



**National Wildfire
Coordinating Group**
National Interagency Fire Center
3833 S. Development Avenue
Boise, Idaho 83705

**National Interagency Aviation Committee
NIAC**

NIAC Conference Call Agenda

Location: BIA Raleigh Atkins Conference Room
Shoshone-Paiute (Shopai) Building
Phone Number: (866) 801-9903

Date: March 31, 2016

Time: 1300 MDT

Participant Code: 9756092#

Leader Code: 1223808#

Roll Call

X	BIA – Joel Kerley	X	NASF – Neal Laugle via phone	X	USFS – Paul Linse
X	BLM – Brad Gibbs	X	NPS – Jon Rollens		USFS – Tom Cook
X	BLM – Rusty Warbis	X	NWCG – Paul Schlobohm	X	BLM – Kari Boyd-Peak
X	FWS – Brian Mullin	X	OAS – Keith Raley		
X	NASF – Brian McKee via phone	X	OAS – Walker Craig		

Guests:

Brad Koeckeritz
Meg Gallagher
Art Hinaman
Elaine Waterbury
Dan Buckley (briefly)

Agenda Topics:

- **Interagency Fire UAS Subcommittee Update & Potential Tasking** Brad Koeckeritz
 - Brad gave overview of UAS Subcommittee standings and updates. Still plenty of unanswered questions. The purchase of three different models of micro UAS will happen soon, with a training course for operators set up for April 24th-25th. Possible Show and Tell Day afterwards.
 - UAS Ops Guide – tentatively pending Spring 2017, work in progress
 - Jon will change the draft tasking “Impediments to UAS Use on Wildfires” to a Request for Status and Briefing paper to be used by anyone in the interagency community for educational purposes.
 - Brad indicated that he may submit a funding request on behalf of his subcommittee to find UAS activities.

- **UAS Incursion Decision Tree** Brad Koeckeritz
 - Brad will email Jon updated version (3/30/16) of UAS Incursion Protocol for Wildland Firefighters. Jon will circulate quickly through NIAC, responses due by COB Friday, April 1.
 - Brad will also provide Jon a draft memo that can be used to elevate the Protocol document to NWCG for distribution to the wildland fire community prior to FY16 field season.

- **Cooperator Aircraft Emergency Use** Art Hinaman
 - Goal: to clarify the procedures for using non-federally approved cooperator aircraft for emergency use.
 - Art provided a comparison of the language in the 2015 and 2016 Redbook. A fundamental difference in the 2016 language is that it indicates states will retain operational control of their aircraft even when being used on federal land. The group agreed this was probably not going to be the case, but it was probably not worth trying to clarify it.
 - Rusty recommended adding a statement for purpose of clarification (to be put into errata sheet for Red Book) about when Governors declare States of Emergency that the decision to use non-federally

approved cooperator aircraft will be made at the regional/state level. The group agreed to support that recommendation and Rusty/Brad will develop the added verbiage and send to Jon for quick NIAC review.

- Since this will first be introduced on errata to Red Book, it was decided that supporting documentation should go along with it. This documentation whether Memo, IB, etc will be discussed later and issued prior to the western wildfire season.

- **NWCG Glossary Update** Elaine Waterbury
 - Elaine explained that many aviation terms are listed as having different definitions in the IHOG, IASG and NWCG glossary. Her concern was more so that the definitions matched in the IHOG and IASG, then NWCG glossary could be cleaned up later.
 - Elaine will get all documents to Jon/Brad. Top priority terms (8 of them) have been tasked to Meg Gallagher as committee chair of IHOpS. The rest may be a project for an individual that Brad has in mind.
 - AS a way to proceed in the future it was suggested that NWCG develop a template to be followed for guide revisions that include a reminder to standardize definitions between guides.

- **FMB AFUE Endorsement Letter** Jon Rollens
 - The letter requesting all field units to endorse the AFUE study on incidents this fire season was issued by FMB on March 30. Jon would like NIAC members to distribute it as widely as possible.

- **Funding for HSES** Paul Linse
 - HSES funding was deemed unnecessary at this time.
 - IHOpS will be the host subcommittee for any HSES tasking. NIAC will task IHOpS to stand up a working group to screen and evaluate helicopters and helicopter missions.

- **Interagency Airtanker Base Subcommittee** Group
 - Jon will talk to Leslie Casavan from San Bernardino to determine if the subcommittee she is working on is an interagency effort or a USFS effort and also try and determine the composition of the current membership.

- **Emergency Helicopter Extraction IHOpS Tasking** Meg Gallagher
 - The IHOpS subcommittee issued an official response to our tasking and suggested that the maintenance of this document be assigned to the USFS short haul specialist (already agreed to by that person). In addition, IHOpS suggested renaming it and providing revising the document so that it's very clear that most of the aircraft in the guide are not approved for federal use and that it is incumbent on the user to make that determination.

- **All Hazard Helicopter Managers** Meg Gallagher
 - Heavy concerns about qualifications and maintaining currency for the newly developed HEAM position. NIAC will issue Memo to NWCG to articulate these concerns. Jon will draft a memo to elevate to NWCG.

- **IHOG Revision Update** Meg Gallagher
 - NIAC recommends endorsing IHOG and obtaining approval (despite potential glossary changes).

- **NWCG Committee/Subcommittee Budget Requests** Jon Rollens
 - Discussion about requesting funding to host an S-370 course. Jon will talk the training unit at NIFC to determine how to bring the course back to life and will let NIAC know what he finds out.
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Action Items:

1. Jon – revise the UAS tasking to ask for a briefing paper on the status of UAS use on wildfires.
2. Brad – will send Jon the updated UAS incursion protocols for a last quick review by NIAC
3. Jon – will forward the approved incursion protocols with a cover memo to NWCG for distribution to the field
4. Rusty/Brad – will updated the Redbook language to require emergency use of non-federal aircraft approval be at the regional/state level and will make sure it gets in the Redbook errata.

5. Elaine – will email Jon the electronic versions of the definition discrepancy documents she presented.
6. Jon – will talk to Leslie Casavan to determine the scope of what she is working on and report back to NIAC
7. Paul – can pass on to the USFS short haul rep that NIAC agreed to the extraction document residing with that position.
8. Jon – will issue a memo to NWCG outlining NIACs concerns with the HEAM position.
9. Meg – will let Jon know when the IHOG is ready to move to NWCG for approval and posting.
10. Jon – will talk to the training unit to determine the process for standing back up S-370. NIAC will look for any old course material in preparation for that effort.
11. Jon – will elevate the dispatch form to NWCG for distribution to the field.

Next Meeting: Thursday, April 28th @ 1300