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December 3, 2009

Dear Friends of Superstition Search & Rescue:

Robert Collier once said, "The great successful men of the world have used their imagination they think ahead and create their mental picture in all its details, filling in here, adding a little there, altering this a bit and that a bit, but steadily building - steadily building."

Collier's quote describes, Robert Cooper and the SSAR organization. You started with an idea and thought ahead, then bit by bit built, steadily built one of the most successful search and rescue teams in the State of Arizona. Your record of success is matched only by a few having more than 2,000 rescues in some of the most rugged and dangerous terrain Pinal County can offer. Most of your rescues occurred in 110+ degree heat and even in below freezing in snow-covered canyons. Because of your reputation as one of the best, you received an award from the Lacy Peterson Foundation.

As your Sheriff I was honored to have SSAR as part of the Pinal County Sheriff's Office team. I witnessed the quality of leadership provided by Robert Cooper and the dedication each member had to the vision of the unit. I saw the precision in the team as you handled each rescue always putting safety first and achieving your goal, bringing the victims home alive to their loved ones.

My most sincere desire is that one day soon the Pinal County Sheriff's Office will once again restore the relationship between the department and SSAR, for without you the PCSO's responsibility for search & rescue will be costly and not as successful. They and the county need you to save lives.

In closing I count it both an honor and a privilege to have known and worked with the Superstition Search and Rescue Team. I wish you continued success as you continue to put your lives on hold to ensure that those individuals in Pinal County who become stranded in her rugged terrain return home alive.

You are my heroes. God blesses each and every one of you.

Sincerely,

Christopher Vásquez
Former Sheriff of Pinal County