



Fire Management Board

FMB Memorandum No. 15-002

Date: 15 April 2015

TO: Dan Smith, Chair, National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG)

FROM: William Kaage, Chair, Fire Management Board

SUBJECT: Interagency Aviation Training

The Fire Management Board (FMB) has been reviewing federal-centric work groups and committees to assess appropriate alignment for them given the new governance established for DOI/FS under the Fire Executive Council (FEC). During the process, we reviewed the NWCG Interagency Aviation Training Subcommittee (IATS), chartered under the National Interagency Aviation Committee.

The following concerns surfaced during our review:

- IATS was originally chartered in 1996 with the intent of helping DOI/USFS identify aviation roles and associated required courses.
- The purpose of IATS is not strictly fire related: should it therefore be aligned outside of NWCG?
- Conflicting perceptions whether the role of IATS should be affirmed and strengthened given perceived weaknesses in capability to meet the needs of the complete user community inclusive of USFS Aviation Training (i.e. refreshing of interagency courses, tracking of mandatory training, cost sharing between DOI and USFS) and whether the role of IATS may no longer be necessary given the maturation of both DOI and USFS Aviation Training Programs.
- IATS effectiveness is limited by the actions and inactions of its members.
- Given the above concerns, the mission of IATS is unclear.

We request NWCG review the purpose and alignment of the Interagency Aviation Training Subcommittee and consider whether changes are needed to address these concerns. FMB would like to engage in a joint discussion with the Executive Board in order to clarify issues of concern and potential recommendations to address those issues for a future discussion with the FEC so that steps can be taken to address issues in the appropriate interagency aviation arena.

Please contact the FMB Chair so that we can develop a joint strategy for bringing the topic forward for discussion within the fire and aviation interagency arenas.

cc: Fire Management Board Members; Jon Rollens, Chair, National Interagency Aviation Committee