

Rotary Group Standard for Land Based Search and Rescue Environments

This standard is intended for any group that desires to provide rotary search and rescue capabilities as well as aerial observation to assess damage after a natural disaster. The group may also decide to pursue an MOU for other resource capabilities.

1. Operational Standards

- 1.1. *Dispatch.* Groups shall have a dispatch capability.
- 1.2. *Equipment.* Groups shall maintain all equipment described in Section 2.3 of this standard and be able to deploy this equipment to a mission.
- 1.3. *Training.* Groups shall train their members to meet or exceed applicable Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) personnel certification standards including any standards that VDEM accepts as equivalents.
- 1.4. *Mission Capabilities.*
 - 1.4.1. Provide capability of aerial search over ground, lakes, ponds, etc plus along rivers in support of missing person incidents utilizing the search patterns identified in Annex A
 - 1.4.2. Provide airborne radio relay capabilities
 - 1.4.3. Provide airborne radio repeater capabilities (desired)
 - 1.4.4. The group must be capable of performing these functions any time of the year, day or night, and in all Visual Flight Rules (VFR) weather conditions deemed safe for rotary operations.
- 1.5. *Resources.* The group must have at least 2 Helicopter SAR Pilots and 2 Helicopter SAR Flight Officers

2. Accreditation. The MOU Committee of VASARCO will coordinate all paperwork associated with a group's petition for accreditation as a Search and Rescue Rotary Group. In order to demonstrate that it meets the Operational Standards described in Section 1 of this policy, a Group shall complete the following:

- 2.1. *General Requirements.* The group must comply with all of the requirements of the General Administrative Recognition Standards For All Teams.
- 2.2. *Dispatch.* Submit Group callout and dispatch procedures to the MOU Committee.
 - 2.2.1. MOU Committee will validate that these procedures comply with the VASARCO General Administrative Recognition Standards for All Teams.
 - 2.2.2. MOU Committee will confirm the Group's dispatch capability has been successfully tested.
- 2.3. *Equipment.* Group leader will submit a written affirmation to MOU Committee that the Group possesses and maintains the required equipment:
 - 2.3.1. At least 1 helicopter
 - 2.3.2. Aircraft radio capable of communicating on standard FCC frequencies and standard VDEM SAR frequencies.
 - 2.3.3. FLIR capability is desired
- 2.4. *Training.* Submit training program to the MOU Committee and gain satisfactory evaluation of the program. A Group training program includes:
 - 2.4.1. A Group Training Officer (GTO);
 - 2.4.2. Group policy defining how the group implements the Virginia Credentialing Policy for field credentials for SAR Mission Coordinator and other Staff;
 - 2.4.3. An annual training schedule.

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- 2.5. *Complete a field practical evaluation.* The purpose of the field practical evaluation is for the Group to demonstrate that it has core competencies, membership participation, training program, and capability to respond to missions and to conduct search and rescue activities according to VDEM training standards. During the field practical exercise the Group will be evaluated in accordance with Annex B to ensure that the Group is capable of effectively providing aerial search capabilities at a mission.
 - 2.5.1. The evaluation will be conducted by evaluators selected by VDEM. The evaluators must possess the equivalent credentials for the Group being evaluated.
 - 2.5.2. The evaluation focuses on the Group's ability to:
 - 2.5.2.1. Deploy the required equipment.
 - 2.5.2.2. Conduct airborne search activities.
3. **Qualification.** In addition to completing the Accreditation requirements set forth in Section 2, Groups shall meet the following administrative requirements:
 - 3.1. *Group Resources.* Demonstrate via the membership roster the Group possesses the appropriate minimum personnel for the requested MOU:
 - 3.1.1. Must be able to respond with at least 1 helicopter and supply 1 Helicopter SAR Pilot and 1 Helicopter SAR Flight Officer.
 - 3.2. *Group Administration.* Demonstrate adherence to the VASARCO Bylaws and other administrative requirements by submitting the required documents to the MOU Committee including:
 - 3.2.1. VDEM or equivalent credentials for Pilot and Flight Officer.
 - 3.2.2. A roster showing the information for each member as specified in the General Administrative Recognition Standards for All Teams.
 - 3.3. *Dues.* Pay VASARCO MOU application fee.
4. **Approval Process.** A Group shall meet the requirements as a SAR Management Group upon submission of adequate documentation, sponsor group endorsement, MOU Committee recommendation, VASARCO vote, and approval by VDEM.
 - 4.1. The MOU Committee shall collect all appropriate paperwork that validates satisfactory completion of all Accreditation and Qualification requirements. Documents should be tendered from the group's leader.
 - 4.2. VASARCO shall accept a motion from the MOU Committee Chair, approving by at least 75% of the voting group representatives present, and recommending to VDEM that the Group be accredited for an MOU.
5. **MOU Review**
 - 5.1. Operational, Accreditation, and Qualification standards may be reviewed at any time by request of the State SAR Coordinator to ensure compliance.
 - 5.2. Review and evaluation of all administrative, operational, accreditation, and qualification requirements will be conducted in order to renew an MOU.
 - 5.3. Number of requests for response, response activity, training activity, and number of personnel qualified will be reviewed as well to ensure group is active and a viable resource.

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5.4. If the Groups' response activity is insufficient the Group may be required to complete a field practical evaluation as outlined in Section 2.5.

6. Credentialing

6.1. Upon Accreditation/Qualification or Re-Qualification, a Recognized Group will receive a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) from the Virginia SAR Coordinator once approved by the Virginia State Attorney General.

6.2. The MOU shall be valid from the date of issue and shall expire after a period of three years, at which time the group will be reviewed.

6.3. Upon successful review, the MOU will be renewed as outlined in this standard.

6.4. If the review is unsatisfactory, the Group will be referred to the SAR Training Specialist to develop a training plan to assist the Group in meeting the requirements of the standard.

7. Accreditation Authority

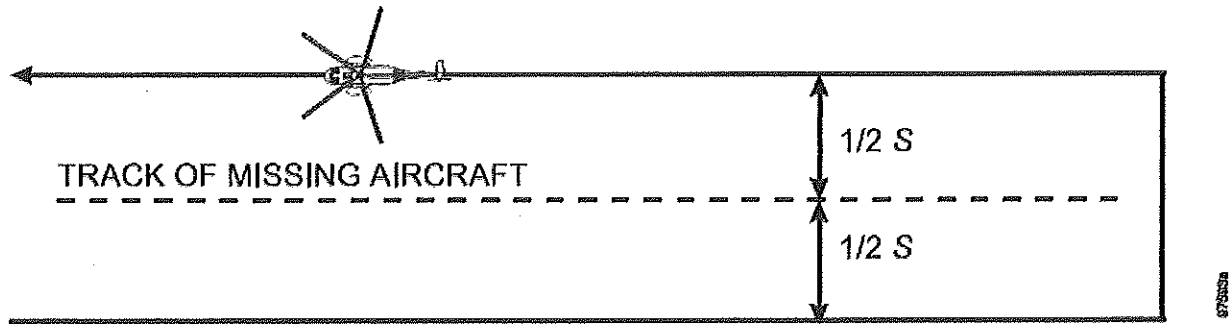
7.1. The authority for Group Accreditation and Qualification is VDEM taking into consideration a recommendation from VASARCO.

7.2. The authority for Group Credentialing is VDEM.

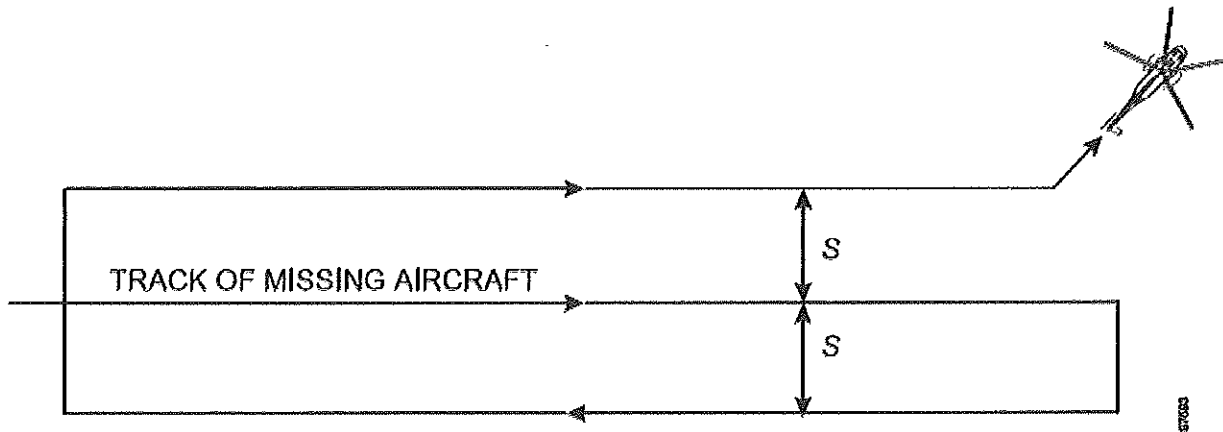
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Annex A – Search Patterns

Search Pattern Examples

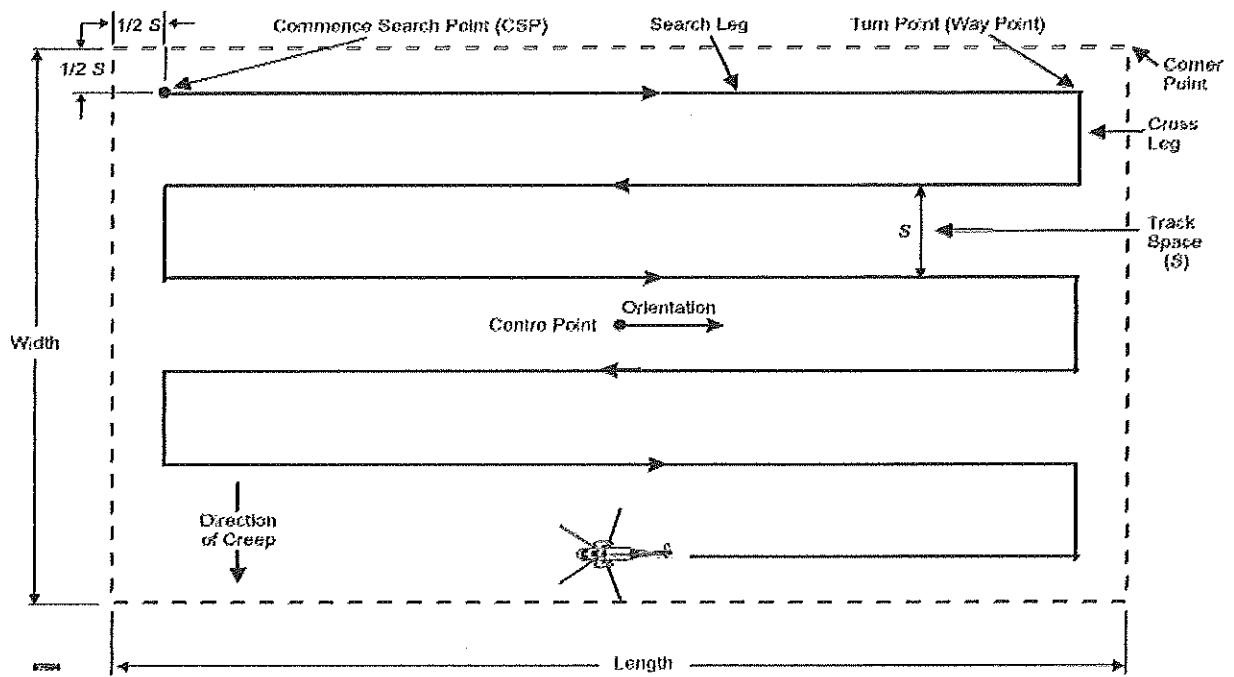


Track line search, return (TSR)

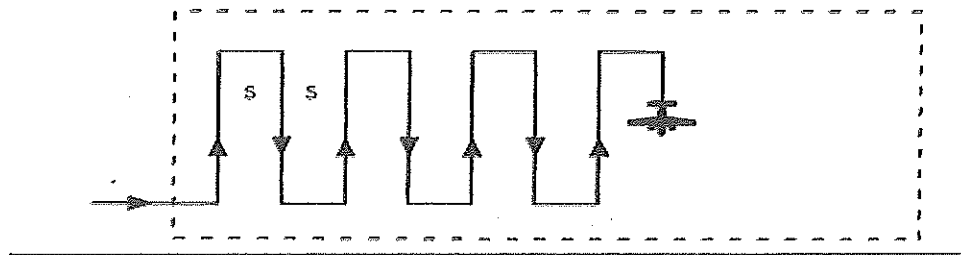


Track line search, non-return (TSN)

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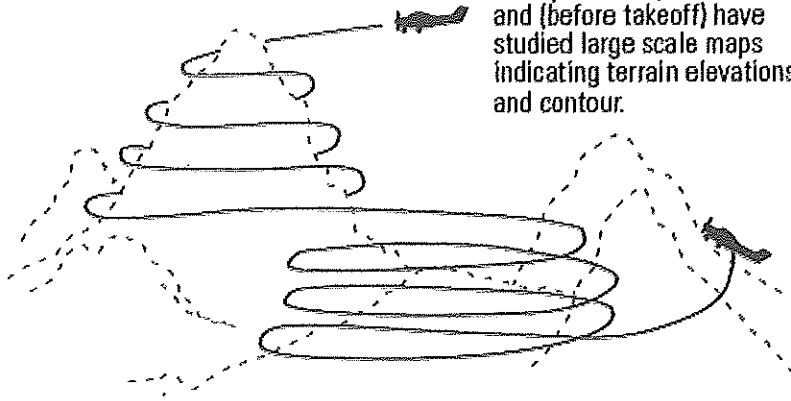
Parallel sweep search (PS)



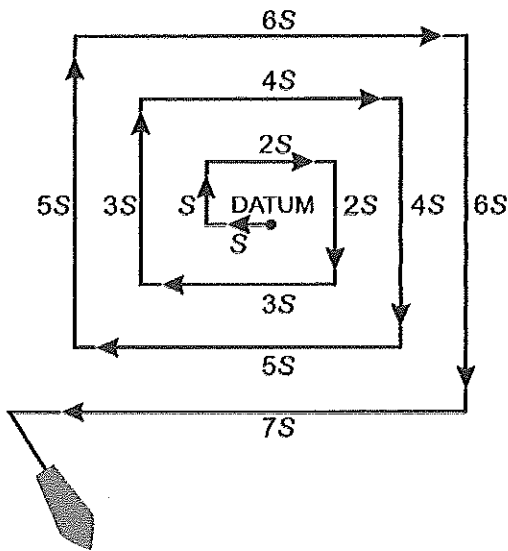
Creeping Line Search

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Contour Search: Extremely dangerous and the crew must be experienced, well-briefed, and (before takeoff) have studied large scale maps indicating terrain elevations and contour.



Expanding Square



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Annex B – Field Practical Evaluation

Assumptions:

- The group has been requested by VDEM for a missing person incident or aerial observation in response to a disaster incident
- Group resources are on-scene and ready for task assignment
- An evaluator will ride in the helicopter on the aerial task

The evaluation will assess the flight crew's capability to be assigned a task, plan the execution, execute the task, and debrief the results. Types of tasks that can be assigned are:

- Execute a parallel sweep search (parallel track search) search
- Execute an expanding square search
- Execute a track line search (return or non-return)
- Execute a creeping line search
- Execute a sector search
- Execute a contour search
- Guide a ground team to a specific location
- Execute an observation task to assess damage from a natural disaster. This can involve flying a local official to conduct the assessment or the group conducting the assessment.

The evaluation will consist of one aerial task and two table-top tasks. Aerial evaluation/task time will be limited to no more than 45 minutes due to fuel costs.

The attached evaluation form will be completed by the evaluator.

Rotary Group Evaluation Checklist

Date:

Group:

Evaluation Location:

Aerial Task				
	Requirement	Success-ful	Not Success-ful	Comments
1	Receive and acknowledge alert from VDEM			
2	Check weather and air space (Pilot)			
3	Make Go/No Go decision (Pilot and Flight Officer)			
4	Identify LKP address or coordinates on aviation chart			
5	Check equipment (Flight Officer)			
6	Pre-flight helicopter (Pilot)			
7	Fly to base location			
8	Receive task briefing from Operations			
9	Brief the flight crew			
10	Execute assigned task			
11	Communicate with base and ATC as appropriate			
12	Guide ground resources to subject location if requested by Operations			
13	Return to base with fuel reserve			
14	Debrief the flight crew			
15	Conduct task debriefing with Operations			

Table-Top Task #1				
	Requirement	Success-ful	Not Success-ful	Comments
1	Receive and acknowledge alert from VDEM			
2	Check weather and air space (Pilot)			
3	Make Go/No Go decision (Pilot and Flight Officer)			
4	Identify LKP address or coordinates on aviation chart			
5	Check equipment (Flight Officer)			
6	Pre-flight helicopter (Pilot)			
7	Fly to base location			
8	Receive task briefing from Operations			
9	Brief the flight crew			
10	Execute assigned task			
11	Communicate with base and ATC as appropriate			
12	Guide ground resources to subject location if requested by Operations			

Group Contact:

Name:

Phone:

Group:

Email:

Evaluator - Lead:

Name:

Phone:

Group:

Email:

Evaluator

Name:

Phone:

Group:

Email: