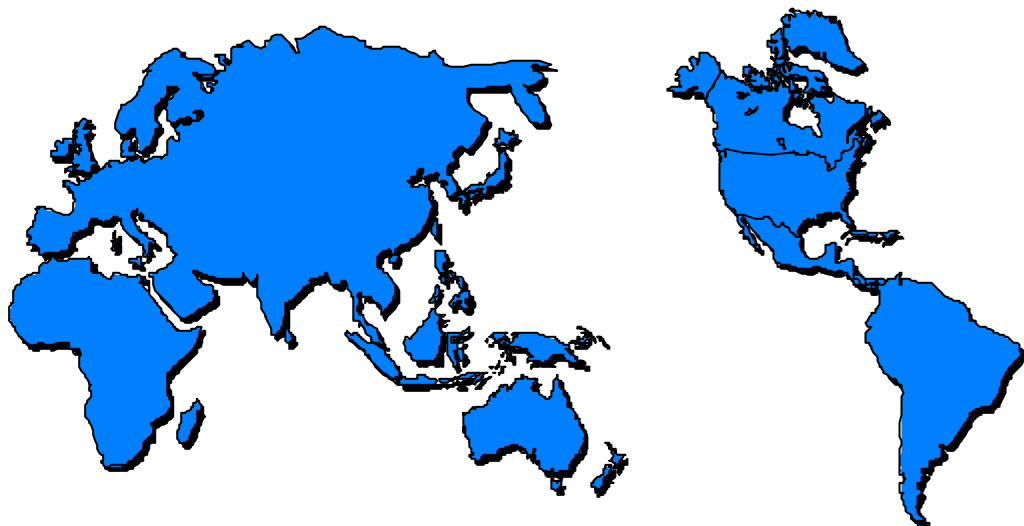


Winston Churchill Fellowship

Search and Rescue



Gerard Prins
2001

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1. Introduction

This paper outlines the findings of a best practice investigation in search and rescue carried out as part of a Winston Churchill Fellowship.

The Winston Churchill Memorial Trust assists New Zealanders to travel overseas to learn more about other people and cultures and to investigate topics which will help them to increase their contribution to the community and their trade, industry, profession, business or calling.

The Trust was established in 1965, by an Act of Parliament, with funds from both the Government and the public. Since then, net income from investments has been used to award up to 25 Churchill Fellowships each year. The Trust is administered by the Department of Internal Affairs.

1.1 Principle Recommendations

The aim of the fellowship was to look at police and volunteer relationships, and any innovations that can assist search and rescue within New Zealand. This paper is prepared in a format so that interested groups or persons may be able to interpret the content and findings in their own manner.

The principle recommendations relate to specific areas that are achievable within the current structure and framework. The recommendations have been derived from personal observations, notes of interview and the findings. Where the recommendations relate to specific notes of interview or text they have been referenced with a page number. To fully understand the recommendations, this paper should be studied in full.

1.2 It is recommended that:

1. The Police initiate discussions with the appropriate government agency to investigate the establishment of a form of funding for search and rescue based on the Canadian National Search and Rescue Secretariat New Initiatives Funding. (references 37, 38, 53, 54, 65, 66)
2. The Police work with the other government agencies responsible for search and rescue to review and investigate the current structure of the New Zealand National Search and Rescue Committee. Current structures of the United States and United Kingdom committees should be used to provide a possible template. (references 35, 36, 88, 89, 90, 100)
3. The Police investigate changing the policy that allows any police person to be appointed an incident controller for a search and rescue incident. Best practice internationally is only persons trained in search and rescue management techniques manage incidents. The most common qualification standard is the Emergency Response Institute Managing Search Operations course, or the Emergency Response International Managing Land Search Operations course. The New Zealand Police are currently completing both of these courses in partnership with New Zealand Land Search and Rescue. (references 12 – 22)

4. The Police investigate the possibility of adopting the Hug-a-Tree or similar program within New Zealand. This programme teaches children the skills to survive should they ever get lost in the wilderness. (reference 42)
5. The Police investigate with New Zealand Land Search and Rescue, and the Royal New Zealand Coastguard Federation the possible adoption of the British Columbia Search and Rescue Review process for incident debriefing. This process may provide a more analytical method of debriefing incidents. (reference 39)
6. The Police, working with New Zealand Land Search and Rescue, adopt a policy that only trained and qualified search and rescue dog teams be allowed to operate in a search and rescue incident. (references 40, 64, 65, 86, 87, 104, 105)
7. The Police and New Zealand Land Search and Rescue investigate the new Emergency Response Institute Initial Attack Course for adoption within New Zealand. (references 30, 31, 32, 77, 78, 79, 81, 116, 117, 118)
8. Any requests for additional funding for full insurance cover from the volunteer organisations in search and rescue be supported. Internationally individual insurance cover for volunteers engaged in search and rescue is funded by the coordinating agency. Coverage for injuries is currently provided by the Accident Compensation Commission. (reference 33)
9. New Zealand Land Search and Rescue investigate updating their logo in line with international models in order to provide better identification. (reference 38)
10. New Zealand Land Search and Rescue and the Royal New Zealand Coastguard Federation be encouraged to develop a travel assistance scheme for a person from their respective organisations to investigate best practices in land and marine search and rescue. (This recommendations has no specific reference and relates to the benefits of study opportunities)

1.3 The Author

Gerard Prins is the Police National Co-ordinator for Search and Rescue. He has the administrative responsibilities for the national co-ordination of land and marine search and rescue. Currently a senior sergeant at the Office of Commissioner, he has been a police officer for 25 years. His contact address is PO Box 3017, Wellington. E-mail gerard.prins@police.govt.nz

1.4 Background to the Winston Churchill Fellowship

In June 2000 I applied to complete a Winston Churchill Fellowship. The Commissioner of Police Rob Robinson and the Chairperson of New Zealand Land Search and Rescue (NZLSAR), Mr Graham Thorp supported the application.

The aim of the Fellowship was to research into best practice and innovations in management of search and rescue operations. In applying to the Winston Churchill Trust, the following information (condensed) was supplied.

1.5 Objective of Fellowship (from the original application)

To research the role of Police and volunteers in the management of search and rescue operations, investigating Canadian and USA practices and researching new innovations.

I am the Police National Co-ordinator for search and rescue, and was appointed to the position in October 1999. I intend to investigate, understand and define what is best practice in the management of search and rescue operations, comparing the situation in New Zealand with Canadian and American experiences. Both these countries have similar volunteer/police relationships. In particular I am interested in defining what the police relationship is with their volunteers and how they interact, looking in particular at the command and co-ordination roles. I want to bring back best practice and innovation to search and rescue and apply it to the New Zealand context.

Every year the police are responsible for coordinating over 800 land and marine operations. The role of the police in search and rescue has been criticised by some sectors within the New Zealand volunteer SAR community, as they believe that the police should hand over greater search management responsibility to volunteers. This has been linked to increases in the professionalism of the volunteer groups represented by the Royal New Zealand Coastguard Federation and New Zealand Land Search and Rescue with some of the persons within these groups advocating a greater role in search management. There are merits in a stronger management role for volunteers, but any change needs to be carefully investigated.

The Canadians and Americans are recognised as being at the leading edge of search and rescue management. Recently new techniques and procedures have been developed and implemented in these countries. While visiting police agencies and SAR organisations in Canada and USA I will be investigating the following.

- 1 The changing role of police in search and rescue incident management*
- 2 The role of volunteers in search and rescue management and their relationship with police*
- 3 New methods in search and rescue training and management*

- 4 Search and Rescue Policy development
- 5 Police involvement in search and rescue squads

By gaining a greater knowledge of the role of volunteers and police internationally I will be able to provide better service to search and rescue groups and the public. The police are the government agency with the responsibility for searches for missing persons within New Zealand and close to the shore. The police are able to complete search and rescue operations by the involvement of volunteer groups.

1.6 Proposed Itinerary

In applying to complete the fellowship, my intention was to visit the United States and Canada. These two countries are seen as leading the way in search and rescue. The plan was to visit Vancouver, Seattle, Calgary, Ottawa, Washington DC and Richmond, Virginia.

When obtaining quotes for the travel, an around the world airfare was slightly cheaper than returning from Washington, D.C. This enabled the inclusion of Wales and England in the itinerary.

1.7 Police Policy on Search and Rescue

Police policy for search and rescue is contained within Police General Instructions and the Police Manual of Best Practice, Search and Rescue Chapter. These documents provide guidelines for the handling of search and rescue operations.

The co-ordination of land and marine search and rescue is regarded as core police business.

1.8 Search and Rescue in New Zealand

SAR Operations within New Zealand cover a wide spectrum of activity. The definition of a SAR operations is that from the Police Manual of Best Practice, Search and Rescue chapter (1998) Pg 353 and:

is an operation aimed at saving life, preventing injury or removing a person from a situation of peril, and includes any operation mounted solely to recover bodies from a remote location.

Search and rescue operations fall within the following three categories:

Class 1

An operation that can be carried out efficiently and effectively by the police alone.

Class 2

An operation that requires the assistance of departments or persons outside the police.

Class 3

An operation for missing or distressed ships beyond harbour or coastal limits, or aircraft that is coordinated from the National Rescue Co-ordination Centre (NRCC).

In all Class 3 operations, the National Rescue Co-ordination Centre (NRCC) is the prime agency and has responsibility.

The Police are responsible for the co-ordination of Class 1 and 2 SAR operations. This responsibility was given to the Police under Notes of a Deputation by the Minister of Justice in 1935 and confirmed by Government to the Commissioner of Police under a 1936 memorandum.

Search and rescue has a heavy involvement of volunteers who assist the police. The New Zealand Police SAR Organisation has police operating at district and station level with Police SAR Squads (where established) and civilian volunteers. Each Police District has an Inspector in charge of Operations whose portfolios include SAR. In the event of an operation, the District Commander appoints a Police Officer who serves as the Incident Controller and is responsible for completing the search.

The Police rely heavily on the use of volunteers to complete the SAR role. These volunteers are affiliated predominantly to the Royal New Zealand Coastguard Federation or New Zealand Land Search and Rescue (NZLSAR).

1.9 Best Practice Definition

The term *Bench marking*, *Best Practice* and *International Best Practice* are often quoted. I believe this terminology is being used without fully understanding what it means.

In order to complete this paper a definition of best practice is defined as:

The pursuit of world class performance. It is a moving target. As leading organisations improve, the best practice goal posts also move. The following points have been taken from the Australian Best Practice Demonstration program (1993 Pg 2) and are:

- ?? *A shared vision for world class performance*
- ?? *A strategic plan, developed in consultation with the partners and internal groups*
- ?? *A commitment to change*
- ?? *A commitment to continuous improvement and learning, with a highly skilled and flexible workforce*
- ?? *A focus on customers*
- ?? *The pursuit of innovation in technology and processes*
- ?? *The development of a very broad range of performance indicators*
- ?? *Innovative human-resource policies which include a commitment to Occupational Safety and Health and Equal Employment Opportunities*

Benchmarking is an objective, ongoing search for best practice and processes. It can provide performance targets and ideas for improving processes and how an organisation runs.

1.10 Countries and Places Visited

The Fellowship was carried out from 20 April until 4 June 2001. Fifty-two interviews were held in three countries. Countries and places visited were:

Canada	United States	United Kingdom
Vancouver (BC)	Tacoma (Washington)	Bangor (Wales)
Victoria (BC)	Parkwood (Washington)	Colwyn Bay (Wales)
McBride (BC)	Washington D.C.	Holyhead (Wales)
Calgary(Alberta)	Baltimore (Maryland)	Abergele (Wales)
Canmore (Alberta)	Richmond (Virginia)	Newcastle on Tyne (England)
Lethbridge (Alberta)	Langley (Virginia)	Northumberland (England)
Ottawa		

1.11 Outline of Fellowship Paper

In completing the paper, notes of interviews were made and compiled into the sections Canada, United States and United Kingdom. Where applicable I have used excerpts from SAR Internet sites. Search and Rescue has its own jargon but I have tried to keep these anachronyms to a minimum. A guide on anachronyms has been included as section 7 (Page 42).

In completing the paper I have answered the five key goals set out in the Churchill application. These were:

- ?? The changing role of police in search and rescue incident management
- ?? The role of volunteers in search and rescue management and their relationship with police
- ?? New methods in search and rescue training and management
- ?? Search and Rescue Policy development
- ?? Police involvement in search and rescue squads

Each of these will be answered, with supporting evidence from the places visited to justify findings. The five key goals have been preceded by a summary, which outlines the findings for that goal.

1.12 Assistance

One of the privileges of being involved in search and rescue is to experience the fellowship of associating with like-minded persons internationally. This fellowship would never of been possible without the assistance of many persons, who by their kindness and assistance, made it happen. Because of the limited funding supplied by the Winston Churchill Fellowship Trust the fellowship was only made possible by the generosity shown by many persons.

It is risky thanking people individually however some people went the extra mile to offer assistance. To this end I would like to especially thank:

Sergeant Don Bindon, Royal Canadian Mounted Police
Mr Rick La Valla, President, Emergency Response Institute
Mr John Chaffey, National Search and Rescue Secretariat

Mr Cole Brown, Board Member, National Association for Search and Rescue
Dr Tony Jones, Vice Chairperson, Mountain Rescue Council
Dave Roberts and Peter Perkins, Northumberland National Park SAR Team

1.13 Disclaimer

The views contained within this paper are of the writer and do not reflect those of the New Zealand Police.

2. The changing role of police in search and rescue incident management

Summary of findings

- 1 The Police are responsible for the co-ordination of land search and rescue in all countries visited.
- 2 Volunteers recognise the police as the co-ordination agency and work to supply teams and resources.
- 3 There are Government agencies, such as the Canadian National Search and Rescue Secretariat who take the lead in initiating change and setting standards within search and rescue.
- 4 There is no consistency to the structure of search and rescue land incident management teams. In British Columbia for example although the police have the responsibility, they have virtually devolved all operational authority to volunteer search managers, with police maintaining a strategic overview. In other areas visited the police maintain a firmer control of incidents management.
- 5 In all areas visited, standards are set in place for police who complete the role of search and rescue incident controllers. The same or similar standards exist for volunteers who complete the role of search manager. The most common standard is the Emergency Response Institute Managing Search Operations Course (ERI MSO).
- 6 Professional authorities such as HM Coastguard (UK) and Coastguard in Canada and United States complete marine search and rescue co-ordination. Volunteers if used are as a response unit.

Evidence

2.1.1 Canada

In Canada, except within federally owned National Parks, the overall responsibility for land and inland water search and rescue rest with the provinces, territories and municipalities. Typically this responsibility is delegated to the police force of jurisdiction.

The police force of jurisdiction in all provinces except Ontario and Quebec, both territories and in various municipalities is the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP). In these areas, police services, including SAR, is performed pursuant to formal police services agreements.

The RCMP recently completed an extensive review of its search and rescue policy and training requirements. The review resulted in a revitalised search and rescue program, which should enable the RCMP to provide SAR services in a more effective and cost efficient manner.

In order to achieve these objectives the RCMP is placing special emphasis on:

- ?? Response;
- ?? Interdepartmental Cooperation;
- ?? Prevention, and

?? Volunteers.

In the area of response, new RCMP policy will clearly outline the roles and responsibilities of RCMP personnel within a province, territory or municipality. RCMP SAR Co-ordinators ensure that regional issues, including policy, training and resources are promptly addressed. Each province or territory served by the RCMP has a SAR co-ordinator. This is usually one of several portfolio's.

Detachment Commanders ensure that complaints of lost or overdue persons are promptly investigated and a "Lost/Missing Person Report" is compiled. When warranted, a SAR trained RCMP Search Commander is appointed and a search is initiated.

RCMP Search Commanders assume overall on-site authority for the organisation and management of the actual search and ensure the search is well organised and managed according to proven management procedures. The assistance of a SAR trained volunteer civilian Search Manager and SAR trained volunteers may be requested. The qualification for a search commander is the ERI MSO course.

Initial SAR responses may involve one or more of the following: Police Service Dog Team; trained volunteer SAR civilian dog team; Trained volunteer "Hasty Team" (in some areas RCMP Hasty Teams are used); RCMP helicopter equipped with Forward Looking Infrared (FLIR); trained volunteer "specialist" teams, e.g. avalanche, white water, ice rescue, etc.; trained volunteer SAR divers (although most areas use RCMP Dive Teams); trained human trackers and other SAR trained persons.

Subsequent or more concentrated searches may involve the use of SAR trained volunteer teams; (who conduct open or closed grid searches); the Civil Air Search and Rescue Association (CASARA), or other provincial agencies with SAR capabilities; or in the case of inland water searches, the Canadian Marine Rescue Auxiliary (CMRA).

Under recently released new SAR policy, the minimum training requirement for RCMP Search Commanders will be a "basic SAR" and "SAR management" course. As a standard for training, the RCMP has formally recognised "basic", "advanced" and "management" SAR courses produced by, or based on the principles of, the United States based Emergency Response Institute (ERI), and the U.S. National Association for Search and Rescue (NASAR).

Police see SAR incident management as core business which is unlikely to change in the immediate future.

2.1.1. British Columbia (BC)

Within BC there are seven police trained as SAR Commanders. All but one completed the training in their own time. RCMP recently allowed one police member to complete training as SAR Commander by completing the SAR manager's course.

RCMP has overall responsibility within the areas they are the contracted policing agency and work closely with the Provincial Emergency Program. (PEP) They are based in Victoria and provide a 24-hour emergency room for all emergencies

including SAR. If an incident occurs, the Police will contact a SAR Manager and give a job number. This person will then contact PEP and obtain a task number. SAR Managers have the authority to put a helicopter up for 2 hours if the situation is urgent (white water rescue). Otherwise they need authority from the PEP, or RCMP if police units are used. Matters are discussed with the duty officer PEP.

Police will generally start a search and suspend it. Police role in the search headquarters is generally limited to the role of Incident Controller (I/C). Police also work in interviewing next of kin (NOK) and others to build a picture etc of the missing person. Volunteer SAR Managers will run the search as deputy I/C. The Police role is not to really manage but be aware and comfortable with what is happening. Police provide input into the management team when required as they have the overall responsibility.

If expenditure starts to get too great, the Police SAR Co-ordinator, Sergeant Don Bindon is contacted by Police or PEP, who then commences a regime of checks.

2.1.2. Alberta

In Alberta SAR the Police or the relevant authority taking a more active role in incident management.

Within the National Parks of Alberta the RCMP has the mandate for a lost person scenario and will fund incidents. They will contact the Parks who will form an overhead team and assume the role of deputy incident controller to monitor any incident. If volunteers are used, a senior volunteer becomes part of the overhead team, with the main role being a liaison officer for their team.

Each year there are around 20 – 25 technical rescues which are, completed by parks personnel. These are mountain and cliff face rescue incidents. Because of the specialist nature of this work, only Parks personnel are used, as there are no volunteers with the advanced skills and training to complete this task.

There are usually around three to four incidents per year, which would require the turn out of volunteers. Parks or RCMP would act as the incident commander. Parks staff also act as the SAR manager. If an incident reaches the second or third operational period volunteer SAR managers maybe used.

RCMP reimburse Parks personnel are paid at a rate of \$25 per hour for any search incident involving lost persons. Canmore Parks have a policy (unofficial) not to charge unless the amount reaches more then \$200. This rate does not cover the true cost of an incident which may involve overtime and only wages are claimed, not the cost of equipment etc.

2.1.3. Calgary

In Calgary there are fourteen police persons who have trained on the ERI MSO course. Of this number, there are around seven who are currently active. In the event of a search these officers are called out and used as the Incident Commander and sometimes as the Search Manager. Volunteers will assist as Planning and Intelligence Officers or Operations Managers. Police will do the logistics role. When called out,

the police members get paid overtime. Each year the police run a one-day MSO refresher course for their staff.

2.1.4. Ontario

Police are responsible for SAR within the province, under provincial legislation. The RCMP has a limited role within the province as policing is completed by local police jurisdictions, or the Ontario Police.

The Ontario police are trained on the ERI MSO course by using police trainers, with formal examinations and assessment. Within the province there are 240 police officers trained for SAR. Of these, six are full time, the rest on call. The Police respond to all searches as they can respond quickly and as the majority of searches are over within 24 hours, volunteers are not often used. Police are paid. Within the province there are 75 police forces, a reduction on the previous total of 125. The provincial government has directed that the number of police agencies be reduced.

There was a recent court case in Ontario following a SAR incident, when one of the police forces had a search for a missing female Alzheimer's patient who had wandered away from a nursing home during February 1998. The inspector in charge, who was inexperienced in SAR, called the search off in the evening to resume the next morning. The Ontario Police SAR were not called out or contacted for advice. The woman was found deceased the next morning. During the inquest the police SAR co-ordinator was called and asked what he would have done had he been contacted. The case was a classic Alzheimer's case study as the missing person was located across the road, besides the first obstruction. The Police were sued, with a out of court settlement of \$1.2 million.

Throughout the province the police are training 6000 police members in SAR urgency assessment which was mandated training for all police. The aim is for the officer to recognize when they may have a search incident. The rationale is that it is important trained personnel are used and it is pointless if the first person at the scene does not recognise that it is an emergency. Front line police would be responsible to contain the area. By legislation police agencies within Ontario are required to have planning and policy and procedures in place for SAR.

Within the province, because of the different police agencies, some will have police I/Cs and volunteers filling the rest of the positions. There is no consistency within the province as to who the I/C team is. It may either be a police only command structure, or a police/volunteer mix within the HQ structure.

2.1.5. Toronto City Police

Search and Rescue is a role of the Toronto Police, with only a small volunteer involvement. The majority of SARs within the city are for missing children or Alzheimer's patients. Mainly police resources are used, although there are some volunteer teams available. The qualification structure for search management for police commanders is completion of the ERI MSO course.

2.2 United States

2.2.1 Washington State

The Police role in incident management varies from County to County.

2.2.1.1. Pierce County

Pierce County includes urban and wilderness areas, with an average of around 50 SAR incidents each year. The Sheriff's office has nine police boats at his disposal. Other resources include an eight-person police dive team, which completes river and swift water training. The County has ten deputies trained in SAR management. If on duty, one of these deputies will initiate action to respond to a SAR incident and will become the incident commander. As other deputies arrive, they take other positions within the CIMS structure. Deputies who want to become involved in SAR must:

- ?? have at least 3 years as a deputy
- ?? completed the 40 hour ERI MSO course, or NASAR course
- ?? complete a Incident Command Course (ICS) course
- ?? attend monthly mandated training which supervisors will release them to attend
- ?? training conducted in areas such as dive, swift water rescue, rope, trench recovery, SAR management etc.

2.2.1.2. Yakima County

The Command role with the County for a SAR incident can be either a volunteer or police deputy as the Incident controller. Volunteer SAR Managers are made temporary deputies in order to carry out the function. The County has two police trained SAR co-ordinators who are used if they are available. The requirement is that they must have completed the ERI MSO course. They are also required to complete the ICS course at the Yakima County Academy. Within the County there are 180 volunteers and each year there is around 35 – 40 SAR incidents.

Yakima County Police have 30k budget to run the SAR program. Volunteer SAR team members provide their own equipment.

2.2.1.3. Lewis County

Within Lewis County the police handle the role of incident controller within the ICS team. Four deputies have been trained within the County and there are also around 200 volunteer. Each year they complete approximately 50 SAR operations.

2.3.1. Maryland State

2.3.1.1. Maryland Parks

The majority of searches within the Maryland Park areas are of short duration. Generally if a search is under 30 minutes, it is not reported for the purposes of statistical collation. Each year the department has around 30 searches which are completed within two hours. Only a small number, around three a year go into the second operational period.

They have several people trained by completing the ERI MSO course, run by Cole Brown who is the State Co-ordinator for Maryland Parks (a volunteer role). He is a voluntary ranger and can be used as a SAR Manager as he is technically a state employee.

There are four Park's regions within Maryland. If a SAR occurs, the local person will contact Regional Manager via the communication centre.

The ICS model for command and control is used at the headquarters. Generally all the positions within the ICS team are filled by Parks trained law enforcement personnel. Volunteers if required, are called out and report to the HQ where they are tasked.

2.3.1.2. Howard County Fire Department

They have standards developed for a person to be an Incident Controller. Before a person can become an Incident Controller they must have 100 hours as a HQ team member. Members of the ICS team are all professional fire fighters, however the Logistics Manager is sometimes a volunteer. At the HQ a volunteer from each team is trained as a liaison officer, but has no formal role within the ICS structure. Incident commanders are required to have completed the ERI MSO course.

University of Maryland in Baltimore run the ERI MSO course as a University paper. It is a 16-week course, three hours a week, with a 52-hour exercise at Shenandoah National Park. The course is offered once a year, and instructors include Cole Brown and Robert Wiseman (a Howard County Fire Chief).

2.4.1. Virginia

There are 140 police jurisdictions within the commonwealth of Virginia. There is no formal state law regarding the responsibilities and obligations for jurisdictions setting out their responsibilities for SAR. However the Governor has signed an annex which sets out how SAR should work. Included in the Annex is the structure for the Virginia State SAR co-ordinators office. SAR is the responsibility of the jurisdictions in which the incident occurs.

Each year around 300 persons are trained in various SAR techniques including a practical SAR course (how to set up folders, practical SAR, medical plans, evacuation, etc). Other courses include Incident Command and Control.

The Incident Controller can be a volunteer or police officer for a jurisdiction, although usually the police perform this role.

2.4.1.1. Chesterfield County

The County conducts their own Incident Commander training program on an internal 40-hour course. This course is completed in conjunction with the Fire Department. Police also provide training for police persons using the ERI MSO course.

The County police require that every Sergeant be trained in Incident Command. Every patrol officer receives training in how a SAR is set up.

Within an ICS structure the Police usually perform all the roles within the I/C team. If the search gets bigger, volunteers may be used in the HQ team. County policy requires two trained co-ordinators are for each search.

Sergeants are trained as co-ordinators to run the search until specialist police members arrive.

2.5 United Kingdom

2.5.1. Wales

Mountain Rescue (MR) was investigated with persons from the different groups and police interviewed.

The Police role in MR in Wales is to support the volunteer rescue teams. In the UK all land SAR is the responsibility of the local police. Each Chief Constable is operationally independent. In England and Wales police have responsibility under common law. In Scotland Police are legislated as the responsible agency.

The mountain rescue teams work for and are responsible to the police for the operations they carry out. Administratively they are independent, but operationally they are responsible to the police. There are occasions that a MR team is called out without the police being present.

If there is a fatality on a mountain, the police have to investigate it as a potential crime. This is more critical if the fatality involves a minor under instruction when Police will investigate the operation looking at culpability.

Except for incidents on sea cliffs where H.M Coastguard is responsible, the overall responsibility for search and rescue rests with the Chief Constable of the Police for the area in which the incident occurs. The Police may request the assistance of voluntary rescue teams, National Park Rangers, RAF Mountain Rescue Teams, RAF or Royal Navy search and rescue helicopters. All the above bodies work together both in the field and in the planning and organisation of searches and none make any charge.

During the last few years there has been a considerable increase in the number of requests by the police to the voluntary rescue teams for assistance in search and rescue in non mountain or open country environments.

2.5.1.1. Llanbereis Mountain Rescue

If a call out occurs, the police will send out a pager message. One of the Team Controllers makes contact will start the operation. In some cases the police will initiate an operation and then hand over to the teams. Practically the team is in charge of the operation. Police have the right to direct activities, etc but pass this on to the SAR Manager from each team.

2.5.1.2. North Wales Police

When a call comes into one of three control rooms the team leader is contacted and details of the incident are passed on. The team is then responsible for ensuring that the rescue is completed.

When called out the team leader gets in touch with the rest of the team members. Due to a shortage of police officers, it is not always possible to send a police member to

the search HQ. If police do attend, it is usually the local constable who is briefed by the team leader. The main role of the police is dealing with NOK issues etc.

If the incident is fatal, the team would gather evidence in the field for the coroner, which includes taking photos etc. If the death was suspicious, the police would send in detective's etc who would then be responsible for investigating the death. The team on the hillside would then be responsible for looking after the police member. If incident such as a plane crash, the MR team will work with the investigators and do the standard DVI role including bag and tag etc.

Police receive no training in SAR as part of their duties. Police officers may attend the MRC Search Planning and Management Course in Bangor, known as the Bangor Course.

There are police members in MR teams and RNLI as volunteers. However they are normally not allowed to attend if they are on duty. If they do attend, it is as a volunteer only.

Police are more involved in a search for missing persons in the lowlands. Police search commanders would be persons who have completed the Bangor course.

2.5.1.3. England – Northumbria Police

In 1994/95 The Northumbria Police Emergency Planning Section at HQ investigated creating a coordinated coherent approach to police SAR, with a view to getting everyone (police and volunteers) together. Since then around 4-5 training sessions between police and volunteers at team leader level have been completed.

Police are recognised as being responsible for SAR management and are in charge, with Police performing the role of Incident Controller or equivalent. Police and volunteer managers get together and decide what to do and where to go next. Police may give that responsibility to the volunteer SAR manager from a team such as the Northumberland National Park Fell Rescue Team.

2.6. Police and Marine Search and Rescue

Police have no formal role in marine SAR. Coastguard in USA and Canada control marine incidents. Within the United Kingdom HM Coastguard is the coordinating agency. There are volunteer Coastguard units in Canada and United States. These units either use their own private vessels for a contracted rate, or have dedicated craft. The Coastguards provide the vessels or assistance in the purchase of these craft.

A breakdown of marine search and rescue coverage and co-ordination of volunteers is set out below.

2.6.1 Canada

2.6.2. Victoria Marine Search and Rescue Region

The Victoria Rescue Co-ordination Centre (RCC) is one of three RCCs in Canada operated by the Canadian Forces (CF) in conjunction with the Canadian Coast Guard (CCG). The others are in Trenton, Ontario and Halifax, Nova Scotia. The RCC,

jointly staffed by trained Canadian Forces and Canadian Coast Guard personnel, is manned 24 hours a day.

The Victoria RCC is located at Canadian Forces Base Esquimalt and is responsible for planning, coordinating, controlling and conducting aeronautical and maritime search and rescue operations within Victoria's Search and Rescue Region (SRR).

The Victoria RCC is continuously staffed by two Maritime Co-ordinators (Canadian Coast Guard Officers) and one Aeronautical Co-ordinator (Air Force Captain). Relationships exist with adjoining RCCs in Juneau, Alaska, Elmendorf, Alaska, Langley, Virginia, Seattle, Washington and Trenton, Ontario.

The Victoria SRR covers 560,000 square kilometres of the Pacific Ocean extending to approximately 600 nautical miles offshore and including over 27,000 kilometres of British Columbia coastline.

2.6.3. United States

Auxiliary (volunteer) Coastguard units conduct SAR operations under CG orders and are deployed in support of CG requests. They may operate with CG units, police units, or by themselves. Auxiliary patrol commanders may be in charge of the operations or be subordinate units. In the inland portions of the U.S., Auxiliary units receive "blanket orders" which allow them to respond to local SAR requests without first obtaining CG approval. If the Auxiliary response to a SAR by itself, all planning & reporting are accomplished by Auxiliary units.

2.6.4. United Kingdom.

HM Coastguard run 18 operations centres nationally, each having 24/7 coverage. These centres monitor distress frequencies (channel 16, 2182 etc), and SAR incidents in their areas. They have some rescue vessels but rely on Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) for rescue craft. HM Coastguard operate three SAR Helicopter flights.

They control all the deployment of RNLI craft, which are tasked to complete action based on planning prepared by the Coastguard. This includes detailed planning on search patterns, methods, resources required etc.

Coastguard employees are civil servants, however heavy reliance is placed on auxiliary coastguard members, with 3500 members nationally. They handle roles such as cliff rescue and spotting from shore for SAR. Everything is controlled by the local Search and Rescue Sub-Centre (MRSC) such as Holyhead, which are on the 999 phone list under marine emergency.

The MRSC decide what area is to be searched and allocate unit's etc for deployment. They also call and dispatch vessels out at sea.

The Holyhead MRSC has 5 persons working 24/7 doing 12 hour shifts. The shift pattern consists of 2 day shifts, 2 nights, and 4 days off. Holyhead is a command and control centre including cliff rescue around coastline. Cliff rescue is a traditional coastguard role and is responded to by auxiliary coastguard members.

Each year Holyhead Coastguard handles 600 marine SAR incidents annually. As part of their business trip reports are also accepted. The Coastguard will not search for bodies, and once persons are known to be deceased, no further search activity will be coordinated by the MRSC.

HM Coastguard has 400 full time employees nationally. Generally experienced people from the civil service apply for positions, sometimes these persons are ex RAF or navy who have handled SAR operations.

HM Coastguard role includes reporting on fatal marine accidents, sea worthiness checks, counter pollution etc.

Coordinating Agencies Matrix

	Qualification requirement for Land Incident Controller	Provide Volunteer Insurance	Provide Funding to Volunteer Teams	Policies for Reimbursement of volunteer Expenses	Volunteer SAR Managers	Volunteers in Incident Management Team
New Zealand	No	No	Yes – 239 k NZLSAR	Yes	Yes	Yes
Australia¹	Yes	Yes - State	No	Yes	No	No
BC PEP	ERI MSO	Yes	Yes –360k for volunteer training	Yes	N/A	Yes
RCMP British Columbia	ERI MSO	Yes - BC PEP	No	No Rely on PEP coverage	Yes	Yes
Parks – Alberta	ERI MSO	Yes – RCMP	No	No	No	Yes
RCMP Alberta	ERI MSO	Yes – RCMP	No	Yes	No	Yes
Calgary Police	ERI MSO	Yes – Calgary Police	No	Yes	No	Yes
Ontario Police	ERI MSO	Yes – Ontario Police	No	Yes	No	No
Toronto Police	ERI MSO	Yes – Toronto Police	No	No	No	No
Washington State EMO	ERI MSO	Yes	Yes – 30k shared ²	Yes	N/A	Yes
Peirce County Police	ERI MSO	Yes – Washington State	No	Yes	No	No
Yakima County Police	ERI MSO	Yes – Washington State	Yes – 30k shared	No	Yes	Yes
Maryland Parks	ERI MSO	Yes – Maryland State	No	No	Yes – as ranger	No
Howard County Fire	ERI MSO	Yes – Maryland State	No	No	No	No
Virginia EMO	Yes , Own Structure	Yes	Yes 76k shared	Yes	N/A	Yes
Chesterfield County Police	ERI MSO	Yes – Virginia EMO	No	No	No	Yes
North Wales Police	Bangor Course	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
Northumbria Police	Internal Police Training	Yes	No	Yes	No	No

¹ Based on previous contacts with Australian Police SAR

² Shared between all SAR users, ie police/volunteers

3. The role of volunteers in search and rescue management and their relationship with police

Summary of findings

- 1 There is no consistency in the role of volunteers in incident management teams. Some jurisdictions have volunteer management teams, with the police maintaining limited control, however the consistent standard is teams made up of police and volunteers.
- 2 Police in the majority of areas set the standards that volunteers are required to meet before they are used for search and rescue. Retraining is also required in some areas to maintain currency.
- 3 In other areas the volunteers set their own standards and are self regulating. These standards can be based on guidelines prepared by NASAR or The Emergency response Institute.
- 4 There is no consistency in the reimbursement of volunteers for expenses incurred during training or actual operations. Generally volunteers are not given reimbursement or assistance.
- 5 Volunteer teams are in the main self funded. Where the state provides assistance, it is generally in the area of training courses.

Evidence

3.1. Canada

3.1.0 British Columbia

RCMP has overall responsibility within the areas they are the contracted policing agency and work closely with the Provincial Emergency Program. (PEP) They are based in Victoria and provide a 24-hour emergency room for all emergencies including SAR. If an incident occurs, the Police will contact a SAR Manager and give a job number. The SAR Manager then contacts PEP and obtain a task number. SAR Managers have the authority to put a helicopter up for two hours if the situation is urgent (e.g. white water rescue). Otherwise they need authority from the PEP duty officer, or the RCMP.

Volunteer SAR Managers will run the search as deputy I/C. The Police role is be aware and comfortable with what is happening. The Police provide input into the management team when required as they retain the overall responsibility.

Volunteer SAR teams generally have responsibility for geographic areas with each team required to have a duty SAR Manager on call 24/7.

The province, through the Provincial Emergency Program at the Emergency Management College run a SAR Managers course which is coordinated by the Justice Institute of BC. The course has been changed to reflect BC requirements, is based on the ERI MSO, and is 40 hours long.

In 1995 there were 175 volunteer SAR managers throughout the province although it was estimated that 210 were needed to provide coverage.

Volunteer team responsibilities include running programs such as the “hug a tree and survive” to schools. Material for the program is supplied by the RCMP.

3.1.1. Parks Alberta

There are usually around 3 – 4 incidents per years, which would require the turn out of volunteers. Parks or RCMP would act as the incident commander. Parks staff also act as SAR manager. If an incident reaches the second or third period volunteer SAR managers maybe used.

3.1.2. Calgary

Volunteer Teams maintain their own clothing, equipment, including radios, GPS etc. They do their own fundraising for training and to provide clothing and equipment to team members.

Calgary police do not give any money for volunteer training. When there is a search the volunteers will report to a coordinating point, often a caravan (usually their own) and record their name and other details. By registering they are able to claim insurance coverage from the province in the event of any accident.

3.1.3. Foothills Volunteer SAR Team - Calgary

When they started in 1993 they had no money and relied on a small membership fee for postage, etc. with members supplying their own equipment. RCMP soon helped out, with radios, GPS and PIEPS for avalanche work. Members all work at getting donations and selling raffle tickets to help with training costs.

3.1.4. RCMP Alberta

The RCMP run SAR Managers courses based on the ERI MSO . Positions on the course are offered to non-police persons at rate of \$250 per person for the five-day course, inclusive of meals and accommodation. No course costs are included in the course fee. There has been no problem in getting payment from people who attend, with the course generally over subscribed. RCMP has no program for replacement of volunteers wages.

Volunteers are required to complete the SAR fundamental course before they can be used for incidents. RCMP has trained up to 60 volunteer trainers within the province to run the course, which is based on the ERI Fundamentals Course.

3.1.5. Ontario

In 1997 a meeting was held between the 30 volunteer teams and police. The volunteer teams wanted a greater role in SAR. They were told that if they formed a single body the police would deal with them, which resulted in the formation of Ontario Search and Rescue Volunteer Association (OSARV). They are now incorporated into a provincial body.

Ontario Police have developed a training program for the volunteers to complete. It is based on the ERI SAR fundamentals course (48 hours). Completion allows the volunteers to be considered for deployment during a search incident.

Some of the volunteers have had SAR management training at their own expense, usually by attending ERI or NASAR courses.

3.2.0. United States

3.2.1. Washington State

Volunteers within the state will pay for their own training or in some Counties assistance will be given. SAR groups include SAR dogs, horses, explorer, Mountain rescue etc. Some have extensive equipment, which they obtain from their own fund raising.

The State has a qualification structure for SAR which volunteers are required to complete if they want to get involved. Once completed they will receive coverage from the state for injuries etc.

SAR management differs throughout the state with different counties having different ways of involving volunteers in the SAR HQ. The state has regulations in place to define what a SAR is, and also sets up a volunteer working programme. The State of Washington will reimburse volunteers for petrol and extraordinary expenses if the SAR goes on for more than 24 hours.

3.2.2. Pierce County

If they need volunteers, they call the County Emergency Management Office where a request is made for a number of volunteers. Volunteer SAR teams will bring with them a liaison officer who will act as go between to the team from the ICS team.

If a volunteer team wants to assist in SAR, they are required to present themselves for evaluation. The County Sheriff's Office will put them through a certification weekend.

200 volunteers are registered with the police. 15 years ago volunteers used to have a higher role in command and control, however this role is now completed by trained police.

3.2.3. Yakima County

The command role within this County for a SAR incident can be either a volunteer or police deputy as the Incident Controller. Volunteer SAR Managers are made temporary deputies in order to carry out the function. The County has two police trained SAR co-ordinators who are used if available.

The requirement is that they must have completed the ERI MSO course. They are also required to complete the ICS course at the Yakima County Academy. Within the County there are 180 volunteers and each year there is around 35 – 40 SAR incidents.

The County has a SAR council that is made up of several different groups with different specialities. Authorised and administered through the Yakima County Sheriff's office, SAR activities include:

- ?? Searching for individuals who have not returned when expected. These have included hunters, hikers, snowmobilers, skiers, bikers, the young, and the elderly.
- ?? Assisting/rescuing people who have become injured or are otherwise unable to get themselves out of the field. This has included individuals injured after

falling from horseback, individuals who have lost their way on Mt. Adams or in the forests, and individuals who have become otherwise injured during wilderness activities.

- ?? Assisting in the mobilisation of firefighting apparatus during large wildland fires.
- ?? Performing safety patrols during certain public events such as the Gap to Gap relay.
- ?? Providing Amateur Radio support during searches, rescues, and disasters such as the 1996 floods.
- ?? Responding to requests from the Dept. of Emergency Management for assistance with various activities during natural disasters.
- ?? Many other efforts including specialised efforts involving air searches, mountain rescues, water searches and rescues, and dog, horse, snowmobile, and ATV searches.

3.2.4. Lewis County

The Lewis County Search and Rescue program is under the guidance and direction of the Lewis County Sheriff. The program relies upon the efforts of many volunteers from the local communities and could not exist without their contribution.

There are around 200 volunteers within the County and each year they complete approximately 50 SAR operations. Each volunteer team has their own team leaders. The County does not fund any SAR training for volunteers. Volunteers can be reimbursed for expenses etc from the State SAR budget.

3.2.5. Maryland State Parks

Generally all the positions within the ICS team are filled by Parks trained law enforcement personnel. Volunteers, if required, are called out and report to the HQ where they are tasked. Insurance coverage is provided to volunteers in a search by becoming technically a volunteer ranger for the duration of the search. The Parks policy and that of State Government, is that in the event of an accident only \$2,500 coverage is provided by the State. Individual volunteers are required to arrange their own insurance schemes. Volunteer team members are required to register at the start of a search to receive coverage.

There are no standards required from volunteers (including dog teams) as a pre requisite before being used for a search. The expectation is that the team who they belong to will have trained them. The Parks have no formal requirement for volunteers to come to any level of training or qualification. However most teams have completed the ERI courses.

No financial assistance is given to any teams with the teams expected to provide their own equipment. The Maryland State Government has a codified agreement for use of volunteers, however Parks do not have any funding for reimbursement of petrol and expenses, but will supply meals.

3.2.6. Howard County

SAR incidents within the County are coordinated by the police who have passed the responsibility for managing a search to the Fire Department. Volunteer teams within Howard County are self-funded, however the Fire Department do provide training for

their personnel. The Fire Department has no funds to assist volunteers, however the volunteers teams have sufficient equipment and clothing which is obtained from donations.

Within Howard County they complete around 10 - 12 SAR incidents a year. The length of incidents varies, with the majority being over within 12 hours.

Volunteer team members are expected to obtain the NASAR standards, Tech I, II, and III. There are fourteen volunteer SAR teams within the state quarterly meetings are held within Maryland to provide the SAR teams with a forum for their views etc. .

3.2.7. Virginia State

Within the state there are several different volunteer SAR organisations. These groups are not associated with any jurisdiction or area, but operate as clubs. In 1989 the State started to formalise the training program for volunteers and getting volunteers linked to a jurisdiction. The State also began SAR training programs for volunteers and developed field member and team leader manager courses. These courses are separate to the NASAR courses. However if any person arrives with a NASAR qualification it will be recognised.

For a team to be recognised by the state as an operational SAR group they must have a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) which must be updated every six years. The MoU enables the team members to receive insurance coverage for training and operations.

3.2.8. Chesterfield County - Virginia

If a search requires the use of volunteers, it is a requirement of the County that they must be trained by the State.

3.3.0 United Kingdom

Volunteer teams are self funding within England and Wales as the police rarely give any reimbursement expenses for volunteers attending a search incident, such as mileage. In larger operations the police will arrange catering.

In Wales, the National Assembly for Wales has earmarked 8,000 pounds a year to supply first aid and rescue equipment against an approved list. If an item of equipment is on the list the team is able to claim back costs of equipment etc to set amounts annually.

3.3.1. HM Coastguard

HM Coastguard does not reimburse any vessel or master used for SAR. Under international regulations the master is obliged to attend.

RNLI do not charge Coastguard for services rendered. However RNLI have at times claimed salvage expenses.

Coastguard auxiliaries are given out of pocket expenses when training and when called for operations they get the national minimum wage, with minimum of 3 hours when called out at an hourly rate. In order to remain as auxiliaries they must complete 20 hours training annually.

The Volunteer cliff rescue teams at Holyhead offers twice weekly training sessions to team members, with an obligation is to train monthly. The Coastguard provides insurance coverage to volunteers. Standards for cliff rescue are similar to MR standards.

Cliff rescue teams and auxiliaries must keep training records. Last year the Holyhead cliff rescue team handled 43 incidents. There has been an increase in reported incidents as more people are using the cliffs to climb and train on since the advent of the foot and mouth disease.

3.3.2. Wales Mountain Rescue

The North Wales Police do not give expenses to volunteers engaged SAR incidents. It is up to the team to request reimbursement etc for costs associated with the rescue. The Police will make a donation to the team to help them recover costs etc. When volunteers are used by the police, insurance is supplied by the police. Volunteers who help the police are covered by the Insurance of Volunteers Act 1995. (England/Wales/Northern Ireland).

The voluntary rescue teams in England and Wales are all autonomous bodies composed of unpaid volunteers who are called out by the police when their services are required. Most teams only recruit already competent all weather mountaineers who are then required to undertake suitable training in search techniques, stretcher handling, vertical faces, snow and ice conditions, radio work and First Aid.

3.3.3. Aberglaslyn Mountain Rescue Team

When there is a call out the teams SAR managers decide with police what to use and call resources as required. Lately the police have shown an increase in interest in SAR incidents and are training a number of officers with specialist SAR skills who will become part of the HQ overhead team. Police training of officers (excluding the Helicopter crew) in MR is almost entirely restricted to CID or seconded officers investigating fatalities.

MR teams in North Wales do DVI activities for the Coroner. The team will arrange trauma debriefing for team members if an incident occurs using psychologists. MR service can get police trauma councillors following an incident.

A recent addition is the setting up of a SAR managers group who meet every three months for ongoing training. All MR SAR managers have generally completed the Bangor Search Planning and Management Course. Discussion is on going regarding revalidation/updating of Search Managers skills and they are establishing a web site to enable easier spread of information.

3.3.4. Llanberis Mountain Rescue Team

If the Team is tasked to do a job, the Police are contacted to provide accident and liability insurance.

Teams have dedicated search managers who have completed the required training, usually the Bangor course. The search manager is part of the club and works very closely with the rescue teams.

3.3.5. Northumberland National Park Fell Rescue Team

Funding for the Team is from fundraising events, donations from firms, organisations, charitable trusts and members of the public. This funding pays for vehicles, papers and some radios, with other radios supplied by the police.

They do not receive any formal funding from the Police, nor do Police provide any assistance with transport, mileage or lost wages. Each year the team has approximately 19,000 pound running costs. The team operates two four-wheeled drive vehicles and a control trailer which are stored at the Ponteland Police Headquarters. The vehicles are equipped with features such as a siren which is used to respond to incidents should traffic etc be a problem. Authority to use a siren has been obtained from the Northumbria Police.

Each year the team handles approximately 38 incidents. Training is weekly (evenings) and one weekend day a month. Training standards are set by the team, with no input or standards required by the police.

When deployed, the team provides a planning team under the co-ordination of a search manager. The search manager will control the operation working with the police.

Land Volunteer Matrix Summary

	Own major assets (vehicles/buildings etc)	Provide Volunteer SAR Managers	Standards set by
New Zealand	No	Yes	Internal
BC Volunteer SAR Teams	Yes	Yes	PEP
Alberta Volunteer teams	Yes	Yes	RCMP
Ottawa Valley SAR Dogs	Yes – members	N/A	RCMP
SAR Global Quebec	Yes	Yes	RCMP or Ontario Police
Chesapeake SAR Dogs	Yes – members	N/A	Own - NASAR
Wales Mountain Rescue	Yes	Yes	Internal
RNLI	Yes	No	Internal
Northumberland SAR	Yes	Yes	Internal
SARDA Wales	Yes - members	N/A	Internal

4.0. New Methods in Search and Rescue Training and Management

Summary of findings

- 1 The new ER Institute sixteen hour Initial Attack course is almost ready for public release. It offers a new perspective and includes student participation via completion of a workbook that is independently marked.
- 2 There are several courses available as search and rescue qualification standards. The most common is the ER Institute MSO course. However the ER International MLSO is very similar.
- 3 There is a lack of consistency internationally in the delivery of the ERI MSO course. This varies from attendance only training to delivery from a University as part of an academic programme.
- 4 ER International (UK) is currently registering the MLSO course on the London's Guilds framework. Once completed, this will give students an external qualification.
- 5 Courses delivered internationally have pass/fail assessment standards.

4.1. Emergency Response Institute Initial Attack Course

An international team, spearheaded by Washington State based Rick LaValla (ER Institute) has developed a new course, called the Initial Attack course. The course was prepared following requests from different police jurisdictions and SAR managers linked to the fact that the average search is over within 12 hours. Within the UK 95% of all SAR incidents are over within 12 hours. These findings are consistent with research in Washington State.

The background to the development of the course is about five years when Chris Long (Washington State Co-ordinator) concluded that the five day ERI MSO course, while giving plenty of information, did not really teach 'how' to conduct a SAR operation. The majority of SAR incidents within the state (approx. 95%) are over within 12 hours. He requested Rick LaValla (ER Institute) to design a new course based on what the Military would call troop-leading procedures. The course would have the 'how to do' for the initial phase and some ICS. The main objective is to give students the skills so they could run the initial phase of an SAR incident. It is designed to provide SAR managers with the training needed to quickly and efficiently get the initial response effort underway while setting the stage for an expanded operation if it becomes necessary.

Rick LaValla assembled a small team of SAR experts to develop the course. These were Hugh Dougher, Rick Goodman, Dave Perkins, Pete Roberts (UK Centre for Search Research) Richard Smith (Alberta ER Institute), a retired Mountie.

An overview of the new course was presented to SAR Scene in Banff in 1998 and a three day pilot was run at the Washington State conference. A trial course was run at SARSCENE at St Johns in 1999.

Hugh Dougher uses the course Material in training new Park Rangers. Perkins and Roberts use the material as part of a core 2-day course in the UK. Richard Smith uses the material in a five day MS course that he presents to the police and Military in Canada.

There was criticism over other courses, including the ERI MSO course because of the maths used concerning POA, POD and POS. Studies completed by Perkins and Roberts (UK) showed that people were not using these formulas for the quick, less than 12 hour search scenarios.

The course they have developed is based on the six step principle. The steps are:

- 1 Size up the Incident (Operations Period Schedule, Initial Planning Point, Missing Person Profile, Identify Hazards, Urgency Analysis)
- 2 Contingencies (Lost Person Behaviour data, Initial Search Area, Magnets and Routes, Scenarios)
- 3 Objectives (Objectives and Tasks, Investigation and Confinement, Hasty)
- 4 Resources (What, Where, How and How fast)
- 5 Plan (Responsibilities, Organisation)
- 6 Action (Implement Incident Action Plan, Supervise/Coordinate continue, Collecting, analysing additional information)

They have produced a workbook to accompany the course. Features of the course include a section on how to brief and de brief, as well as examples of forms to use during a search. Copies of course materials were supplied. The assessment for the course is based on completing the workbook which is then handed in for independent marking. The course is the same as the USA proposed course (not yet released within the USA), but the reference section has been customised for UK purposes.

They are presently working on a new advanced course to be following on from the six-step Initial Attack course. This course will provide the training for a search manager should any search go longer than 12 hours. This course will include a section on how to measure your performance as a SAR manager. The prototype of this course will be presented at a training session run by Richard Smith (ERI) Alberta. A feature of the course is the use of POD without having to use formulas etc.

There is a concern of using POD without calculation. A correct definition of POD relates Coverage to POD. It can be argued that the use of POD without the use of formulae is an abuse of science.

There are two variations of the new course in existence. The United States version is 24 hours, and the United Kingdom Version, as completed by Perkins and Roberts, which is 16 hours in length. The course is copy righted to ER Institute (LaValla) and within the UK.

4.2. Emergency Response Institute Managing Search Operations Course (ERI MSO)

The Emergency Response Institute (ERI) has an internationally recognised course Managing Search Operations (MSO). This course is used as a standard by a number of police agencies and volunteers for search managers. For example the Royal Canadian Mounted Police use this course as a requirement for search commanders.

In 1999 The New Zealand police adopted this course as a standard for search and rescue incident controllers. This course has also been used by NZLSAR as advanced training for advisers.

The ERI MSO course can be purchased by any group or individual from ERI. However ERI does not have any quality controls in relation to course delivery or presentation.

Although the ERI MSO course is universally accepted as a standard course for search managers, a concern is that there is no consistency with the presentation and assessment of the course. Different persons and groups present the course, which has been adapted to suit local conditions. For example within British Columbia, PEP has adopted the course as a standard for search managers. However they have introduced rigorous pass/fail assessment mechanisms. The University of Maryland has the course as part of the academic calendar. In other areas the course is completed as an attendance only.

The ERI company principals originally were Rick LaValla and Skip Stoffell. Together they developed new courses for search and rescue training. However the company has since disbanded, with Rick LaValla retaining the Emergency Response Institute name. Skip Stoffell has formed a new company called Emergency Response International (ERI) and has developed a new course and textbook called the Managing Land Search Operations (MLSO).

Unfortunately the two groups within Canada, USA and UK, the Emergency Response Institute and Emergency Response International both are referred to as ERI.

4.3 Emergency Response International Managing Land Search Operations (ERI MLSO)

While in the United Kingdom a meeting was held with Mr Clive Swombow, who is the Emergency Response International representative for Wales and UK. He is in the process of having the ERI MLSO course registered onto the London Guilds framework. This will provide external recognition for the course.

The “Management of Land Search Operations” is a five day course designed for those who have the responsibility to plan and prepare for search operations in wilderness, rural or urban environments. The course was also designed to provide a comprehensive methodology in search for use by local governments and other land management jurisdictions.

The course and its accompanying student text are now the search management "standard" in nine countries. The same methodologies are also being used for evidence searches in both small and large-scale police operations and prison breaks. This is not a field skills course; it is management oriented. Participants will learn how to plan for, organise and manage a search effort for missing persons using incident management (ICS) or the locally established management structure. The emphasis is on resources needed to do the job right and a recurring cycle of management processes. Participants, who successfully complete this course, should be able to properly manage a search effort for a lost person in the most efficient and productive manner possible. Small group discussion and four case study tabletop map exercises are used throughout the course.

5. Search and Rescue Policy Development

Summary of findings

- 1 The provisions of separate insurance cover for volunteers covering injuries and liability is provided by the coordinating agency.
- 2 The majority of areas visited have some form of advisory committee for volunteers to be provided with a voice on policy and other areas.
- 3 The structure of the United States and United Kingdom National SAR Committees provide a model which involves the coordinating agencies only.
- 4 Technology advances in search and rescue include low frequency radar and scanning lasers.
- 5 The Canadian National Search and Rescue Secretariat New Initiatives Funding has enhanced search and rescue in Canada to that of a world leader.
- 6 Volunteer search and rescue teams all have some form of identification that denotes where they are from and the organisation they belong to.
- 7 State funding for volunteer search and rescue teams is generally limited to training.
- 8 The British Columbia SAR review process provides an analytical method of search and rescue debriefing.
- 9 Search and Rescue dogs internationally all have certification standards in place before a team will be used for an operation.
- 10 The RCMP has adapted the 'Hug-a-Tree-and-Survive' training programme for children lost in the wilderness. The programme is presented by trained volunteers and police.

5.1. Insurance for volunteers

Canada, United States, Wales and England all have separate insurance cover for their volunteers. This cover is provided by the state via the jurisdictional police agency or Emergency Management Office. In order for coverage to be applied contact is made with the jurisdictional agency. The insurance covers death, medical misadventure and civil liability issues. Examples of types and how activated are:

Washington State

When an incident occurs, the police phone the State Emergency Management Office for a task number. This enables the volunteers to be covered for injuries etc, and allows the state to keep a record of the number. The phone calls are received by the 24/7 Emergency Operations Centre (EOC.) The EOC covers the state for any emergency (civil defence, flooding etc).

Virginia State

The state supplies insurance cover for any volunteers involved in SAR operation. By contacting the EMO duty officer search managers are able to get a task number which will enable volunteers to receive insurance coverage.

British Columbia

BC PEP operates a 24/7 communications centre for all Civil Defence and other emergencies at the Victoria HQ. If there is a SAR incident, the Police or SAR Managers will contact the duty Officer and obtain a task number. This will enable the volunteers to be provided with insurance cover.

Calgary Police

When there is a search the volunteers will report to a coordinating point, often a caravan (usually their own) and record their name and other details. By registering they are able to claim insurance coverage from the province in the event of any accident.

England and Wales Mountain Rescue

The Mountain Rescue Council now have, a national scheme for third party liability and a national cover for working with helicopters on incidents and training sessions. Most mountain rescue teams are covered for personal accident by their County police authority while on call-outs or training sessions. Quite a number of teams pay for additional insurance cover with monies raised by themselves

Police Coverage in the United Kingdom

There is an act specifically created to ensure that volunteers who assist the police receive coverage. The Act is the Insurance of Volunteers Act 1995.

The volunteer teams activate the insurance cover when they are called out by the local jurisdiction. The cover includes travelling to and from the incident. Because insurance is seen as important cover for team members, volunteer teams always will contact the police or coordinating agency to register their involvement in a SAR. The advantage of this system is the coordinating agency are better able to keep a more accurate record on the number of SAR incidents occurring within their jurisdiction.

5.2. SAR Advisory Committees

There are SAR Advisory Committees or equivalents in all areas, which provide a voice for volunteers. Membership is made up of the coordinating agencies, response groups and volunteers. They receive limited funds for their running costs.

British Columbia

British Columbia runs an advisory committee through PEP which funds the running at a cost of 27k annually. SAR volunteers and other agencies are all represented on the committee, which was set up in 1990. The committee has nine volunteers appointed by PEP. Other members include RCMP, PEP SAR Chief, and the BC SAR Co-ordinator.

Virginia

One role of the council is as an advisory board for any new teams that are established. There are some guidelines for new teams to meet, including having at least two members, by laws, training standards, (meet state standards, call out procedures). Volunteer search teams are recognised as independent groups who work with the jurisdictions as required.

England and Wales

The Mountain Rescue Council is an autonomous co-ordinating body to which all the various regional bodies belong together with the British Cave Rescue Council and the Search and Rescue Dogs Associations. The membership of the Council extends to cover the Association of Chief Police Officers, HM Coastguard, RAF Search and Rescue, The Home Office Radio Branch and Fire Service Inspectorate, The Sports

Council and the Ambulance Service Association. It is a voluntary body and a registered charity.

Its main function is to liaise on behalf of the teams with the various government departments in the running of Mountain and Cave Rescue and to arrange such items as the provision of communications, stretchers and First Aid Equipment, and the provision of accident insurance for team members when they are training or operational.

5.3. United States and United Kingdom National SAR Committees

The United States and United Kingdom have National SAR Committees, which are made up of the coordinating agencies only in the United States and coordinating agencies and some volunteer involvement in the United Kingdom. .

United States

The United States National Search and Rescue Committee (NSARC) is a federal-level committee formed to coordinate civil search and rescue (SAR) matters of inter-agency interest within the United States. NSARC membership consists of the U.S. federal agencies that are signatories to the National SAR Plan (NSP).

The National Search and Rescue Conference of 1973, when considering the need to establish a continuing inter-agency group to oversee the United States National Search and Rescue Plan NSP, established a standing inter-agency committee to oversee the NSP and to act as a coordinating forum for national SAR matters.

Membership consists of the U.S. federal agencies that are signatories to the NSP.

The objectives of the Committee are to:

- a) Serve as a standing forum for co-ordination of administrative and operational civil SAR matters;
- b) Oversee the NSP and inter-agency guidance for its implementation;
- c) Coordinate and facilitate the development of plans, policies, positions, manuals, etc
- d) Effectively use all available resources for SAR, including global, regional, national, private, commercial, and volunteer resources (such resources may include advice, communications facilities and databases, ship reporting systems, training, SAR facilities, search planning expertise, technical assistance, foreign language assistance, medical or fuelling facilities, regulatory support, and others);
- e) Develop common equipment, facilities, and procedures as appropriate;
- f) Foster U.S. cooperation, support, representation, positions, arrangements, plans, exercises and other appropriate U.S. involvement with international organisations or with appropriate authorities of other nations on matters relating to provision of civil SAR services;
- g) Promote close cooperation and co-ordination between civilian and military authorities and organisations for the provision of effective SAR services;
- h) Serve as a cooperative forum to exchange information and develop positions and policies of interest to more than one member agency;
- i) Improve cooperation among the civil SAR communities;

- j) Determine and recommend ways to enhance overall effectiveness and efficiency of SAR services;
- k) Promote safety programs to help citizens avoid or cope with distress situations;
- l) Consider, as appropriate, contingency plans for use of civil SAR resources during emergencies other than SAR; and
- m) Use a strategic plan and member agency implementation plans to help to achieve the objectives of this paragraph.

United Kingdom Committee

The United Kingdom have a committee which is made up of the coordinating agencies. Membership of the Committee consists of:-

- Dept. of Transport, Local Government and the Regions (DTLR) - Chair and Secretariat
- Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA)
- Ministry of Defence (MoD)
- Home Office (HO)
- Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO)
- Association of Chief Police Officers (Scotland) (ACPO(S))
- Chief and Assistant Chief Fire Officers Association (CACFOA)
- Ambulance Service Association (ASA)
- Dept. of Health
- Northern Ireland Office
- Scotland Office
- Welsh Office
- Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI)

The Terms of reference that the Committee works under are:-

- ?? To determine the criteria for coverage, responsiveness and availability of SAR resources, consulting, where required, the SAR Operators Group.
- ?? To issue guidance, in the form of a National SAR Plan, to ensure efficient and effective co-operation between the SAR agencies involved.
- ?? To produce an Annual SAR report for Ministers
- ?? Issue Terms of Reference for the SAR Operators Group
- ?? Offer views to Ministers on ways and means of improving SAR efficiency and co-operation.
- ?? It should be noted that the Strategic Committee reports directly to Ministers and in doing so represents the views and ideas on all aspects of search and rescue.

A document, which sets out the make up and role of the UK SAR Strategic Committee, is available.

5.4 NASA

A visit was organised by Mr Cole Brown, National Association Search and Rescue to visit NASA at the Goddard Space Centre. A special briefing given on three SAR related projects.

Low Frequency Radar

This is a special low frequency radar which reflects off man made objects, and translate this into a GPS position by computer. These positions are then plotted for other search teams to investigate.

This system is under trial and has been installed on a NASA DC 8. It has been tested on various test flights and was used in a search in Montana for a missing civilian aircraft. It scanned the area and gave several points to check out.

A highflying aircraft scans the areas then a computer enhances the imagery to give possible locations. It works on different objects giving different signals, with the low frequency radar able to penetrate the bush canopy.

Beacon Global Personal Recovery

Distress beacon technology is changing with new features being developed. These features will give the persons in distress the capability to provide two way communications of messages and will operate on the 406 MHz link. It will also allow the victim to know they have been heard. NASA are also investigating the ability for voice communication to be carried on the beacon. Beacon technology has improved, as it is no longer dependant on the oscillator, which gives frequency stabilisation at all temperatures. This means the beacon will be less susceptible to noise generated false alarms.

The US military are funding the launching of the system, which will cost over \$100 million at no cost to the user.

SAR Laser

This SAR project is the development of a laser, which will be able to scan for a special reflective tape. The tape must be placed on clothing or aircraft etc. The laser is able to penetrate bush etc and scan for a reflection made from the special retro reflective tape. This is under development, and would only work if the tape was used on all aircraft and carried on packs etc.

5.5. National Search and Rescue Secretariat (Canada) New Initiatives Funding

The National Search and Rescue Secretariat (NSS) is an independent agency of government, reporting to the Lead Minister for Search and Rescue (the Minister of National Defence). The NSS was established in 1986 to support and promote the activities of the National SAR Program (NSP) as a means to achieve highly effective and economically responsible search and rescue programs throughout Canada.

The New SAR Initiatives Fund (NIF), was established by the federal government in 1988 and is managed by the National Search and Rescue Secretariat (NSS) on behalf of the Lead Minister for Search and Rescue, the Minister of Defence. The NSS provides central co-ordination and leadership for the NSP, through the various government committees.

The NIF was established to provide funding for proposals that, following review and approval based on merit of policies/criteria outlined, will enhance SAR in Canada. NIF objectives are:

1. The enhancement of SAR activities by federal and provincial/territorial organisations with specific jurisdictional responsibilities.
2. The promotion of projects designed to further the National SAR Plan (NSP).
3. The communication of SAR “best practices” to all parties involved in search and rescue in Canada.

NIF provides annual funding for new projects (or initiatives), that will improve the National Search and Rescue Program. NIF projects are funded in six categories:

- ?? further integration of the NSP; to facilitate co-ordination, communication and cooperation of the planning and delivery of SAR services.
- ?? development of SAR data and information; To develop timely innovative approaches to gathering timely and accurate information on operations as well as costing and other information to support policy making.
- ?? prevention; to identify better information, processes and practices for the planning, delivery and evaluation of effective prevention education training.
- ?? research and development; to provide timely SAR products that apply emerging technology to improve the SAR system
- ?? volunteers; to develop standards, training and operational use of, improved integration of volunteer organisations into the planning and process of the NSP
- ?? response; to develop new and innovative approaches to SAR response activities

All of the proposals for these projects are reviewed and ranked in order of merit. The annual funding for these projects is then distributed in that order.

Each year the NSS distributes over \$8 million in funds. The NIF funding has made significant improvements which rank Canadian SAR as a world leader.

5.6. Membership fees and Fundraising

The SAR Groups within Canada, USA and UK generally charge some form of membership fees for persons to join and belong. These fees are used to offset the cost of equipment, training, clothing etc. Every volunteer SAR group spoken to all conducted some form of fundraising to supplement costs. This varies from contacting charities, to running casino nights.

In New Zealand no membership fees are charged for any persons to belong to a land SAR group. Coastguard currently have a membership fee for its members.

A side issue is identification of volunteer search groups. All the groups visited have identification such as shoulder patches, which have their name and organisation. This differs from the New Zealand Land Search and Rescue who only have a patch with the word SAR.

5.7. State Assistance for Volunteer Teams

In New Zealand the State, via the police, funds NZLSAR and the Royal New Zealand Coastguard Federation to assist in their operations. In the case of NZLSAR the amount is almost 100% of their operating costs (\$239,000), and the Coastguard, only a small proportion of their costs (\$50,000). New Zealand is unique as the funding given to NZLSAR covers their operating expenses, where in other countries, the state mainly funds training.

This is consistent with practices in Canada, and USA as none of these countries actually supply funding to allow the volunteer teams to function. Funding where given is usually targeted at training only.

Within British Columbia, PEP fund volunteer land training to \$350,000 annually. This funds the SAR co-ordinator, two full time trainers and costs associated with attending courses.

The Washington State SAR Co-ordinator has a budget of \$30,000 which is partly used to fund training courses and the annual State SAR conference.

The Virginia State SAR Co-ordinator has a budget of \$76,000 for training which is used partly for training of volunteers. Within the state there are several different volunteer SAR organisations.

Within Virginia training will be given to anybody, volunteers, state employees, police etc. All they have to do is apply to attend a course. When attending a state course the volunteer instructors can claim expenses such as mileage to get to and from a course. The state will also pay meals, accommodation and tuition for trainees and instructors. Twice yearly the course is held at a remote part of the state. Qualifications people receive from the state at these courses are valid for three years with the onus on the volunteer to apply for retaining.

5.8. British Columbia SAR Review Process

British Columbia operate a system of debrief for incidents which require more careful analysis. The system for organising a review commences when a SAR Manager, PEP or Police are concerned over how a search was handled and major issues are involved.

In the past, reviews were called critiques, post-mortems, and debriefs – all negative terms. A criticism of the old methods was that in those days blame was placed and people were afraid to attend them. In 1993, with the help of the SAR Advisory Committee, a paper was put together that talked about a process, to enshrine the things done well and reinforce them and identify what wasn't done well and what could be done to change them.

This results in a safe, effective and efficient response. PEP was then asked to support this concept by having the task number extended to cover the cost of bringing everyone together. The Facilitating Review Team now goes around the province providing a training demonstration on the positive effectiveness of the process

When a review is conducted, a local SAR Manager is asked to assist. This provides training for the individual and gives some ownership to the area. This process is described as a lot of work, but well worth it. The process shows no fear of, or favour to, anyone – the events are simply walked through – fact-upon-fact. Since 1993, the review process has been very successful, with all attendees feeling it worked well and they were comfortable with the process.

The Facilitating Team consists of Dave Brewer, Facilitator; Don Bindon, RCMP, identifies police issues and actions any police items; Guy Kerr, PEP SAR Specialist,

represents PEP; and Linda West, Administrative Support for the SAR Advisory Committee, who records the meeting and produce a booklet to be distributed to all attendees.

The process focuses on two main objectives:

1. To discover operational opportunities which will allow all responders and mutual aid agencies to provide a more effective and efficient SAR response.
2. To provide all responders with a chronological and straightforward review of all activities that have taken place.

Other questions asked are:

- ?? What helped during the SAR Response
- ?? What hindered during the SAR Response
- ?? What can be learned from this SAR and this review

A consistent theme from past reviews have identified the following items as needing attention prior to, during and after a SAR Response:

- ?? Communication
- ?? Preplans
- ?? Mutual Aid

The RCMP SAR Co-ordinator forms a team involving the Chairman of the SAR advisory Council, PEP SAR Co-ordinator. They then issue preliminary documents detailing the time/date and place of the proposed review and send invitations to interested parties.

Features of the review are using the name of the position rather than the person's name e.g. search manager. The system then places in a chronological order the events of the incident in wall charts, which are placed around the walls. Process is carried out with a formal agenda.

In addition, after each item/phase/strategy/operational periods reviewed, it is also asked.

- Did anything happen that helped or hindered this part of the SAR/Other response?
- What did we learn from this that could be applied to future responses?

A SAR Review of an avalanche incident was carried out in McBride, a small town of 900 persons near the centre of British Columbia. The actual SAR incident took three hours to resolve, while the review took a full day. Full documentation of the McBride incident is available if requested.

5.9. SAR Dog standards

Meetings were held with several search dog groups. The question of search dogs standards was also discussed with police and volunteers. The consistent factor is only trained and certified teams are used for operations.

These standards are either set internally by the team such as Chesapeake search dogs, or dictated by the policing authority. The RCMP has set standards for volunteer search dogs to meet, including controlling the assessment of dog teams.

The Chesapeake search dog team had a rule that search dog teams were not allowed to be members of their local management team. This is to avoid handlers from influencing policy, which may be favourable to them.

Calgary

Volunteer search dogs must complete training and be assessed to a standard set by the Calgary Police. The standard is very similar to the RCMP standard. The Police are responsible for running the assessment. In some areas the RCMP have qualified search dogs. The preference is for police dog teams to be used and called first.

Chesapeake Dogs

They receive some funding given by State Govt. for dog training program. They also do their own private fundraising. No reimbursement for any expenses such as mileage or lost wages is available or given by any of the agencies who use the search dogs.

There is no State or County certification requirements for search dog teams. They have developed their own standards, using the NASAR K 9 and SAR Tech 11 and 111 guidelines and other standards. When they complete a certification assessment for a member where possible they will get another dog group to assist to maintain a form of moderation. The team gets some help from the police dog section. Only trained and certified dogs are used for a SAR.

Ontario

The Ontario search dog group has certification with FEMA, United States Federal Emergency Certification Authority for USAR. They were the first Canadian group to get this certification. The Ontario SAR dog team is affiliated to Ottawa search dogs, and has been in existence for 25 years. The group is available to the provincial police forces within Ontario and neighboring provinces.

There is no standard with Canada or Ontario for search dogs. The RCMP has set the standard in other provinces. This standard is similar to the standard that they're attaching their group with. Only dogs that have been trained and certified by the team are used for SAR.

Ontario police are often reluctant to use volunteer search dogs. They will generally attempt to use trained police dogs for the role. However, the Province of Ontario is implementing a civilian search dog program in August 2001, similar to that run by the RCMP in the province of Alberta.

Search and Rescue Dog Association (SARDA) Wales

SARDA is a voluntary organisation responsible for training and deployment of air scenting search and rescue dogs to search for missing persons both in the mountains and high moorlands of Britain as well as lowland, rural and urban areas. They are used to search for missing Hill walkers or climbers, or increasingly persons missing from home, elderly and confused persons, also missing children, and victims of crime. All handlers are trained in the protection of crime scenes. SARDA can work along with Mountain Rescue or directly for the Police.

NSARDA (the National Search And Rescue Dog Association) is an organisation representing Search And Rescue Dog Associations within the UK, and currently has member associations in Wales, England, and Scotland.

Dog handlers are required to keep a log of all training. Assessment of dog teams is completed by persons from other SARDA groups to maintain standards. Volunteer dog handlers work closely with the police. Costs etc such as mileage for vehicles are reimbursed and made direct to SARDA. However the practice is to usually only claim for long trips, otherwise all work is voluntary.

5.10. Hug A Tree program

The RCMP through the use of volunteers and police, run a program called Hug-a-Tree and Survive. It is aimed at Children from kinder-garden to grade six (form two), and has as its purpose the goal of teaching:

- ?? how not to become lost in the woods,
- ?? what to do if they become lost
- ?? how not to come to harm, and
- ?? how they can help searchers find them.

The program was developed in San Diego in a response to the loss of life of a nine year old boy who became lost. Ab Taylor, a retired Border Patrol agent, and respected SAR professional created the program. It is a copyrighted slide and presentation hands on program designed to teach understanding at their level.

It has been credited with saving many children's lives in the USA and Canada. In Canada the RCMP have copyright. The proposal was to create a program which would deliver a consistent message and be taught for no fee throughout Canada by trained federal, provincial, municipal and volunteer presenters.

Only trained presenters may present the Canadian Hug-a-Tree and Survive program. A trained presenter is a person who has been designated in writing by their department. A qualified presenter is one who, as a minimum,

- ?? has basic knowledge of search and rescue
- ?? had read and follows the directions provided in this manual
- ?? has signed an agreement provided by their department/agency certifying agreement to comply with all program requirements.

The RCMP have developed a presenters kit which includes a video, presenters manual, student workbook, whistle orange bags, handouts, colouring books, certificate.

6. Police involvement in search and rescue squads

Summary of Findings

Police SAR Squads exist in several areas, including Canada, United States and United Kingdom. Where they exist, they are usually part of a policing special operations group, which includes a SAR role.

Evidence

6.1 Howard County Virginia

Although no police SAR teams were visited, the closest coordinating agency that deploys staff was the Howard County Fire Department. Fire fighters respond for missing persons incidents. Although basic SAR equipment is provided, member purchase their own specialist foot ware.

6.2 RCMP

The RCMP has police members who can be used for SAR operations. They are generally part of tactical teams who provide their own tramping gear, but clothing and other equipment is supplied. There are teams in Edmonton and Calgary, but rarely go into wilderness areas, part of the reason is the high cost of overtime.

6.3 North Wales Police

Police receive no training in SAR as part of their duties. Police officers may attend the Bangor Search Planning and Management Course. There are police members in MR teams and RNLI as volunteers. However they are normally not allowed to attend if they are on duty. If they do attend, they are there as a volunteer only.

North Wales Police did a survey several years ago and estimated they would need an extra 450 police if they were to do the MR role. How the police operate in Wales is a result of custom etc.

6.4 Northumberland Police

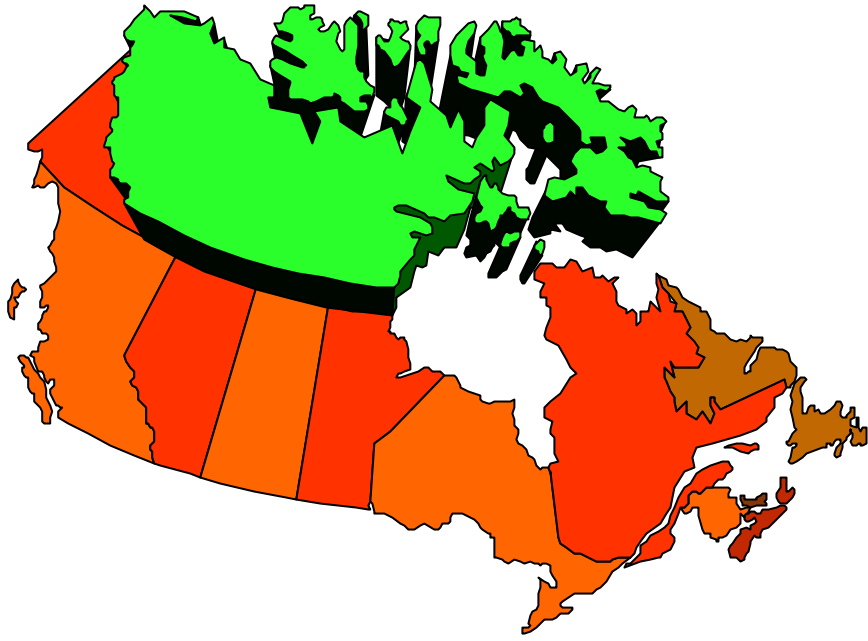
The police do not cloth or equip their members for fieldwork. If they are deployed police members will purchase their own specialist equipment (boots, jackets etc). The members come from the Operations Support team. Police members are members of the various volunteer search and rescue teams but are so as a volunteer only. If a police member wants to take part in a search as a volunteer they must take annual leave or days off to do so.

7. Acronyms

Search and Rescue has its own jargon and abbreviations. The more common varieties are set out. The country of origin is included if the abbreviation is particular to a specific country.

ACPO	Association of Chief Police Officers	UK
ACPO (S)	Association of Chief Police Officers (Scotland)	UK
AFRCC	Air Force Rescue Co-ordination Centre	USA
ASA	Ambulance Service Association	UK
ATV	All Terrain vehicles	
BC	British Columbia	Canada
CACFOA	Chief and Assistant Chief Fire Officers Association	UK
CALSAR	Calgary Search and Rescue	Canada
CASARA	Civil Air Search and Rescue Association	Canada
CCG	Canadian Coastguard	Canada
CCGA	Canadian Coastguard Auxiliary	Canada
CF	Canadian Forces	Canada
CIMS	Coordinated Incident Management System	New Zealand
CMRA	Canadian Marine Rescue Auxiliary	Canada
DND	Department of National Defence	Canada
DVI	Disaster Victim Identification	
EMO	Emergency Management Office	
EMS	Emergency Medical Service	
EPIRBs	Emergency Position Indicator Locater Beacon	
ERI	Emergency Response Institute or Emergency Response International	
ERI MLSO	Emergency Response International Managing Land Search Operations course	
ERI MSO	Emergency Response Institute Managing Search Operations course	
FEMA	Federal Emergency Certification Authority	USA
FLIR	Forward Looking Infra-red	
GPS	Global Positional System	
HCFR	Howard County Fire Rescue	USA
HO	Home Office	UK
HQ	Headquarters	
I/C	Incident Controller	
ICS	Incident Command System	
IRB	Inflatable Rigid Boat	
JRCC	Joint Rescue Co-ordination Centres	Canada
K9	Dog	
MCA	Maritime Co-ordination Centre	UK
MCA	Maritime and Coastguard Agency	UK
MHz	Megahertz	
MOD	Ministry of Defence	UK
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding	
MR	Mountain Rescue	
MRC	Mountain Rescue Council	UK
MRSC	Maritime Search and Rescue Sub-Centres	Canada
MSO	Managing Search Operations course	
NASA	National Aeronautical and Science Administration	USA
NASAR	National Association Search and Rescue	USA
NIF	New Initiatives Funding	Canada
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association	USA

NOK	Next of Kin	
NRCC	National Rescue Co-ordination Centre	New Zealand
NSARC	National Search and Rescue Conference	USA
NSARDA	National Search and Rescue Dog Association	UK
NSP	National Search and Rescue Program	Canada
NSS	National Search and Rescue Secretariat	Canada
OSARV	Ontario Search and Rescue Volunteer Association	Canada
PEP	Provincial Emergency program	Canada
PIEPS	Avalanche transceivers	
PLB	Personal Locater Beacon	
POA	Probability of Area	
POB	Probability of Detection	
POS	Probability of Success	
RAF	Royal Air Force	UK
RCC	Rescue Co-ordination Centre	
RCMP	Royal Canadian Mounted Police	Canada
RNLI	Royal National Lifeboat Institution	UK
SAR	Search and Rescue	
SARDA	Search and Rescue Dog Association	UK
SAREX	Search and Rescue Exercise	
SARVAC	Search and Rescue Volunteers Association Canada	Canada
SOP	Standard operating Procedures	
SRR	Search and Rescue Region	
UK	United Kingdom	
USA	United States America	
USAR	Urban Search and Rescue	
VHF	Very High Frequency	



CANADA

23 April 2001

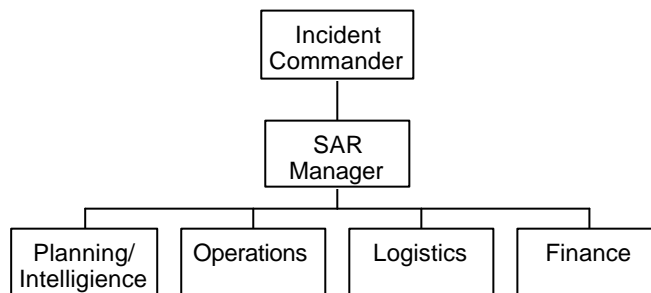
Royal Canadian Mounted Police (British Columbia)

Sergeant Don Bindon, Emergency Programs Manager, RCMP. 5255 Heather Street, New Westminister. Ph 001 604 264 3542 don.bindon@rcmp-grc.gc.ca

Sergeant Don Bindon is responsible for emergency planning for the British Colombia RCMP. His responsibilities include SAR, Emergency Control Room. SAR makes up 40% of his current workload.

Search and Rescue operations are coordinated by the police using the ICS model where the police have the role of I/C. Within British Columbia the police rely heavily on the expertise of volunteer search managers to coordinate searches. The model has been altered to include a volunteer SAR manager as the deputy I/C or Search Manager.

Command chart for SAR Incidents



ICS is used as a guide that emphasises process rather than structure. Flexible approach to the system should remain predominant in philosophy and teaching.

Within BC there are 7 police trained as SAR Commanders. All but one completed the training in there own time. RCMP recently allowed one police member to complete training as SAR Commander by completing the SAR manager's course.

RCMP has overall responsibility within the areas they are the contracted policing agency and work closely with the Provincial Emergency Program (PEP). They are based in Victoria and provide a 24-hour emergency room for all emergencies including SAR. If an incident occurs, the Police will contact a SAR Manager and give a job number. This person will then contact PEP and obtain a task number. SAR Managers have the authority to put a helicopter up for 2 hours if the situation is urgent (White Water rescue). Otherwise they need authority from the PEP, or RCMP is police units are used. Matters are discussed with the duty officer PEP.

Police will generally start a search and suspend it. Police role in HQ is generally limited to this role as I/C. Police also work in interviewing NOK and others to build a picture etc of the missing person. Volunteer SAR Managers then run the search as deputy I/C. Police role is not to really manage, but be aware and comfortable with

what is happening. Police provide input into the management team when required as they have the overall responsibility.

If expenditure starts to get to great, Don Bindon is contacted by Police or PEP. If it were a pure rescue situation, the police would have the primary responsibility. Police appoint the SAR Commander, and PEP appoints the SAR Manager.

Areas are in Volunteer SAR teams with each team required to have a duty SAR Manager on call 24/7.

The province, through the Provincial Emergency programme runs a SAR Managers course (MSO) which is coordinated by the Justice Institute of BC. The course has been changed to reflect BC requirements, is based on the ERI MSO, and is 40 hours long. The Emergency Management College runs the training.

BC completed a SAR strategic plan in 1995, which was a joint effort between police, PEP, SAR Advisory Committee and RCMP.

Funding

RCMP – Fund police

PEP – Fund volunteers

NSSS- Fund new volunteer initiatives, but not ongoing costs.

PEP spends 1.3 million each year on funding for SAR.

First aid training funded by PEP. No funding given for clothing, however this may change. Depends on funding allocation from Govt. Indications are that funding will get tighter. Funding for items such as helmets may be provided.

Attrition rates for volunteers within BC are 15%.

In 1995 there were 175 SAR managers throughout the province. 210 needed. In BC PEP is the lead agency and consulted by police in all SAR incidents. PEP will pay, however if RCMP resources such as helicopters used then RCMP pay.

For a SAR units to be used they must:

- be incorporated
- have a board of directors
- govern its affairs in accordance to by laws approved
- meet the manning levels established for the various SAR disciplines
- adhere to minimum training requirements
- meet minimum administrative requirements
- meet minimum response capabilities and times
- existence must be justified by objective needs assessment
- account and maintain all crown equipment
- develop, maintain and test a complete SAR plan in accordance with policy

Legislation

Legislative authority for SAR within BC not contained within any statute or regulation. December 16/1994, Regulation 477/94, The Emergency Management

Regulations, Duties of Ministers and Governments Corporations in the event of an emergency. That regulation specifies that the Attorney general is responsible for providing SAR. This responsibility is exercised through the local police force. In the vast majority of cases, this is exercised through the RCMP. Police are required under the obligations of the state to provide security of persons as outlined in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, and the inherent oral obligation of the province, municipalities and regional districts to provide peace, order and good government.

Coroners Service

There is a written agreement dated 11 April 1990 between the Chief Coroner British Columbia, the RCMP and PEP which states that due to the specialised skills and equipment of PEP personnel:

- a. PEP volunteers who are involved in police directed SAR operations may assist in body recoveries under the direction of a coroner or other persons provided under the Coroners Act
- b. PEP volunteers may be tasked to assist in or effect a body recovery in those instances which do not begin as a SAR operation and which are initiated as SAR operations to recover deceased person or persons.

No police SAR Squads. Police are not trained to work in the bush. Coroners rely on volunteers. If crime scene then detectives will head in. Coroner can ask SAR teams to recover bodies.

SAR teams are provided with heavy-duty body bags with handles. Volunteer's double bag victims to keep large one clean.

Documents Supplied

- ?? BC Search and Rescue Strategic Plan
- ?? Hug a Tree Presenter Manual, workbook, video and kit
- ?? SAR Pre Plan for Mt Seymour
- ?? SAR Commanders Response Kit

Commander RCMP (E Division)

Meeting with Bev Busson, Assistant Commissioner, Commander E Division

British Columbia Air Support Sub Committee

Attended a meeting of the Air Support Sub Committee, North Vancouver. Chaired by George Zilahi. Guy Kerr (British Columbia SAR Co-ordinator) present. The committee is part of the BC SAR Advisory Committee.

Issues covered included reviewing the policy, which allows volunteer SAR managers to hire helicopters for emergencies such as swift water rescue. This policy was later expanded to include avalanches.

Training for persons who are required to be in helicopters discussed. It was suggested that qualified persons would wear a small sticker on their helmets. .

24/4/01

Canadian Coast Guard – Richmond Base

Visit made to the Canadian Coastguard, Sea Island, Richmond, BC (Vancouver International Airport). The base operates two hovercrafts for search and rescue incidents.

All Coastguard activities are coordinated by the Victoria RCC. The RCC have marine and aviation specialist on duty.

Volunteer auxiliary units are also controlled by the RCC.

Documents Supplied

?? Specifications of BC Coastguard Search Craft

Coquitlam Search and Rescue

Ian Cunning – SAR Manager, Port Coquitlam SAR, 1300 Pinetree Way, Coquitlam, B.C. V3B 7S4. Ph 604 502 6306 E-mail DICummings@city.surrey.bc.ca Web Page http://www.city.coquitlam.bc.ca/Public_Safety/Safety10.htm

Visit to the Coquitlam Search and Rescue team base located at the Port Coquitlam Fire Station, Port Coquitlam. Shown around by Ian Cunning, SAR Manager.

The Coquitlam SAR team was formed in 1973 following a search for a missing person on Burkes Mountain. Since that date the team has become an established identity and undertakes search and rescue activities in the immediate area. The team had a geographic area, which they have prime SAR responsibility for, plus assist other neighboring SAR groups.

The operating cost is 60k per year, majority raised by fundraising. They get 25k annually from PEP, and the rest from lotteries and other agencies.

The are housed in the Port Coquitlam Fire Station at no cost where they have allocated office space. Being in the Fire Station allows them access to the station facilities, and garage space for their vehicles and equipment.

Equipment which is owned by the team include:

?? command vehicle

?? niad with jet motor

?? snowmobiles

?? standard SAR equipment.

There are currently 40 active members who train weekly, completing a variety of SAR skills. Within the team there are six trained SAR managers. Although members are required to supply some of their own equipment, when a new person joins they can receive up to \$2,000 in clothing and equipment. This includes helmet, jacket, harness, pager, jacket, boots, PEEPS, avalanche poles. etc., which must be returned

when they leave. Members are required to attend at least 50% of the training programs and searches.

No assistance is given in the form of mileage, lost wages, reimbursement for expenses.

Each year they average around 30 call outs.

Responsibilities include running programs such as the “hug a tree and survive” to schools. Material for the program is supplied by the RCMP.

When a call out occurs, the duty SAR manager is contacted by either PEP or the RCMP. Once details have been given and a task number obtained the SAR manager will then initiate actions and take responsibility for the incident.

Documents Supplied

?? Brochure on Coquitlam SAR and call out lists

25.4.01

British Columbia Provincial Emergency Program (PEP)

Guy Kerr, SAR Co-ordinator, Provincial Emergency Program. PO Box 9201, Stn Proc Govt, Victoria, BC V8W 9J1. Ph 001 250 952 4892. E-mail guy.kerr@ag.gov.bc.ca

Guy Kerr is the BC SAR Co-ordinator, employed by PEP. He is a former Police SAR Co-ordinator for the Calgary Police, and a founding member of the Foothills (Calgary) SAR Team.

PEP is responsible for providing volunteer training within B.C. PEP also operates a 24/7 communications centre for all Civil Defence and other emergencies at the Victoria HQ. If there is a SAR incident, the Police or SAR Managers will contact the duty Officer and obtain a task number. This will enable the team to be provided with insurance cover.

The PEP budget for SAR is 350k annually. This pays for the SAR Co-ordinator, two full time trainers, and transport and other costs associated with getting volunteers and police to training venues. PEP will pay for

- SAR training course
- Travel to and from these courses
- Meals and accommodation for course members
- Cost of running a SAR
- Allowances and expenses for SAR team members (after 5 hours a \$9 meal allowance is paid)

The trainers are based at the PEP training school, New Westminster.

Provided a copy of Review program, which will form the basis for a review which is scheduled to take place on the weekend at McBride, following a death due to an avalanche.

Review Process

Review is using the name of then position rather than the person's name e.g. search manager. System then places in a chronological order the events of the incident in wall charts, which are placed around the walls. Process is carried out with a formal agenda. Two basic objectives are

2. To provide everyone with a chronological order of events as they occurred. These include the observations, comments, suggestions and action plan.
3. To discover operational opportunities which will allow all responders and mutual aid agencies to provide a more effective and efficient SAR response.

In addition, after each item/phase/strategy/operational periods reviewed, it is also asked.

- Did anything happen that helped or hindered this part of the SAR/Other response?
- What did we learn from this that could be applied to future responses?

Documents Supplied

- ?? Review process documentation
- ?? McBride SAR Review Report
- ?? Various PEP data sheets

Victoria Rescue Co-ordination Centre

Ph 1-250-363-5360 (Monday to Friday 0800-1530). Fax: 1-250-363-2309

Email: RCCVictoria@pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca. P.O. Box 17000 Station Forces, Victoria, BC . V9A 7N2. Web www.pacific.ccg-gcc.gc.ca/sar/rcc

Meetings held with Victoria RCC officials, including Coastguard and Air Force. The RCC are responsible for coordinating all marine SAR incidents within their area. This includes the Vancouver maritime area.

The Victoria Rescue Co-ordination Centre (RCC) is one of three RCCs in Canada operated by the Canadian Forces (CF) in conjunction with the Canadian Coast Guard (CCG); the others are in Trenton, Ontario and Halifax, Nova Scotia. The RCC, jointly staffed by trained Canadian Forces and Canadian Coast Guard personnel, is manned 24 hours a day.

The Victoria RCC is located at the Canadian Forces Base Esquimalt and is responsible for planning, coordinating, controlling and conducting aeronautical and maritime search and rescue (SAR) operations within Victoria's Search and Rescue Region (SRR). In addition, RCC co-ordinates search and rescue units' response for humanitarian incidents in accordance with national policy and regional directives. Once RCC is notified that a person(s) is in danger, the SAR Co-ordinator begins to organise the rescue. All available information about the person(s) in danger is gathered and recorded and the positions of potential assisting resources in the area of

the incident are determined. SAR Co-ordinators are trained to evaluate various situations and send the most effective resources to deal with a particular incident. In complex and major incidents, many resources are often sent or tasked to assist.

The Victoria RCC is continuously staffed by two Maritime Co-ordinators (Canadian Coast Guard Officers) and one Aeronautical Co-ordinator (Air Force Captain). Relationships exist with adjoining RCCs in Juneau, Alaska, Elmendorf, Alaska, Langley, Virginia, Seattle, Washington and Trenton, Ontario.

Victoria Search and Rescue Region

The Victoria SRR consists of approximately 920,000 square kilometres of mainly mountainous terrain of Yukon and British Columbia and 560,000 square kilometres of the Pacific Ocean extending to approximately 600 nautical miles offshore including over 27,000 kilometres of British Columbia coastline.

26.4.01

Meeting with

Dave Brewer – Chairperson Northshore SAR

Ian Cunning – Coquitlam SAR

Stuart McDonald - PEP Trainer

Linda West – PEP Secretary (BC Advisory Committee)

BC SAR Advisory Committee

Dave Brewer, Chairperson, BC SAR Advisory Committee. 715 McBride Boulevard, New Westminister, BC V3L 5T4. Ph 604 984 4915. E mail dbrewer@capcollege.bc.ca

Dave is the current Chairperson of the Advisory Committee. He is an experienced SAR Manager, and is part of the North Shore SAR team (web <http://www.northshorerescue.com/>). He has written several SAR training guides.

PEP also fund the running of the BC SAR Advisory Committee (27k annually). SAR volunteers and other agencies are all represented on the SAR Advisory Committee. This committee was set up in 1990. Committee has nine volunteers appointed by PEP, RCMP. PEP SAR Chief, SAR Co-ordinator

Features of the committee have included the appointment of a full time SAR Co-ordinator for the province. Position commenced work in 1998. Current position holder is Guy Kerr.

Committee has an advisory role only, and has not ability to set policy. Process are in place for the appointment and otherwise of the committee.

Documents Supplied

?? PEP SAR Advisory Committee structure

PEP MSO Course

Meeting with Stuart McDonald, a full time SAR trainer employed by PEP. Courses he delivers include the ERI MSO course.

The MSO course run by PEP differs from ERI course. PEP use ERI manual but have modified the assessment to be a pass/fail. On the last course they had three trainers, himself, Guy Kerr and a volunteer trainer. The volunteer trainer once trained and assessed by PEP to be competent, will be able to run the course in his local area.

Assessment of the trainees is throughout the entire course. On the last course two persons failed. The assessment is based on BC provincial requirements, which covers laws and regulations specific to BC. A feature of the course is a two and a half day exercise.

All SAR courses run by PEP are pass/fail. The team leaders for example usually has a 30% failure rate.

Documents supplied

?? 1999-2000 PEP SAR training program

27 - 29 .4.01

McBride Search and Rescue Review

The incident being reviewed occurred on 11 March 2001 when a snowmobiler was killed in an avalanche.

The review started with Dave Brewer outlining the conduct of the meeting. A speaker's list was maintained and used to control people who wished to make a comment. People are asked to use the name of the position, eg SAR Manager.

In the past, reviews were called critiques, post-mortems, and debriefs – all negative terms. In those days blame was placed and people were afraid to attend them. In 1993, with the help of the SAR Advisory Committee, a paper was put together that talked about a process, to enshrine the things done well and reinforce them and identify what wasn't done well and what could be done to change them. This results in a safe, effective and efficient response. PEP was then asked to support this concept by having the task number extended to cover the cost of bringing everyone together. The Facilitating Review Team now goes around the province providing a training demonstration on the positive effectiveness of the process. Art Eickmeyer, North East SAR Regional Representative, assisted in co-facilitating, so as a legacy they are leaving people with the hands-on experience of conducting a review as well as those who have participated and now are aware of the process. This process is a lot of work, but is well worth it. The process shows no fear of, or favour to, anyone – the events are simply walked through – fact-upon-fact. Since 1993, the review process has been very successful, with all attendees feeling it worked well and they were comfortable with the process.

The Facilitating Team consists of Dave Brewer, Facilitator; Don Bindon, RCMP, identifies police issues and actions any police items; Guy Kerr, PEP SAR Specialist, represents PEP; Stuart MacDonald, the JI SAR Co-ordinator/Instructor and is unable to attend today, however any training issues will be brought forward to him; and Linda West, Administrative Support for the SAR Advisory Committee, who will record the meeting and produce a booklet to be distributed to all attendees.

The process focuses on two main objectives:

1. To discover operational opportunities which will allow all responders and mutual aid agencies to provide a more effective and efficient SAR response.
2. To provide all responders with a chronological and straightforward review of all activities that have taken place.

Questions to be asked are:

- ?? What helped us during the SAR Response
- ?? What hindered us during the SAR Response
- ?? What can we learn from this SAR and this review

All past REVIEWS have identified the following items as needing attention prior to, during and after a SAR Response:

- ?? Communication
- ?? Preplans
- ?? Mutual Aid

Basics objectives of a review are

- What helped during the SAR response
- What hindered during the response
- What can we learn from this review and SAR

Time line of incident then taken from RCMP. Ambulance, SAR Manager, Coroner.

Comments and time line recorded on paper and placed around the room. Next phase is to record observations from the time line. Example is

- ?? Observation – I/C and D/I/C did not have a face to face.
- ?? Comment – Police or Coroner is in charge
- ?? Suggestion – Preplan for avalanche outling timing and requirement for a face to face.
- ?? Action – Pre plan review by Inspector Clark by 9 May.

Review showed differential and confusion over who is in charge of the incident.

Documents supplied

- ?? Transcript of the McBride review

4.5.01

Kananaskis National Park

George Field, Public Safety Specialist, Alberta Environmental,
Canmore Office, 800 Railway Ave, Canmore, Alberta
Ph 403 678 5598, Email George.Field@gov.ab.ca

George Field is employed as a Public Safety Specialist. He is an experienced SAR Manager who will coordinate any rescue operation within his area of the Park. His area of expertise is in mountain rescue.

Parks Officers are responsible for dealing with minor disorder on parkland. Rangers carry firearms, batons, OC Spray etc.

When an incident happens within the Park area the response depends on the type.

- if it is a missing person, then RCMP are responsible
- if it is a injured person then Ambulance are responsible
- if incident like animal attack, then Parks are responsible

George Fields specialist role is in Mountain rescue and is on 24-hour pager turn out for any incident.

The RCMP has the mandate for a lost person scenario. They will contact the Parks who will form an overhead team to monitor any incident. If volunteers are used, a senior volunteer will become part of the overhead team, with the main role being a liaison officer for their team.

Parks people who are required to manage incidents have completed the ERI MSO course. It is the responsibility of the RCMP to call in any volunteers, as they are able to provide them with insurance coverage. However they would be managed by the Parks HQ team. The RCMP will fund the lost person incidents.

Each year there are around 20 – 25 technical rescues, which are, completed by parks personnel. These are mountain and cliff face rescue incidents. Because of the specialist nature of this work, only Park's personnel are used, as there are no volunteers with the advanced skills and training to complete this task.

There are usually around 3 – 4 incidents per years, which would require the turn out of volunteers. Parks or RCMP would act as the incident commander. Parks's staff also act as SAR manager. If a incident reaches the second or third period volunteer SAR managers maybe used.

Parks personnel are paid at a rate of \$25 by the RCMP for any search incident involving lost persons. Canmore make is a policy (unofficial) not to charge unless the account reaches more then \$200. This rate does not cover the true cost of an incident which may involve overtime and only wages are claimed, not the cost of equipment etc.

If a person is injured in the Park and they are not from Alberta, an attempt will be made to get the cost of the rescue back. This may include Parks time, helicopter costs, hospitalisation etc. A claim is made against the insurance of the individual.

Parks personnel will complete all tasks of body recover, including reports to the coroner, body bagging individual, and dealing with NOK for the RCMP.

5.5.01

Calgary Police

Sergeant Greg Harris, SAR Co-ordinator, Calgary Police, Emergency Planning, 133 – 6th Avenue, SE Calgary. Ph 403 295 7999. E-mail gharris@ezpost.com

Sergeant Harris is responsible for SAR planning and coordinating of search incidents with the Calgary policing area. His main area of expertise is in Emergency Management.

Calgary police do not give any money for volunteer training. Volunteers complete their own fund raising. When there is a search the volunteers will report to a coordinating point, often a caravan (usually their own) and record their name and other details. By registering they are able to claim insurance coverage from the province in the event of any accident.

Volunteer search dogs must complete training and be assessed to a standard set by the Calgary Police. The standard is very similar to the RCMP standard. The Police are responsible for running the assessment. In some areas the RCMP have qualified search dogs. In these areas there is a reluctance to call out volunteer dogs. Even if it takes several hours for a police dog team to get to the site, the preference is for police dog teams to be used and called first.

Within Calgary there are fourteen police persons trained on the ERI MSO course. Of this number, there are around seven who are currently active. In the event of a search these persons are called out and used as the Incident Commander and sometimes as the search manager. Volunteer will assist as planning and intelligence officers or Operations Managers. Police will do the logistics role. When called out the police members get paid overtime. Each year the police run a one-day MSO refresher course their staff refresher.

Each year within Calgary there are over one hundred SAR incidents. These include missing persons in urban environments, and searches for Alzheimer's patients. The Police would require the assistance of volunteer's approximately ten times annually.

Volunteer Teams maintain their own equipment, including radios, GPS etc. They do their own fundraising, and will provide their own clothing and equipment to team members.

In an urban SAR incident, a police member will team up with a volunteer team to alleviate concern form the public when prive sections are searched. .

Foothills Search and Rescue

Guy Sosnoski – President, Foothills Search and Rescue Society. PO Box 549, Turner Valley, Alberta. Ph 403 938 6567 (h), Cell 403 803 6319, Email gsosnoski@hotmail.com Web page is www.foothills-sar.ab.ca

Guy is the current president of Foothills SAR. Guy Kerr (current BC SAR Co-ordinator) is a former founding member.

On the day of the visit the Foothills SAR team and Calgary Police were running a SAR open day at Fish Creek Park. Various SAR displays had been set up, including equipment, tracking and other skill stations.

Foothills Search and Rescue was formed in March of 1993. At that time the only other SAR group in Alberta was in Rocky Mountain House and there was a need for ground searchers. Parks was trained to do all aspects of rescue work but did not have the manpower needed to conduct a thorough search.

When they started in 1993 they had no money and relied on a small membership fee for postage, etc. with members supplying their own equipment. R.C.M.P. soon helped out, though, with radios, GPS and PIEPS for avalanche work. Members all worked at getting donations and selling raffle tickets to help with training costs.

Foothills' service area is bounded on the north by Calgary SAR and on the south by Pincher Creek SAR. Foothills Search and Rescue forms a capable and experienced volunteer team available to the R.C.M.P. and Kananaskis Country to assist in authorised search, rescue, disaster relief and evacuation situations.

They are committed to increasing public awareness of search and rescue and to providing safety and prevention programs. Search and rescue volunteers are from all walks of life: paramedics, fire fighters, police officers, teachers, home makers, technicians, business people, etc. and are ready to respond to an emergency 24 hours a day, all year round.

The Foothills club supports the RCMP and Calgary police. They complete their own fundraising and supply our own equipment and radios etc. The club owns it's own caravan, trailer, etc. Club members use their own snowmobiles, 4 wheel drive motor cycles etc. Assets they currently have include computers, trailers, photocopiers, printer's etc. The equipment is stored at the Turner Valley RCMP office.

They have 60 members who train on a monthly basis. During a search or training situation they run their own volunteer registration, which provides insurance coverage by the Alberta Government.

The police (RCMP and Calgary) set the standards and training requirements. They use the ERI MSO course for our search managers. Any new person who joins the club is required to complete the 40-hour SAR fundamental course using trainers from the club. Other training that is completed includes urban SAR, track and clue awareness, swift water rescue and avalanche rescues courses.

Club members pay a \$15 yearly registration fee and a \$75 deposit, this covers their jackets, which belong to the club. When a person leaves they must return the jacket and the deposit is refunded. When they join they must have the wilderness first aid qualification.

Activities include evidence searches, bush searches, traffic control, USAR, emergency volunteer support etc.

In the event of a search the incident controller is a police position. Usually the other positions are filled by volunteers. Police will give reimbursement expenses to cover costs of coffee and meals for a search.

For fundraising they complete casino evenings, and other activities. Last year for example they raised \$22k from casino evenings. The Provincial government gave \$150 k to SAR. Foothills received \$4 k once it was divided out to the SAR groups.

A standard is trying to be set within Alberta that if you have not managed a SAR for 2 years; the manager must complete a refresher course. They rarely complete joint police training.

SAR Managers complete their own critical incident debriefs. Some members are trained in defusing techniques. Volunteer teams Foothills and Calgary SAR do not inter-train on a regular basis. Calgary SAR was invited to the open day, but decided to run an exercise in the Foothills area instead.

RCMP and Calgary Police are reluctant to use volunteer search dogs for a SAR. They qualify the dogs, but rarely use them. RCMP will call out a handler from some distance, rather than allow civilian SAR dog to search.

7.5.01

Alberta SAR Meeting

Attended a meeting of the Alberta SAR organisation at Cochrane RCMP. Present were all SAR groups in the Calgary area, including Calgary Police (Greg Harris, RCMP, Calgary SAR, Foothills, Caving volunteers, Park Rangers, Alberta Environmental.

Meeting chaired by Ken Jones, Disaster Services Officer, Alberta Municipal Affairs, 301, 7015 MacLeod Trail, SW. Ph 403 297 6470. E-mail ken.jones@gov.ab.ca

Issues covered included:

Cavers are currently setting up rescue organisation within Alberta. They currently have 22 members. Each year there are around 5-7cave operations. Some of the caves within Alberta receive up to 5,000 visitors annually. Presently there are 4 groups within Alberta who can do cave rescue, but there is no umbrella group.

Foothills SAR are planning a SAREX and are inviting other SAR groups to take part.

RCMP in Edmonton is offering positions on their next ERI MSO course. However due to cut backs persons who attend will have top pay accommodation and meal costs at approx. \$250 per person.

Province will fund provincial training courses.

Alberta SAR had received a grant from the provincial government for 150k. There was concern that a news release said thanks, but wanted more.

Parks service reluctant to train volunteers because of issues involving insurance coverage. Feedback was that as long as it is a recognised volunteer group they would get coverage etc. Kananaski Park has five satellite phones

Feeling was there is a need a full time SAR co-ordinator in Alberta.

Calgary Search and Rescue Team (CALSAR)

Lynne Keeler, Calgary Search and Rescue (CALSAR) Rm 2, Cedarbrae community centre, Calgary. Ph 403 238 1772. Web <http://www.calsara.com>

Founded in 1993, Calgary Search and Rescue Association (CALSARA) is a registered charitable organisation dedicated to providing fully-trained volunteers to assist local agencies such as RCMP, MD of Rockyview, Municipal Police Services, in ground search and rescue operations.

Calgary Search and Rescue Association believes that volunteers play a vital role in search and rescue operations, no matter what the scale. Volunteers from all walks of life donate hundreds of hours a year to train, search and promote our organisation. Members are trained in standard first aid, map and compass navigation, radio communications, survival skills, and are certified by the Emergency Response Institute (ERI), search and rescue techniques (wilderness and urban), low angle slope rescue, avalanche awareness, Alzheimer's patient behaviour, evidence handling and more.

They assist at other events such as Calgary Stampede, Deerfoot classic race, and other activities such as Missing Children Society of Canada

The provide safety and survival presentations called lost in the woods to schools, scouts, guide's etc. CALSAR now have an eight person bike team which is being trained by Calgary Police.

Documents Supplied

?? Calgary SAR Pamphlet

Royal Canadian Mounted Police – K Division

Sgt Larry Moore, Training section, K Division, 11140 – 109 Street, Edmonton. Tel 780 412 5602.

Sgt. Derek Simmonds, Manager, Emergency Response Program. 11140 – 109 Street, Edmonton. Ph 760 412 5564. E-mail dereck.simmonds@rcmp-grc.gc.ca

Sgt. Derek Simmonds is the new SAR co-ordinator for RCMP, Alberta, taking over from Sgt. Larry Moore.

The RCMP is the contracted policing agency for the majority of Alberta. RCMP SAR co-ordinators have completed the ERI MSO course. This is the standard set nationally by RCMP for police search managers.

Within the province the RCMP have had funding cut for training. It has gone from 1.4 million to 400k, which has affected funding for SAR programs. They run SAR Managers courses (ERI MSO) where positions are offered to non-police persons at rate of \$250 per person for the five-day course, inclusive of meals and accommodation. No course costs are included in the course fee. There has been no problem received in getting funds from attendees, with the course generally over subscribed.

RCMP has no program for replacement of volunteer's wages.

They conducted an exercise for lost person behavior by allowing two girls to go for a walk in the bush (followed by a minder who was not allowed to communicate, but carried a shotgun for bears etc). The girls followed the lost person behavior predictions (go downhill etc).

Volunteers are required to complete the SAR fundamental course before they can be used for incidents. RCMP has trained up to 60 volunteer trainers within the province to run the course, which is based on the ERI fundamentals course.

The RCMP has police members who can be used for SAR who are part of RCMP tactical teams. Members provide their own tramping gear but clothing and equipment is provided by RCMP. There are teams in Edmonton and Calgary, but rarely used to go into bush, part of the reason being the cost of overtime.

8.5.01

Canadian Air Search and Rescue Association (CASARA)

Greg Ursel, Deputy Zone Commander, Calgary - CARES, 205, 5438 – 11St N.E. Calgary, Alberta. Ph 403 861 4077. E-mail Greg.Ursel@home.com. Web www.casara.ca

Greg Ursel is the deputy zone commander of Calgary CARES. Civil Air Rescue Emergency Services - Volunteer Air SAR group providing aircraft and trained air sar teams.

CARES is a part of CASARA, The Civil Air Search and Rescue Association, which is a Canada-wide volunteer aviation association dedicated to the promotion of Aviation Safety, and to the provision of air search support services to the Canadian National SAR program.

Membership is open to aircraft owners and pilots, as well as to those who wish to receive training as spotters and navigators. Members receive training in fields such as aviation safety, meteorology, survival awareness and search techniques and procedures.

CASARA:

- ?? participates in aviation safety and search and rescue training programs
- ?? provides air search support services and suitable aircraft
- ?? provides trained crews to fly as pilots, navigators and spotters on Association aircraft, and as spotters on Canadian Forces aircraft as required.
- ?? provides an insurance package including personal accident, hull and liability coverage
- ?? provides administrative support
- ?? provides reimbursement for aircraft operating expenses based on aircraft horsepower and local fuel costs

CASARA in conjunction with the Canadian Air Force were running a aviation SAREX in Lethbridge. Involving Civil Air Search and Rescue Association, and Canadian Air Force (435 Squadron). CASARA were used by the Canadian Air Force who were running the exercise as spotters and search craft. The aircraft at the disposal of the search masters consisted of Cessna 172 etc, single engine aircraft.

The SAREX air search was conducted by search masters from 435 Squadron, Winnipeg. For the exercise they had two Canadian Air Force C130, one Canadian Air Force helicopter and two Cessna fixed wings. The scenario was a search for a missing aircraft in the Rockies.

A feature of the Canadian Air Force is the use of SAR technicians (Airforce) who are trained to parachute and assist injured. They are trained in climbing, rope work, parachuting, diving, first aid etc. SAR Technicians are used around 4-5 times annually.

The search HQ was set up in room inside an Army Base at Lethbridge, using airforce personnel, under control of a major.

10.5.01

Ottawa Valley Search and Rescue Dogs

Kim Cooper, Ontario Sar Dogs, E-mail kcooper@trytel.com

Kim Cooper is a search dog handler with the Ontario search dog team. She has been a handler for ten years.

The Ontario search dog group has certification with FEMA, United States Federal Emergency Certification Authority for USAR. They were the first Canadian group to get this certification. The Ontario SAR dog team is affiliated to Ottawa search dogs, and have been in existence for 25 years. The group is available to the provincial police forces within Ontario and neighboring provinces.

Ontario police are often reluctant to use volunteer search dogs. They will generally attempt to use trained police dogs for the role. However, the Province of Ontario is implementing a civilian search dog program in August 2001, similar to that run by the RCMP in the province of Alberta.

There is no standard with Canada or Ontario for search dogs. The RCMP has set the standard in other provinces. This standard is similar to the standard that they're attaching their group with.

They have no bloodhounds within their group. Dogs they have are tracking and air scenting dogs and use German shepherds and Malinois (Belgian version of the German shepherd).

Above average dogs are needed for SAR. They tend to get called in after the police have been in the area with tracking dogs and have not found anything. The success rate for the team to find the victim is about one operation in twenty. Only dogs that have been trained and certified by the team are used for SAR.

A provincial group a provincial association of volunteer teams was formed 4 years ago. It was formed with the notion of setting up standards to work with the police. The Ontario Provincial Police received the funding from the NSS, to train the groups belonging to this association, by way of encouraging membership and providing training. In Ontario the police will use their own resources for the first 24 hours before getting in volunteers. It is very rare for volunteers to be used on the first day. Recently the entire team had to undergo a 40-hour course run by the Ontario police about SAR. Most had already had this standard but there was no scope for RPL. The police insisted that all the volunteers must have this training.

Police dogs within the province tend to be very aggressive.

Comment

?? Only trained and certified dogs are used

?? Canada has no national standard for search dogs. The RCMP have a standard for SAR dog and trainers, but it is applied provincially

?? Within Ontario only police resources are used during the first incident period

National Search and Rescue Secretariat (NSS)

John Chaffey, Chief, Non-Federal Search and Rescue Programs, National Search and Rescue Secretariat, 275 Slater Street, Ottawa. Ph 613 996 3727. E-mail jchaffey@nss.gc.ca Web www.nss.gc.ca

John Chaffey is in charge of non federal SAR programs. He coordinated a series of meetings on the day in Ottawa. Further meetings held with NSS on 11.5.01.

The National Search and Rescue Secretariat (NSS) is an independent agency of government, reporting to the Lead Minister for Search and Rescue (the Minister of National Defence). The NSS was established in 1986 to support and promote the activities of the National SAR Program (NSP) as a means to achieve highly effective and economically responsible search and rescue programs throughout Canada.

The NSS coordinates central activities for the federal element of search and rescue, which includes the federal SAR delivery departments: Department of National Defence (DND), Department of Fisheries and Oceans/Canadian Coast Guard, the

Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), Canadian Heritage - Parks Canada, Transport Canada, and Environment Canada (Meteorological Service of Canada).

Within the non-federal jurisdiction, the NSS works directly with provincial Emergency Measures Organisations (EMOs) and police services to develop and standardise the quantity and quality of SAR service available to the provinces. Supporting these major federal and non-federal activities, the NSS provides a facility for conducting major studies and reviews, and it maintains an energetic client services communications organisation which, amongst its many activities, publishes the quarterly *SARSCENE* magazine, stages the annual *SARSCENE* workshops, produces SAR prevention information, and maintains a Resource Centre (library) as a central source of information on SAR matters.

The NSS also coordinates the Canadian contribution to the COSPAS-SARSAT satellite alerting system, and it monitors the standards and maintains the Canadian registry for personal locator beacons (PLB).

In general, the NSS is a centre for SAR co-ordination and promotion in Canada.

The NSS was formed following a oilrig disaster, which resulted in the loss of life. There was a Royal Commission which determined that Canada's SAR services were not centrally coordinated.

The NSS coordinates federal funding initiatives and has a annual budget of 8.1 million for new SAR initiatives. New innovations are given new initiatives funding in air, land and sea SAR. The aim of this funding and the NSS is to improve SAR capability through establishing new and innovative methods or technology. Anyone time there is 100 NSS projects on the go. Since 1988 655 projects funded with \$114 million spent since 1988. Sometimes the NSS will fund equipment purchases, but this is rare. Overall the budget is 10 million annually, with one million for staff and office costs.

Within the NSS office they have 20 personnel. Officially the strength is fifteen full time in the office, with the remainder part timers. They report to a Government Minister with a SAR portfolio. The Minister is also in charge of defence.

Although tried, no officially accepted national standard within Canada. There are standards for aviation and marine, because individual federal departments govern the official response activities related to those. Canada is close to achieving a national Ground SAR standard, although without the participation of one of its key provinces who feels that regional standards are better approach."

The ground search volunteers have a national association called SARVAC, search and rescue volunteer's association Canada. They are doing fund raising nationally and have a HQ in Alberta. SARVAC have no full time positions and are all volunteers. They are a new group and are in the process of still setting up and seeking funding. Their role has not been established, however it is concentrating on process.

NSS gives out NIF, (New Initiatives Funding) to persons or groups who have a new project etc.

NSS are working on program aimed at getting greater co-ordination of federal resources for SAR. There is a lack of communication between crown agencies. This project is going on with full cooperation.

A review of marine SAR showed 35% of marine searches being done by non-federal resources. What is lacking is a national SAR framework that brings the jurisdictions together. Opportunities exist for affecting cost reductions and sharing capacity.

The Canadian Coastguard is going through a major reorganisation aimed at trying to position themselves for SAR and other areas. Coastguard is looking at divesting themselves of multi tasking vessels and strengthening their close to shore capacity. Coastguard for example has closed off its diving program. They used to have divers on the rescue vessels. There has since been a single instance where a person drowned when Coastguard responded to a person trapped in vehicle but could not assist.

Private sector assists auxiliary coastguard units with sponsor ship etc. Coast Guard auxiliaries almost always supply own vessels. It is a feature of the program to reimburse expenses. There are one or two instances where an ex-CCG service vessel is crewed by auxiliaries, but very rare.

STIP project is the beginning of preparing proposals for Federal Govt to build umbrella program to focus on core business. NSS is moving forward on National SAR program.

Governance paper (supplied) gives best idea on where we are going within SAR. NSS needs to take a lead role. Better standards are being developed as the Govt would like to downsize the resource base for SAR.

Comments

- ?? No standards across the country which are acceptable to all groups. They have been close, but have not developed a standard acceptable to the entire country.
- ?? Run national conference yearly
- ?? Fund new initiatives through NIF

Documents Supplied

- ?? Various papers covering SAR issues
- ?? Copies of SAR Scene and informational pamphlets
- ?? New SAR Initiatives Fund Program Guide
- ?? Canadian Coastguard Auxiliary information package

Royal Canadian Mounted Police Headquarters

Jacqueline Bannach, Policy Analysts, RCMP. 1200 Vanier Parkway, Ottawa. Ph 613 993 8437. E-mail jacqueline.bannach@rcmp-grc.gc.ca Web <http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/html/sar.htm>

Jacqueline Bannach is the RCMP SAR Co-ordinator. She replaced Dave Bedford who recently went to another government agency.

In Canada, except within federally owned National Parks, the overall responsibility for land and inland water search and rescue (SAR) rest with the provinces, territories and municipalities. Typically this responsibility is delegated to the police force of jurisdiction.

The police force of jurisdiction in all provinces except Ontario and Quebec, both territories and in various municipalities is the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP). In these areas, police services, including SAR, is performed pursuant to formal police services agreements.

The RCMP recently completed an extensive review of its search and rescue policy and training requirements. The review resulted in a revitalised search and rescue program, which will enable the RCMP to provide SAR services in a more effective and cost efficient manner.

In order to achieve these objectives the RCMP is placing special emphasis on:

- ?? Response;
- ?? Interdepartmental Cooperation;
- ?? Prevention, and
- ?? Volunteers.

New initiatives in these areas will create and maintain a solid framework for search and rescue in the areas where the RCMP has a contractual responsibility.

Response

In the area of response, new RCMP policy will clearly outline the roles and responsibilities of RCMP personnel within a province, territory or municipality.

RCMP SAR Co-ordinators ensure that regional issues, including policy, training and resources are promptly addressed. Each province or territory served by the RCMP has a SAR co-ordinator.

Detachment Commanders ensure that complaints of lost or overdue persons are promptly investigated and a "Lost/Missing Person Report" is compiled. When warranted, a SAR trained RCMP Search Commander is appointed and a search are initiated.

RCMP Search Commanders assume overall on-site authority for the organisation and management of the actual search and ensure the search is well organised and managed according to proven management procedures. The assistance of a SAR trained volunteer civilian Search Manager and SAR trained volunteers may be requested.

Initial SAR responses may involve one or more of the following: Police Service Dog Team; trained volunteer SAR civilian dog team; Trained volunteer "Hasty Team" (in some areas RCMP Hasty Teams are used); RCMP helicopter equipped with Forward Looking Infrared (FLIR); trained volunteer "specialist" teams, e.g. avalanche, white water, ice rescue, etc.; trained volunteer SAR divers (although most areas use RCMP Dive Teams); trained human trackers and other SAR trained persons.

Subsequent or more concentrated searches may involve the use of SAR trained volunteer teams; (who conduct open or closed grid searches); the Civil Air Search and

Rescue Association (CASARA), or other provincial agencies with SAR capabilities; or in the case of inland water searches, the Canadian Marine Rescue Auxiliary (CMRA).

Training

Under recently released new SAR policy, the minimum training requirement for RCMP Search Commanders will be a "basic SAR" and "SAR management" course. As a standard for training, the RCMP has formally recognised "basic", "advanced" and "management" SAR courses produced by, or based on the principles of, the United States based Emergency Response Institute (ERI), and the U.S. National Association for Search and Rescue (NASAR).

Canadian courses which meet these standards include, but are not limited to, the Provincial Emergency Program (PEP), in the province of British Columbia, and the Emergency Measures Organisation (EMO), in the Yukon.

The RCMP has also initiated action to introduce sessions on SAR at the recruit training level, as well as on Detachment Commander training courses. These training initiatives will ensure a standard and uniform level of SAR training is provided throughout the RCMP.

Nationally there is no RCMP funding available for volunteer training. SAR is a small part of RCMP business, with SAR only recognised recently in RCMP contracts with provinces. Most provinces are headed towards using the volunteer teams that are available.

RCMP will reimburse SAR volunteers for travel and meals. They will allow some volunteer teams to use RCMP equipment. RCMP has recently allowed volunteers to train as observers in Alberta on helicopters.

Usually the standards for volunteers come from the EMO groups. Saskatawacian only use police for SAR. Provinces have accepted the NASAR or ERI standard but want a Canadian standard. Currently working on a core with 13 annexes. Province will accept certain standards from providers. Ultimately heading towards that system of accreditation.

This year have asked for SAR audit of the provinces. Cover issues such as do you have a MOU with the provinces.

Comment

?? ERI MO course is the minimum qualification for police members to become search commanders

Documents Supplied

?? RCMP Civilian SAR Dog information manual

?? Policy documents covering volunteer insurance coverage

SAR Global Quebec

Beverly Pick. SR Global 1. Search Manager. PO Box 427, Wakefield, Quebec. Ph 819 456 4462. Beverly.pick@sympatico.ca

Beverly Pick is an experienced SAR manager who has completed the ERI MSO course.

SAR Global has 20 – 50 members and relies on donations for funding. They have as a policy not to ask for funding from the police. Equipment that they own includes radio and general equipment. When they are called out everyone is responsible for coming equipped with food and kit for 24 hours. In 8-10 months they will attempt to obtain corporate sponsorship.

They have been used by the police in Ottawa for a variety of roles including a homicide where the team gave 1200 hours for that search. They are used around 12 times a year and are strict with their rules. SAR Global recognise that the Police are in charge and train to meet those needs. Team members are required to work to the police standards and train once a month. Members are required to complete the basic 48-hr SAR training course using SAR Global trainers. Training records are kept of training and individuals. SAR Global have a partnership with CASARA. Search dogs are included and they coordinate air and ground K9 unit.

When used on a search they use their own SAR managers, working under police incident commander.

Ontario Provincial Police Search and Rescue

Tim Charlebois, Staff Sergeant, Ontario Police. 705 329 7587. 777 Memorial Ave, Orillia, Ontario. L3V7V3. Tim.charlebois@jus.gov.on.ca

Tim Charlebois is the Ontario Police SAR co-ordinator.

Police are responsible for SAR within the province, which is by provincial legislation. The RCMP has a limited role within the province as the policing are completed by local police jurisdictions, or the Ontario Police.

In 1997 a meeting was held between the 30 volunteer teams and police. The volunteer teams wanted a greater role in SAR. They were told that if they formed a single body the police would deal with them, which resulted in the formation of OSARV Ontario Search and Rescue Volunteer Association. They are now incorporated into a provincial body.

Ontario Police have developed a training program for the volunteers to complete. It is based on the ERI SAR fundamentals course (48 hours). Completion allows the volunteers to be considered for deployment during a search incident.

Some of the volunteers have had SAR management training at their own expense, usually by attending ERI or NASAR courses.

The Ontario police are trained on the ERI MSO course by using police trainers, with formal examinations and assessment. Within the province there are 240 police officers trained for SAR. Of these, six are full time, the rest on call. The Police respond to all searches as they can respond quicker, and the majority of searches are over within 24 hours. Police are paid overtime within the province. Within the province there are 75 police forces, this is a reduction on the previous total of 125. The provincial government has directed that the number of police agencies be reduced.

50% of the searches are in the remote wilderness areas of Ontario. These areas have extremes of climate and geography.

In Southern Ontario volunteers are not used as much, partially because there are more police officers available. In the Northern Ontario area, the police know the volunteers within their communities, and as a result are used more frequently. The relationship in Ontario is the same as in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. Ontario is currently building the process of using volunteers for SAR.

Within the province there are around ten two – three day operations annually. However the majority are completed within 24 hours.

There was a recent court case in Ontario following a SAR incident. One of the police forces had a search for a missing Alzheimer's patient during February 1998. The inspector in charge, who was inexperienced in SAR, called the search off in the evening to resume the next morning. The Ontario Police SAR were not called out or contacted for advice. The female patient had wandered away from a nursing home.

The woman was found deceased the next morning. During the inquest the police SAR co-ordinator was called and asked what he would have done had he been contacted. The case was a classic Alzheimers case study as the missing person was located across the road, besides the first obstruction. The Police were sued, with a settlement of 1.2 million.

Throughout the province the police are training 6000 police members in SAR urgency assessment. The aim is for the officer to recognise they may have a search incident, which was mandated training for all police. Rationale is it is important that trained persons are used, and it is pointless if the first person at the scene does not recognise that it is an emergency. Front line police would be responsible for contain the area. Because of legislation's police agencies within Ontario are required to have planning and policy and procedures in place for SAR.

Police will reimburse volunteers for fuel and meal costs they have incurred during a SAR. Police do not fund volunteer training.

The Ontario Police dog section has ten dogs trained for cadaver work. When a police dog is used for SAR, the handler is assigned a police SAR person to look after the handler. Police are starting a civilian K9 program which will be in place this summer (2001) and will be based on the Alberta RCMP standard.

Within the province, because of the different police agencies, some police will have police I/Cs and volunteers filling the rest of the positions. There is no consistency within the province as to who the I/C is. It may either be a police command structure, or a police/volunteer mix within the HQ structure.

Document Supplied

?? MoU between Ontario Police and Ontario SAR Volunteer Association

Toronto Police

Bill Neadles, Staff Sergeant, Public Safety Unit. Ph 416 808 4921. 4610 Finch Ave, Toronto. www.torontopolice.on.ca. bill.neadles@torontopolice.on.ca

Bill Neadles is part of the Police Public Safety Unit. Police from the unit who do SAR also do other roles, such as crowd control planning, policy etc. SAR is seen as low priority

Majority of SARs within the province are for missing children or Alzheimer's patients. The Toronto police run SAR within their jurisdiction. Mainly police resources are used, although there are some volunteer teams available.

Police have auxiliary police (volunteers), who are used to assist. They are unpaid and the Toronto Police are currently embarking on a program to train 200 of these in basic SAR techniques. Auxiliaries would be the first call for any SAR, then any volunteer teams.

Toronto have around six missing persons reported daily. Of these, SAR would only get involved in around 12-20 a year.

Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary

Steve Daoust. Canadian Coastguard. E-mail DaoustS@DFO-MPO.GC.CA Web http://www.ccg-a-gcac.org/home/home_e.asp

The Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary is part of Canada's national search and rescue response network. Annually, the Auxiliary responds to approximately 25% of nearly 7000 marine SAR incidents. This translates into more than 200 lives saved each year.

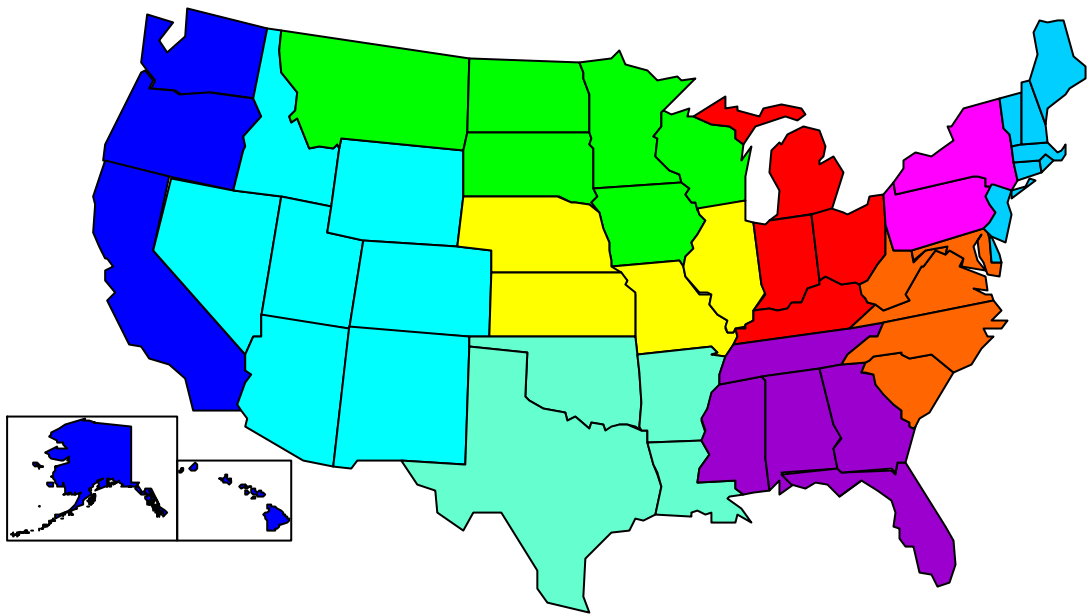
The Canadian Coast Guard (CCG) provides funding to the Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary (CCGA) through a Contribution Agreement. The Contribution Agreement provides the CCGA with funding for reimbursement of expenses related to SAR operations, training, boating safety activities, insurance, administrative and organisational costs. Vessels owners are reimbursed on an hourly rate times the vessel length. The current rate for vessel use is \$9.25 per metre of vessel per hour. The current annual amount from Coast Guard to the Auxiliary through the Contribution Agreement is \$4,500,000 (Canadian dollars). Each of the six CCGA Associations are federally incorporated non-profit organisations and are therefore able to fund raise and issue tax receipts to donors. Last year the six Associations raised approximately \$1,300,000. The CCGA has only recently started fund raising and have developed a national fundraising policy and a strategic fundraising plan.

The majority of the 1592 CCGA vessels are privately owned pleasure craft and commercial fishing vessels. The third type of CCGA vessel are the community owned/support vessels. Community owned/support vessels are vessels that are purchased by a community, either donated by the municipality or acquired through fundraising. The vessels are then enrolled in the CCGA and local persons from the community volunteer to crew these vessels usually on a 24 hour basis. They are very effective as a SAR resource and do many SAR cases. However, the drawback is they are expensive on the training budget because it is necessary to train many volunteers from the community.

The CCG also transfers ownership of surplus fast rescue craft to the CCGA if they are still suitable for SAR operations. These vessels are often put in remote communities requiring a SAR response in their area. There are only a few CCG vessels that are given to the Auxiliary.

All 4,523 CCGA members are volunteers and are not paid but rather reimbursed for out of pocket expenses only.

The CCG tasks CCGA vessels through the three Joint Rescue Co-ordination Centres (JRCC) or from the two Maritime Rescue Sub-Centres (MRSC). They are not permitted to self-task unless of course there is a communication problem then they are to contact their respective JRCC or MRSC as soon as possible.



UNITED STATES

30.3.01

Washington State Search and Rescue Co-ordinator

Christopher Long, Washington State SAR Co-ordinator, Washington Military Department, Emergency Management Division, Camp Murray, WA 98430-5122. Ph 253 512 7024, E-mail c.long@emd.wa.gov, Web www.wa.gov/wsem

Chris Long is the State SAR Co-ordinator. He is a former US Army Lt. Colonel who became involved in SAR on his retirement and is a current board member of NASAR.

State law assigns the responsibility for Search and Rescue (SAR) to local law enforcement. In addition, it established the position of State Co-ordinator for Search and Rescue Operations to support local SAR activities.

Washington State has a population of six million and is made up of 39 counties. There are about 700 SAR missions conducted in the State of Washington each year. Search and Rescue resources come primarily from volunteers, more than 5,000 strong, who cooperate with local law enforcement and emergency management agencies. The volunteer SAR organisations also form the foundation of any community's response to a major disaster.

The initial point of contact for local SAR co-ordinators or emergency management offices when requesting additional SAR mission resources is the State Emergency Operations Centre which is staffed 24/7 by State Emergency Operations Officers (SEOO).

The state SAR Co-ordinator serves as a liaison with organisations that provide resource support to SAR operations and provides co-ordination during SAR operations.

The co-ordinator maintains a state wide SAR resources database; coordinates the Emergency Worker Program, sponsors and facilitates SAR training programs in addition to establishing training and operational standards and procedures.

When appropriate, the co-ordinator manages the state's role in Emergency Support Function 2, Urban Search and Rescue (Federal Response Plan) and may activate the state's Rescue Co-ordination Centre for operations co-ordination in large and/or multi-jurisdictional SAR missions

When an incident occurs, the police phone in for a task number. This enables the volunteers to be covered for injuries etc, and allows the state to keep a record of the number. The phone calls are received by the 24/7 Emergency Operations Centre (EOC.) The EOC covers the state for any emergency (civil defence, flooding etc).

Helicopters if approved for a SAR is usually obtained from the military services through the Air Force. The Air Force Rescue Co-ordination Centre in Langley, Virginia is contacted and authorisation obtained. However some of the Sheriffs in the different counties also run helicopters.

They use the ICS system for command and control. The role of volunteers in incident management is limited, dependent on the County. In some areas volunteers assist as planning chiefs or deputy incident commanders.

The state has a \$30,000 budget for SAR training. From this budget the state will run two MSO courses a year on basic SAR management. Around 20-50 persons attend each course. Priority for attendance on the course is given to Law enforcement officers. The Budget also helps in running of the SAR Conference held annually, which had 1200 persons attending 2000 and 2001 conferences.

Volunteers within the state will pay for training themselves or in some counties assistance will be given. SAR groups are formed by like-minded persons within the county. These include SAR dog, horses, explorer, Mountain rescue etc. Some have extensive equipment, which they obtain from their own fund raising.

The State has a qualification structure for SAR which volunteers are required to complete if they want to get involved. Once completed they will receive coverage from the state for injuries etc.

Situation for SAR management differs throughout the state. Different counties have different ways of volunteer involvement in the SAR HQ.

The state has regulations in place. This defines what a SAR is, and sets up a volunteer working program. (see web page for details)

About five years ago Chris Long concluded that the 5 day MSO course, while giving plenty of information, did not really teach the how to conduct a show to do for a SAR operation. The majority of SAR incidents within the state, approx. 95%, are over within 24 hours. He requested Rick LaValla (ERI) to design a new course based on what Military would call troop-leading procedure. Course would have the how to do for the initial phase and some ICS. The main objective is to give students the skills so that they could run a SAR incident the day after the course finished.

Overview of the new course was presented to SAR Scene in Bannff in 1998. A three-day pilot was run at the Washington State conference. Rick LaValla assembled a small team of SAR experts to develop the course. These were Hugh Dougher, Rick Goodman, Dave Perkins, Pete Roberts and Richard Smith, a retired Mountie. Another course was run in SARSCENE at St Johns in 1999.

Course is designed to provide the SAR managers with the training needed to quickly and efficiently get the initial response effort underway while setting the stage for an expanded operation if it becomes necessary. This is believed to be the most important part of the SAR mission.

Course is a three-day course. Hugh Dougher uses the course Material in training to new Park Rangers. Perkins and Roberts use the material as part of a core 2-day course in the UK. Richard Smith uses the material in a five day MS course that he presents to the police and Military in Canada.

Documents Supplied

- ?? US National Interagency Incident Management System
- ?? 2000 Washington State Emergency Management Report

Pierce County Sheriff

Tom Miner, Major, Pierce County Sheriff's Department, 930 Tacoma Avenue, South, Tacoma, Washington 98402-2168. Ph 253 798 3844. Fax 253 798 6712.

Tom Miner is an experienced SAR manager who is responsible for the co-ordination of SAR activities within Pierce County.

Pierce county includes urban and wilderness areas. Each year they average around 50 SAR incidents. The Sheriffs office has nine police boats at disposal. Other resources include an eight-person police dive team, which completes river and swift water training. The County has ten deputies trained in SAR management. If on duty, one of these deputies will initiate action to respond to a SAR incident and will become the incident commander. As other deputies arrive, they take the other positions within the CIMS structure. Deputies who want to become involved in SAR must

- have at least 3 years as a deputy
- Completed the 40 hour ERI MSO course, or NASAR course
- Complete a ICS course
- Attend monthly mandated training. It is mandated so that supervisors will release them to attend
- Training conducted in areas such as dive, swift water rescue, rope, trench recovery, SAR management etc.

If they need volunteers, they call the county emergency management office where a request is made for a number of volunteers and type. Volunteer SAR teams will bring with them a liaison officer who will act as in between to the team from the ICS team.

The State of Washington will reimburse volunteers for gas, and extraordinary expenses if the SAR goes on for more then 24 hours.

If a volunteer team wants to assist in SAR, they are required to present themselves for evaluation. The county sheriff's office will put them through a certification weekend.

200 volunteers are registered with the police. 15 years ago volunteers used to have a higher role in command and control. However this role is now completed by trained police.

Emergency Response Institute

Rick LaValla – Managing Director, ERI Institute, 4537 Foxhall Drive, Olympia, Washington. 98516. Ph 360 491 7785, E-mail info@eri-intl.com Web <http://www.eri-intl.com/>

Rick LaValla is the President of ERI Institute. The company is internationally known as a designer of SAR training material and courses. During the past fifteen years, he has worked for state agencies, federal agencies, local governments, emergency

response organisations, foreign countries, and corporations, assisting and directing the development of disaster plans, programs; training and education programs; and related emergency management services. As a principal in and co-founder of ERI, Rick LaValla has written, co-authored, and edited over 30 training manuals and books covering emergency management, disaster planning, and emergency response. He is also a former board member and past president of NASAR.

ERI provides technical assistance, planning and training to educational institutions, emergency response organisations, business and industry, and local, state, federal and foreign government agencies.

Founded in 1978, ERI has published extensively in the disaster planning, emergency management, search and rescue and survival education fields. The company has played a role in the development and dissemination of new planning and training programs through out the USA and European communities on all phases of community and industrial emergency management disaster response planning, search and rescue, and survival education

ERI has recently developed a new course following concerns expressed over the 40 hour MSO course. Was approached by Chris Long who wanted a new course developed. The MSO course is designed for managing the bigger longer searches. Majority, around 80%, is completed within 24 hours and does not require entering 2 or third periods. The maths and other theories involved in the course cause confusion to some people.

Washington State wanted a course to train person to manage a course, an initial attack course. Rick La Valla put together five practitioners of SAR, Rick Goodman, Peter Roberts, Dave Perkins, Hugh Dewer, Richard Smith. Developed an initial attack course. This course will be available from July 2001. Course run as a draft in the UK last year. Around 40 police attended from around England, with success received from phase who attended.

The purpose of the new course is:

- ?? To give the participants enough training and experience (through table tops) to conduct a search mission immediately using a "best practices" standard operating procedure (SOP) 6 step process.
- ?? Provide an orientation on both Search and Rescue management concepts, with emphasis on the basic concepts that will assist the participant in the planning of the "initial response" operational period.
- ?? Orientation to the Incident Command System (ICS) and "initial response" procedures.
- ?? Development of an "initial response" SOP

The course will be made available from ERI by July 2001.

In Mr. LaValla's opinion, there is within the SAR community a feeling that NASAR has lost its way. It started as a forum for state SAR co-ordinators to get together and discuss issues. The theory was that each state was to have a similar set up as per the national body. Problems started when the dog lobby started disagreeing with each other and formed different associations nationally and statewide.

Currently NASAR has 1800 Individual Members who are charged US \$50 a year for membership etc. NASAR has an additional 600 Student Members (one year membership included in the cost of NASAR courses) and 2300 Roster Members who belong to 325 agencies and groups which are Organisational Members (dues US \$150 per year.) There are also 177 Life Members and 13 Corporate members.

Documents supplied

?? 2001 draft copy of Search Management for the Initial Response Incident Commander

1.5.01

Yakima County Sheriff

Jim Hall, Deputy Sheriff & SAR Co-ordinator, Yakima County Sheriffs Office. PO Box 1388, Yakima, Washington, WA 98907. Ph 509 574 2500 Web http://co.yakima.wa.us/SAR/About_SAR.html

Jim Hall is in charge of SAR for Yakima County.

The Command role with the county for a SAR incident can be either a volunteer or police deputy as the Incident controller. Volunteer SAR Managers are made temporary deputies in order to carry out the function. The county has two police trained SAR co-ordinators who are used if available.

The requirement is that they must have completed the ERI MSO course. They are also required to complete the ICS course at the Yakima County Academy. Within the county there are 180 volunteers. Each year there is around 35 – 40 SAR incidents.

Yakima County Police have 30k budget to run the SAR program. Volunteer SAR team members provide their own equipment.

The County has a SAR council that is made up of several different groups with different specialties. Authorised and administered through the Yakima County Sheriff's office, SAR activities include:

- ?? Searching for individuals who have not returned when expected. These have included hunters, hikers, snowmobilers, skiers, bikers, the young, and the elderly.
- ?? Assisting/rescuing people who have become injured or are otherwise unable to get themselves out of the field. This has included individuals injured after falling from horseback, individuals who have lost their way on Mt. Adams or in the forests, and individuals who have become otherwise injured during wilderness activities.
- ?? Assisting in the mobilisation of firefighting apparatus during large wildfires.
- ?? Performing safety patrols during certain public events such as the Gap to Gap relay.
- ?? Providing Amateur Radio support during searches, rescues, and disasters such as the 1996 floods.
- ?? Responding to requests from the Dept. of Emergency Management for assistance with various activities during natural disasters.

?? Many other efforts including specialised efforts involving air searches, mountain rescues, water searches and rescues, and dog, horse, snowmobile, and ATV searches.

Documents Supplied

?? Yakima SAR Administrative Organisation

Lewis County Sheriff

Gene SEIBER, Deputy and SAR Co-ordinator, Lewis County Sheriff, 360 NW North St, Chehalis, Washington. MS:SHEO1. Ph 360 748 9286. Web <http://www.co.lewis.wa.us/sheriff/sar.htm>

Gene Seiber is the deputy responsible for SAR in Lewis County.

Within Lewis County the police handle role of incident controller within the ICS team. Four deputies have been trained within the county. There are also around 200 volunteer within the county. Each year they complete approx. 50 SAR operations.

Each volunteer team has their own team leaders.

The county does not fund any SAR training for volunteers. Volunteers can be reimbursed for expenses etc from the state SAR budget.

The Lewis County Search and Rescue program is under the guidance and direction of the Lewis County Sheriff. The program is greatly dependent upon the efforts of many volunteers from the local communities and could not exist without their dedication

15.5.01

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Ajay Mehta, SARSAT Program Manager, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Ph 301 457 5678. Email ajay.mehta@noaa.gov Web page www.sarsat.npaa.gov

Ajay Mehta is the Program Manager for NOAA.

In 1976 the development of COSPASS SARSAT was initiated. The program is sponsored by Canada, Russia, France and the United States. The system aims to reduce the time required to alert rescue authorities whenever a distress situation occurs. The COSPAS-SARSAT system consist of emergency radio beacons, equipment of satellites in low-Earth or geo-synchronous orbits, ground receiving stations called Local User Terminals (LUTS), Mission Control Centres (MCCs) and Rescue Co-ordination Centres (RCCs).

There are three types of emergency beacons: 1) Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacons (EPIRBs), 2) Emergency Locater Beacons (ELTs) for aviation applications, and 3) Personal Locater Beacons (PLBs) for individuals in distress. Rescue beacons transmit on 121.5, 243.0, and 406 MHz.

In 1970 Congress mandated the carriage of 121.5 beacons on general aviation aircraft. Since 1982 1100 persons have been rescued as a result of beacons.

Worldwide there are 600,000 121.5 beacons and 225,000 406 beacons. Beacons are increasing at rate of 30,000 yearly. A 121.5 needs to see the LUT and beacon at the same time to work. The 406 stores the signal until it sees a ground terminal.

Langley Air Force Rescue Co-ordination Centre (AFRCC) is the controlling centre for all beacon activations within USA. The AFRCC has the responsibility for monitoring land and maritime areas.

Beacon technology is improving with new 406 beacons now the size of 2 cigarette packets. Cost of this particular model is currently \$1500 US.

Comment

?? 121.5 beacons are due to be phased out in 2008

Document Supplied

?? COSPAS SARSAT briefing document

National Association Search and Rescue (NASAR)

Cole Brown, Board member, NASAR, (External Affairs Committee Member), 4500 Chantilly Place, Suite 100, VA 20151. Ph 410 363 4916. Private 6 Woodhollow Court, Owings Mills, MD 21117, USA.

Cpbrown@home.com. Web page www.nasar.org

Cole Brown is a NASAR Board member responsible for external affairs. He is also the Maryland Parks SAR Co-ordinator and ERI trainer. He organised the three-day itinerary to meet with different agencies within Virginia and Maryland.

NASAR is currently trying to get the Governors from each state to appoint a SAR co-ordinator. Most states have 24/7 centres for emergency management. (24 hours a day, 7 days a week). State Police and EMO may initiate searches in some areas like Maryland without acknowledging each other. The aim is to have a position that will coordinate SAR activities.

NASAR is a membership association comprised of paid and non-paid personnel - all active or interested in search and rescue, disaster aid, emergency medicine and awareness education. They are a self-supporting, nonprofit association acting as the country's "admirable servant" in furthering the advancement of professional, literary and scientific knowledge and training in these fields.

NASAR use the annual conference to raise funds to run the organisation.

Membership costs to belong to NASAR are Organisation: (US) \$170.00 Organisation (Outside U.S.): \$195.00 Individual: \$69.00 Individual (Outside U.S.): \$94.00

Cole Brown attempted to pass legislation within the Maryland Legislature that would have allowed the establishment of a State SAR Co-ordinator. The initiative failed to receive adequate support.

Skip Stoffel is now has separated from Emergency Response Institute and now runs a company called Emergency Response International. The company is offering a new course called MLSO, Managing Land Search Operations. There is also a new 320-page textbook for search management called Managing Land Search Operations at a cost of \$18.

The United States have a National SAR plan, which was signed off in 1999. Within the United States there is a national Search and Rescue Committee, made up of representatives from all the government agencies that have a responsibility for search and rescue.

The State of Maryland has 28 counties, all with different police agencies. Some of the counties use State Troopers for law enforcement.

Documents supplied

- ?? NASAR Conference 2001 itinerary
- ?? Copy of proposed Maryland SAR statute
- ?? ICS training handbook
- ?? Managing SAR Operations Course Timetable

Maryland Department of Natural Resources

Susan Rose, Ist Sergeant, Mary Land Department of Natural Resources, Training Division, Hubner Building, 6655 Sykesville Rd, Sykesville, Maryland. 21784. Ph 410 795 2100. S.rose@onr.state.md.us

Susan Rose is a Sergeant in the Maryland Department of Natural resources. She has completed the ERI MSO course and her duties include being a SAR Manager if required.

Majority of searches within the Maryland Park areas are of short duration. Generally if a search is under 30 minutes, they are not reported for the purposes of statistical collation. Each year the department has around 30 searches a year, which are completed within 2 hours. Only a small number, around 3 a year go into the 2nd operational period.

They have several people trained by completing the ERI MSO course, run by Cole Brown who is the State Co-ordinator for Maryland Parks (a volunteer role). He has been used as a SAR Manager by being made a voluntary ranger, and is therefore able to run a search as a state employee.

There are four Park's regions within Maryland. If a SAR occurs, the local person will contact Regional Manager via the communication centre.

The ICS model for command and control is used at the headquarters.

Generally all the positions within the ICS team are filled by Parks trained law enforcement personnel. Volunteers if required, are called out and report to the HQ where they are tasked. Coverage is provided to volunteers in a search by them becoming technically a volunteer ranger for the duration of the search. The Park's policy, and that of State Government, is that in the event of an accident only \$2,500 coverage is provided by the State. Individual volunteers are required to arrange their own insurance schemes. Volunteer team members are required to register at the start of a search to receive coverage.

There are no standards required from volunteers (including dog teams) as a pre requisite before being used for a search. The expectation is that the team who they belong to will have trained them. The Parks have no formal requirement for volunteers to come to any level of training or qualification. However most teams have completed the ERI courses.

No financial assistance is given to any teams with the teams expected to provide their own equipment. No reimbursement for lost wages or expenses such as mileage is allowed, however the Parks will assist with meals if the search is prolonged.

The Maryland State Government has a codified agreement for use of volunteers, however Parks do not have any funding for reimbursement of petrol and expenses.

The Park Rangers do Hug a Tree program at local schools. The Government has a policy which documents which sets out the volunteer management issues.

Documents supplied

?? Volunteer Management in Maryland (State policy)

Baltimore Aviation Units

Visit made to Baltimore Airport. Where the following units were seen:

?? Baltimore County Police Air Patrol

?? Baltimore City Police Air Patrol

?? Maryland State Police Aviation

?? State Medivac (Air Ambulance)

All respond for a search and rescue incident if required. Except for the State Medivac helicopter, all are crewed by sworn police officers.

Maryland State Police helicopters do medivacs, as well as general policing. The Police observer is a trained paramedic.

Document Supplied

?? Copy Maryland State Trooper May/June 2000

Chesapeake Search Dogs

Tim Hanavan, Executive Director/K9 Handler. PO Box 36188, Baltimore, MD. 21286-6188. Ph 410 602 3151. Email dogfindsman@aol.com Web page <http://www.chesarda.org/>

Tim Hanavan is the Executive Director of the Chesapeake Search Dog group. He is an active handler with a Golden Retriever.

Chesapeake search dogs (Chesarda, inc) is a non-profit organisation of 100% volunteers who are dedicated to providing a highly trained k9 search and rescue option to local, state and federal authorities in the event of the following:

- ?? Missing Alzheimer's Patients
- ?? Missing Children
- ?? Lost/Missing Individuals
- ?? Natural Disasters
- ?? Collapsed Buildings

The Chesapeake Dog group has seven active dog teams, with forty-three members in the club. The club rules require that active dog team members be not permitted to be members of the Board of the club. This rule was created to ensure that a dog handlers self interest did not drive policy.

The call out for dog teams differs throughout out the state. The Chesapeake Dog team is currently co located with a volunteer fire department from Howard County. Howard County has the jurisdiction given by the laws of the county for SAR operations, including initiating call outs.

They receive some funding given by the State Govt. for dog training program. They also do their own private fundraising. No reimbursement for any expenses such as mileage or lost wages is available or given by any of the agencies who use the search dogs.

There is no State of County certification requirements for search dog teams. They have developed their own standards, using the NASAR K 9 and SAR Tech 11 and 111 guidelines and other standards. When they complete a certification assessment for a member where possible they will get another dog group to assist to maintain a form of moderation. The team gets some help from the police dog section. Only trained and certified dogs are used for a SAR.

The team has had 13 call outs since the start of the year, with additional 27 contacts made for advice and assistance.

Within Howard County the Fire chief is the incident commander at any SAR incident, operating under delegated authority from the local police. Any call outs for SAR are operated through the Howard County Fire Service.

The Chesapeake group is afflicted with the Hereford Volunteer EMS rescue (Ambulance and heavy rescue only). This allows members to get insurance coverage

provided, as they are part of the Fire Service. The team also carries their additional insurance coverage. Coverage is set by the State and Fire Service.

Most of the work the group is involved in is Cadaver searches. The group also does water recovery and trains for areas such as trench collapse and USAR.

The assessment is based on the dog to having to find 2 persons within a minimum of 160 acres or 1 person in 40 acres by night. Assessment also has a search in an 80-acre area having to locate 2 persons. Members are also required to pass land navigation practical, written report, pass obedience, assessed at each step. They are not tested until meet all the standards.

Groups have to be listed and established within the county.

16.5.01

Howard County Fire Rescue

Robert Wiseman, Captain, Howard County Fire Rescue
Ph 410 313 7310. 6751 Columbia Gateway Drive, Ste, 402
Columbia, MD, 21045. E-mail SAR@rockettsar.com Web www.crockettsar.com

Captain Robert Wiseman is a shift commander at the Howard County Fire Department. Each shift has a team of nine firefighters. Howard County Fire Department is the initial response group for any SAR incident. He is a career captain with the Howard County (Maryland) Fire and Rescue Services. As a member of the Howard County Fire Rescue Special (HCFR) Operations Team, he got involved in Ground Search and Rescue. He is now a ground/wilderness SAR instructor for the HCFR, Civil Air Patrol. NASAR SAR Technician I and a NASAR Co-ordinator. Captain Wiseman has been trained and operates in all capacities from Field Team Leader up to Incident Commander.

Fire special operations team started in 1989. mainly concentrating on technical rescue, but interest in SAR lead to developments as seen today. They can put people into the field within 10 minutes of the call coming in.

With the brigade there are forty fire fighters station. Of these fifteen are SAR qualified using the NASAR SAR Tech examinations. The Howard County Fire Brigade use the NASASR standards. Captain Wiseman is the state co-ordinator for SAR Tech certification. They do testing for SAR tech examinations and is qualified to assess to SAR tech 11 standards.

They have standards developed for a person to be an incident controller and include having 100 hours as a HQ team member before they can become an Incident Commander. Members of the ICS team are all professional fire fighters, however the Logistics Manager is sometimes a volunteer. At the HQ a volunteer from each team is trained as a liaison officer, but has not formal role within the ICS structure.

Incident commanders are required to have completed the ERI MSO course.

University of Maryland and Baltimore run the ERI MSO course as a University paper. It is a 16-week course, 3 hours a week, with 52-hour exercise at Shenandoah National Park. The course is offered once a year, with instructors including Cole Brown and Robert Wiseman.

Fire provides basic SAR equipment for the fire fighters, which is stored on the vehicles. If team members want better equipment, such as boots, they must pay for this themselves buy better boots.

Volunteer teams within Howard County are self-funded, however the Fire Department do provide training for their personnel. The Fire Department has no funds to assist volunteers, however they have sufficient equipment and clothing which is obtained from donations.

Within Howard County they complete around 10 - 12 SAR incidents a year. The length of incidents varies, with the majority being over within 12 hours.

Volunteer team members are expected to obtain the NASAR standards, Tech 1,11, and 111. Quarterly meetings are held within Maryland to provide the SAR teams with a forum for their views etc. There are fourteen volunteer SAR teams within the state. The Police are not invited to these meetings, although they have the responsibility.

National Search and Rescue Committee

Ryland (Roy) Dreibelbis, Project Manager, Computer Sciences Corporation (CSC), Federal Sector, Civil Group. 8101 Sandy Spring Road, Suite 200. Laurel, Maryland. 20707.

Rdreibelbis@csc.com Web <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/g-o/g-opr/nsarc/nsarc.htm>

Roy Dreibelbis is a contracted employee of CSC. CSC is a Government contractor that supports NOAA and NASA which in turn supports the COSPASS program. He is a member of the United States National SAR Committee, Research and Development committee.

The National Search and Rescue Committee is a federal-level committee formed to coordinate civil search and rescue (SAR) matters of interagency interest within the United States

The National Search and Rescue Conference of 1973, when considering the need to establish a continuing interagency group to oversee the United States National Search and rescue Plan (NSP), established a standing interagency committee to oversee the NSP and to act as a coordinating forum for national SAR matters. Originally called the Interagency Committee on Search and Rescue, this group will now be referred to as the National Search and Rescue Committee (NSARC).

NSARC membership shall consist of the U.S. federal agencies that are signatories to the NSP; membership is further discussed in paragraph 5 below.

The objectives of the Committee are to:

- a) Serve as a standing forum for co-ordination of administrative and operational civil SAR matters;
- b) Oversee the NSP and interagency guidance for its implementation;
- c) Coordinate and facilitate the development of plans, policies, positions, manuals, etc
- d) Effectively use all available resources for SAR, including global, regional, national, private, commercial, and volunteer resources (such resources may include advice, communications facilities and databases, ship reporting systems, training, SAR facilities, search planning expertise, technical assistance, foreign language assistance, medical or fuelling facilities, regulatory support, and others);
- e) Develop common equipment, facilities, and procedures as appropriate;
- f) Foster U.S. cooperation, support, representation, positions, arrangements, plans, exercises and other appropriate U.S. involvement with international organisations or with appropriate authorities of other nations on matters relating to provision of civil SAR services;
- g) Promote close cooperation and co-ordination between civilian and military authorities and organisations for the provision of effective SAR services;
- h) Serve as a cooperative forum to exchange information and develop positions and policies of interest to more than one member agency;
- i) Improve cooperation among the civil SAR communities;
- j) Determine and recommend ways to enhance overall effectiveness and efficiency of SAR services;
- k) Promote safety programs to help citizens avoid or cope with distress situations;
- l) Consider, as appropriate, contingency plans for use of civil SAR resources during emergencies other than SAR; and
- m) Use a strategic plan and member agency implementation plans to help to achieve the objectives of this paragraph.

Participation in the Committee shall be as follows:

- a) The member agencies of the Committee are the Departments of Transportation, Defence, Commerce, and Interior, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and the Federal Communications Commission; each of these agencies shall designate one representative by name or position to serve as its member, and another to serve as its alternate member.
- b) The member (or alternate) of the Coast Guard, representing the Department of Transportation, is designated as the Committee Chair.
- c) Each member may call upon officials from his or her agency to serve as advisers and to participate in meetings of the Committee, or of subsidiary groups of the Committee.

Others may be invited with the approval of the Chair or the Committee to participate as observers or to serve as advisers on an ad hoc basis. In this regard, the Committee will invite the Department of State, the National Transportation Safety Board, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency, to be represented as standing observers at general sessions of the Committee.

National committee brings together government agencies that have an interest in SAR. They try to bring in funding and companies that have an interest in SAR, listen

and exchange ideas. The R&D Committee have no budget, but they can make recommendations to Govt. agencies.

NASA

David Affens, Search and Rescue Mission Engineer. Goddard Space Flight Center, NASA, Mail Code 480, Greenbelt, Maryland 20771. Ph 301 286 9839. E-mail david.w.affens.1@gsfc.nasa.gov

David Affens is an engineer at NASA responsible for projects such as the synthetic radar.

NASA are working on several projects that are of interest to SAR, including a repeater project on emergency beacons on GPS satellites. This would give instantaneous alerts when beacons go off, and result in fewer ground stations, perhaps three to five worldwide and would operate on frequency 406.

Beacons are able to give a GPS position on 406mhz. There are 24 satellites in orbit to provide full global coverage. No processing is carried out on the satellite which allows beacons to be changed as new technology develops in the future. The new satellites will have a repeater on board.

NASA are working on system that will allow Global Personal Recovery. This will give the persons in distress the capability to provide two way communications of messages and will operate on the 406 link. It will allow the victim to know they have been heard. Investigating the ability for voice communication to be carried on the beacon. Beacon technology has improved, as it is no longer dependant on the oscillator, which gives frequency stabilisation at all temperatures. This means the beacon will be less sustainable to noise generated false alarms. The US military are funding the launching of the system, which will cost over \$100 million at no cost to the user.

The Europeans are developing on the drafting boards a 3-5 billion called the Galileo system. This system will duplicate the US military GPS system.

SAR Laser

A new NASA SAR project is the development of a laser for searching. This laser will be able to scan for special reflecting tape, which can be placed on equipment, aircraft etc. The laser would be able to penetrate bush etc and scan for a reflection made from a special retro reflective tape. This is under development, and would only work if the tape was used on all aircraft and carried on packs etc.

Synthetic Aperture radar.

This is a special low frequency radar which reflects off man made objects, and translate this into a GPS position by computer. These positions are then plotted for other search teams to investigate.

The system is under trial and has been installed on a NASA DC 8. It has been tested on various test was used in search in Montana for a missing aircraft. It scanned the area and gave several points to check out. A highflying aircraft scans the areas, then a

computer enhances the imagery to give possible locations. It works on different objects giving different signals, and is able to penetrate the bush canopy.

It was used to locate a crashed aircraft in Montana in dense bush after the main search was called off.

The radar paints the ground with man made characteristics are reflected back. It uses low frequency that can look through the foliage.

Documents supplied

?? Brochure on the SAR Synthetic Aperture Radar

17.5.01

Air Force Rescue Co-ordination Centre

Major Steve Walker. Air Force Rescue Co-ordination Centre. HQ ACC AOS/AFRCC, 205 Dodd Blvd, Ste 101C, Langley AFB, VA 23665. Ph 757 764 8117. Steven.walker2@langley.af.mil Web www.acc.af.mil/afrec

Major Steve Walker is the officer in charge of the AFRCC.

The centre operates with five persons on shift at any one time. They are internationally recognised aeronautical RCC, responsible for 48 states, and covers SAR for commercial, military and interstate aviation.

The operators at the AFRCC have all been trained in house.

8000 incidents are handled annually, of which 2800 are prosecuted as SAR missions. Approx. 97% of all beacon activation's are non-distress.

National Search and Rescue School

Lt Col Mark Fowler, Director USAF National SAR School, National SAR School, USCG Training Centre, Yorktown, Yorktown, Va 23690-5000. E-mail sarschool@usa.net Ph 757 856 2273, www.acc.af.mil/afrc/nss

Lt Col. Mark Fowler is the Director of the National Search and Rescue School, Yorktown, Virginia. He is a serving United States Air Force Officer

The National Search and Rescue School is operated jointly by the US Air Force and the US Coast Guard at USCG Training Centre, Yorktown, Virginia. The school provides two main search and rescue planning courses for the maritime and inland environments.

The Air Force runs an inland search and rescue-planning course available to Air Force personnel and civilians who are engaged in search and rescue.

The National SAR School was established in 1966 as a facility devoted exclusively to training professionals to conduct search and rescue. The school is located at the United States Coastguard Centre, Yorktown, Virginia, and teaches a variety of inland and maritime SAR planning courses.

For land SAR the course is a five-day duration looking at inland search theory and its application to planning land and air searches for missing persons and aircraft. The course is aimed at leaders in federal, state and local emergency services and law enforcement agencies, as well as the Civil Air Patrol, international and volunteer SAR agencies. The target audience includes incident commanders, planners, operation leaders and up channel reporting chain.

The course is intensive and requires basic maths and reasoning skills. Eleven courses are completed annually at various locations throughout the United States. An additional two courses are held at the Coastguard Training School, Yorktown.

They have developed their own course curriculum, which differs from ERI MSO. The course assessment is based on the two-day exercise run at the end of the course. There are no formal examinations on the course. The course is on the major search that happens every two to three years. Features of the course are the use of POA, POS and POD

They are rewriting the textbook over the summer and will send a copy when completed.

Documents Supplied

?? Copy timetable for Inland SAR course

18.5.01

Virginia Search and Rescue Co-ordinator

Winnie Pennington – Virginia State SAR Co-ordinator. Oh 804 674 2422. 10501 Trade Court, Richmond, Virginia. Wpennington@vdem.state.va.us

Winnie Pennington is the Virginia State SAR Co-ordinator. Her experience in SAR includes being a former team member from a volunteer SAR team.

There are 140 police jurisdictions within the commonwealth of Virginia. There is no formal state law regarding the responsibilities and obligations for jurisdictions setting out their responsibilities for SAR. The Governor has signed an annex, which sets out how SAR should work. Included in the Annex is the set up for the Virginia State SAR Co-ordinators office. SAR is the responsibility of the jurisdictions that they incident occurs. They have the responsibility for ensuring something happens

The state SAR Co-ordinator is part of the Virginia Emergency Management Office. The office operates a 24/7 co-ordination centre for any state civil defence or other emergency. There is a duty officer who will initiate any action. If a call out of SAR resources is required there is a duty officer on call who is part of the Emergency

Management Office. This person will handle the call out and give advice to the search commanders. During the day this person is Winnie Pennington, and after hours there are duty SAR co-ordinators on a roster who is a state employee.

The office has a command vehicle available for use at a SAR incident. It will be sent anywhere in the state if it is requested at no cost to then jurisdiction.

The state supplies insurance cover for any volunteers involved in SAR operation. By contacting the EMO duty officer search managers are able to get a task number which will enable volunteers to receive insurance coverage.

Within the state there are several different volunteer SAR organisations. These groups are not associated with any jurisdiction or area, but operate as clubs. In 1989 the state started to formalise the training program for volunteers and started to work on getting volunteers linked to a jurisdiction. The state started SAR training programs for volunteers and developed field member and team leader manager courses. These courses are separate to the NASAR courses as at that time they were still developing theirs, however if any person arrives with a NASAR qualification, it will be recognised.

For a team to be recognised by the state as an operational SAR group they must have a MoU. This must be updated every six years. The MoU enables the team members to receive insurance coverage for training and operations.

The state will give training to anybody, volunteers or state employees, police etc. All they have to do is apply to attend a course. There is a \$76 k budget for training courses. When attending a state course the volunteer instructors can claim expenses such as mileage get to and from a course. The state will also pay meals, accommodation and tuition for trainees and instructors. Two times yearly the course is held at a remote part of the state. Qualifications people receive from the state at these courses are valid for three years. The courses have assessment, which are pass/fail. At the end of that time the individual must complete some form of retraining to remain current. Failure to do so may mean that the person will not be eligible to be used for a SAR and receive insurance coverage. The onus is on the volunteer to apply for retaining. The state runs an adjunct training program for instructors that enables them to instruct on the state SAR standards.

Each year around 300 persons are trained in the various SAR techniques including on a practical SAR course (How to set up folders, practical SAR, medical plans, think about evacuation etc). Other courses include Incident Command and control.

The incident commander can be a volunteer or police officer for a jurisdiction. Usually the police perform this role.

There are 200-210 SAR incidents annually within the State, not all-requiring SAR responses. These statistics may not be accurate, as there is no requirement to report an incident. The State only becomes aware when they are reported for insurance coverage. 120 searches are responded to by the calling out of volunteers. The EMO will assist with call out if required.

There is a Virginia State SAR council, the current president is Robert Kester (web page <http://www.people.virginia.edu/~rjk5a/sar.htm>). One role of the council is as an advisory board on any new teams that are established. There are some guidelines for new teams to meet, including having at least two members, by laws, training standards, (meet state standards, call out procedures). Volunteer search teams are independent groups who work with the jurisdictions as required. Volunteers get no financial assistance (including petrol and travelling rebates for call outs) from the state and raise their own funding. However if a team loses equipment, the state may assist in replacing it.

Presently there is a draft have a paper before the state legislature which if passed will become state law and enable volunteers to be reimbursed for expenses.

Documents supplied

- ?? Sample Memorandum of Understanding
- ?? State search and rescue plan
- ?? Standards for search dogs
- ?? Standards for Incident Commander, Team Member
- ?? Lost person checklist
- ?? 1999 study on SAR within Virginia

Chesterfield County Police Department

Russ Lescault, Lieutenant, Chesterfield Police Department. Post Office Box 148, Chesterfield, Virginia 23832. E-mail lescaultr@co.chesterfield.va.us pH 804 796 7065

Russ Lescault is a trained SAR manager and has completed the ERI MSO course. Part of his duties include being available for search incidents. Chesterfield County has 230k population, with 430 police officers and 130 non-sworn.

The county completes their own Incident Commander training program on an internal 40-hour course. This course is completed in conjunction with the Fire Department. Police also provide training for police persons using the ERI MSO course.

If a search requires the use of volunteers, a requirement from the county is they must be trained by the state. The majority of searches are resolved by using police resourcing. If the search starts to head into rural areas then volunteers are often used.

The county police require that every sergeant be trained in incident command. Every patrol officer receives training in how a SAR is set up. Term used to describe an immediate search for any missing person is "Bastard Search." These searches are carried out by responding police.

Within an ICS structure the Police usually perform all the roles within the I/C team. If the search gets bigger, volunteers may be used in the HQ team. County policy is two trained co-ordinators are required for each search.

Sergeants are trained as co-ordinators to run the search until specialist police members such as Lescault arrive. The county has taken aerial photos of the county, which are used in SAR planning.

If search dogs are required, the County has trained police dogs which are used first, and if further assistance is required, volunteer dogs are used.

Last year had they had ten SAR operations, of which volunteers were called on to assist in three. Of these searches on an average only one a year goes into the second operational period.

While at the station a search was initiated for a missing woman who has escaped from a remand hospital. The search was initiated using two police co-ordinators who completed the planning. Thirty-four police officers, including recruits under training where are tasked to complete the various roles.

Documents supplied

?? Search debrief notes for a incident 17 Oct 1999

18 June 2001

United States Coastguard Auxiliary

Commodore Everette Tucker, United States Coastguard Auxiliary, E mail etucker@erols.com Web Page

Funding

The USCG Auxiliary is funded by several means. First, the USCG provides a minimum level of funding for training of members and operations support. They also provide both military and civilian CG personnel to provide administrative support.

Members support CG missions by using their own vessels, aircraft, and base station marine radios. The cost of maintaining and equipping is at the members' expense. The CG does reimburse for gas and oil used in ordered operational missions.

The members themselves pay dues of about \$30 a year to be a member. We have about 34,000 members. This helps defray much of the Auxiliary unit's operating cost.

The Auxiliary also has a non-profit corporation that publishes and sells boating course textbooks to the public and insignia & uniform items to its members. It also solicits the public and governmental sectors for contributions and grants.

Ownership

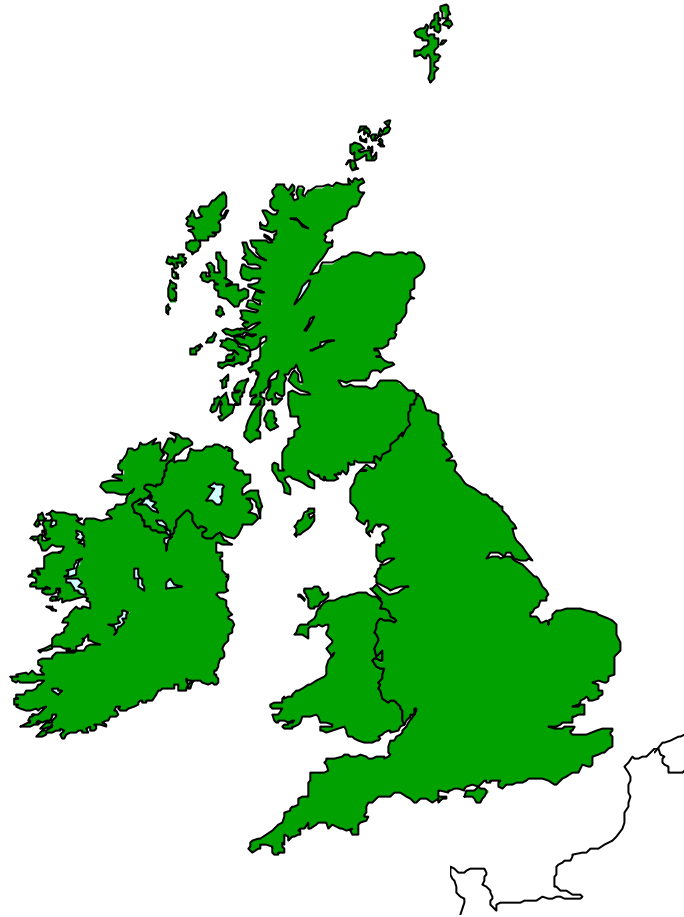
Most are privately owned by CG members (est 98%), however, a few are CG owned, or former CG vessels given to the Auxiliary, or vessels donated by the public to Auxiliary units.

Standards

The Auxiliary's Operations Program is actually a CG Program. The CG publishes the standards in various CG Instructions, both as to vessel requirements and coxswain/crew requirements. It takes about a year to qualify as crew, then a year or two to qualify as coxswain. Training is done by Auxiliary units with certification done by CG designated examiners. Annual re-qualification and activity minimums are required for all coxswains & crew members. Vessels, aircraft, and radio stations are inspected annually. The Auxiliary leadership is responsible for overseeing the Program integrity and maintenance meets CG standards.

Taskings

Auxiliary units conduct SAR operations under CG orders and are deployed in support of CG requests. They may operate with CG units, police units, or by themselves. Auxiliary patrol commanders may be in charge of the operations or be subordinate units. In the inland portions of the U.S., Auxiliary units receive "blanket orders" which allow them to respond to local SAR requests without first obtaining CG approval. If the Auxiliary response to a SAR by itself, all planning & reporting are accomplished by Auxiliary units.



UNITED KINGDOM

23.5.01

Dr Anthony Jones

Dr Anthony Jones, MBE, Marine Sciences Labs, Menai Bridge, Gwynedd LL59 5EY, Wales, UK. Ph 01248 364131, Work 01248 383576. E-mail asgjones@cix.compulink.co.uk

Dr Jones is a former Team Leader Ogwen Valley Mountain Rescue Organisation. He is the currently Vice Chairman of the Mountain Rescue Council of England and Wales . He is internationally recognised as a search planner and instructor on SAR planning and techniques.

He was able to give an overview of the situation in the UK and made various arrangements and appointments.

The UK SAR Maritime Handbook it currently being rewritten last revised in 1994. The handbook will now include Land SAR and is currently in draft form. The title of the new publication will be - "Search and Rescue Framework for the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland". It should be signed off by December 2001.

HM Coastguard is part of the Dept of Transport, Local Government and Regions (DTLR). HM Coastguard is responsible for all marine SAR within the UK Search and Rescue Region.

All land SAR is the responsible of the local police. Each Chief Constable is operationally independent.

In England and Wales the police have the responsibility under common law. In Scotland the Police are legislated as the responsible agency.

The mountain rescue teams work for and are responsible to the police for the operations they carry out. Administratively they are independent, but operationally they are responsible to the police. There are occasions when a MR team is called out without the police being present.

If a fatality occurs on a mountain, the police have to investigate it as a potential crime. This is more critical if the fatality involves a minor under instruction. Police will investigate the operation looking at culpability.

In North Wales all communications (radios) are supplied by the police. The teams operate radios under the authority of the Chief Constable who pays the radio licence fees. Access to the high and low band channels is tightly controlled within the UK.

Police supply accident insurance to volunteers once they are aware of an incident occurring. Insurance covers a person travelling to and from the incident. The cost for the North Wales Police for example is around 10-15k a year.

Within England and Wales the police rarely, if ever, give any reimbursement expenses for volunteers attending a search incident, such as mileage. In larger

operations the police will arrange catering. The situation in Scotland is different. The Police may pay some expenses.

In Wales, the National Assembly for Wales has earmarked 8,000 pound a year to supply first aid and rescue equipment against an approved list. If an item of equipment is on the list the team is able to claim back costs of equipment etc to set amounts annually.

The use of volunteers is seen cost effective; they want to do it. However, the police have the responsibility to protect volunteers from the legal fraternity (law suits).

One article that Dr Jones prepared was on "You have no right to rescue" for the BMC Journal "Summit" copy given. Article supplied may differ from the one published as it may have been edited to suit publisher's requirements.

Dr Jones advised that the question to ask about training is are we doing the best we can in context of local environment, country and resources looking at local conditions and practices.

When discussing SAR within New Zealand, Dr Jones recommended that as part of the development of the NZLSAR organisation, it is desirable that they send people overseas to study how other people operate and produce a report etc, thereby having an exchange of ideas etc. NZLSAR should continue to get audits completed by getting overseas experts to look at the situation and being able to exchange ideas. Overseas, external audit should be considered every five years or so.

Mountain rescue groups get funding by donations, collection boxes, some do actual fundraising initiatives. There is to be some discussions within the MRC as to going to national fundraising initiatives. When examining the course requirements for an area, the course should be relevant for that environment and the nature of the operations carried out by the teams.

Each year Dr Jones runs Search Planning and Management courses which are taught to MR teams and police at University of Wales, Bangor (known as the Bangor course). Cost is 250 or 450 pounds if residential with police all over the country attending.

Course runs once a year at Bangor and runs under the auspices of the MRC Instructors include internationally recognised experts such as Don Cooper from the United States. Don Cooper is currently doing research for a Doctorate on the application of Search Theory to Land Search. The SPM courses are under constant development looking at basic intermediate and advanced.

Dr Jones maintains a library and has requested any relevant New Zealand documents to be forwarded to him.

Documents Supplied

- ?? Various documents covering UK SAR
- ?? Map of Snowdon
- ?? Mountain Rescue Incident Report forms

Mountain Rescue within England and Wales

(web page www.mountain.rescue.org.uk)

Overview

Mountain Rescue in the whole of the United Kingdom is free of charge both to the persons rescued and to any organisation to which they may belong. Except for incidents on sea cliffs where H.M Coastguard is responsible, the overall responsibility for search and rescue in the U.K. rests with the Chief Constable of the Police for the area in which the incident occurs. The Police may request the assistance of voluntary rescue teams, National Park Rangers, RAF Mountain Rescue Teams, RAF or Royal Navy search and rescue helicopters. All the above bodies work together both in the field and in the planning and organisation of rescue and none make any charge.

The voluntary rescue teams in England and Wales are all autonomous bodies composed of unpaid volunteers who are called out by the police when their services are required. Most teams only recruit already competent all weather mountaineers who are then required to undertake suitable training in search techniques, stretcher handling, on vertical faces and in snow and ice conditions, radio work, and First Aid.

During the last few years there has been a considerable increase in the number of requests by the police to the voluntary rescue teams for assistance in searching and rescuing in a non mountain or open country environment. These requests would include searching for elderly, confused, or potentially suicidal people missing from their home or an institution and searching snow bound roads for stranded motorists. There is an equivalent body to the MRC for lowland search. It is called the Association of Lowland Search and Rescue (ALSAR). It has been in existence for a few years and is developing. There is liaison and co-operation between the MRC and ALSAR.

The various local teams are grouped into autonomous regional organisations as shown in the Handbook. These regional organisations vary slightly in their organisation and function. They are usually responsible for operations involving two or more teams together with co-operation with the police forces serving their area and the RAF (or RN) helicopter stations and rescue teams serving their area. They also frequently organise a considerable amount of training on a regional basis.

The Mountain Rescue Council is an autonomous co-ordinating body to which all the various regional bodies belong together with the British Cave Rescue Council and the Search and Rescue Dogs Associations. The membership of the Council extends to cover the Association of Chief Police Officers, HM Coastguard, RAF Search and Rescue, The Home Office Radio Branch and Fire Service Inspectorate, The Sports Council and the Association of Chief Ambulance Officers. It is again a voluntary body and a registered charity.

Its main function is to liaise on behalf of the teams with the various government departments in the running of Mountain and Cave Rescue and to arrange such items as the provision of communications, stretchers and First Aid Equipment, and the provision of accident insurance for team members when they are training or operational. The MRC also purchase public liability insurance and insurance for helicopter training for team members. The Mountain Rescue Handbook is published

and updated regularly. The handbook contains detailed information on the entire Mountain Rescue operations in Great Britain, the handbook also contains information on the work of the RAF rescue teams, radio comms and call signs, mountain first aid, Helicopter operations, rescue and accident statistics.

Finance

All the teams and regional bodies are financially independent although there is some movement of funds up and down the system. The MRC, the regional bodies and the teams each raise virtually all the funds which they require for their own use. While the greatest part of the funding for mountain rescue as a whole comes from donations and collecting boxes there are several other sources of help which should be mentioned.

From the ambulance service. The majority of the regional health authorities in England, in whose areas mountain rescues occur, subscribe to a fund which is used to either supply teams directly with First Aid equipment or to fund the purchase of specialised equipment such as stretchers, stretcher lowering ropes and casualty bags. The source of funding from a Regional Health Authority in England may be ceasing, if it has not stopped already. Funding only came through one Regional Health Authority. It was not spread through out England. Devolution has had an impact which why the situation in Wales is different. There is a similar but slightly different arrangement in Wales with funding from the Welsh office.

From local police authorities. These on the recommendation of the Association of Chief Police Officers provide, service and licence a significant part of the radio communications equipment used by teams. However it must be kept in mind that some Police Authorities do NOT supply any communications equipment. They also provide accident insurance for team members during operations undertaken at their request and during a variable number of training sessions.

From the Sports Council. A small grant is received for training purposes.

The Ministry of Defence. The MOD funds the greater part of the insurance which is required for helicopter training with civilian rescue teams. It is clear however that Mountain Rescue has now got to look for additional sources of funding.

This is due to:-

- ?? An increasing workload and an increasing expectation by those injured or lost in the hills.
- ?? An increasing sophistication and cost of equipment.
- ?? A general shortage of money for donations probably due to the current national financial situation.

It is the wish of almost all those involved in Mountain Rescue that they should continue to provide a free service. There would be little chance of collecting a fee from the majority of our clients. A great number are either young people or retired or unemployed. Insurance is not an easy answer as it is almost impossible to define a 'mountain' in this country when towns such as Sheffield and Manchester have high moorland (over 450 metres) and crags within their city boundaries.

A study of the accident figures shows that many rescues occur in areas which are not particularly high and which the local inhabitants would call 'dog walking' country. The honorary treasurer handles quite large sums of money, passing on to teams and regions various grants received from time to time for training etc. He also co-ordinated a scheme where the purchase of the greater part of the medical and first aid equipment is funded by various regional health authorities through the ambulance service. In Wales a similar scheme exists through the Welsh office.

Insurance

The MRC now have, and have for some years, a national scheme for third party liability and a national cover for working with helicopters on incidents and training sessions. Most mountain rescue teams are covered for personal accident by their county police authority while on call-outs or training sessions but alas this is not a national scheme at the moment, but is under review. Quite a number of teams pay for additional insurance cover with monies raised by themselves. All rescue teams are autonomous regarding fund-raising, there is no national scheme and the teams themselves wish it to be kept this way. The MRC has started down the road of National Fund raising. The decision was made at the end of June.

Llanberis Mountain Rescue

Nicki Wallis, Ph cell 0790 0267 510. Ph home 01286 872 125. Email nicki@wallis-rawlinson.freereserve.co.uk Llanberis Mountain Rescue Team. Mailing address C/O Ian Henderson,(Secretary) 6 Y Glyn, Menai Bridge, Anglesey, LL59 5HY. E-mail llanberismrt@mountain.rescue.org.uk

Nicki Wallis is a member of Llanbaris MR team, and is currently acting as a team leader. Her full time position is a ranger for Snowdina National Park. When there is a call out while she is working technically she becomes a volunteer, however the National Park will pay her wages.

The team completes fundraising to cover their costs. They are one of the major MR teams in North Wales, with over 60 members. Money to run the team is obtained from a training fund and National Wales Assembly grant, however the majority of funds are from donations throughout the year. The cost to run group is 3-4,000 pound a year. When deployed the team members do not get reimbursement for lost wages or mileage. If members have damaged their own equipment, the team will reimburse costs etc, however if the team cannot reimburse, the North Wales Police policy allows for some reimbursement.

Their base premises is supplied by Snowdina National Park, and is also used as a wardens base. During a SAR incident they have access to vehicles from the National Park, and handle around 40-60 incidents a year, with the majority minor injuries such as twisted ankles etc. Incidents are generally local and do not involve travel etc.

If helicopters support is required, it is usually from RAF Valley. The called out is through the police to get a RAF helicopter.

The majority of searches are over within a day, however on an average, only one search a year goes to the 2nd operational period.

Some of the land around Snowdinia Park is private owned by farmers. During the foot and mouth epidemic access was denied to farmers and government regulations. Some of the land is National Park Land.

The team uses the MRC guidelines for MR teams. Each year a training program is drawn up to match the guidelines. Training by the team is available 12 evenings a year with 6 full day sessions. The team describes itself as a very busy team. The club keeps a record of who attends training and incidents, as required by the MR Council.

If the club is tasked to do a job, and it is not through the police, they are contacted to provide accident and liability insurance. Police will generally come to the HQ if we are running a search, however police attendance is not always certain. The police do not have any specialist-trained teams for MR work, and if tasked the MR teams will carry out DVI role if requested.

If a call out occurs, the police will send out a pager message. A search manager is contacted and will start the operation. In some cases the police will initiate and then hand over to the teams. Practically the team is in charge of the operation. Police have the right to direct activities etc but passes this on to the SAR Manager from each team.

People lost in this area are usually just off a track, paths etc. The team knows the likely spots etc from previous experience and often will send someone to these areas as highest probability. Not often does a search need a full planning and management structure. Very seldom does an operation need the SAR HQ set up etc

Teams have dedicated search managers who have completed the required training, usually the Bangor course. The search manager is part of the club and works very closely with the rescue teams.

Search and Rescue Dog Association Wales

Nicki Wallis is also a volunteer SAR dog handler for SARDA Wales (Search and Rescue Dog Association). Because of the terrain they are required to work in North Wales every dog handler is also a mountaineer.

SARDA is a voluntary organisation responsible for training and deployment of air scenting search and rescue dogs to search for missing persons both in the mountains and high moorlands of Britain as well as lowland, rural and urban areas. They are used to search for missing Hill walkers or climbers, or increasingly persons missing from home, elderly and confused persons, also missing children, and victims of crime. All handlers are trained in the protection of crime scenes. SARDA can work along with Mountain Rescue or directly for the Police.

NSARDA (the National Search and Rescue Dog Association) is an organisation representing Search and Rescue Dog Associations within the UK, and currently has member associations in Wales, England, and Scotland.

Dog handlers are required to keep a log of all training. Persons from other SARDA groups to maintain standards complete assessment of dog teams. SARDA Wales cover all of Wales, and Nicki has been called to Cardiff for jobs. Volunteer dog handlers work closely with the police. Costs etc such as mileage for vehicles are reimbursed and made direct to SARDA. However the practice is to usually only claim for long trips, otherwise all work is voluntary.

SARDA believe it is acceptable to raise funds to cover members costs etc.

Dogs and handlers are trained to complete all aspects of training such as scene of crime etc. Most times there will be another person with the dog team to assist with navigation etc.

SARDA Wales handles around 70 call outs a year. However currently call outs are down due to foot and mouth outbreak. Work includes looking for suicides etc and within Wales they attend around 70 calls a year.

Standards for SARDA have gone up since the 1970's, with two forms of membership, lowland and highland. Lowland dogs not allowed to work in alpine area. SARDA issue equipment to qualified handlers includes clothing and equipment. At present they are testing a 4WD vehicle on loan from Audi.

Web page www.nsarda.org.uk .

Aberglaslyn Mountain Rescue

Gareth Davis, Team Leader, Aberglaslyn MR team. Senior Park Warden, Snowdina National Park. Nat Park HQ, Penrhyn Deurath, Gwynedd. Wales, LL4 86LF. Oh 01766 7770 274 (Park HQ). Email wardenpenrhyn@hotmail.com

Gareth Davis is a team leader with the Aberglaslyn MR Team. His full time employment (27 years) is a Senior Park Warden with Snowdina National Park.

The Snowdonia National Park is divided into three areas for our own internal management. There are 6 civilian MRTs in the Park (running north to south) Ogwen MR, Llanberis MR, Aberglaslyn MR, South Snowdonia MR and Aberdyfi MR. This also happens to coincide with level of incidents per year with the quieter teams having 3-6 incidents per year.

The team has 30 members, and handles around 15-20 incidents yearly, which include 1-3 fatalities. Within the National Park there are around 6-12 fatalities a year. Not all deaths are mountain related and could include kayakers drowning, where the rope access skills of a MRT have been used, heart attacks where the Ambulance service has requested MRT assistance etc.

The Foot and mouth disease outbreak has reduced the total because of a reduction in persons allowed on the hills.

When there is a call out, the SAR manager from the team decides with police what action to take and call resources as required. Lately the police have shown an increase in interest in SAR incidents and are training a number of officers with specialist's SAR skills who will become part of the HQ overhead team. Police training of officers (excluding the Helicopter crew) in MR is almost entirely restricted to CID or seconded officers investigating fatalities, with the caveat of those officers who have attended the Bangor course.

MR teams in Wales do Disaster Victim Identification activities working for Coroner. The team will arrange trauma debriefing for team members if an incident occurs using psychologists. MR service can get police Brahms Hill or RAF trauma councilors following an incident. When a fatality occurs in the mountains, the coroner may or may not call in an expert witness from another MRT to give advice/ information/ comment.

During an incident the ICS team format is set up, however Wales officially does not use the ICS model.

A recent addition is the setting up of a SAR managers group who meet every three months for ongoing training. All MR SAR managers have completed the Bangor SAR course. Discussion is on going on revalidation / updating of Search Managers skills and they are establishing a web site to enable easier spread of information.

Training for Aberglaslyn team members is once a month for a formal session and meet informally on Monday's. Most incidents they get are generally straightforward, usually lower limb injuries. Most injury related incidents are relatively straightforward, many of these are lower limb: however a recent example was a 52 year old female fall 10 feet (vertical) and suffered spinal injuries. Evacuation was on a backboard strapped to a Bell stretcher attached to a RAF winchman ,attached to a Sea king helicopter.

Fund raising.

The UK Mountain Rescue Council has recently decided to award a contract to a civilian firm specifically to raise funds on an UK wide basis for MR. The monies raised will go to the MRC who will dole it out as the requests for cash come in from the teams.

Most teams have collection boxes at entrances to the mountains and in local pubs and hostels.

Documents Supplied

?? Call out lists and sundry documents

24.5.01

RAF Valley

Visit to the RAF Valley, Air Rescue Unit, located on the Isle of Anglesey.

RAF Valley operates Sea King helicopters, which require a crew of four.

Call out for search and rescue is through the RAF RCC, which is located in Scotland.

The RAF Valley Squadron completes 250 call-outs each year. One helicopter is on 15 minute standby and second on 45-minute standby with the standby crews sleeping on station. The majority of their work is mountain rescue, however their primary role is rescue of aircrew following RAF aircraft crash. Approximately 98% of their rescue work are civilian, with 70% coming from the Snowdina area.

Search and rescue is at no charge.

HM Coastguard Holyhead

Dave Brewer, Sector Manager Anglesey, Maritime and Coastguard Agency, Holyhead, Anglesey. LL65 1ET. Ph 01407 760 0824 E-mail sm_anglesey@mca.gov.uk

Dave Brewer is a sector manager at Holyhead Coastguard.

HM Coastguard run 18 operations centres nationally, each having 24/7 coverage. These centres monitor distress frequencies (channel 16, 2182 etc), and control search and rescue incidents in their areas. They have some rescue vessels but rely on RNLI for rescue craft.

They control all the deployment of RNLI craft, which are tasked to complete action based on planning prepared by the Coastguard. This includes detailed planning on search patterns, methods, resources required etc.

Coastguard employees are civil servants, however heavy reliance is placed on auxiliary coastguard members, with 3500 members nationally. They handle roles such as cliff rescue and spotting from shore for SAR. Everything is controlled by the local RCC such as Holyhead, which are on the 999 phone list under marine emergency.

The RCC decide what area is to be searched and allocate unit's etc for deployment. They also call and dispatch vessels out at sea.

The Holyhead RCC has 5 persons working 24/7 doing 12 hour shifts. The shift pattern consists of 2 day shifts, 2 nights, and 4 days off. Holyhead is a command and control centre including cliff rescue around coastline. Cliff rescue is a traditional coastguard role and is responded to by auxiliary coastguard members.

Each year Holyhead Coastguard handles 600 marine SAR incidents annually. They also accept trip reports. The Coastguard will not search for bodies, and once persons are known to be deceased, no further search activity will be coordinated by the RCC.

Coastguard has 400 full time employees nationally. Generally experienced people from the civil service apply for positions. Sometimes these persons ex RAF or navy who have handled SAR ops.

The training course for persons who work at the RCC is a 6-week full time and covers marine SAR plotting, and planning. Contact for more info if Mark Stagg (01425 277 621), or Steve Monks or Mark Roachway at MCA training centre in Christchurch.

Coastguard role includes reporting on fatal marine accidents, sea worthiness checks, counter pollution etc.

Coastguard does not reimburse any vessel or master used for SAR. Under international regulations the master is obliged to attend.

RNLI do not charge Coastguard for services rendered. However RNLI have at times claimed salvage. RAF do not charge Coastguard if they are used, however Royal Navy may do so if their aircraft etc are used.

Coastguard auxiliaries are paid given out of pocket expenses when training and when they are called for operations the National minimum wage is paid, with minimum of 3 hours when called out at an hourly rate. In order to remain as auxiliaries they must complete 20 hours training annually.

The Volunteer cliff rescue teams at Holyhead have training twice weekly sessions offered to team members, however there is a minimum obligation is to train monthly. The Coastguard provides insurance coverage to volunteers. Standards for cliff rescue are similar to MR standards, one difference is they use thicker ropes (12 mm). Coastguard also train with rocket line throwers.

Cliff rescues teams and auxiliaries must keep training records. Last year the Holyhead cliff rescue team handled 43 incidents. There have been a increase in reported incidents as more people are using the cliffs to climb and train on since the foot and mouth outbreak.

Documents Supplied

?? HM Coastguard brochures

Royal National Lifeboat Institution

Moelfre Unit

Anthony Barclay, Coxswain, RNLI station, Moelfre RNLI station, Moelfre, Isle of Anglesea LL7 28L6. Ph 01248 410 367. Web page www.moelfrelifeboat.org.uk coxsmoelfrelifeboat@talk21.com. RNLI Web page www.rnli.org.uk

Anthony Barclay is a full time coxswain for the Moelfre RNLI station. He has been a member since 1982, and a full time coxswain since 1998. Moelfre RNLI also has a marine engineer as a full time paid employee.

The Royal National Lifeboat Institution has 224 stations and is a registered charity, which exists to save lives at sea. It provides, on call, the 24-hour service necessary to cover search and rescue requirements to 50 miles out from the coast of the United

Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland. The RNLI depends entirely on voluntary contributions and legacies for its income.

The direct costs of launching a lifeboat are relatively small (service payments and fuel). But if all the other running costs of a lifeboat station are taken into account - ie stores, maintenance of lifeboats and lifeboat stations - the average cost of launching a lifeboat is about £5,800 for an all-weather boat and about £2,200 for an inflatable. These figures do not include the substantial cost of depreciation of the lifeboat.

Moelfre operate a 26 tone Tyne class vessel that requires a crew of 6 to operate. They have a volunteer crew of 21 plus 2 full time. The support crew includes 7 launch shore helpers and 5 office holders (Hon secretary, 2 deputy launchers, treasurer and doctor) with a station committee.

The unit handles 40 calls annually and the boat is launched every 2 weeks for training (on slipway). They also have a small IRB which is launched weekly for training and is primarily use is for close to shore work.

RNLI policy requires the Hon secretary must have the final decision if the boat is launched for a rescue, with the coxswain having some discretion. The Hon secretary having the decision to launch is a historical one and is to remove any question of cowardice if the crew fails to launch in rough weather. This takes the pressure from crew who may all live in the local community.

This station has 2 coxswains and 2 under training. Part of the equipment for the station include a landrover for official business and tractor for towing IRB.

Most RNLI stations have a full time mechanic and retained (part-time) coxswain.

The standard for a coxswain is based on experience and local knowledge as most of the lifeboat work is close to shore. The qualifications for a coxswain are RNLI courses, however this is not recognised by other marine users.

All call outs for all incidents are via HM Coastguard. The local station can launch if an incident occurs within their view, however this is still sent via the local Coastguard station.

To summons the crew for a call out pagers and flares are used. The pagers are not always reliable so 2 noise making flares are fired off from the station.

The RNLI run a SAR planning course called logistics, which takes one week. Sometimes the crew may do search planning, but generally this is left to the Coastguard.

RNLI pays for the boat and costs of crew etc. Every time the boat is required to be launched volunteers get 8.20 pound for first 2 hours, then 2.50 pounds thereafter.

Crewmembers attend course run by RNLI at Poole or Cowles. When attending a course they get 25 pound a day, which is to cover the cost of dinner and incidentals. Breakfast and accommodation costs are covered.

Station history is on the web page.

25.5.01

North Wales Police

A meeting was held at the North Wales Police HQQ at Colwyn Bay. Present was Dr Tony Jones

Frank McCall, Retired Police Officer. Former Emergency Planning Officer, North Wales Police, Colwyn Bay. Frank686@aol.com

Ian Henderson, Regional Secretary, Ilanberis Mountain Rescue Team. 6 Y Glyn, Menai Bridge, Anglesey, LL59 5Hy. Henderson@connectfree.co.uk web page www.llanberismountainrescue.com

Russell Jones, Constable, Emergency Planning Officer, Operational Planning Department, North Wales Police Headquarters, Glan-y-don, Colwyn Bay, LL29 8AW. Ph 01492 511 229. E-mail osd.nwp@virgin.net

North Wales police have 1400 sworn officers. The police have no standards they require from team volunteers for mountain rescue. They rely on the teams to do their own selection, training and to maintain standards based in the MR guidelines.

When a call comes into the control room the team leader is contacted and details of the incident are passed on. The team is then responsible for ensuring that the rescue is completed.

When called out the team leader gets in touch with the rest of the team members. Due to shortage of police officers, it is not always possible to send a police member to the search HQ. If police do attend, it is usually the local constable who is briefed by the team leader. The police main role is dealing with NOK issues etc.

If the incident were fatal, the team would start to gather evidence in the field for the coroner, which includes taking photos etc. If the death were suspicious, the police would send in detective's etc who would then be responsible for looking after the death. The team on the hillside would be responsible for looking after the police. If incident such as a plane crash, the MR team will work with the investigators and do the standard DVI role including bag and tag etc.

Police receive no training in SAR as part of their duties. Police officers may attend the Bangor MR course. There are police members in MR teams and RNLI as volunteers. However they are normally not allowed to attend if they are on duty. If they do attend, they are there as a volunteer only. The Police in North Wales operate the Bronze, Silver and Gold command and control systems.

Police are more involved when it is a search for missing persons in the lowlands etc. Police search commanders would be persons who have completed the Bangor course.

North Wales Police do not give expenses to volunteers engaged in search and rescue incidents. It is up to the team to supply reimbursement etc for costs associated with the rescue. The Police will make a donation to the team to help them recover costs etc. There are no police SAR squads in Wales.

North Wales Police did a survey several years ago and estimated they would need an extra 450 police if they were to do the MR role. How the police operate in SAR is a result of custom etc.

Police have trained divers if one is required. In England and Wales volunteer divers are not used and not allowed to dive for SAR. If a person drowns in a lake etc the MR team will support the police divers etc. Police divers are a specialist team, full time, usually ex service people.

When the police uses volunteers, the police supplies insurance. People who help the police are covered by the Insurance of Volunteers Act 1995. (England /Wales/ Northern Ireland)

Police will supply communications equipment, papers, insurance and will deal with the media.

Role of Police in Mountain Rescue

Mountain Search and Rescue services in England and Wales are provided under the auspices of the Mountain Rescue Committee of Britain in conjunction with the police, who, in the main, mobilise and coordinate search and rescue efforts of the rescue organisations.

It is a basic requirement of the Police Service to be involved in the saving of life. However the function of a Constable in England and Wales have been defined by statute, although reference is made to his duties in the form of the attestation which he is required to make when joining the police service. One duty imposed on the Police is to act as Coroners Office in the event of any sudden or unexpected death, to ensure that there is no criminal element present. This, they have the role in overall investigation of any fatal accident or sudden death occurring in the mountains.

It follows therefore, that the ultimate responsibility for mountain rescues lies with the police force covering the area concerned.

North Wales is renowned as a mountain climbing centre and in order for the Police Service to supply sufficient officers and equipment to carry out a number of simultaneous rescues over such an area would necessitate the channeling of vast amounts of local ratepayer's money in one direction.

The Police are able to fall back upon the services of both the Civilian Mountain Rescue Teams and those of the RAF Mountain Rescue Service.

The North Wales Mountain Rescue Association (N.W.M.R.A.) was formed in May 1973 in order to formalise the existing mountain rescue system. Within the various

teams there are approximately 450 experts. To aid with co-ordination, North Wales Police has supplied a communications system based on the primary land search and rescue channel which include hill top sites working in conjunction with the Force radio scheme. Each team is supplied with VHF portable radios and Radio Pagers, which are maintained at Police expense.

The North Wales Police also hold accident insurance, which covers all persons, both expert and non-expert who may be involved in either rescues or searches.

Emergency Response International (UK)

Clive Swombow. U.K. ERI representative. Retired Chief Inspector North Wales Police. 2 High Street, Abergele, Conway County, North Wales, LL22 7AR. Phone 01745 824740. Member Ogwen Valley MR Team. Email swombow@blinternet.com Web Page www.emergencyresponseintl.com

Clive Swombow is a retired Chief Inspector from the North Wales Police. When he, retired, he, together with Tim Andrew, a retired Sergeant from the Devon and Cornwall Police formed the UK branch of Emergency Response International (ERI) working closely with Robert (Skip) Stoffel the founder of ERI in the USA.

Emergency Response International consists of a team of specialists in SAR (search and rescue), Global Survival and Emergency Preparedness. They provide regular training for law enforcement, government agencies and corporate personnel in SAR management and basic field skills, aircraft safety and egress procedures (on land and water) as well as global survival and safety in all environments for aircrew members and passengers. Formerly a subdivision of the Emergency Response Institute, Emergency Response International, Inc. -dba ERI Publications and Training, is an International Washington State, U.S.A. based firm specialising in worldwide services in consulting, classroom and field training, curriculum development and publishing as well as specialised seminars and hands on field workshops in these specialised areas:

Search theory as used in SAR was originally based on trying to find U Boats, finding areas they are not in.

Incident controller is generally always a police officer for land SAR. By virtue of the office that person has the authority. Search manager can be a police officer or a civilian. Below that level in the ICS team the person can be a police or civilian.

The ERI MSO course is now the national standard in Canada and Sweden and has also been taught in Iceland, Croatia, New Zealand and South Africa. It also is recommended in a Home Office publication.

ERI (UK) is currently negotiating with the City and Guilds of London in UK to get the course registered onto their frame work (NZQA equivalent). This will give outside recognition for the course. Once this has been completed a copy of the course papers and documents will be forwarded to NZ.

ERI (UK) are writing assessment procedures. Once it is written, MSO UK will be a professional qualification. When they have finished the course the course members will be asked to go back and research a problem in their area. They will then be asked to complete and assignment on that problem. An independent marker will then mark it. When a person has completed the required parts of the training they will then independently apply to the City and Guilds to issue a standard. Should be completed by the end of the year.

ERI has been running a one-day SAR command course for senior police managers. They are also running 2-3 day first responder course for police personnel. The course covers urban SAR. 3-400 police have been taught in the basic tenants of SAR by ERI. Principles etc is used for terrorist and crime scene searches.

In the UK the Police are starting to use civilians more for SAR management, including Thames Valley.

There is an organisation of lowland SAR teams, called ALSAR, throughout England, which has been recently formed.

In UK volunteers form teams and then offer their services to the police. Police provide insurance to the volunteers for operations and training. The police will generally supply the team with radio etc.

In some parts of the country, the police will give volunteers mileage. Others do not want money as they feel they may become obliged to that police area.

Ogwen Valley Mountain Rescue

Clive is also a member of the Ogwen MR team. Web page is www.ogwen-rescue.org.uk

Ogwen Valley is the most northerly of the main valleys in the Snowdonia National Park, North Wales, and UK. The mountains that surround the valley are about 1000 meters high and the terrain varies quite considerably. They have cliffs that reach about 300-400m in height and are very popular with climbers. The hills to the north of Oggi Base (the Carneddau) are high and open, but there is also open moorland with heather, bracken and sheep, as well as areas of dense forest around Capel Curig. This sort of terrain calls for the team members to be competent in both high angle rescue work as well as open terrain search techniques.

As a rescue team they have between 40-60 callouts per year. They have some 50 people on the team, with about 20 being very active and responding to the majority of the calls. Several of the team are qualified to Paramedic standard and also have several qualified and experienced Search Managers. They usually respond to requests for assistance via the Police and Team Members are then contacted by telephone or pager. The usual response time to an incident is typically 20-40 minutes before deploying someone on to the hill and a full team callout can be effected within 2 hours. Royal Air force Valley has a Flight of SAR Helicopters and it is only 20 minutes flying time away and they often work together in rescuing and searching for people

For new persons joining, the organisation only provides training in specific search and rescue skills. It does NOT provide training in the generality of mountaineering. To be accepted as a Trainee Member it is essential that the applicant is an active, all-seasons mountaineer with at least three years experience of general mountaineering. A good level of local area knowledge of North and East Snowdonia, North Wales is essential. The applicant must be familiar with basic rope-work and be currently capable of climbing to at least V. Diff (UIAA 3) standard in boots. In addition, the applicant must be capable of climbing Grade I snow gullies and be proficient in simple snow and rock belay methods. Training and operations can be physically demanding so a good level of physical fitness and stamina is required. Trainee training and integration into the Team requires a firm commitment to attend and participate on a minimum of one day in every four weekends. This is an essential point that cannot be overstated.

Ogwen Valley was the first team to have a support group. They also operate a corporate membership at 100 pound a year. By being a corporate sponsor they are allowed to use the Ogwan Valley MR name for in their advertising. Safeway for example gives 25 k for using the Ogwen Valley team name to sell Welsh lamb.

Ogwen MR teams are trying to get vehicles with lights and sirens. There can be real traffic problems during summer periods, with sometimes a traffic queue of 40 miles.

On weekends and holidays the Ogwen team base is manned 0900 – 1800 hours. Outside of these hours there is a Team Leader on call 24 hrs a day.

Documents Supplied

?? Ogwan Valley Newsletter March 2001

29 May 2001

Northumbria Police

Inspector Ian Hall, Northumbria Police Territorial Support Group, Etal lane, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE5 4AW. Ph 0191 454 7555 x 62750. E-mail (home) ianhall@55virginie7

Inspector Hall is part of the Operations Support Group of Northumbria Police. The Northumbria police have 4,000 officers and 1700 support staff. The Operations Support Group has 54 constables, 6 Sgt, 2 inspectors, 1 chief inspector. Staff are in a straight 50/50 split with Sunderland and Newcastle.

SAR for missing persons was an add on to the police role. The main role for the Operations Support Group was crowd control and counter terrorist.

All the staff in the Operations Group has completed the one-week SAR course. This is run by staff from the Police SAR centre in Kent. Staff from the centre do a road show running courses at home station locations each year. The one-week course is centered on counter terrorist and crime scene searching.

Sergeants and Inspectors are designated the title POLSA (Police search advisers). In order to achieve this level they complete a three-week course at Kent, which is more in-depth than the one-week course. This course includes a two-day element on missing persons. Course is a pass-fail with assessments and tests. POLSA are then licensed for three years. POLSA do things like kidnapping, missing person's etc.

Police used to look at SAR as a sufferance with no relationship with the volunteer search teams. However in recent times very strong relationships with the volunteers, who are now used more often and are involved at search manager level.

Police Nat SAR centre went to Bangor and learnt mountain rescue search co-ordination from Dr Tony Jones. This was incorporated into the police course, which is one week, and includes mountain rescue management techniques and urban SAR.

In 94/95 The Northumbria Police Emergency Planning Section at HQ looked at creating a coordinated coherent approach to police SAR, with a view to getting everyone (police and volunteers) together. The police and volunteer SAR groups were brought together. Since then around 4-5 training sessions between police and volunteers at team leader level have been completed.

Police are recognised as being responsible for SAR management and are in charge. Police perform the role of Incident Controller or equivalent. Police and volunteer managers get together and decide what to do and where to go next. Police may give that responsibility to the volunteer SAR manager from a team such as Northumberland SAR team.

Searches for missing persons that the police are involved in are generally over within 12 hours. Northumbria police are now at the stage where they may organise more police/volunteer training on ground SAR.

There are internal problems within the police, as the POLSA are not always contacted. As a result of that problem, then police have a new policy for missing persons, which now includes the requirement for a POLSA to be contacted. POLSA will then decide what to do and how to do it, and if necessary contact the volunteer teams.

There was a fear when the police set up the new policy that volunteers were not going to be used, but the opposite is now true with volunteer teams being contacted more frequently.

The police do not clothe or equip their members for fieldwork. If they are deployed police members will purchase their own specialist equipment (boots, jackets etc). These members will come from the Operations Support team. Police members are members of the various search and rescue teams but are so as a volunteer only. If a police member wants to take part in a search as a volunteer they must take annual leave or days off to do so.

There have been problems with police members being called to search houses for missing persons and not doing it correctly. As a result when contacted, a POLSA will; not allow area command police to search the house etc for the missing persons. This role is the responsibility of staff from Operations Support.

In the United Kingdom the police have several layers of search command and control known as gold, silver and bronze. Gold is always the next level up, and ultimately is the Chief Constable. POLSA are at silver, bronze are the team leaders.

Police policy within Northumberland is that if a person is missing from an urban area and not immediately found a detective superintendent is put in charge. This is to coordinate all the activities from the different branches of the police. Mistakes had been made in the past in a search for a missing child, which was linked, to command and control, and the confusion over who was actually in charge.

The Police provide radios for use during a SAR to volunteers. Police also provide insurance to volunteers. Police are now asked to qualify themselves at court as a POLSA at coroners or criminal court.

All police in Northumbria are trained in the basics of SAR, including getting in touch with a POLSA. Northumbria Police are planning to complete Initial Attack course as prepared by Perkins and Roberts through ERI (La Valla). They have stopped sending police to the Bangor course and rely of local (Perkins and Roberts) trainers.

Comments

- ?? Police are the agency with the responsibility
- ?? Police have specialist police members who receive specific training and a designated as POLSA (Police Search Advisers)
- ?? POLSA are required to be contacted by policy for any missing persons
- ?? Volunteer teams provide a valuable resource for search and rescue
- ?? Searches are coordinated and controlled by police

Centre for Search Research

Peter Roberts and Dave Perkins 3 Ebleton Tce, Longfamlington, Morpeth, NE65 8JJL.
E-mail plrhome@nland54.freeserve.co.uk. Web page www.searchresearch.org.uk

The web page is still under development and only contains the basic format.

Perkins and Roberts are known nationally within the UK and internationally for producing many research papers on search and rescue. They are associated with the ERI (LaValla) company and have presented courses throughout the UK, Canada and USA.

They are both current members of the Northumberland Search and Rescue Team. This has enabled themselves to test their theories of search and rescue, and develop research papers and courses.

They have been part of an international team, spearheaded by Rick LaValla (ERI) in the development of a new course, called the Initial Attack course. The course was prepared following requests from different police jurisdictions and SAR managers linked to the fact that the average search is over within 12 hours. Within the UK, statistics show that 95% of all SAR incidents are over within 12 hours.

There was also criticism over other courses, including the ERI MSO course because of the math's used concerning POA, POS and POB. Studies completed by Perkins and Roberts showed that people were not using these formulas for the quick less than 12 hour search scenarios. The question was then asked why is so much time being taken up by these formulas etc.

The course they have developed is based six principles. These are:

1. Size up the Incident (Operations Period Schedule, IPP. Missing Person Profile, Identify Hazards, Urgency Analysis)
2. Contingencies (Lost Person Behavior data, Initial Search Area, Magnets and Routes, Scenarios)
3. Objectives (Objectives and Tasks, Investigation and Confinement, Hasty)
4. Resources (What, Where, How and How fast)
5. Plan (Responsibilities, Organisation)
6. Action (Implement Incident Action Plan, Supervise/Coordinate continue, Collecting, analysing additional information)

They have produced a workbook to accompany the course. Copies of course materials were supplied. Features of the course include a section on how to brief and de brief, as well as examples of forms to use during a search.

The assessment for the course is based on completing the workbook. This is handed in for independent marking. The course is the same as the USA proposed course (not yet released within the USA), but the reference section has been customised for UK purposes.

The six-step process can be used for any type of search and uses lost person behavior as part of the course. The course has been used within the UK to teach dog handlers about SAR. The course is Copy righted to ERI international (LaValla) and is a 16-hours in length.

They are presently working on a new advanced course to be following on from the six-step Initial Attack course. This course will provide the training for a search manager should any search go longer than 12 hours. This course will include a section on how to measure your performance as a SAR manager. The prototype of this course will be presented at a training session run by Richard Smith (ERI) Alberta. A feature of the course is the use of POD without having to use formulas etc.

Perkins and Roberts have formed the Centre for Search Research, an UK registered charity. This was set up four years ago so that they could complete SAR research, prepare training material and use any money received to further their work. It is mostly used for travel costs associated with attending seminars etc within the USA, Canada and UK. The charity is a non profit organisation.

Perkins and Roberts used to instruct on the Bangor course, but have not been invited back.

They requested that should any of their research material be used, that they be given the appropriate credit.

The course is available for purchase from Perkins and Roberts. Copies supplied to Gerard Prins were for research purposes.

Documents supplied.

1. Establishing the Search Area
2. Lost Person Checklist
3. Search and Rescue Incident Management
4. Who is in Charge of your Search Plan
5. Initial Response Course work book
6. Search Management for the Initial response Incident Commander Field Handbook
7. Search Management for the Initial Response Incident Commander Reference Text

Comments

- ?? Initial response course contains valuable information and material
- ?? Perkins and Roberts are known nationally and internationally for their publications and courses (several are in the NZ Police/NZLSAR library).
- ?? Initial Attack course is currently being used by different police agencies within the UK.

Northumberland National Park Fell Rescue Team

Peter Roberts and Dave Perkins are currently members of the Northumberland National Park Fell Rescue Team.

Call out for incidents and operations are through the police via 999. Police are the agency with the responsibility for search and rescue. The team provides personnel for ground search and rescue.

The team was created in 1962 after two shepherds got lost in the Cheviot hills and subsequently died. As a result the Northumberland National Park Voluntary Wardens decided to establish a Rescue Team affiliated to the Mountain Rescue Committee of England and Wales.

They cover the area served by the Northumbria Police. They also travel to assist other areas such as Yorkshire, Durham and the Borders. Searches are completed in urban, rural and National Park areas.

Membership currently consists of 45 team members, with three search dogs. They respond via a pager system.

Funding for the team is from fund raising events, donations from firms, organisations, charitable trusts and members of the public. Funding pays for vehicles, pagers and some radios. Other radios are supplied by the police.

They do not receive any formal funding from the Police. Police do not provide any assistance with transport. Mileage or lost wages. Each year the team has approximately 19,000 pound running costs. The team operates two four-wheeled drive vehicles and a control trailer. Vehicles are stored on Northumbria Police

premises, at the Ponteland Police Headquarters. The vehicles are equipped with features such as a siren. The siren is used to respond to incidents should traffic etc be a problem. Authority to use a siren has been obtained from the Northumbria Police.

Each year the team handles approximately 38 incidents. Training is weekly (evenings) with some one weekend day a month on other training.

Training standards are set by the team, with no input or standards required by the police.

When deployed, the team provides a planning team under the co-ordination of a search manager. The search manager will control the operation working with the police.

Comments

- ?? Training standards are set locally, based on local requirements.
- ?? Police provide no funding for expenses incurred by volunteers such as mileage, lost wages etc.
- ?? Team is self funded with no direct police or other government agency assistance

Documents Supplied

- ?? Northumberland SAR team book
- ?? Handbook of Mountain and Cave Rescue