



National Wildfire Coordinating Group National Interagency Aviation Committee

NIAC-19-05

Date: 27 February 2019

To: Mike Reid, Chair, Aviation Risk Management Subcommittee

From: Joel Kerley, Chair, National Interagency Aviation Committee

Subject: **Tasking – Standardize processes and procedures for Aviation Safety and Technical Assistance Team (ASTAT) mobilization and products**

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Purpose: This memorandum tasks the Aviation Risk Management Subcommittee to draft a template Delegation of Authority which details Aviation Safety and Technical Assistance Team (ASTAT) recommended personnel and a list of standard product expectations for dissemination prior to ASTAT mobilization.

Background: As stated in in the *Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations (2019)*, with regards to an Aviation Safety and Technical Assistance Team (ASTAT):

During high levels of aviation activity, it is advisable to request an Aviation Safety and Technical Assistance Team (ASTAT). An ASTAT's purpose is to enhance risk management, efficiency, effectiveness, and provide technical assistance while reviewing aviation operations. If an ASTAT cannot be filled internally, the request may be placed with NICC through established ordering channels using individual overhead requests. An ASTAT should operate under a Delegation of Authority from the appropriate State/Regional Aviation Manager(s) or Multi Agency Coordinating Group. Formal written reports shall be provided to appropriate manager(s) as outlined at the in-brief. A team should be developed to fit the need of the requesting unit and may consist of the following:

- Aviation Safety Manager;
- Operations Specialist (helicopter and/or fixed wing);
- Pilot Inspector;
- Maintenance Inspector;
- Avionics Inspector (optional); and
- Aircraft Dispatcher (optional). (Ch 16, p.324, lines 15-32).

Discussion

ASTAT mobilizations and products have lacked consistency. As the lessons learned and corrective actions have National implications, a standardized approach to ASTAT conduct will facilitate a more effective utilization of learning. A review of team composition is necessary to assure opportunities to learn are optimized. The Aviation Risk Management Subcommittee members are subject matter experts in risk management and therefore uniquely qualified to review current ASTAT personnel composition, standards and products.

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cc: National Interagency Aviation Committee members