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## COMPETITIVE DIVISION – PRACTITIONER

### Evolution of a State Agency Volunteer Search and Rescue Program

With historical roots in civil defense during and after World War II, today New Mexico Search and Rescue is an all-volunteer 1,500 first responder program of New Mexico Department of Public Safety. Although state volunteer SAR programs do exist in some other nations, within the United States nationwide SAR community the NMSAR program is unique and a model of interest to other state agencies having jurisdiction for SAR. Of special interest is that NMSAR does not maintain pre-formed incident management teams but instead coordinates ad hoc IMTs from a statewide cadre of 80 individual IMT members. In this way NMSAR rapidly expands and contract its incident responses. NMSAR took FIRESCOPE as its own model in the 1970's and adopted ICS in the 1990's. A longtime leader in NMSAR, Dr. Smith presents original research into its past and present and outlines for its evolution into the future.

**Collaborators, Advisor(s), and Department(s) assisting with this research:** Robert Rodgers, SAR Resource Officer, New Mexico State Police