Leveraging Resources in Lost Person Incidents
Where in the world is Brian Brown?
Introduction & Goal Setting

• John New, Vice President, Travis County Search and Rescue  
  • SARTECH, EMT, Team Rubicon Region VI Deputy Logistics & Strike Team Leader
• Brian Brown, Search Manager/IC/SpecOps  
  • SARTECH-I, Team Rubicon SAR/Tech/Logistics Chief  
  Deployed: TR-NEPAL
• Megan Gotta, Assistant Chief, Travis County Search and Rescue  
  • FEMA TX TF1 K9/USAR, SARTECH, K9 Handler/Trainer  
  Deployed: TX-TF1
• Why are we here?  
  • Review a lost person scenario and review/discuss:  
    • What resources are available  
    • When and how to engage these resources  
    • How to integrate SAR resources into your Jurisdictional Agency Response  
    • What to expect
Scenario:

Where’s Brian?

Brian’s Friends Check Obvious Places

Brian’s Friends Call Local Authorities

- Current or Expected Conditions
- Pre-existing conditions
- Emotional State
- Other Factors

Start the clock. (1)

T+30-90... (10)

T+90-120 (20+)

... = Urgency
YOU are the Local Authority – now what?

Is this a SAR Incident?

• Lost or missing person is reported
• What do we think happened?
  • Is there a search area?
  • Is there a point last seen or a last known point or an intended destination?

• What type of response is this?
  • Lost / missing person
  • Trapped / inaccessible person
  • Special needs or particular risks
  • Presumed deceased and missing
    • Drowning
    • Fire
    • Homicide
    • Bone Found
    • Suspected Burial
“The Golden Hour”

The actions taken in the first hour will directly and ultimately affect the outcome of the event

• Immediately notify specialized resources
  • Place on Stand-by or request Deployment
• Gather as much information as possible
  • Start documentation immediately
  • Begin investigations – what else might have happened or previously happened?
• Establish search area containment
• Start initial / high probability searches “Hasty”
  • Most likely locations
  • “Reverse 911”
  • Declare Amber?
The Coordinated / Joint Response

The Benefits of Coordinated Efforts of Public Safety Agencies with Professional SAR Resources

• Deploy only at the request of a requesting agency as a Specialized Resource to supplement the operation (available 24/7)
• Assist the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) in Search, Rescue and/or Recovery operations at no cost to the requesting agencies
• Professional and trained, Credentialed emergency first response resources, MPWDA (ex.) certified K9 teams, NASAR, NREMT, NFPA, etc.
• Generally, these organizations:
  • Self-sufficient
  • Can be contacted and demobilized en-route
  • Not-for-profit – 501(c)3
Specialized Search Resources Summary

Various specialized search resources are available through Professional SAR Agencies

• Search Management
• Wilderness Search Specialists (Search Segments, Track Traps, Containment)
• Canine Search
  • Wilderness Air Scent
  • Trailing
  • Disaster Search
  • Human Remains Detection
  • Water Search
• Technical Rescue / Special Operations
  • Wilderness Medics (Credentialed under Office of the Medical Director) (Basic Life Support only)
  • Rope Rescue, Cave Rescue, Water Rescue
• Emergent Volunteers & their management
Search Management

• Integrated via ICS structures and standards

• Support and Assist/Advise
  • Will not ‘take over’ your scene . . . rather they become a supporting resource for you and your Agency

• Specialized training and experience in dealing with missing person incidents

• Familiar with specialized Search Resources

• Integration and Documentation
  • Search Mapping, resource assignments, asset coordination
  • Search Response Reporting
Wilderness Search Specialists

- Trained and experienced responders
  - Navigation and search strategy
  - Documentation (Patient, no patient/subject) Clues/Tracks
  - Crime Scene Preservation
  - Real-Time communication with Search Manager/IC
- Familiar with ICS / Command & Control
- Self-sufficient
  - Support the search mission without becoming an additional burden
K9 Wilderness Air Scent

• Assigned to Search a specific search segment
  • Locate any living person in their segment

• Need:
  • Assigned Search Segment
  • Coordination with other resources
  • Sar-Tech Flankers

• Do not need:
  • Point last seen
  • Scent article
K9 Trailing

• Assigned to Search and follow scent along the ground
  • Able to follow scent of a particular person, left when traveling through an area.
  • Helps to determine direction of travel, thereby narrowing the Search Area.

• Need:
  • Point last seen – starting point
  • Scent article – scent specific (collected to preserve scent)
  • Team scent elimination “the lineup”

• Do not need:
  • Large open tracts of land
K9 Disaster Search

• Trained to search collapsed structures and rubble / debris piles
  • Able to locate people (either living or deceased) that are trapped inside / under rubble.
Human Remains Detection

• Typically, assigned to Search a specific search segment or area of interest
  • Locate and indicate on the odor of human decomposition.
  • Able to locate a small amount remains that have been buried, scattered, burned, etc.

• Need:
  • Law Enforcement support – likely crime scene

• Do not need:
  • An area free of distractions
  • Trained to NOT indicate on animal remains.
Canine Water Search

• Typically, assigned to Search a specific section of water and/or shoreline
  • Locate and indicate on the odor of human decomposition that travels through the water.
  • Able to work from a boat or along the shoreline.

• Need:
  • Able to ‘narrow’ the search area for divers.
  • Boat access and reasonably calm water.

• Do not need:
  • To work directly with divers.
  • Can be reported for follow-up.
Technical Rescue / Special Operations

Expands the capabilities and access of other Ground and Canine Search Resources

• Wilderness Medics
• Technical Rope Rescue / Access
  • High and Low Angle
• Water Search & Rescue
  • Flat Water Operations – flooding
  • Swiftwater Operations
• Cave Search & Rescue
Spontaneous/Emergent Volunteers

- Highly Available
  - Assigned to a skilled resource may be a force multiplier
  - Equipped with lots of feet...
- Untrained
  - Documentation
  - Strategy and Tactics
  - Accountability
- Use with Caution
  - Are not self-sufficient and may become an additional burden
  - May need NICS Clearance
  - Need to understand physical requirements of Search
  - Potentially related to crime being investigated (LE Vetting)
Case Study:

- Subject – bone located, by a local neighborhood dog, in November 2012
  - Medical Examiner determined bone to be human
- An adult male had been reported missing, in the area, since May 2012
  - No search activities were conducted at that time
- TCSAR and AASAR responded at the request of Law Enforcement, on November 20, 2012, with the following resources:
  - 1 Search Manager
  - 4 Wilderness Search Specialists
  - 3 Human Remains Detection Canine Teams
Case Study Timeline:

- Request received by TCSAR at 1721 on November 19, 2012
  - Law Enforcement requested that resources arrive on November 20, 2012
  - Resources arrived at 0745 and then convoyed, with Law Enforcement, to the Search Area
  - Field Search Operations began at 0845
- Human bones located, by HRD Canine, at 1352
  - Approximately 300 m from the ‘neighborhood dog’s residence
  - Approximately 700 m from the missing person’s residence
- Law Enforcement requested that a detailed search of the area be conducted to locate additional bones
  - Detailed search resulted in additional bones
- All resources cleared the scene by 1616
Extensive coverage of designated search segments

Search segments created and assigned

Bones located Subject’s home

FIND ~1,900 ft from PLS
Summary

• The quick and effective use of a Coordinated / Joint response with Professional Volunteer SAR Resources is likely to directly impact the outcome.

• “The Golden Hour”
  • *Initiate search response immediately.*

• Know and request Specialized Search Resources
  • Professional Volunteer Search & Rescue Agencies

• How do you find qualified resources in your area?
  • Internet Search
  • Referrals from other Agencies
    • Law Enforcement, Fire and/or other SAR teams
    • Professional Associations
Coverage Area

- The following Professional SAR Teams maintain an on-going Mutual Aid agreement:
  - Alamo Area SAR
  - Cy-Fair VFD
  - Search Dog Network
  - Search One Rescue
  - Travis County SAR
- These SAR Teams have served the counties indicated:
Best Practices

• Call early to put team on standby
• Train together before an event
• Define R&R in advance if possible (Think ICS key positions)
• Pre-Wire with Leadership when and whom you will call for specialized SAR aid (MOUs are nice).
• Protect the PLS of the subject – it may be a crime scene and K9 units will be more effective
• Choose the Staging area far enough away from the PLS
• Remember Weather, vehicle exhaust and Air-Assets effect scent behavior
• It is not over until it’s over, have a rehab plan
• CISM Counseling is a valuable asset for responders post event
Questions & Answers:
Engaging with TCSAR

Contacts Sheet:

24/7 Dispatch Number  512-307-8467 (LE/FD/EM Agency Only)

Key Personnel Contacts:
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Megan Gotta, Dep. Ops Chief
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Brian Brown, Search Management
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John New, Team VP, Alliances
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SAR Specialists/Credentialing:

**Ground Search Specialists:**
- Verified skills in Land Navigation (map, compass & GPS) & Man-tracking,
- Communications, documentation, Lost Person Behavior,
- Evidence / Crime-Scene preservation, hazard management in wilderness environments, self sufficiency, etc.

**Search Management:**
- ICS/NIMS Compliant, LE/FD Liaison,
- Lost Person Behavior, Subject Intelligence and Resultant Search Strategy, Team Direction / Assignment,
- Search Reporting, Documentation, Mapping , etc.

**Canine:**
- Deployable Resources must maintain current National / International Certifications – NASAR and/or International Police Working Dog Association (IPWDA)
- Canine Search Disciplines: Live Wilderness Search, Trailing and Human Remains Detection
- Canine Resources (Handler & K9) must also maintain quarterly training hour requirements

**Special Operations & Medics:**
- 30% of the Team are A/TC OMD EMT Medics; all others maintain Wilderness First-Aid + CPR Training
- Special Operations Unit includes Rope Rescue, Cave Search & Rescue and Swift-water
Team Composition:

We helped “write the book” on Search & Rescue in this area:

• Stringent Pre-Deployment Requirements (NASAR/NIMS/FEMA/NFPA/R.E.S.E.T.):
  • Both classroom and field related skills
  • Annual Physical Fitness “Pack Test”

• 30 Fully credentialed Type I, II, & III Deployable Team Members selected for capability, drive and professionalism/confidentiality:
  • Documented Task Books define/record skills requirements

• Average Team Member:
  • 4.6 Years of Service – ranging up to > 12 Years
  • Ground Search skills > 70 hours per year
  • Canine Search skills > 240 hours per year (> 20 hours per month)
  • 25% Texas Task Force 1 (TX-TF1)
  • 30% A/TC OMD EMT

• Already working with you: APD, AFD, CPFD, TDEM, EMS, Instructors (FEMA, ICS, R.E.S.E.T., etc.)
• Professionals: Lawyers, Professional Dog trainers, Team Rubicon & US Military (former), etc.
TCSAR: Specialized Search and Rescue in Support of: Your Agency

Our team members helped “write the book”:
- Stringent Pre-Deployment Requirements (NASAR/NIMS/FEMA/NFPA/R.E.S.E.T.)
- 30 Fully credentialed Type I, II, & III Deployable Team Members
  - Documented Task Books define/record skills requirements
- 25% TX-TF1, 30% A/TC OMD EMT; Average 4.6 Years of Service, > 70 hours/year Ground and >240 hours/year K9
- Team members: APD, AFD, CPFD, TDEM, EMS, Instructors, Lawyers, Professional Dog trainers, ICS Instructor, etc.

Specialty Units (K9, Special Operations & Medics):
- National / International Canine Certifications – NASAR and/or International Police Working Dog Association (IPWDA)
- Canine Search Disciplines: Live Wilderness Search, Trailing and Human Remains Detection
- 30% of the Team are A/TC OMD EMT Medics; all others maintain Wilderness First-Aid + CPR Training
- Special Operations Unit includes Rope Rescue, Cave Search & Rescue and Swift-water

The TCSAR Difference:
- ‘Force Multiplier’ / Search Specialist exceeding Nationally recognized standards
- Assets deploy ONLY at the request of and in support of the Requesting Agency.
- Search Specialists in Search Management (documentation & mapping); Ground Search (navigation & self-sufficiency) and Specialty Units (Canine Search)
- Proudly “Unpaid Professionals”