

**Table 4-4-1: Ground SAR Team Strategies, Tactics, and Considerations  
Passive (Indirect) Approach**

Strategy	Tactics	Considerations
<p align="center"><b>Confinement (Figure 4-4-1)</b></p>	<p>Keep subject within search area, detect if subject has left search area; locate subject on roads or trails.</p>	
	<p>Road/trail blocks</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Established on all roads/trails leading into and out of area; and</li> <li>May be used in conjunction with string lines and signs.</li> </ul>
	<p>String lines/signs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If possible, combine with attraction if possible;</li> <li>Placed waist high with paper arrows pointing toward camp or road; and</li> <li>Ensure in the language of missing subject, age appropriate.</li> </ul>
	<p>Track traps</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Used to detect if subject has traveled through the area;</li> <li>Brush off bare areas to detect footprints; and</li> <li>Stream/shore banks and areas of loose dirt provide natural track traps.</li> </ul>
	<p>Perimeter search</p>	<p>Trackers can sign cut boundaries that tend to collect signs (fence lines, road edges, trails, stream beds, etc.).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Secure the confinement perimeter.</li> <li>Limit priority segments from the search area (if the missing subject did not cross some boundary, little need to search there).</li> <li>Establish a new LKP and a direction of travel.</li> </ul>
<p align="center"><b>Attraction (Fig 4-4-1)</b></p>	<p>Encourage the missing person to find the searchers (assumes the missing subject is mobile and able to follow signals to a place of safety).</p>	
	<p>Lookouts</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Using Lookout or Observation towers (Fire Towers) to look for subject;</li> <li>May use handheld thermal imagers or binoculars;</li> <li>A ladder, aerial, or tower truck may be used as a portable lookout;</li> <li>Also due to the lookouts height it would attract the subject; and</li> <li>Look-over's, scenic views, bridges, are forms of lookouts.</li> </ul>
	<p>Helicopter/Airplane Flyovers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aircraft flyovers may attract the missing subject to come out to a clearing or open area and be seen; and</li> <li>Use of public address systems mounted on aircraft may also attract subject.</li> </ul>
	<p>Public Address Sound Devices (Sirens)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use of public address systems to call for the subject; and</li> <li>Must be stationary so the mobile subject can go toward the sound.</li> </ul>
<p align="center"><b>Investigation</b></p>	<p>Obtaining missing person information and determining why the missing subject went missing.</p>	
	<p>Missing Person Questionnaire</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complete missing person questionnaire.</li> </ul>
	<p>Lead Follow-up</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Follow-up on leads/clues to determine relevance to the missing person.</li> </ul>
	<p>Interviews</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Interview family, friends, neighbors, doctors, co-workers, etc.</li> </ul>

## Confinement/Attraction Tactics

Road Blocks  
Track Traps – Natural and Manmade  
Trail Blocks  
String Lines  
Lookouts  
Helicopter Flyovers  
Ladder, Tower, or Aerial Truck  
Calling from PA / Sound Device  
Campfires

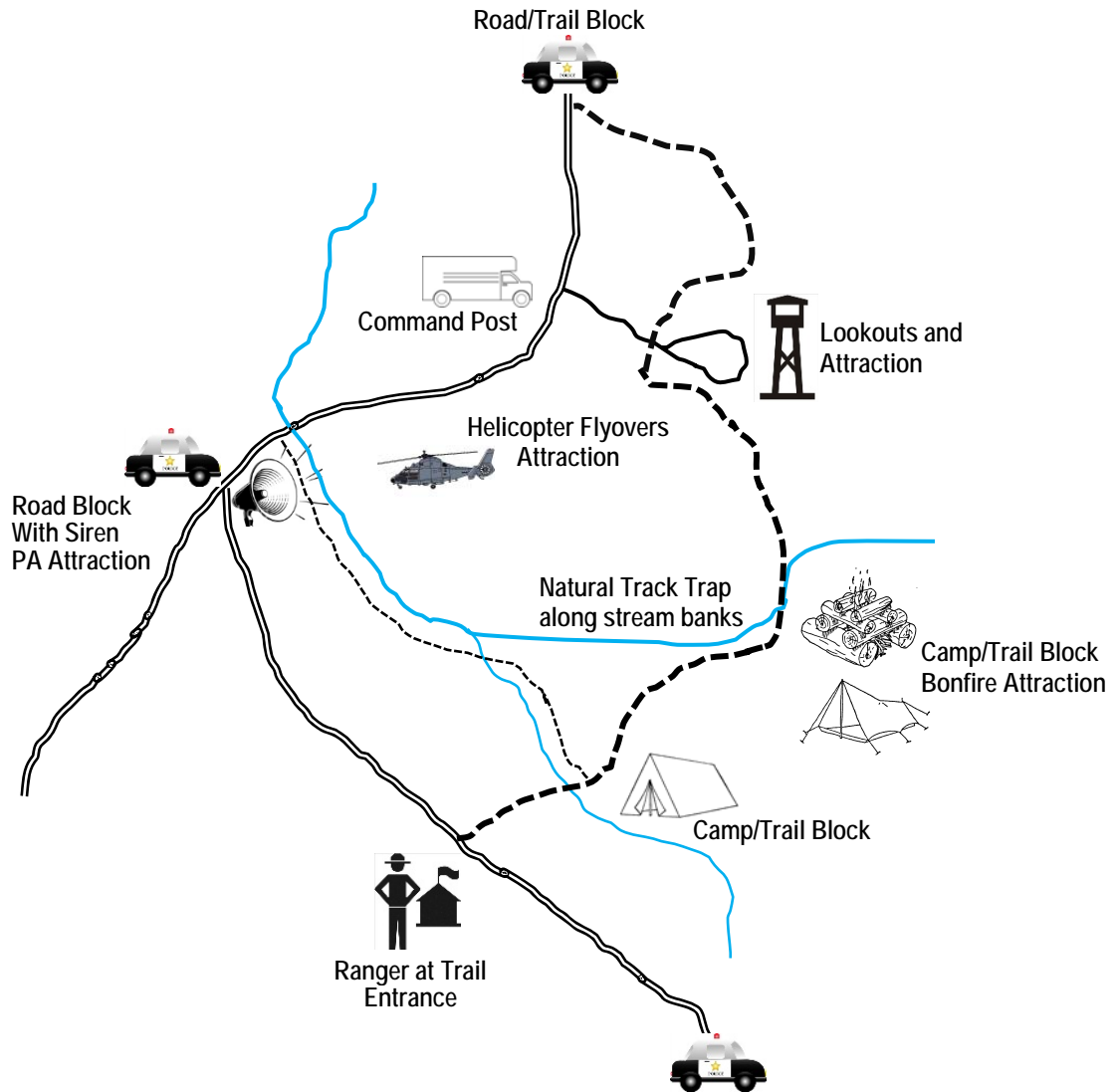


Figure 4-4-1: Confinement/Attraction Tactics

**Table 4-4-2: Ground SAR Team Strategies, Tactics, and Considerations  
Active (Direct) Approach**

Strategy	Tactics	Considerations
<b>Rapid (Hasty) Search</b>		Checking the immediate area, trails, roads, buildings, campsites, and specific areas of high probability. Rapid searches are normally conducted by the initially responding officer and conducted in the immediate area of where the missing subject went missing.
	Linear Features Search (Trackline)	<p>Determine most likely route subject would have gone and quickly cover this route.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Often used for lost hikers, walkers;</li> <li>• Conducted by initial responders;</li> <li>• Need to specify distance from feature for desired coverage;</li> <li>• Follows travel aids (trails, drainages, etc.);</li> <li>• Navigation is the greatest challenge, start task at clear point;</li> <li>• Downhill preferable;</li> <li>• Clue awareness, especially at decision points, is critical; and</li> <li>• Easily combined with sound and tracking techniques.</li> </ul>
	Points of Interest (Spot)	<p>Thoroughly cover a specific area in which the subject may be located</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Check Scenic overlooks, bathrooms, playgrounds, swim pools, bodies of water; and</li> <li>• Check residence, outbuildings, and possible locations the missing subject may have visited.</li> </ul>

Table 4-4-2 is continued on the next page.

Table 4-4-2 (continued)

Strategy	Tactics	Considerations
<b>Segment (Area) Search</b>		<p>Requires easily identifiable boundaries for search teams. Often, these boundaries are also likely routes the missing subject may have traveled, Topographical features natural (ridges, streams, drainages, field edges) or manmade (roads, trails, fences, power or utility transmission line clearings).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tactics depend on type of resources available and terrain.</li> </ul>
	<p>Route (Area) Search (Figure 4-4-2 and Figure 4-4-3)</p>	<p>Systematic search in which team members follow tracks parallel to a side boundary &amp; maintain a predetermined separation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Search area may be covered in one or more passes;</li> <li>• All searchers should attempt to walk in nearly straight lines parallel to the edge of the area, providing uniform, predictable coverage of the entire area;</li> <li>• The base line is usually formed along a search area boundary with searchers properly spaced apart;                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Spacing will determine if the Tactic is less thorough or thorough</li> <li>○ Spacing will be determined by the density of vegetation in the area</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Purposeful wandering may be employed;</li> <li>• Search leaders should select search area boundaries that are easy for the search teams to recognize and follow; may be natural or man-made, pre-existing or set up by the search teams; and</li> <li>• Team Leader keeps the team moving in the right direction, at a reasonable pace, and maintaining proper searcher separation.</li> </ul>
	<p>Area (Grid) Search (Figure 4-4-4 and Figure 4-4-5))</p>	<p>Thorough tactic to raise POD and look for unresponsive subjects.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Competent flankers required, if using emergent volunteers more experienced crew leaders required;</li> <li>• The base line is usually formed along a search area boundary with searchers properly spaced apart;                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Spacing tight to ensure thorough tactical search</li> <li>○ Spacing will be determined by the density of vegetation in the area</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Evidence type search may be shoulder to shoulder and conducted on hands and knees;</li> <li>• Direction of the search follows a specific compass bearing;</li> <li>• Purposeful wandering may be employed;</li> <li>• Instead of large lines, used staggered starts and flagging tape; and</li> <li>• Tight Grid Searching (thorough) is manpower intensive and should be consider as a last resort after other search tactics have been used and narrowed the search area down.</li> </ul>

Table 4-4-2 is continued on the next page.

Table 4-4-2 (continued)

Strategy	Tactics	Considerations
Segment (Area) Search	Sound Sweep	<p>A method to search a relatively large area quickly. It requires that the missing person be responsive.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must be carefully coordinated, audible, and requires all to pause and listen for response;</li> <li>• Sounds can often be heard even when the missing person cannot be seen; and</li> <li>• Searchers will use whistles or call the missing subjects name at specific intervals.</li> </ul>
	Expanding Circle Search (Figure 4-4-6)	<p>Trackers search for clues and sign expanding outward in a spiral from a defined starting point (e.g., LKP, PLS, previous clue).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tactic only effective for small areas;</li> <li>• Typically used at IPP or where a clue is found as a follow-up tactic;</li> <li>• Best with experienced tracking team to avoid destroying clues/tracks; and</li> <li>• May be used following the contour of a hilltop working downward.</li> </ul>

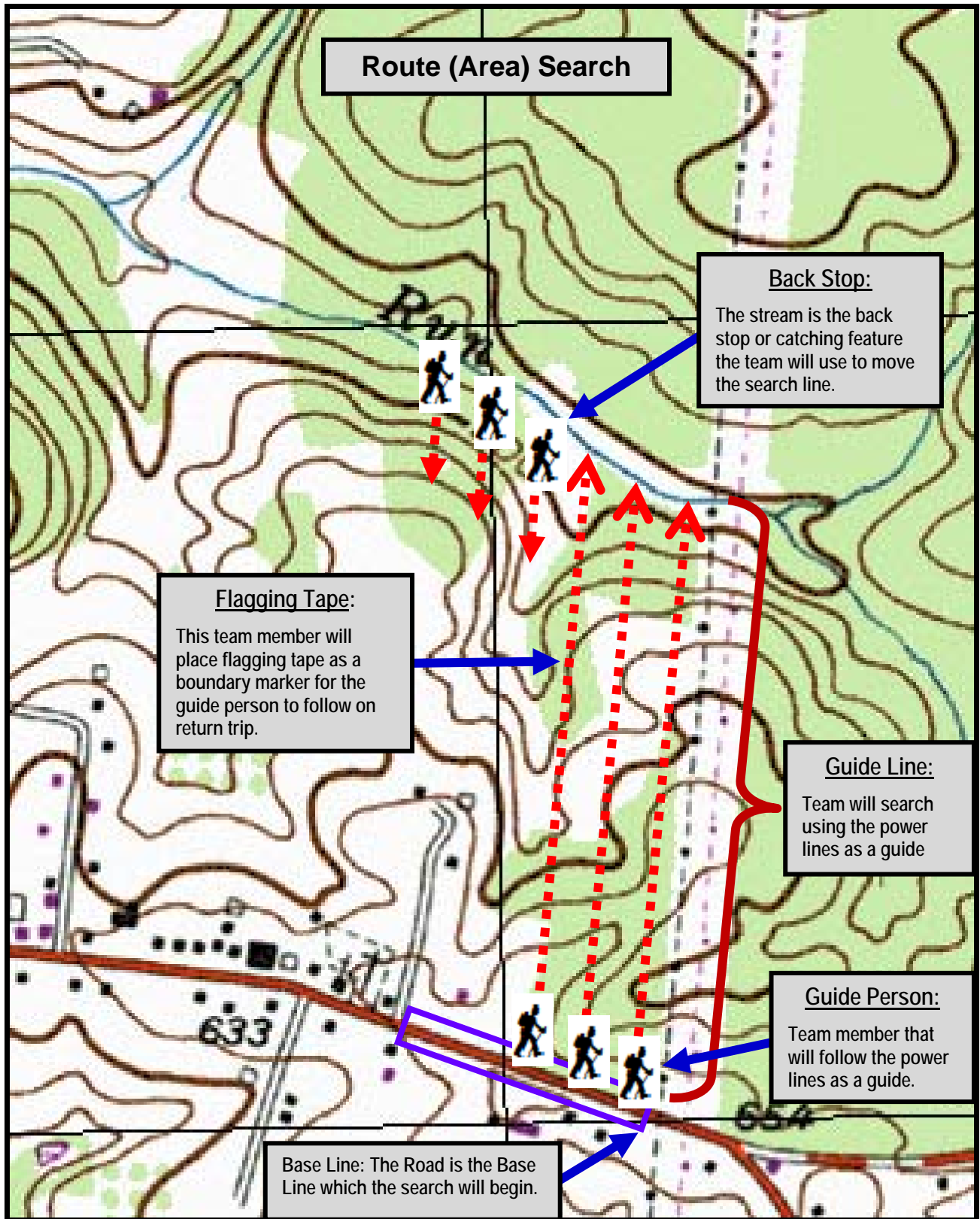


Figure 4-4-2: Route (Area) Search

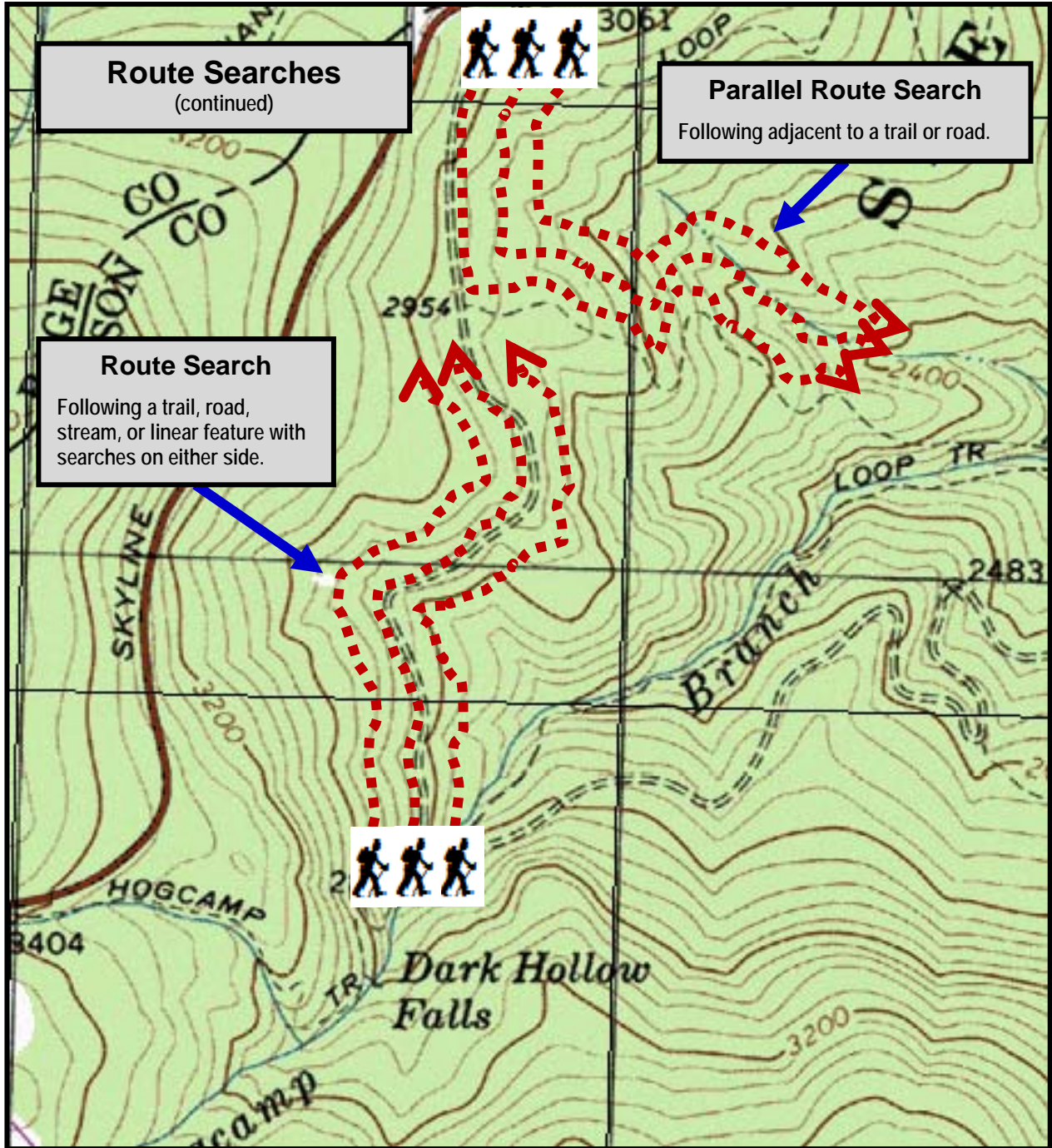


Figure 4-4-3: Route Searches (continued)

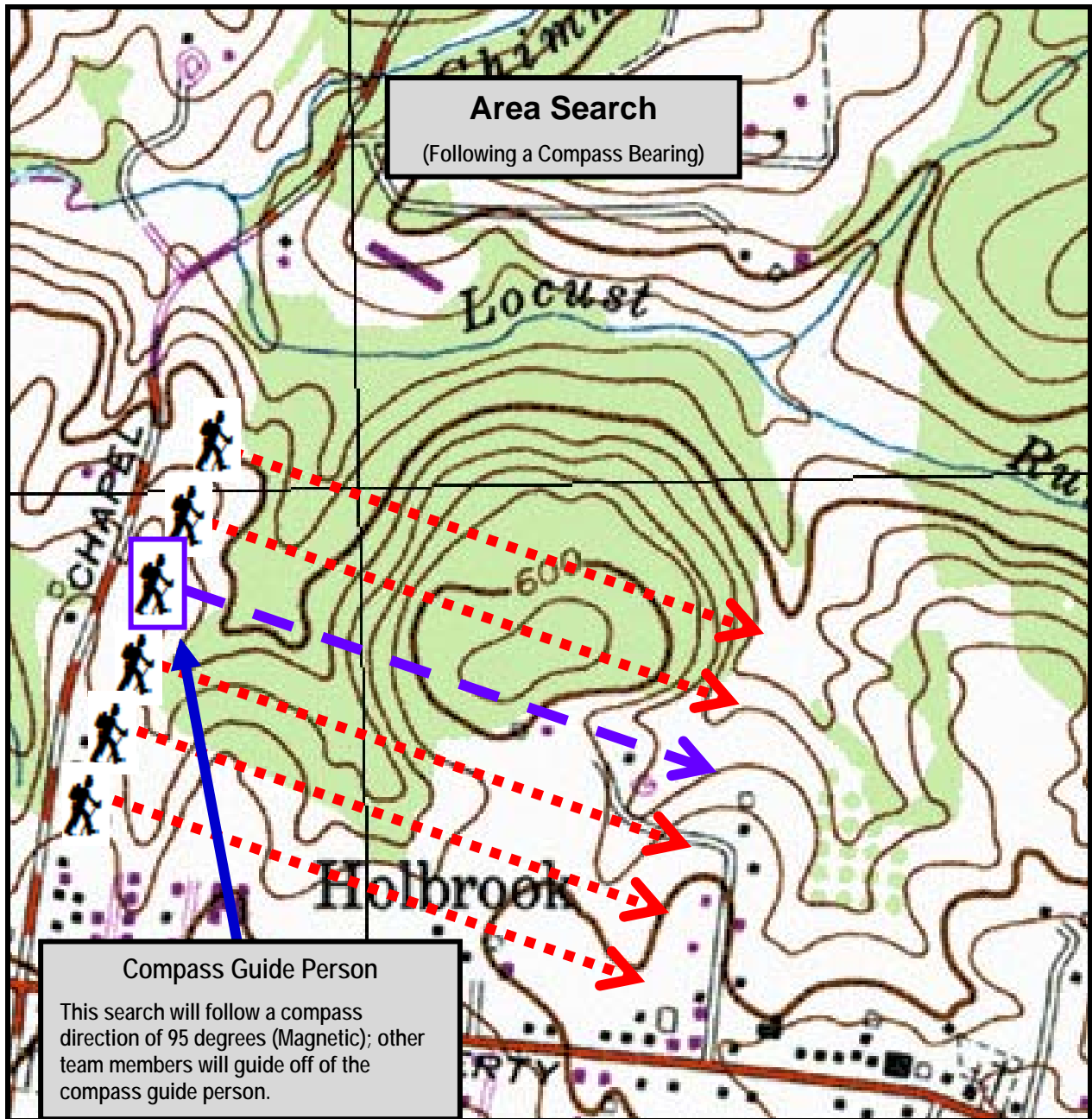


Figure 4-4-4: Area Search (Following a Compass Bearing)



# Area Search: Grid Sweep Search Pattern

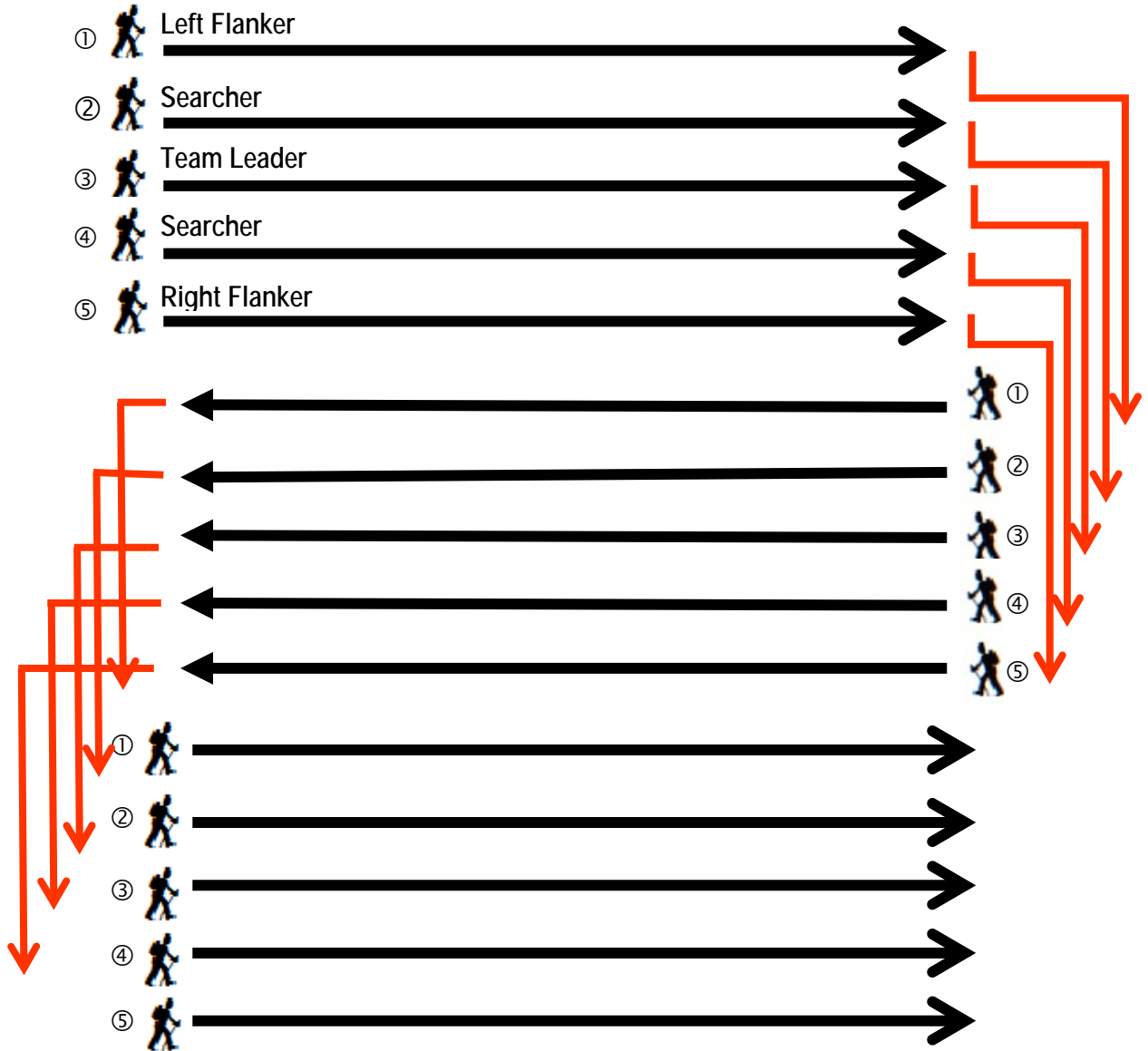


Figure 4-4-5: Area Search: Grid Sweep Search Pattern

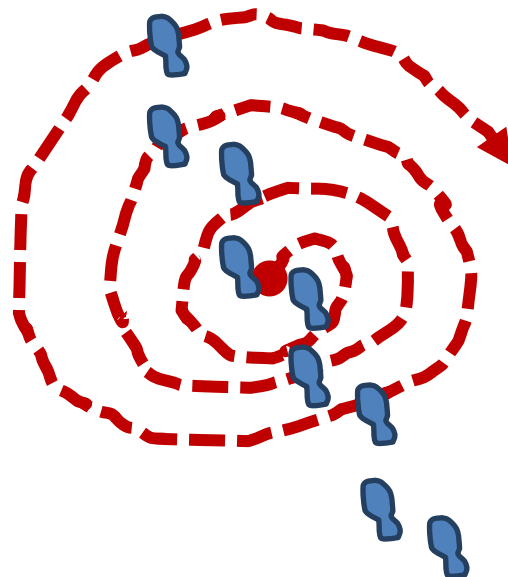
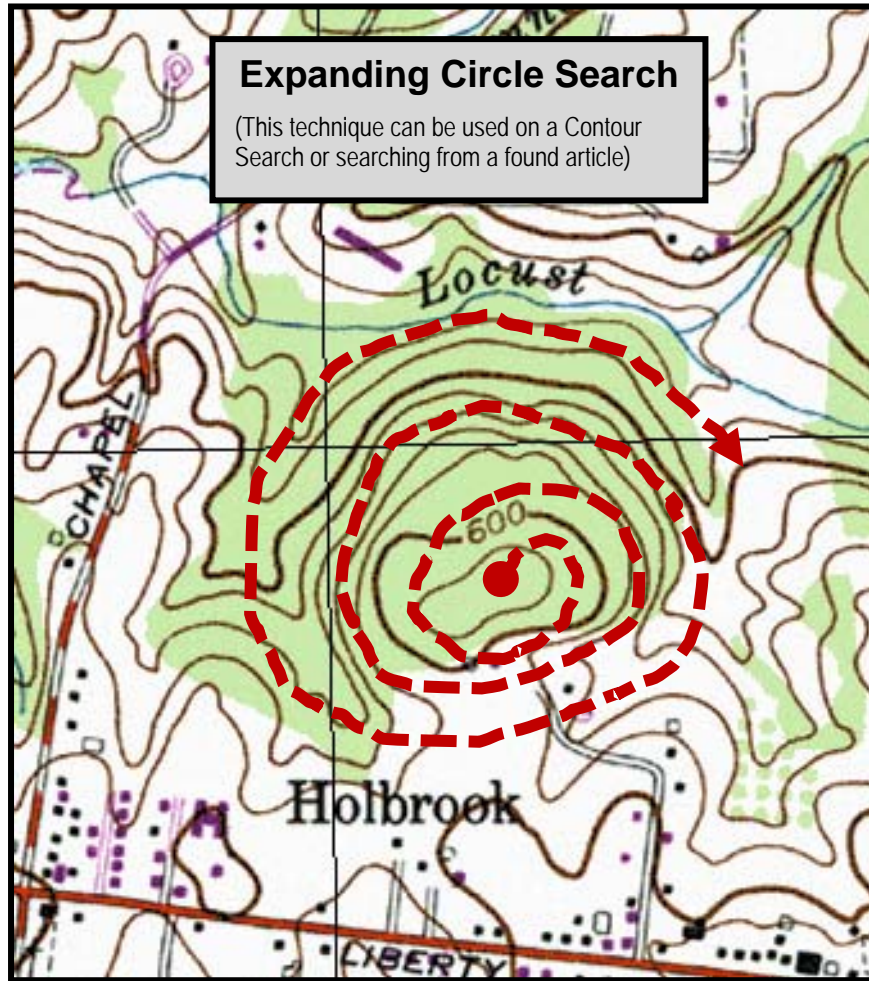


Figure 4-4-6: Expanding Circle Search