



**NATIONAL SEARCH AND RESCUE SCHOOL**  
**1 U.S. COAST GUARD TRAINING CENTER**  
**YORKTOWN, VIRGINIA 23690-5000**

2 April 2026

MEMORANDUM FOR SAR Coordinators, Training Officers and Search Mission Coordinators

FROM: United States Air Force National Search and Rescue School

SUBJECT: Inland SAR Planning Course Schedule for Federal Fiscal Year 2027

Course	Dates	Location	Registration Links	Application Deadline
		<i>(Specific locations subject to change)</i>		
27-01	19-23 October 2026	Downingtown, PA	<a href="https://signupforms.com/registrations/46655">https://signupforms.com/registrations/46655</a>	7 Sep 2026
27-02	16-20 November 2026	McKinleyville, CA	<a href="https://signupforms.com/registrations/46656">https://signupforms.com/registrations/46656</a>	5 Oct 2026
27-03	4-8 January 2027	Las Vegas, NV	<a href="https://signupforms.com/registrations/46657">https://signupforms.com/registrations/46657</a>	23 Nov 2026
27-04	1-5 February 2027	Oriskany, NY	<a href="https://signupforms.com/registrations/46658">https://signupforms.com/registrations/46658</a>	21 Dec 2026
27-05	1-5 March 2027	Charleston, SC	<a href="https://signupforms.com/registrations/46659">https://signupforms.com/registrations/46659</a>	18 Jan 2027
27-06	22-26 March 2027	Salt Lake City, UT	<a href="https://signupforms.com/registrations/46660">https://signupforms.com/registrations/46660</a>	8 Feb 2027
27-07	10-14 May 2027	Juneau, AK	<a href="https://signupforms.com/registrations/46661">https://signupforms.com/registrations/46661</a>	29 Mar 2027
27-08	7-11 June 2027	Cincinnati, OH	<a href="https://signupforms.com/registrations/46662">https://signupforms.com/registrations/46662</a>	26 Apr 2027
27-09	19-23 July 2027	Bayamon, Puerto Rico	<a href="https://signupforms.com/registrations/46663">https://signupforms.com/registrations/46663</a>	7 Jun 2027
27-10	16-20 August 2027	Deadwood, SD	<a href="https://signupforms.com/registrations/46664">https://signupforms.com/registrations/46664</a>	5 Jul 2027
27-11	13-17 September 2027	Cody, WY	<a href="https://signupforms.com/registrations/46665">https://signupforms.com/registrations/46665</a>	2 Aug 2027

1. The Inland SAR Planning Course is for experienced SAR decision makers, planners, and operations leaders. It presents mathematically based search planning tools with related topics focused on improving overall SAR response.

2. A welcome package will be sent to confirm attendance approximately 42 days before class.

3. AD Air Force, ANG and AFRC students must visit ETCA and complete the AF course registration process. Using a GOV computer: Go to the ETCA web site, select "search", and enter: E5AZG1C371 00AA. Follow the instructions under "Scheduling Process" and "Additional Required Actions". If not completed your AF record will not reflect completion of the course. ETCA LINK: <https://usaf.dps.mil/teams/app10-etca/SitePages/Home.aspx>

Civil Air Patrol members **must** apply through the **ISPC registration links** above in addition to registering through the **CAP National HQ website**.

4. Courses are free, but each attendee is responsible for all personal expenses, travel, lodging, meals, etc.

5. For more information, please visit the National SAR School web page at <http://www.forcecom.uscg.mil/Our-Organization/FORCECOM-UNITS/TraCen-Yorktown/Training/Maritime-Search-Rescue/Inland-SAR/>.

6. If interested in hosting a course please register at <https://www.signupforms.com/registrations/26735/>

Sincerely,

Christopher Walker, Lt Col, USAF  
Director, USAF National SAR School

"Always Ready, That Others May Live"



**NATIONAL SEARCH AND RESCUE SCHOOL**  
**1 U.S. COAST GUARD TRAINING CENTER**  
**YORKTOWN, VIRGINIA 23690-5000**

**INLAND SEARCH AND RESCUE PLANNING COURSE**

(USAF Air Education & Training Course number: E5AZG1C371-00AA)

The National Search & Rescue School was established in 1966 as a facility devoted exclusively to training professionals to conduct search and rescue (SAR). The school is currently located at USCG Training Center Yorktown, Virginia, and teaches a variety of maritime and inland search planning courses. Graduates number over 22,000 men and women, civilian and military, including over 1,800 from 103 foreign nations.

The 5-day Inland SAR Planning course is a comprehensive look at inland search theory and its application to land and air searches for missing persons and aircraft with a focus on wilderness, not urban, searches.

The course consists of classroom lessons and practical, tabletop exercises. This course does not incorporate field training. Emphasis is on the planning necessary for effective area-type searching during an extended search using Probability of Success (POS), rather than just a few elements of POC (POA) or POD, to predictively allocate limited resources to their best effect. In essence, what to do after the rapid (hasty) search and specialty resources have not found the missing person. Additional topics include pre-plan development, legal aspects, the federal role in SAR, and related subjects. The course does not teach search tactics or technical procedures, as those are well covered from other readily available sources.

**The course is directed toward SAR leaders** in federal, state, and local emergency services and law enforcement, as well as Civil Air Patrol, international, and volunteer SAR agencies -- **those few people who are responsible for the planning and overall conduct of inland search missions.** The target audience includes on-scene incident commanders and their planners, operations leaders, and up-channel reporting chain. The general searcher or search team leader, while arguably the most important part of the SAR team, may not find this course useful.

Aiming to "find the objective fast," the course centers on tools to help SAR decision makers determine where to search, how to divide an area between limited search resources, and how to craft the overall search effort to gain the best increases in likelihood of success at each step. The tools are mathematically based; they help quantify the uncertainties of the search problem to allow consistent application throughout a mission.

Classes begin promptly at 0800 on the convening date and graduate by 1500 on the fifth day.

Prior to class, students should review and be conversant on the following from their own agencies to make class discussions more useful and help integrate class materials with their own search environments back home:

- o Search pre-plans
- o Decision making guidelines for where/when/how to search
- o Agreements and relationships with other SAR agencies
- o How their agency organizes on scene
- o Recent search missions

A firm grounding in SAR terminology and employment, practical SAR experience, basic arithmetic and calculator skills, an understanding of local SAR mission management requirements, and **an open mind** are essential.

*"Always Ready, That Others May Live"*