ASRC Discussion Issues Summary List, Oct 24, 2011

Insurance
- Who is responsible for discussing insurance with our agent?
- How can we get all of our questions answered in a reasonable time?
- Clarify the risk – what are the cases in the last 5-10 years involving SAR activity?
- Clarify what liability or other insurance RAs provide when requesting resources
  - VDEM
  - Others
- How do we avoid paying for insurance we (as individuals or as a team) don’t need?
- Are we able to be insured only if we are individual members of ASRC?
- Insurance increases, how to deal with this? (there is no time to find another quote upon notification, b/c that notification is likely 30 days before)
- Some members/teams don’t want to pay extra for insurance b/c they already have it
- Get rid of ASRC-level insurance?
- What is the “insurance” cover? Why does a responding member need it? Why would ASRC and/or a team provide it? And what is the appropriate amount of coverage?
  - Liability
    - VFIS “Package” covers Management Liability for ASRC leadership, and General Liability insurance for the Conference
    - VFIS “Auto” Liability for vehicular incidents with other people while conducting ASRC business
  - Equipment loss/damage
  - Workmans comp
  - AD&D
- VFIS constraints as a vendor – all customers must have AD&D through them, AD&D varies by membership, none of the others do

ASRC structure
- How should current ASRC be described in NIMS terms? (Multi-Agency Coordination System, MAC?)
- Should ASRC be an operational entity or just an alert/notification/clearinghouse?
- Why should teams be a member of ASRC?
o Insurance?
o Mutual aid?
o Adopt standards?
o Community discussion and sharing of expertise & resources makes us better able to do SAR?

- Is there an individual membership in ASRC?
- Keep everything the way it is, but have (some) dues optional

- Differences among ASRC groups
  o Trains to NASAR standards
  o Trains to MRA standards
  o Trains to ASRC standards
  o Trains & deploys specialized resources for which ASRC does not have a standard (mantracker, dogs, horses, 4x4, NPS fitness test, etc)
  o Wears own uniform with ASRC patch
  o Wears ASRC blue shirt uniform
  o Responds to incidents outside of normal ASRC-type missions (e.g. certain types of police requests)
  o Requires insurance for training activities (liability, equipment, workmans comp, AD&D)
  o Requires insurance for admin activities (liability, auto)
  o Requires insurance for mission response (liability, equipment, workmans comp, AD&D)
  o Requires members to have personal active auto insurance
  o Requires members to have personal active health/medical insurance
  o Requires members to be GTO certified at a certain level in order to respond

- Could ASRC be an organization of just individuals only, rather than of teams? (to enable people who need insurance to respond as “ASRC” and teams would respond themselves under their own insurance)
- Knowing policy, standards, and following procedures, particularly BOD members and officers
- Not knowing why those standards, policies and procedures were established
- How can we use both email, teleconference and in person meetings to get BOD work done
- How does ASRC compare to MRA?
  o ASRC “better” than MRA
    - Same training standards & certification across teams
    - Same operational procedures across teams
    - We integrate on-scene much faster
    - We tend to all get the callout, thus we travel further to incidents (thus deliver more resources?)

- How do we determine if the BOD is effective in dealing with issues?
- What should we do about it if the BOD is not being effective?
ASRC training

- What is the role of ASRC with regard to “certification”?
- When is someone certified? (by issuance of a paper credential, or a vote or a GTO approval)
  - CQ, FTM, FTL
  - IS, IC, AO, CDO
- How does this ASRC training level certification differ from a state EMS or Fire certification?
- Does certification require insurance and if so what type and how much?
- What is the role of issuing certificates and/or any other credential? Should it?
- Should teams issue a paper certificate or other credential based on GTO passing a team member for a specific ASRC training level?
- Should there be approved instructors?
- Should ASRC BOD approve GTOs?
- need NIMS recognition
- need VA recognition
- need WVA, MD, PA, DEL recognition
- ASRC BOD & GTO’s role in certification
- Are GTOs responsible for training and certifying IS and IC?
- How do we handle members responding and providing specialties that aren’t in ASRC standards (signcutter, K9 Cadaver)?
- Is the IC standard being maintained? Can anyone still attain IC?
- Is the IS standard being maintained? Can anyone still attain IS?
- Out of state teams not allowed to take VDEM training?
- Should ASRC train anyone who wants to attend a class, or just ASRC group members?
- (old question) how do we afford the cost of maintaining certifications?
- Should certification be contingent on remaining a member in good standing with an ASRC group?
- How should an ASRC training program be administrated?
- Should we pay instructors and if so how?

ASRC Ops

- Lewis County debrief needed
- What are the current EMAC laws?
- Which states have MOU programs for SAR resources, and do they restrict response to MOU teams? When can non-MOU teams be requested?
- Are there any state-to-state recognition of other state’s SAR standards?
- Can VA not call closest resource if that resource is in another state?
- How does ASRC currently facilitate interstate resource response?
- Why does the conference not receive calls from VDEM?
- Why does the conference not receive calls from MD?
Who can authorize a mission response? (ACA, IC, ASRC AO, group AO)
Who can decide the nature of the ASRC response? (e.g. why a call back to the RA?)
What do we think we should do when the RA request comes for 5 FTLs and 10 FTM and 2 dogs?
Why does it take an ACA, IC to call back hours later?
Why are our responses to alerts, and/or people on road delayed?
Clarify policy about solicitation to respond when mission on going?
Can respond if we can get requested by someone involved, even when there is no clear authority in charge?
How to handle callout limited by RA direction?
How to handle no single RA or any effective RA at scene?
How to handle RA direction for inappropriate use of resources?
How to handle RA direction against state (e.g. VDEM dog) resource usage policy?
How to handle callout limited by state/county resource standard/approval?
Interstate role (?) for ASRC going to go away?
Are we effectively debriefing/critiquing missions? particularly where people hear or see an ASRC IC/IS not cooperating with RA direction or displaying in appropriate representation (ego, unprofessional conduct)
How to handle requests for a single individual (or don’t send xyz)
Teams responding w/o notifying or requesting the other teams
Clarify whether ASRC is responding as a “team”
How can we improve alert/dispatch to make it simpler/faster?
Can members of one team manage, direct, or discipline members of another team while on a search?
What do we do for the RA if we have to say “there are no resources right now”? 