



NATIONAL WILDFIRE COORDINATING GROUP

NWCG Briefing Paper

October 22, 2021

FROM: Interagency Fire Unmanned Aircraft Systems Subcommittee (IFUASS)

SUBJECT: **Approval of Required UAS Aerial Ignition Workshop**

Background

UAS aerial ignitions (AI) is a high-in-demand resource for wildland fire managers. To keep up with the growing demand for UAS AI while maintaining critical standardization and safety with training, IFUASS has approved a required weeklong AI workshop for a payload orientation in FY22. The experience from qualified UAS AI pilots and lessons learned from the previous two years of aerial ignition operations in the field have shown the need to establish and require a standardized UAS AI workshop. The UAS AI workshop is a critical and a key training event for UAS AI pilots learning mission execution towards certification and carding meeting the standards expected by the interagency UAS AI community.

UAS Aerial Ignition Transition Plan

For FY 2022, all UAS AI candidates must attend a UAS AI Workshop. Minimum prerequisites to become fully qualified UAS Aerial Ignition carded pilot include:

- Attendance at UAS AI Workshop
- Qualified UASP
- Qualified Single Resource
- Completion of mission evaluation form and approved by UAS Inspector Pilot via Check Flight

To meet the performance and experience requirements for aerial ignition and to increase speed to competency, candidates may choose to attend the two-week academy field practicum immediately following the workshop with the UAS AI SME's. The Qualifications and Curriculum Board under IFUASS strongly recommends this path for candidates. Alternatively, candidates may return to their respective home units as trainees to work on UAS AI with local or national OJT trainee assignments under a current and qualified AI pilot.

All UAS AI candidates will be signed off by a qualified UAS AI Instructor that is outside of their respective home unit and listed on the OAS or Forest Service instructor/inspector list.

The UAS AI Workshop is scheduled for February 27 – MARCH 5, 2022, in Tallahassee, FL. The two-week academy field practicum continues from March 6 – 19, 2022 culminating in a final classroom roundup providing experiential learning opportunities for participants, cadre, and leadership. Nominations are through respective agency UAS Program Manager or Regional UAS Specialists.

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