

President's Remarks (September, 2001)

Again, CASARA has proven to be the organization of choice for you, our volunteer. We have responded rapidly and enthusiastically to requests for assistance and in doing so, have saved the military and the taxpayer significant dollars that are thus available to be used for other tasks within the military. Along with this tax saving is the personal human side of our operations; we have given hope to numerous lost souls regardless of their travel mode of choice. This hope is impossible to quantify.

With the terrorist events of the recent past, guaranteeing our universal safety has become most difficult. We have been shown the ease with which life can be eliminated thanks to graphic illustrations via the media. I hope that each of you as I have, taken the time to reflect on the incidents of September 11th and remember those innocents who had their careers, families and lives so suddenly and dramatically altered. It was a tragic and senseless crime that needs to be addressed; I only hope and pray that it does not lead to a conflagration that places the world in jeopardy.

Once again, we are starting on the renewals of our certifications for our zones; our evals. This fall will start the process of demonstrating our expertise and showing the military that we are capable of undertaking the tasks requested by JRCC and the RCMP. I am confident that each and every one of us will make CASARA Manitoba proud of our abilities in the search and rescue field. I am continuously pleased and proud of the efforts of our volunteers and the expertise that each of you has mastered to ensure that we can perform at 100% when required. Your methods may vary across the province, but each of you are able to demonstrate that this variation does not hamper nor deter you from successfully achieving the goals of the CLO and CASARA. I thank you for your dedication!

During the long weekend in September, the Western Canada SarEx was held in Red Deer, AB. The purpose of the SarEx is to allow an interchange of ideas and search methods so that each attendee learns by exposure to others. It also exposes members to different terrain and area, which challenges those to experience a new environs. Ten aircraft participated from Alberta and Saskatchewan with BC and Manitoba declining to attend this year. Next year's SarEx will be hosted by Saskatchewan and held in Regina and we will make every effort to ensure that we are represented for it is only a short distance away and should prove less onerous to our training budgets.

Again, I want to re-iterate how proud I am of our organization and our successes. I am proud to lead CASARA and proud to be associated with you, our volunteers, who have made such a tremendous difference to the National SAR Program, all so "*That Others May Live*".