



National Wildfire Coordinating Group National Interagency Aviation Committee

NIAC-20-08

Date: 10 August 2020
To: Frank Guzman, Chair, National Wildfire Coordinating Group
From: Joel Kerley, Chair, National Interagency Aviation Committee *Joel M Kerley*
Subject: Establishing a National System to set Call Signs for Exclusive Use (EU) Air Attack Platforms.

Purpose: The purpose of this memo is to request the NWCG Executive Board (EB) assist in adopting a standard for call signs for Exclusive Use (EU) Air Attack Platforms. This proposal was developed by the Interagency Aerial Supervision Subcommittee (IASSC) in coordination with the National Interagency Aviation Committee (NIAC) and the National Coordination System Committee (NCSC).

Background: Since the 1970s, the Pacific Southwest Region of the Forest Service have used call signs for their EU Air Attack Platforms. The number consists of the Forest number where the EU platforms are stationed. Aerial supervisors have discussed the potential to develop a convention for naming EU Air Attack Platforms that would apply nationally. Adopting the call sign system lends itself to developing alignment with other call sign identified resources (e.g. Engines, Crews).

Issue/Action Requested: Request assistance with the adoption of the call sign standard for EU Air Attack Platforms. The initial year implementation of the standard would be considered a beta test, with permanent updates planned for sequential years. Updates would include all appropriate documents and applications at the National Interagency Coordination Center (NICC), Geographic Area Coordination Centers (GACC), and local dispatches. Implementation of the proposal will include updating Automated Flight Following (AFF) to display call signs. Additional points include:

- Total Mobility ([see page 1 of the National Mobilization Guide](#)) is supported through this proposal. The proposed call sign naming convention provides information pertinent to resource movement, prioritization and it distinguishes between EU and Call When Needed (CWN) platforms.
- Automated Flight Following will be updated with the new resource identifier call signs. For EU aircraft the call sign stays with the platform while under contract.
- CWN platforms will continue to use the last 3 characters of their registration number (N#).
- Operationally, Air Attack platforms will continue to use “incident” call signs when assuming incident air attack. (“AA-402” is now “Ranch Air Attack”)

Below is description of the call sign standard.

- First Number:
 - The first number for all Interagency EU Air Attack Call Signs will be the Forest Service regional identification number where the platform is hosted. (e.g. 1,2,3).
- Numbers Two and Three:
 - Forest Service will use the two digit number of the forest that the platform is hosted by:

- USFS 0-29
- Cooperating agencies will use the two digit number assigned to their agency:
 - BLM 30-39
 - BIA 40-49
 - States, NPS, FWS 50-99

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