

Allegheny Mountain Rescue Group
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December 14, 1994

David A. Carter, ASRC Chairman
TSAR ASRC Delegate
803 Townsend Court
Norfolk, VA 23502

Dear Dave:

SUBJECT: MRA Response by ASRC Teams

As you now, I've been a supporter of MRA involvement by the ASRC since Gene, Ray and I started the ASRC. The wording on the enclosed new MRA Appalachian Region Rolodex card ("Wilderness search and rescue in Mountains -- Difficult Terrain -- Snow & Ice -- Poor Weather") outlines precisely those problems for which we formed the ASRC. I think the ASRC's current emphasis on urban and suburban search gets away from the ASRC's original intent: outdoor people using their outdoor expertise to help those injured or ill in the outdoors.

Nonetheless, I recently heard a distressing concept: the idea that ASRC Groups who are MRA teams could respond, not as part of the ASRC but as the MRA. Members would have to take off their ASRC uniform shirts and don some separate MRA uniform shirt. I think this might end up with the MRA region doing what the ASRC was originally designed to do, and the ASRC itself left with nothing but "easy" searches. Nonetheless, I'm still a proponent of a strong ASRC.

I don't like this. It goes against the ASRC's time-tested response pattern: it's the ASRC that responds to a mission, not the individual ASRC Groups. It also goes against the principle that ASRC members wear the ASRC uniform, and not a Group uniform.

I suggest that we view a call to the ASRC for MRA teams the same as a request for an Overhead Team or any other special resource. If the call comes in for teams with MRA capabilities, we only dispatch ASRC members from teams that meet the MRA certification requirements. This leaves out members of Groups that aren't part of the MRA, but such Groups can always join the MRA if they wish to be called for such operations. This would help preserve ASRC unity such as it is.

Thank you.

Yours truly,

Keith Conover, M.D.

AMRG ASRC Delegate

encl: MRA Appalachian Region Rolodex card

cc: Bob Koester, Gary Mechtel, Gene Harrison, Peter
McCabe, Rich Worst, Chuck Kollar, Mike Kuga,
Don Scelza

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