

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN

**THE COLORADO DEPT OF PUBLIC SAFETY, DIV OF HOMELAND SECURITY &
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT (DHSEM);**

THE COLORADO SEARCH AND RESCUE ASSOCIATION, INC. (CSAR);

THE COLORADO WING OF THE CIVIL AIR PATROL (CO CAP);

THE COUNTY SHERIFFS OF COLORADO, INC. (CSOC);

AND

COMMANDER

AIR FORCE RESCUE COORDINATION CENTER (AFRCC).

This is a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for mutual coordination and cooperation for direction of routine civil Search and Rescue (SAR) operations by the State of Colorado and the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center (AFRCC). When referred to collectively, the State of Colorado and the AFRCC are referred to as the "Parties".

1. **PURPOSE:** To further delineate the operational procedures pursuant to the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) dated 10FEB2015, between the State of Colorado and the SAR Coordinator for the Langley Search and Rescue Region (SRR). The procedures outlined below are intended for use within the geographical boundaries of the State of Colorado, excluding any federally recognized reservations and land managed by the National Parks Service (see flex file for exceptions). For incidents or missions involving overdue General Aviation (GA) interstate flights, Department of Defense (DoD) aircraft, commercial aircraft or missions of national concern, (e.g. National Special Security Events), the general procedures outlined in the MOA will apply.
2. **PERSONNEL:** Each Party is responsible for all costs of its personnel, including pay and benefits, support, and travel. Each Party is responsible for supervision and management of its personnel.
3. **FUNDS AND MANPOWER:** This MOU does not document nor provide for the exchange of funds or manpower between the Parties nor does it make any commitment of funds or resources.
4. **DEFINITIONS:** To develop common terminology and minimize miscommunications, the following definitions are provided:
 - a. **AIRCRAFT** - Aircraft is a device that is used or intended to be used for flight in the air. For this document this is primarily intended to be manned aircraft flying for non-SAR purposes.

b. **ALERT NOTICES (ALNOT)** - A message sent by a Flight Service Station or an Air Route Traffic Control Center that requests an extensive communications search for overdue, unreported, or missing aircraft. (US National SAR Supplement to the IAMSAR Manual Version 2.0 - USNSARS2.0)

c. **APPROPRIATE FEDERAL ASSETS** - SAR resources belonging to the federal government that are properly equipped and trained to accomplish the requested SAR Operation at the lowest risk to the aircrew, patients, civilian rescue personnel, and other associated personnel. Note: The most appropriate asset will be based on a number of factors such as, but not limited to: training, currency, capabilities of aircraft, capabilities of crew, availability of support resources, location, and prior consultation with the CSAR, CAP, and the Colorado National Guard (MOA-2015 para. 5).

d. **CIVIL AIR PATROL (CAP) AUTHORIZATION** - AFRCC authorization and notification to CAP to participate in a mission as an auxiliary of the Air Force; CAP becomes a federal asset for the duration of the mission.

e. **CIVIL SEARCH AND RESCUE (Civil SAR)** - Search incidents, rescue incidents, and associated civilian services provided to assist persons and property in potential or actual distress in a non-hostile environment. As compared to Non-Civil SAR.

f. **CSAR STATE SAR COORDINATOR** - An individual appointed by CSAR and credentialed by the DHSEM who coordinates large SAR Incidents in Colorado. CSAR State SAR Coordinators may serve as an agent of DHSEM or as an agent of a Responsible Agency, such as a sheriff. As used herein for SAR incidents "CSAR" is used to designate any of the CSAR State SAR Coordinators. (MOA para. 5)

g. **COSPAS-SARSAT SYSTEM** - A system using satellites to detect and locate aviators, mariners and land-based users in distress. The satellites relay distress signals from emergency beacons to a network of ground stations and ultimately to the U.S. Mission Control Center (USMCC) in Suitland, Maryland. The USMCC processes the data and alerts the appropriate search and rescue authorities. SARSAT is the United States representation in the international Cospas-Sarsat Programme.

h. **EMERGENCY LOCATOR TRANSMITTER (ELT)** - Emergency beacons that most U.S. civil aircraft are required to carry. An ELT sends signals to satellites (Cospas-Sarsat system) on a 406 MHz frequency or transmits an audio signal on 121.5 MHz; these beacons also have a low-power "homing" signal on 121.5 MHz. As of 1 Feb 2009, 121.5 MHz beacons are only reported through airborne and/or ground reports.

i. **EMERGENCY POSITION INDICATING RADIO BEACON ("EPIRB")** - Devices used in maritime applications that transmit a digital identification code to satellites (Cospas-Sarsat system) on 406 MHz and a low-power "homing" signal on 121.5 MHz.

j. **FEDERAL ASSETS** - Federal government SAR capable resources.

k. **FEDERAL MISSION** - Incidents that require the activation of federal air or ground assets and the expenditure of federal funds to support civil SAR.

l. **INCIDENT** - Notification by any source of a possible distress situation.

m. MEDEVAC - Evacuation of a person for medical reasons using an aircraft outfitted with medical personnel and medical equipment.

n. MERCY MISSION - the transport of life saving equipment or materials (e.g., blood, organs, the donor, etc.) to save a life.

o. MILITARY PERSONNEL - For the purposes of this document, Military Personnel include people in the following positions and their dependents: Active Duty, National Guard, & Reserve. Their leave status is immaterial. It does not include retired military.

p. MISSING AIRCRAFT MISSION - Searches for missing aircraft believed to be in distress.

q. MISSING PERSONS MISSION - Searches for persons believed to be in a distress situation not related to a downed aircraft. This may include the transport of SAR resources.

r. NATIONAL ALERT WARNING SYSTEM (NAWAS) - The NAWAS network consists of two warning circuits: a national warning circuit and a state warning circuit. Warning information will be provided to the State by the National Warning Center (NWC) through the NAWAS Warning System via the national warning circuit. The NWC disseminates warning information to the Primary State NAWAS Warning Point located in a State EOC.

s. NON-CIVIL SAR - those incidents involving scheduled air carriers, aircraft operating under the provisions of the International Civil Aviation Organization agreements, aircraft on interstate flights, missions of national concern such as designated National Special Security Events and Special Events Homeland Security, and missions involving military personnel and/or equipment. (MOA para. 6.b).

t. PATIENT TRANSFER - Movement of patient(s) from one medical facility to another.

u. PERSONAL LOCATOR BEACON (PLB) – Portable units that utilize satellite tracking for location purposes. PLBs are designed to be carried by an individual person instead of installed or mounted on a boat or aircraft. This beacon can be activated manually for the sole purpose of transmitting a locatable digital identification code to satellites (Cospas-Sarsat system) on 406 MHz and a low-power "homing" signal on 121.5 MHz. Advanced versions can also transmit the unit's GPS position along with the distress signal.

v. RESCUE - The evacuation of persons in distress, provide for their initial medical or other needs, and deliver them to a place of safety (USNSARS2.0), this may include SAR responder transport to a scene.

w. RESPONSIBLE AGENCY – The Federal or state agency with overall responsibility to coordinate the search effort regardless of assets being used. These are the agencies authorized to make requests of AFRCC and serve as the point of contact in Colorado for AFRCC.

x. SAR INCIDENT – An occurrence or event, natural or human-caused, that requires an emergency response to protect life or property (USNSARS2.0). The first phase of a SAR Incident starts with a notification and an investigation which is followed by the second phase which is the SAR Operation. The first and second phase may occur concurrently.

y. **SAR INCIDENT TYPE** – For efficient and effective communication and collaboration SAR Incidents may be “typed” pursuant to the SAR Incident types defined herein. SAR Incidents are fluid and as such may change from one type to another.

z. **SAR OPERATION** – The second phase of an Incident during which actions are taken by SAR resources to achieve the incident objectives. (USNSARS2.0)

aa. **SEARCH AND RESCUE (SAR)** – The services provided and actions undertaken during a SAR Incident to locate and/or retrieve person(s) or property in distress and provide for their initial medical or other needs, and deliver them or it to a place of safety. (USNSARS2.0).

5. UNDERSTANDING: The parties hereto commit to communicate, coordinate, and collaborate pursuant to the following Procedures on SAR Incidents in Colorado and to act in the best interest of those currently, and in the future, in need of SAR services. It is understood that any party hereto may make a request of AFRCC for the Incident Types list below. The Parties acknowledge that SAR Incidents are fluid and as such the Procedures herein may need to be reasonably altered to address changing SAR Incident Types, changing locations, or other situations. The Colorado National Guard (“CONG”) Joint Operation Center (“JOC”) shall be the Colorado point of contact for coordinating military rotary-wing assets for all SAR Incidents in Colorado.

DHSEM and CSAR acknowledge they have a separate MOU, dated June 1, 2017, authorizing CSAR to act on the behalf of DHSEM and nothing herein is intended to alter that MOU or any subsequent agreements that address this authority. CSOC and CSAR acknowledge that CSAR becomes an agent of a Colorado sheriff pursuant to a verbal or written request to CSAR associated with a SAR Incident. The CSAR President will serve as the Colorado SAR Coordinator and delegates the specific SAR Incident coordination to the individual CSAR State SAR Coordinators. (MOA-2015 para. 5.d).

6. PROCEDURES:

SAR INCIDENT TYPE	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY	PROCEDURES
Non-Civil SAR		
<p>Federally Controlled Incidents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Scheduled Air Carriers, - Aircraft operating under the provisions of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) agreements (International flights) - Aircraft on Interstate flights - Incidents of National Concern - Incidents Involving Military Personnel and/or Equipment 	<p>AFRCC</p>	<p>AFRCC will maintain operational direction of these incidents. The State of Colorado may be requested to assist the AFRCC on non-civil SAR incidents on that portion of the search conducted within the state borders.</p> <p>AFRCC will notify the DHSEM (CSAR) of any active non-civil search within the State of Colorado. The AFRCC will keep the State of Colorado informed on the status and/or termination of these incidents.</p> <p>CSAR will notify AFRCC regarding any of these incidents if it learns of them first. For incidents involving Military Personnel, CSAR will notify AFRCC regarding prolonged SAR incidents.</p>
Civil SAR		
<p>Missing Aircraft Incident</p> <p>(Filed an intrastate flight plan.)</p>	<p>CO CAP</p> <p>or</p> <p>County Sheriff</p> <p>or</p> <p>CSAR</p>	<p>AFRCC will coordinate federal asset requests through CO CAP and then the local sheriff. Advise CSAR via CSAR_AFRCC@ColoradoSAR.org.</p> <p>AFRCC will initially coordinate appropriate federal asset requests through CO CAP until the jurisdiction in which the aircraft is located has been identified. CO CAP will then transfer responsibility</p>

		<p>to the lead CO agency and AFRCC will coordinate appropriate federal asset requests through the same.</p> <p>AFRCC will notify CSAR of all Missing Aircraft Incidents AFRCC is involved with and occurring within Colorado as soon as possible to promote situational awareness. Using CSAR_AFRCC@ColoradoSAR.org</p>
ALNOT	AFRCC	<p>AFRCC will inform CO CAP of all ALNOTs within the State of Colorado.</p> <p>AFRCC will accomplish the required extensive communication checks on all alert notices and will coordinate with the CO CAP prior to opening a Federal SAR Incident.</p> <p>Note: AFRCC may notify CSAR of ALNOTs that have become a land SAR Operation occurring within CO as soon as reasonable to promote situational awareness. Using CSAR_AFRCC@ColoradoSAR.org</p>
ELT or EPIRB	CO CAP	<p>AFRCC will coordinate with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to accomplish a communication check and coordinate with CO CAP to open a Federal SAR Incident.</p> <p><u>Note 1:</u> Since nearly 99% of ELT or EPIRB alerts are non-distress, CO CAP will</p>

		<p>coordinate with the lead CO agency if the beacon appears to be in a distress situation.</p> <p><u>Note 2:</u> AFRCC shall notify CSAR of ELTs or EPIRBs that have become land SAR Operations occurring within CO and away from airport environments as soon as reasonable to promote situational awareness. Using CSAR_AFRCC@ColoradoSAR.org</p>
PLB	<p>CSAR</p> <p>or</p> <p>County Sheriff</p>	<p>AFRCC will inform CSAR using CSAR_AFRCC@ColoradoSAR.org</p> <p>Upon request, AFRCC will share cellphone forensics data and reports with CSAR via an email (address below).</p> <p>PLB alerts will be sent to CSAR, who will in turn contact the appropriate lead CO agency. CSAR and/or Responsible Authority, as the lead agency, will request AFRCC coordinate Appropriate Federal Assets (including CO CAP) upon incident activation.</p>
Missing Person Incident	<p>CSAR</p> <p>or</p> <p>County Sheriff</p>	<p>AFRCC will coordinate federal asset requests through CSAR or a County Sheriff. Advise CSAR using CSAR_AFRCC@ColoradoSAR.org</p> <p>AFRCC will coordinate military rotary wing asset requests with CONG JOC. If accepted, CONG JOC will</p>

		<p>assign the appropriate Colorado based military asset.</p> <p>NOTE 1: The Responsible Agency is required to reasonably check that appropriately vetted civilian resources, with the appropriate SAR capabilities, are not reasonably available. Financial constraints will not be an acceptable reason to not use civilian resources, so long as the requested contract rate for providing service is within the range of industry standards.</p> <p>NOTE 2: To ensure situational awareness, if CSAR is not a party to the communications, the AFRCC will notify CSAR of all Missing Person Incidents AFRCC is involved with and occurring within CO using CSAR_AFRCC@ColoradoSAR.org</p> <p>NOTE 3: AFRCC will email all cellphone forensics data and reports as soon as possible to promote situational awareness. Emails to the lead CO agency and CSAR - CSAR_AFRCC@ColoradoSAR.org</p>
<p>Rescue Incident</p>	<p>CSAR or County Sheriff</p>	<p>AFRCC will coordinate federal asset requests through CSAR or a County Sheriff. Advise CSAR.</p> <p>AFRCC will coordinate military rotary wing asset requests with CONG JOC. If accepted, CONG JOC will</p>

		<p>assign the appropriate Colorado based military asset.</p> <p>NOTE 1: The Responsible Agency is required to reasonably check that appropriately vetted civilian resources, with the appropriate SAR capabilities, are not reasonably available. Financial constraints will not be an acceptable reason to not use civilian resources, so long as the requested contract rate for providing service is within the range of industry standards.</p> <p>NOTE 2: To ensure situational awareness, if CSAR is not a party to the communications, the AFRCC will notify CSAR of all Rescue Incidents AFRCC is involved with and occurring within CO using CSAR_AFRCC@ColoradoSAR.org</p> <p>NOTE 3: AFRCC will email all cellphone forensics data and reports as soon as possible to promote situational awareness. Emails to the lead CO agency and CSAR - CSAR_AFRCC@ColoradoSAR.org</p>
<p>MEDEVAC/Patient Transfer & Mercy</p>	<p>DHSEM</p> <p>or</p> <p>County Sheriff</p> <p>or</p>	<p>AFRCC will coordinate federal asset requests through DHSEM, a County Sheriff, or CSAR.</p> <p>AFRCC will coordinate military rotary wing asset requests with CONG JOC. If accepted, CONG JOC will</p>

	CSAR	<p>assign the appropriate Colorado based military asset.</p> <p>NOTE 1: The Responsible Agency is required to reasonably check that appropriately vetted civilian resources, with the appropriate SAR capabilities, are not reasonably available. Financial constraints will not be an acceptable reason to not use civilian resources, so long as the requested contract rate for providing service is within the range of industry standards.</p>
NAWAS		No restrictions within the State of Colorado.

POINTS OF CONTACT:

AGENCY	DSN DEFENSE SWITCH NETWORK	PHONE COMMERCIAL
DHSEM	N/A	(303) 279-8855
CSAR – State SAR Coordinators	N/A	(800) 593-2772 CSAR_AFRCC@ColoradoSAR.org
CSAR – Admin.	N/A	(720) 507-6905
CO CAP	N/A	NOC (888) 211-1812 COWG (719) 358-0998
CSOC - Admin.		(720) 344-2762
CO NG JOC	250 1250	(720) 250-1290
AFRCC	523 5955	Ops. Desk (850) 283-5955 Console (800) 851-3051 AFRCC.Console@US.AF.mil
AFRCC Admin.	523 5129	(850) 283-5129
AFRCC Mailing Address – 650 Florida Avenue, Stop 73, Tyndall AFB, FL 32403-5010		

7. **MODIFICATION OF MOU:** This MOU may only be modified by the written agreement of the Parties, duly signed by their authorized representatives. Additionally, based on the role CONG plays in conducting aerial SAR throughout Colorado, the CONG J3 office will be consulted and be allowed to provide advice prior to any modifications to this MOU. This MOU should be reviewed annually on or around the anniversary of its effective date, and triennially in its entirety.

8. **DISPUTES:** Any disputes relating to this MOU will, subject to any applicable law, Executive Order, directive, or instruction, be resolved by the consultation between the Parties involved.

9. **TERMINATION OF UNDERSTANDING:** This MOU may be terminated in writing at will by any Party given 180 days advance notice.

10. **TRANSFERABILITY:** This MOU is not transferable except with the written consent of the Parties.

11. **ENTIRE UNDERSTANDING:** It is expressly understood and agreed that this MOU embodies the entire understanding between the Parties regarding the MOU's subject matter.

12. **EFFECTIVE DATE:** This MOU takes effect beginning on the day after the last Party signs and shall have no expiration date.

13. **CANCELLATION OF PREVIOUS MOU:** This MOU cancels and supersedes the previously signed MOU between the same Parties with the subject, effective date of 10OCT2015.

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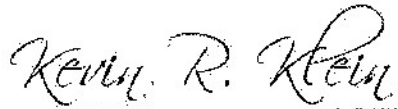
14. SIGNATURES:

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Matthew R. Mustain, Lt. Col, USAF
Commander, AFRCC

16Sep2021

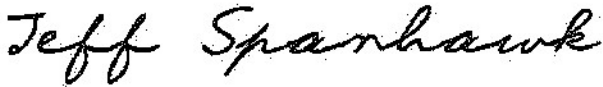
Date



Kevin Klein, Director,
Colorado Dept. of Public Safety, Div. of Homeland
Security & Emergency Management

10/01/2021

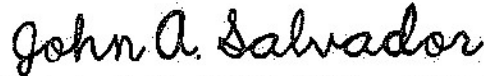
Date



Jeff Sparhawk, President,
Colorado Search & Rescue Association, Inc.

09/17/2021

Date



John Salvador, HQ CAP Chief Operating Officer
Civil Air Patrol | U.S. Air Force Auxiliary

09/21/2021

Date



Sheriff Steve Reams, President,
County Sheriffs of Colorado, Inc.

09/20/2021

Date