

**NWCG CURRICULUM MANAGEMENT ISSUE PAPER #66**  
**MODIFICATION TO SITUATION UNIT LEADER POSITION QUALIFICATIONS**  
**April 27, 2005**

**BACKGROUND**

The Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) for S-346, Situation Unit Leader, reviewed the position qualifications for the SITL as part of the course revision process.

**CURRENT STATUS**

The SMEs believe the position qualifications for SITL need to be revised.

To qualify as a SITL there are currently two options:

- 1) Satisfactory performance in one Strike Team Leader position (Crew, Dozer, Engine, Tractor/Plow) plus satisfactory position performance as a Situation Unit Leader on a wildland fire incident.
- 2) Satisfactory performance in any two single resource boss positions (one must be Crew or Engine) plus satisfactory performance as an Incident Commander Type 4 plus satisfactory position performance as a Situation Unit Leader on a wildland fire incident.

Currency can be maintained by performing as a Fire Behavior Analyst or Field Observer.

As reflected in Table 1, the SMEs recommend the following:

1. Prerequisite experience
  - Add “Satisfactory performance as a Field Observer (FOBS)” to option 1 and 2.
  - Delete “Satisfactory performance in any two Single Resource Boss positions” from option 2.
2. Other positions assignments that will maintain currency
  - Delete “Fire Behavior Analyst”

These recommendations are based on the following considerations:

- FOBS typically has better knowledge, skills and experience to successfully perform as a SITL than a single resource boss.
- Operations experience would not be lost with adding FOBS, since a single resource boss is a prerequisite for FOBS.
- The elimination of “Satisfactory performance as any Single Resource Boss” would not impact training requirements for the SITL because FOBS has to be qualified as a single resource boss.
- FOBS currently maintains SITL currency.
- FOBS is an entry level position into the Planning Section and provides a career ladder to the Planning Section Chief.
- The “Fire Behavior Analyst” should be deleted from “Other Positions Assignments that Will Maintain Currency” because the FBAN tasks are not relevant to the primary duties of the SITL.

**Table 1. Proposed changes to Situation Unit Leader (SITL) position qualifications in the PMS 310-1.**

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <u>Required Training</u>  | None   |
| <u>Additional Training Which Supports Development of Knowledge and Skills</u> | Intermediate ICS (I-300)<br>Situation Unit Leader (S-346)  |
| <u>Prerequisite Experience</u>  | Satisfactory performance as a Field Observer<br>+<br>Satisfactory performance in one Strike Team Leader position (Crew, Dozer, Engine, Tractor/Plow)<br>+<br>Satisfactory position performance as a Situation Unit Leader on a wildland fire incident<br><u>OR</u><br>Satisfactory performance as a Field Observer<br>+<br>Satisfactory performance as an Incident Commander Type 4<br>+<br>Satisfactory position performance as a Situation Unit Leader on a wildland fire incident |
| <u>Physical Fitness</u>   | Moderate   |
| <u>Other Position Assignments That will Maintain Currency</u>                 | Field Observer   |

**RECOMMENDATION**

Revise SITL position qualifications as indicated in Table 1.

**APPROVED** / **DENIED**  
(circle one)

*Accept FBAN recommendation. /s/ Bob Leaverton*

SIGNATURE



6/7/05

IOSWT Chair

Date

cc: Training Working Team