APPALACHIAN SEARCH AND RESCUE CONFERENCE, INC.

Communications Officer

Box 1584, Leesburg, VA 22075 (703) 777-6111

25 March 1988

TO: 
ASRC COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE MEMBERS, including
ASRC COMMUNICATIONS OFFICERS and ASSISTANTS,
SPECIAL ADVISORS and LIAISONS, and
Other Specially Interested Parties

FROM: 
Gene Harrison
ASRC Communications Officer

SUBJECT: 
ASRC COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE SPRING MEETING
2 April 1988 at Shenandoah National Park

This note is to invite you (and remind you if you hopefully got my other messages) to come to the Spring meeting of the ASRC Communications Committee, which will be held on Saturday, 2 April 1988, 1000 hours, at the Luray headquarters of the Shenandoah National Park. The purpose of the meeting is to reacquaint each other with each other and the new people who are now participating in the ASRC communications environment. It is also to assist all of us in sharing our ideas and knowledge in the understanding and solution of our Conference, Group, and general SAR challenges. It is on the same day and at the same place as the ASRC Board meeting in order to assist all attendees in the sharing of rides. It also allows people to attend portions of both meetings. The Board will be down in the dungeon, but we will have the nice room behind the dispatch office. Please come prepared to share your knowledge and experiences with others and to learn from them, too. The following list contains some of the subjects which will probably be discussed, so please think ahead about how these areas affect you, your Group, the ASRC, and SAR. As you can see, these items include administrative, technical, operational, tutorial, training, and other areas. If you have any other good ideas to add, or know of anybody else who could benefit from this meeting, please feel free to contact me. Thank you for your efforts, and I look forwards to seeing all of you again!

Gene

Welcome to Group Communications Officers and Committee members
Functions and structure of ASRC Communications Committee
Needs and goals of ASRC, the Groups, and SAR
Constraints and environments for SAR communications
Functions and objectives of Communications Officers
Review of primary SAR communications types and characteristics
Special aspects of radio systems and technology
Inventory of communications equipments
Training manual and qualification system
Mutual aid and interoperability
Spectrum management and frequency usage
Equipment requirements and employment guidelines
Computers and automation
TO: ASRC BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND KEY PERSONNEL
FROM: GENE HARRISON, ASRC COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER
DATE: 29 JULY 1987
SUBJECT: ASRC COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE ACTIONS AND SUPPORT

ACTIONS

The ASRC Communications Committee is very active, although at times discreetly behind the scenes, in several critical areas. For the benefit of the Board, let us review them.

RADIO LICENSES First, the notorious ASRC radio license has been finally granted after being re-re-resubmitted to the FCC (Frustrating Confusion Commission), which for one thing means we can still continue to operate our system. However, in case you didn’t hear, the FCC has recently changed the rules on Special Emergency Radio Service applications. They are now much harder to obtain due to the requirement for approval by a separate coordinating organization. Not to mention the seventy-five dollars (that’s right, $75) per frequency per area. Anybody want to guess how much we get to pay to have a critical handful of channels which are good across the US for use in emergency airlift operations?? Volunteer organizations cannot afford this burden, and we’re not alone. As usual, the Committee has continued to assist many other SAR organizations in obtaining radio licenses, such as several units in the East Coast Dog Conference. Almost all have been rejected by the FCC. The choice may become one of operating illegally (not recommended) or go broke (also not recommended)! The Committee is pursuing the FCC and the (confusing) collection of coordinating organizations in an effort to correct this situation. Stay tuned!

NATIONWIDE SAR FREQUENCY As some of you remember, it has long been a dream (and desperate need) of SAR people to have a primary operational channel which is clear across this nation and usable by all SAR resources for combined emergency operations. This interoperable channel was once supposed to be "wun-six", but the glut of school buses, vets, pagers and other incompatible and inconsiderate users has shown this to unrealistic. Several members of the Committee, in close coordination with members of other SAR groups and generally under the national banner of NASAR, have been pursuing this goal for almost ten (that’s right, 10) years. Recently, we have taken a different approach (not actually guerilla warfare, believe it or not) which seems to be making significant progress. Haunting the halls of Washington is not anything I’d wish on anybody, but that’s what we’ve been doing. Not to mention some very large phone bills making and developing contacts. If this finally works, it will be a tremendous benefit to all US SAR teams. Stay tuned, too!

NATIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE Third, the NPSPAC is a new and special official Federal committee, convened by the FCC at the mandate of Congress, to do several things of great significance to SAR.
The first is to develop a national band plan to use the new 6MHz slice of the 800 MHz radio band which has recently been allocated to Public Safety uses. Another part of their mandate, however, is to examine all of public safety usages in an effort to identify problems and make recommendations for necessary changes. This does not apply only to Police and Fire, but also to EMS, SAR and Disaster. This is an unprecedented opportunity for SAR and Disaster groups such as ours to make our voices heard and work for improved interoperability and access to more channels. The impact of this will be felt for the next decade!

When we discovered this (thanks to John Kihl’s detective work), we joined forces with others to get in on the action. The Committee has developed a coalition of ASRC, National Cave Rescue Commission, Commonwealth of Virginia (DES and EMS), Civil Air Patrol, NASAR, and several other groups. We are also enlisting the aid of several Government Agencies with SAR and Disaster concerns. This is going to be a tough fight because there are a lot of powerful and established special interests which love the status quo and are only interested in slicing up the spectrum pie and closing the operation. This won’t help the traditional orphans such as EMS, Disaster and especially SAR. Some of these groups have been known to laugh (that’s right, “HA, HA”) when SAR is mentioned as needing a tiny bit of spectrum in which to operate and save lives. And forget trying to explain to them that when the flood or quake hits, and it’s their families bleeding and buried in the rubble, that it’s not their mauchio SWAT team, shiny ladder truck, or fancy MEDIC ambulance that’s going to find them and save their lives. It’s going to be a scruffy dog and a tired girl in a dirty parka (one of those "HA, HA" SAR teams) that’s going to make the vital difference, IF they’ve got just a little bit of help in communications to enable the critical resource to be deployed to the critical incident effectively! Like Lois said, we’ll probably have the world’s finest quake response system about 18 months AFTER the big one. The latest event is the publication of an FCC NPRM (notice of proposed rule making) which slices up the 800 MHz stuff and also grants APCO (Association of Public Safety Communications Officers) virtual dictatorship of this spectrum, much to the screams of all the other coordinating bodies and other users! Stay tuned, also.

STAFF

I would like to introduce you to some of the people that are bearing the burden of these fights for ASRC, NASAR, and SAR: John Kihl, AMRG; Bruce Barton, North East SAR; Pete Wharton, RSAR. And substantial help from Art Dodds, SMRG; Irv Lichtenstein, Greater Philadelphia SAR; Brian Wheeler, BRMRG; and John Birch, SMRG. And new team members Rusty Miller BRMRG; and Eric Mathews, SWVAMRG. And special thanks to Al Baker, past President of the ASRC, who had the interest and foresight to listen to what was really going on. These people are really pouring a lot of their heart and guts into this struggle to help us all, and they deserve everybody’s support, and at least their respect. It isn’t required to agree with them, but at least give them a chance to orient and explain — these challenges are not only tough, but they also mandate an expertise, depth, and tenacity which is all too rare in any organization. I am personally very proud to be working with such an outstanding team. And that brings us to the next item.
ASRC SUPPORT

This outstanding ASRC Communications team, and the truly critical work that they are doing for both ASRC and all of the SAR community, could easily be wiped out in an instant! How can this be? A surprise attack by those special interests? A politically motivated slamming of the doors at the FCC? Perhaps a renegade school bus crashing through their front doors? No! All it takes is the whim of a capricious ASRC board! It seems that the ASRC Communication Committee has no permanent status and can be wiped out at any meeting of the Board, despite all the good work and great strides for SAR. Many members do not remember its history. According to the first President of the ASRC, the Communications Committee was originally intended to be a permanent organization, and it has in fact been the only ASRC internal organization which has been in continuous operation since the very beginning. Longer than Operations, Training, Medical, or any other. And longer than SMRG or BRMRG, too. Yet it never got written into the Bylaws as a formal body. Perhaps it’s time to correct this error. As a formalized body, as defined in the bylaws, its responsibilities and authorities would be clearly defined and no longer subject to misunderstanding. Even more importantly, an essential continuity of operation could be assured, from year to year, without significantly being affected by the periodic turnover of the elected positions in the ASRC. Many other organizations, including local, state and Federal, expect to see consistent and coherent organizational structure and operation in a professional SAR resource such as ASRC. This has not always been the case, unfortunately. Therefore, the Communications Committee strongly and unanimously supports the establishment of a new ASRC Communication Division, as described in the attached summary. This was to have been a key action item at the recent ASRC Board meeting in Pittsburgh, but it was tabled with no action. Unfortunately, I could not attend due to unforeseen work commitments, and John Kihl was involved in an accident when his ambulance was rammed while on an ALS call. I hereby officially request that the Board act rapidly, by mail or telephone vote, to positively support this Bylaws change and the ASRC Communications Division, and therefore expedite action for adoption. If you have any questions, both I and the Communications staff will be happy to help. But please realize that our time is precious and must be devoted to the critical operations which have been described above. Thank You!
ASRC COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

3 OCTOBER 1987

1. GENERAL PURPOSE

The purpose of the ASRC Communications Committee is to expedite the effective and proper use of all forms of electronic communications within the ASRC, and within the SAR community.

2. SPECIFIC DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The ASRC Communications Committee is responsible for, and has the authority for, the following areas within or interfacing to the ASRC and/or elements thereof:

A. All radio, tactical (field), and special purpose communications.
B. Development, interpretation and enforcement of applicable rules, regulations, and policies.
C. Licensing and compliance of communications equipment and installations.
D. Training and approval of communications personnel.
E. Coordination of communications related information, activities, and initiatives.
F. Other communications activities as necessary.

3. RELATIONSHIP TO BOD AND GROUPS

The Communications Committee serves the ASRC membership and the SAR community directly and through the BOD and special liaisons as shown in the Communications Committee Organizational Chart.

4. GOALS FOR 1987

A. Develop communications training materials. IN PROCESS
B. Renew radio license for 155 MHz channels. ACCOMPLISHED
C. Participate in FCC National Public Safety Planning Advisory Committee (NPSPAC) and fight for SAR needs and resources. ACCOMPLISHED
D. Develop coalition of SAR emergency communications leaders for regional and national activities. ACCOMPLISHED
E. Obtain new license for UHF Emergency Medical Services frequencies. ACCOMPLISHED
F. Exploit new technology agile radios within ASRC. ACCOMPLISHED
G. Assist ASRC Groups and other SAR teams in obtaining equipment and supplies at minimum (usually dealer or factory) cost. ACCOMPLISHED
H. Develop Committee member job descriptions. IN DRAFT
I. Improve intracommittee communications to support dramatically increased ASRC size, regional expanse, and communications activities. IN PROCESS
J. Obtain bylaws change to stabilize and formalize the Committee. IN PROCESS
5. GOALS FOR 1988

A. Continue 1987 goals A, H, and I; maintain gains and thrusts of the others.

B. Expand 155 MHz license for more capabilities.

C. With SAR emergency communications coalition, continue battle for special nationwide SAR channels.

D. Develop regional SAR data communications systems to support all phases of SAR activities, including wireless and wired.

E. Assist each ASRC Group to become self-sufficient in initial response and small tactical operations communications equipment and capabilities.
A. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

During 1987 the SAR communications community was faced with an unusual number of significant challenges. These included the actions of the National Public Safety Planning Advisory Committee, the attempt to obtain nationwide dedicated SAR frequencies, and the controversy over restricting new and vital technology. Several of these challenges are continuing into 1988, and new issues include the ASTM standards activity. Overall, 1987 showed progress for SAR communications, and the NPSPAC was a temporary setback with the potential for long range gains.

B. NATIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The National Public Safety Planning Advisory Committee (NPSPAC) was created by the Federal Communications Committee (FCC) at the mandate of the US Congress. Its major purpose was to create a national band plan for the new 6 MHz portion of the 800 MHz radio band which was recently allocated to Public Safety users. This was the spectrum which was also sought by the mobile satellite service community for the provision of nationwide and rural "cellular telephone" type services which would have been of great benefit to the SAR community, especially in remote areas. However, in the political fight for this spectrum, the public safety organizations won, despite the observation that they already have more spectrum than they can utilize effectively.

Although the 800 MHz frequencies were possibly not of critical utility to rural SAR and disaster operations, they were of significance for emergency interoperability with other agencies who were using them, especially during urban disasters and other mutual aid activities. It should be remembered that the NPSPAC had another mandate which was of even more significance, and that was to examine the other radio frequency bands and to propose approaches to improve interoperability and effective usage. It is in these other bands, especially the very high frequency, high portion (VHF-HI), band near 155 MHz that most SAR and disaster teams are presently operating. Unfortunately, these teams are often crowded out of the limited frequencies in their areas, and their low-power tactical operations are overwhelmed by high-power users "sharing" the channels that they can get. Since these teams are also highly mobile and are often rapidly deployed to emergencies all over the US (and internationally, too), they must have a means of interoperability with the units in the emergency operational area, regardless of where it is. Unfortunately, a nationwide SAR and disaster channel has never been approved by the FCC, despite many previous attempts. Therefore it was of critical importance that ASRC and all other SAR and disaster organizations participate in the NPSPAC activities and raise their voices together in an effort to influence the beneficial results of the process.
When the FCC convened the NPSPAC, it made some critical errors, the most significant of which was the entrusting of the control and operation of the committee to personnel from an organization which had a great vested interest in the outcome of the results. Never send mice to guard cheese! This organization was the Associated Public Safety Communications Officers (APCo), who promptly placed their own members in every key position, volunteered to write (their version of) the minutes, and evidently were able to pursue their own agenda with impunity. As an example, at least half of the members wanted to discuss the definition of "public safety" organizations, which would have opened the door to presently excluded emergency providers such as SAR, disaster, Red Cross, emergency medical services, and others. According to the FCC, public safety includes only police, fire, local government, forestry, and highway, and these users have jealously guarded their "spectral turf". It's comforting to know that the FCC holds garbage trucks and road scrapers in higher esteem than front-line life savers such as paramedics and SAR teams! Despite this, the Chair refused to allow discussion. Likewise, several proposals were submitted to discuss emergency interoperability and nationwide compatible radio channels, but these papers "disappeared" from the minutes even though they were presented in full view of the whole committee. Finally, certain members resorted to obtaining written receipts from the Chair for paper proposals which they submitted, some of which apparently also "disappeared".

The basic result of the NPSPAC process is a notice of proposed rule making (NPRM) of the FCC which gives use of the 800 MHz channels to only those organizations which are approved by regional public safety committees, with the blessing of APCo. These public safety committees do not have to consider non-public safety entities (such as SAR, disaster, Red Cross, EMS, or any others) unless they choose to do so. The NPRM also totally ignores any nationwide user requirements (such as highly mobile SAR and disaster teams) and disregards all the other frequency bands, despite their mandate to consider them. Therefore, if a SAR, disaster, or other team cannot cajole their local police, fire, etc. and APCO regional committee into allowing them a tiny piece of the "turf" to operate on 800 MHz, they can't do it anywhere in the US, period.

Now for the good news! The attitude and performance of the APCD and the NPSPAC have been a good lesson for all concerned. In the SAR and disaster community, as well as the other "non-public safety" emergency services, it is clear what type of operations and tactics will be used to protect the "turf". Therefore, we should choose the next move and pick the next battleground. One potential opportunity is to try to join the APCD and establish a SAR and disaster committee. Another is to use the ASTM process. In 1988, the ASRC Communications Committee Team will be exploring both options.

C. NATIONAL SAR FREQUENCY

At the present time, there is no nationwide clear radio frequency which can be used by SAR and disaster units for emergency interoperability and mutual aid communications. As mentioned above, the National SAR frequency of 155.160 MHz has never been acknowledged by the FCC in Part 90 or its predecessors. Most of the SAR and disaster teams in the US operate in the VHF-HI band, which is very crowded. However, the characteristics of these frequencies and the equipment which uses them are an excellent combination for SAR and disaster team usage from rural to urban environments. Yet, a clear channel is still desperately needed. At the start of 1987, the ASRC Communications Committee Team had
The technical requirement is that all radios used in most of the services other than ham, CAP, and MARS must be type accepted. That is, they must be technically qualified to perform in an electronically acceptable manner, and they must be appropriately examined and approved by the FCC. The ham radios in question do not have to meet the same technical tests, even though they may actually be capable of passing them. The FCC concern evidently involves the unknown potential for improper functioning, rather than the fact. Fortunately, there are now available several radios which offer virtually the same performance (and are almost as inexpensive) and are type-accepted. They are usually commercial versions of almost identical ham radios, but have improved designs and have met the testing criteria. Excellent examples are the King PH series and the ICOM H-16. They span any desired part of the VHF-HI band, including ham. It is suggested that SAR units no longer purchase ham radios for non-ham uses, and that any existing ones be quietly sold or retired.

Administratively, the FCC requires that the user of any transmitter on any frequency must have the proper authorization. This is usually satisfied by the possession of an FCC license, an agreement with such a licenseholder, or satisfaction of other appropriate requirements (if any). One exception (not to be abused or used routinely) is the emergency provision. In the event of a clear and present danger or threat to life or property, and radio communications are the only feasible means of summoning assistance, radio users may disregard the administrative (and some of the technical) restrictions and attempt to pass the critical messages. Such a use of the emergency provision must be done with due regard and minimum practical interference to the other authorized users, and it is limited to the minimum time necessary to accomplish the communications. SAR units should not rely on the use of this emergency provision on a routine basis. If they need to frequently interoperate with other users, they should obtain a license or agreement.

D. TECHNOLOGY

Recently there have been several reports that the FCC has attempted to ban the use of synthesized radios by SAR and disaster units. This is not exactly the case (yet), as understood by the examination of one of the FCC’s recent notices obtained through Hunter Holloway (thanks!). The notice affects those organizations which have been using radios, designed and marketed for the amateur radio service, on non-amateur frequencies such as special emergency channels. They have done so primarily because of the low cost of the "ham" equipment and the wide frequency range which some of the new technology equipment will span, often all of VHF-HI band (140 to 175 MHz). Therefore, in a single economical package, they can interoperate with users in SAR, ham, CAP, MARS, police, fire, rescue, parks, forestry, and other services. This is certainly a persuasive argument! However, there exist certain administrative and technical controls on such operations.

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E. ASTM STANDARDS

There has been a significant amount of interest in SAR standards, and one area which has not been considered by the ASTM SAR standards effort is SAR communications. The members of the ASRC Communications Committee plan to attend the ASTM meeting and organize a SAR Communications activity. This may be of great value in bringing together all SAR and disaster organizations in an effort to develop standardized communications procedures, frequencies, equipment, and mutual strength. This is an opportunity which should be actively pursued.

F. RADIO LICENSE UPGRADE

There has been an urgent request by AMRG for assistance in obtaining additional radio channels for use on ASRC operations. In the Pennsylvania area (and many others, too), the SAR frequencies we presently use are already crowded, and the competition with which we "share" the channels is using high power base stations which swamp our low-power tactical operations. The appropriate course is to apply for more frequencies on our license. Due to the advent of the expensive coordination process with its large fees, I and the other members of the Communications Committee are no longer able to finance the ASRC license costs out of our own personal pocket as we have done in the past. Therefore, we hereby request that the ASRC BOD budget a sum of $2000.00 to be used for the coordination fees. Although it probably will cost more, we will try to negotiate the lowest cost, and if any is left, we will return it to the BOD. As an alternative, if we can enter into a coalition with several other SAR community radio users who also have the same challenge, we may find a way to share some of the costs.

G. REVIEW OF GOALS

A. Develop communications training materials. IN PROCESS
B. Renew radio license for 155 MHz channels. ACCOMPLISHED
C. Participate in FCC National Public Safety Planning Advisory Committee (NPSPAC) and fight for SAR needs and resources. ACCOMPLISHED
D. Develop coalition of SAR emergency communications leaders for regional and national activities. ACCOMPLISHED
E. Obtain new license for UHF Emergency Medical Services frequencies. ACCOMPLISHED
F. Exploit new technology agile radios within ASRC. ACCOMPLISHED
G. Assist ASRC Groups and other SAR teams in obtaining equipment and supplies at minimum (usually dealer or factory) cost. ACCOMPLISHED
H. Develop Committee member job descriptions. IN DRAFT
I. Improve intracommittee communications to support dramatically increased ASRC size, regional expanse, and communications activities. IN PROCESS
J. Obtain bylaws change to stabilize and formalize the Committee. IN PROCESS
H. NEW GOALS FOR 1988

A. Continue 1987 goals A, H, and I; maintain gains and thrusts of the others. IN PROCESS
B. Expand 155 MHz license for more capabilities. IN PROCESS
C. With SAR emergency communications coalition, continue battle for special nationwide SAR channels. IN PROCESS
D. Develop regional SAR data communications systems to support all phases of SAR activities, including wireless and wired. PENDING
E. Assist each ASRC Group to become self-sufficient in initial response and small tactical operations communications equipment and capabilities. IN PROCESS
F. Update callsign and equipment inventory list. IN PROCESS
G. Develop technical design guide for portable tactical repeaters. IN PROCESS

I. ASRC SUPPORT

The ASRC Communications Committee Team, and the truly critical work that they are doing for both ASRC and all of the SAR community, could easily be wiped out in an instant! How can this be? A surprise attack by those special interests? A politically motivated slamming of the doors at the FCC? Perhaps a renegade school bus crashing through their front doors? No! All it takes is the whim of a capricious ASRC board! It seems that the ASRC Communication Committee has no permanent status and can be wiped out at any meeting of the Board, despite all the good work and great strides for SAR. Many members do not remember its history. According to the first President of the ASRC, the Communications Committee was originally intended to be a permanent organization, and it has in fact been the only ASRC internal organization which has been in continuous operation since the very beginning. Longer than Operations, Training, Medical, or any other. And longer than SMRG or BRMRG, too. Yet it never got written into the Bylaws as a formal body. Perhaps it’s time to correct this error. As a formalized body, as defined in the bylaws, its responsibilities and authorities would be clearly defined and no longer subject to misunderstanding. Even more importantly, an essential continuity of operation could be assured, from year to year, without significantly being affected by the periodic turnover of the elected positions in the ASRC. Many other organizations, including local, state and Federal, expect to see consistent and coherent organizational structure and operation in a professional SAR resource such as ASRC. This has not always been the case, unfortunately. Therefore, the Communications Committee strongly supports the establishment of a new ASRC Communication Division, as described in the attached summary. This was to have been a key action item at the July 1987 ASRC Board meeting in Pittsburgh, but it was tabled with no action. Unfortunately, I could not attend due to unforeseen work commitments, and John Kihl was involved in an accident when his ambulance was rammed while on an ALS call. Despite several requests since that time, nothing has been done. I hereby officially request that the Board act rapidly to positively support this Bylaws change and the ASRC Communications Division, and therefore expedite action for adoption. If you have any questions, both I and the Communications staff will be happy to help. But please realize that our time is precious and must be devoted to the critical operations which have been described above. Thank You!
J. SUMMARY

Although this short report cannot adequately reflect the very large amount of activity in SAR communications, the ASRC Communications Committee Team hopes to keep the ASRC Board of Directors informed of the fast-moving technical, operational, and political environments. If there are any questions, please feel free to contact us directly.

Thank You!

Gene Harrison  
Box 1584, Leesburg, VA 22075  
h (703) 777-6111  
w (703) 883-6142

John Kihl  
26 Patricia Dr., Greensburg, PA 15601  
h (412) 838-8891

Bruce Barton  
921 9th St., Stroudsburg, PA 18360  
hw (717) 424-1883
Thank you for seeing me last Wednesday regarding the computer account for the Southwest Virginia Mountain Rescue Group of the Appalachian Search and Rescue Conference, Inc. As requested, this letter, in conjunction with the enclosed brochure (its two years old, and slightly out-of-date, however), will provide you with the information you requested on the organization itself, and the intended use of the computer account.

The Appalachian Search and Rescue Conference was established twelve years ago in Charlottesville, Va., in response to a perceived need for a highly trained and competent organization to perform wilderness search and rescue in Virginia. An all-volunteer agency, the ASRC has since expanded to five “Certified” Groups (in Blacksburg, Charlottesville, Richmond, Washington, DC, and Pittsburg, PA), and one “Affiliate” Group in Hyattsville, MD. The ASRC is now the principal response agency of the Commonwealth of Virginia (as well as the states of Maryland and Pennsylvania) for search and rescue. The ASRC now provides incident commanders and staff, field searchers, and technical rescue personnel. We were involved in over 50 incidents last year, travelling over 285,000 miles and committing over 12,000 manhours of volunteer service.

Because of our increasing responsibilities and size, the ASRC established a MIS Committee to plan for and guide the information processing needs of the organization as it developed. One of the keystones to this development was the establishment of an electronic mail network. This network is based on computer accounts at neighboring universities and research centers, and currently consists of donated accounts at the Univ. of Virginia, Virginia Commonwealth University, George Washington University, Johns Hopkins University, and Carnegie-Mellon University.

The Appalachian Search and Rescue Conference would very much like to see its Blacksburg group (the Southwest Virginia Mountain Rescue Group) established on the network. Its computer usage would be mostly electronic mail, with occasional uploading/downloading mail messages to a PC. Use of the account by group personnel would be strictly controlled, and the ASRC MIS Committee would provide 1st level user support to the account users.

If I can be any further help, or provide further information, please do not hesitate to call.

Regards,

Jim Rooney
MIS Committee Chairman
**Request Form: Access to CS Facilities**

**Type of request:** (check only one per box)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>New</th>
<th>VTCS1 username</th>
<th>VTCS1 username</th>
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<td>Renewal</td>
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**Applicant:**

- **Name:** JAMES J. ROONEY
- **Department:** VET MED
- **Affiliation with CS department:** NONE
- **Sponsoring Faculty Member:** EVANS
- **Node Name:** Username (if requesting CSRN only):
- **Campus Address:** PHASE II - VET MED
- **Phone:** 901-7666
- **Select Username:** SWVMRG
- **Initial Password:** ONGELAY (change on first login)
- **Signature:**

**Sponsoring Faculty Member:**

- **Describe project on which applicant will work. Justify need for account or gateway over Computing Center facilities:** [SEE ATTACHED LETTER]
- **Billing account/group:** ASR
- **Make member of other groups:**
- **Include on following mailing lists:**
- **Special resources needed:**
- **Signature:**

**Computer Resources Coordinator Only:**

- **Approved Access:** VTCS1 VTOPUS CSRN Other
- **Rules Review:** Access Card: Expires:
- **Access to Rooms:** NO
- **Signature:**

**Lab Staff Only:**

- **Date Received:**
- **User No.:** 106
- **Account:** ASR
- **Mailing Lists:**
- **Homedir:**
- **Other:**

Revised 10/87
SUBJECT: The "SWVMRG@OPUS" account

The following questions were presented to Mr. James Evans of the VA Tech Dept. of Computer Sciences on 3/25/88. His responses follow the questions.

1. Mr. Evans, when was the "SWVMRG@OPUS" account set up? Dec 21, 1987

2. Who asked for this account? MR. Jim Rooney

3. Did Mr. Jim Rooney represent himself as a member of SWVMRG who had the authority to set up said account? Yes

4. Was the account set up as a personal account for Mr. Rooney? No.

5. Was the account set for Mr. Rooney because he claimed to be a representative of SWVMRG? Yes

6. Did Mr. Rooney give you the name of a second contact from SWVMRG, specifically Kristi Fitzwater? No, not that I can remember.

[Signature]

Lab Director
Computes Science dept