Creating A Conference-wide Exercise Program for the ASRC

Introduction
In recent years, the ASRC has engaged in a conference-wide field exercise once per year at the AGM. I believe that most teams and individuals found these exercises to be value added. This proposal extends this concept to a series of exercises throughout the year, a "conference-wide SAR exercise program".

A conference-wide SAR exercise program yields these benefits:
- Improves the integration of our teams between and within each other;
- Provides opportunities to practice critical skills;
- Provides a context to try out new and innovative approaches to our SAR challenges;
- Provides a mission context for certifying some components of our new credentialing framework; and
- Provides a simulated operational backdrop for certain research projects.

Additionally, we can use the exercises to collect and document lessons learned for use on future missions.

Approach

I propose that, initially, we schedule two field exercises each year. This could include one field exercise centered around the AGM, and another approximately six months from the AGM. In addition to the field exercises, we schedule two table-top management exercises during the year.

One management table-top exercise is held face to face. The other could be held “virtually” using a combination of “remote support” technologies and approaches.

A member team or a group of member teams can host an exercise.

The yearly operational rhythm of the exercises would look like this:
1. Field Exercise (with AGM)
2. Management Table-Top (face to face)
3. Field Exercise (six months from AGM)
4. Management Table-Top (virtual)

These quarterly, or so, exercises would provide for a range of skills, innovations, and thought leadership to be practiced. Also, they could be highlighted with our SAR stakeholders that want to “try out” their own ideas in a simulated mission context.

If there is interest from the board and member teams, I would be happy to expand on this concept and help orchestrate this effort.