is the State SAR Coordinator. Each local government designates a SAR Coordinator. The local SAR Coordinator is responsible for ground and water search and rescue operations within his respective political jurisdiction. State agencies provide SAR resources and conduct SAR operations as a supplement to local efforts. Volunteer SAR organizations participate in SAR operations in accordance with agreements with the State and Local SAR Coordinators. Federal agencies participate in SAR operations within the Commonwealth either because of direct SAR responsibilities or in answer to requests from the State to assist.

B. Tasks:

I. State Agencies

- a. Office of Emergency and Energy Services
  - (1) Coordinate overall State SAR effort
  - (2) Coordinate SAR training
  - (3) Arrange for SAR resources to assist in SAR operations when requested by local SAR Coordinators, or the AFRCC, or CGRCC.

- b. State Police
    - (1) Provide personnel and equipment for SAR operations when requested.
  - c. Marine Resources Commission
    - (1) Provide personnel and equipment for tidal waters SAR operations when requested.
  - d. Department of Military Affairs
    - (1) Provide personnel and equipment for air and ground SAR operations when requested.
2. Local Government
- a. Conduct ground and water search and rescue operations within area of responsibility.
  - b. Participate in ground portion of air search and rescue as requested.
3. Civil Air Patrol, Virginia Wing
- In accordance with the joint agreement between Virginia Wing Civil Air Patrol and the Virginia Office of Emergency and Energy Services:
- a. Provide Mission Coordinator for air search and rescue.
  - b. Conduct air search and rescue; conduct integral ground SAR operations in coordination with local SAR coordinator.
  - c. Provide personnel for ground search and rescue when requested.
4. Federal Agencies
- a. The Air Force Rescue Coordination Center (AFRCC) controls search and rescue operations for downed or missing military aircraft, scheduled air carrier aircraft, aircraft carrying persons of national or international importance, and civil aircraft on interstate flights.
  - b. The Coast Guard Rescue Coordination Center, Fifth Coast Guard District (CGRCC) controls search and rescue operations in the coastal waters area.
  - c. The National Park Service controls search and rescue on lands under its jurisdiction.

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5. Volunteer Search and Rescue Organizations

Provide SAR resources at the State level in accordance with agreements with the State SAR Coordinator. Provide SAR resources at local level in accordance with agreements with the local SAR Coordinator.

V. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS:

A. Air Search and Rescue

1. Inland Area

- a. The AFRCC will control air SAR for incidents involving military aircraft, air carrier aircraft, aircraft carrying persons of national or international importance, and civil aircraft on interstate flights. The AFRCC notifies SAR organizations and designates the Mission Coordinator. The CAP will notify the State SAR Coordinator when it is assigned a mission by the AFRCC. Ground search forces other than Federal or CAP personnel to augment Air Search will be requested by the AFRCC through the State SAR Coordinator (State Office of Emergency and Energy Services).
- b. The State will control SAR for incidents involving civil aircraft within the boundaries of the Commonwealth except air carrier aircraft, aircraft carrying persons of national or international importance, or aircraft on interstate flights. The Civil Air Patrol Virginia Wing will provide the Mission Coordinator for State-controlled air SAR.

2. Coastal Waters Area

The CGRCC has SAR responsibility over the coastal waters and will coordinate search and rescue efforts of assisting agencies.

B. Ground Search and Rescue

- 1. Ground search will be under the control of the local SAR Coordinator.
- 2. State and other assisting agencies will be given mission-type assignments and will remain under the control of the agency on-scene commander. Employment in the search effort will be coordinated by the local SAR Coordinator.
- 3. Ground search in conjunction with air search will be coordinated with the agency having control of the air search.

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C. Water Search and Rescue

1. Inland Area

Local SAR Coordinators control water SAR within their respective political jurisdictions. State and other agencies assist as requested and their employment in the SAR effort is coordinated by the local SAR Coordinator.

2. Coastal Waters Area

The CGRCC controls SAR within these areas.

VI. OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES:

A. Ground Incidents

1. Requests for SAR assistance come from the agency or person having knowledge or becoming aware of the incident requiring the SAR effort. Normally, requests should be made to the local government SAR Coordinator who will initiate and control the search. The local SAR Coordinator may request that State or other agency personnel act as mission coordinator.
2. The local SAR Coordinator will notify the State SAR Coordinator (State Office of Emergency and Energy Services) if assistance is needed.
3. The State SAR Coordinator will notify State agencies which have SAR responsibilities/capabilities appropriate to the incident.
4. The State SAR Coordinator will notify volunteer organizations which have particular SAR capabilities that are needed.
5. The State SAR Coordinator will notify the AFRCC if assistance is needed.

B. Air Incidents

1. The AFRCC receives FAA Flight Service Station/Air Traffic Control Center Information Requests and Alert Notices. The State and the AFRCC also receive notification from law enforcement agencies or other individuals/agencies which have knowledge or become aware of a lost, downed, or missing aircraft.

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2. On receipt of an alert notice, action will be taken to initiate a SAR mission. If the incident involves civil aircraft within the boundaries of the State and air carrier aircraft or persons of national importance are not involved, the State SAR Coordinator will request a mission number from the AFRCC to authorize the Virginia Wing Civil Air Patrol to participate in the mission.

C. Water Incidents

1. Local SAR Coordinators respond to SAR requests using local resources. If local resources do not have the desired capability, the local SAR Coordinator will request assistance from the State SAR Coordinator who will obtain it from State or other agencies.
2. Water incidents in the coastal waters are reported to the CGRCC which controls the SAR.

D. Requests for Search and Rescue

Requests to the State, AFRCC, or CGRCC, for search and rescue assistance should provide the following information insofar as possible:

1. Name, telephone number, political jurisdiction, official position of person making the request.
2. Nature of the emergency (lost, overdue, aground, fire, etc.).
3. Name(s), age(s), and address(es) of persons for whom the search is instituted.
4. Type of search requested (air, ground, water, mountains, wooded area, etc.).
5. Area of search (geographical location).
6. Weather in search area.
7. Reporting point for SAR participants.
8. Mission Coordinator in search area (Sheriff, Emergency Services Coordinator, Police, etc.).
9. Method of contacting mission coordinator (telephone number, radio call sign and frequency).
10. Search activities already in process.

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