

August 23, 2023

## IATS Conference Call Notes

(4<sup>th</sup> WEDNESDAY of every MONTH)

TIME: 1000 MOUNTAIN TIME

[Interagency Aviation Training Subcommittee \(IATS\)](#)  
NWCG/NIAC

## IATS MS TEAMS Meeting

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(Notes/RFC/Docs):

**Roll call- Facilitator Garcia 10:00**

AGENCY	ATTENDEES	ALTERNATE (Approved)	ROLL CALL <i>Present, Excused, Absent</i>
<b>PRIMARY</b>			
USFS-RASM	Sean Aidukas	Kevin Merrill	P/P
BIA	Branden Spencer		A
<b>BLM, VICE CHAIR</b>	Gilbert Garcia	Matt Shaddle	P/P
OAS	Travis Touchette		E
NPS	Ody Anderson	Mike O'Leary	P
<b>USFS-NATPM, CHAIR</b>	Tori Leshuk		P
USFS-HOS	Nathan Alexander	Josh Ingle	P
USGS	Lisa Faust		P
FWS-Alaska	Tom Greil		A
USFS-FHP	Jeremiah Henry	Scott Sontag	P
BSEE	Andrew Wareham	Michael Jordan	P
BOR	Natalie Adams	Dave Rosser	P
OSMRE	Lukus Monette	Dave Rosser	P
<b>ASSOCIATE</b>			
OAS-UAS	Colin Milone		P
USFS-UAS	Liz Younger	Justin Baxter	P/P
OAS-OAS TB Chief	Woody Kessler		P
OAS-IAT Webmaster	Louise Bruck		P
OAS- Notes	Cheryl Giffen		P
<b>GUESTS/SME</b>			
NWCG-Coordinator	Carmen Thomason		A

<b>IATS AGENDA</b> <i>Items submitted prior to meeting prioritized Facilitators: Garcia</i>		
<b>Presenter/Time</b>	<u><b>Agenda Item</b></u>	<b>#RFC/Decision</b> <b>Concurrence/Pending</b>
<b>Garcia 10:05</b>	<b>Item 1: Past Notes Vote-Poll results</b> Past notes shall be reviewed prior to meeting attendance. <i>Note language below: 6.4 Subcommittee Member Duties</i>	<b>July Notes- Approved RFC 23-05 NIAC Approved</b>
<b>10:15 Liz Younger</b>	<b>Item 2: RFC – A454 Airframe Designation -Decisional - Current</b> A454 evaluated and qualified instructors can create a course for all the options within the A454 course creation screen. However, not every instructor that has been evaluated for A454 is qualified to teach every platform/course within the selection options. An example is a FQ Instructor that was evaluated while teaching a Parrot Anafi course can create a course for the Alta-X, which is a different ground control station and application. We have already seen some of this occur within IAT.  Insert a sub-qualification for all instructors to create a specific A454-Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems (sUAS) Add-on Course offering in IAT for all fully qualified instructors. All Instructors must be current and qualified to teach each A454 course individually and carded on the airframe or hold a current enforcement for the specific course.  Agencies/Bureaus will manage qualified instructors by issuing a designation letter/per platform from the National/Washington Office level and follow the IAT instructor certification process in the IAT guide. National level letters will be submitted to IAT to be filed in their instructor qualifications. <b>Gil will send out the POLL</b>	<b>RFC 23-06</b>
<b>Kessler 10:30</b>	<b>Item 3: A209 revision SME group brief/Memo 23-01 Aircrew Manager Pathway Gap- Informational -</b> The A-209 Helicopter Operations Course Revision Group has identified a skills/knowledge gap between aircrew member qualification and aircraft (RW/FW) manager qualification found in the IAT Guide.  Currently some Agencies/Bureaus are filling the skills/knowledge gap by requiring aircrew members to take the S-271 Helicopter Crewmember Training produced by NWCG. The S-Course training is designed specifically for Fire Helicopter Crew Members (HECM) and requires the completion of a position task book (PTB) prior to full qualification in IQCS. NWCG is a performance-based system that requires a combination of training and performance.  <b>Suggested Solution:</b> Develop a course for Aircrew members that bridges the skills/knowledge gap between basic aircrew member and manager (helicopter / fixed wing) positions in IAT. Which position will the training be required for?	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can we create a new position in the aviation position development path to help close the gap i.e – Passenger – Special Use (A-100, A-200),</li> <li>• Aircrew Member (A-100, A-110, A-200, A-XXX)</li> <li>• Helicopter Flight Manager (current plan + A-XXX)</li> <li>• Fixed Flight Manger (current plan + A-XXX)</li> <li>• Helicopter Manger – Special Use (current plan + A-XXX)</li> <li>• Fixed Wing Flight Manager – Special Use (current plan + A-XXX)</li> </ul> <p>The A209 SME group will develop a list of skills/knowledge they can clearly articulate are missing in the gap between aircrew member and the manager positions. These need to be clearly defined and missing from the existing training courses required for the positions. It is suggested a table to easily display the gap. This will need to be routed through the IATS, NIAC, OAS SLT, EAS, and USFS leadership prior to approval to begin development. Please note the solution above is just a suggestion, the SME group for A-209 should look at all the possibilities to reduce the impact to the current training system while achieving the objective.</p> <p>Input from all Bureaus what the effect would be? Do you see a skills gap or training gap? Suggested solutions. Create a super 209 or create 2 smaller classes. Results of a contractor come in and looking would say skills gap, or position gap. <b>In person IATS Agenda Item</b></p>	
<p><b>Leshuk</b> 11:00</p>	<p><b>Item 4: IATS In-person meeting response and agenda topics – 10/17-10/19/23 BOISE</b> <b>Holiday Inn Express Park Center Boise – Tori will send out a calendar invite.</b></p>	
<p><b>Subgroup Report Outs/Taskings <i>Facilitator: Leshuk</i></b></p>		
<p><b>Kessler/Milone/Younger</b> 11:15</p>	<p><b>UAS Training Group</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A450 subgroup update. Proposed deadlines: Beta tests the week <b>3/13</b> and <b>3/19</b> Field test: <b>5/08</b>, and <b>6/05</b>. Expected approval date 9/14 – Each unit is getting finishing touches deadline pushed back to 10/1/23.</li> </ul>	
<p>11:30 Garcia/Bruck</p>	<p><b>2023 IAT Guide Revision Subgroup report out -PAUSED New revision cycle deadline: 1/1/24 – In person Meeting Agenda item</b></p>	
<p><b>Kessler/Bruck</b></p>	<p>Anissa is in OKC this week 8/23/23 looking at venues for ACE 2024 – IAT Newsletter providing folks a broader area for a poll for the Eastern ACE 2025. Also, Spring ACE location. Login.gov – is being put into place with the IAT site 10/1/23 communication in future newsletter.</p>	
<p><b>Meeting Closeout <i>Facilitator: Leshuk</i></b> <b>Next IATS meeting: September IATS meeting canceled- <b>Next meeting Oct. 17-19 (in-person Boise)</b></b></p>		

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**Green – Things Completed**

**Red – ACTION Items**

**Purple – Shout outs and gratitude**

**Quorum:** A minimum of two-thirds of the NWCG primary members constitutes a quorum. A quorum is required to make decisions and/or direct actions. 13 Primary IATS Members = 9 for Quorum (8.7)

**However, the 2022 IATS Letter of Intent states:**

*6.4 Subcommittee Member Duties:*

*Be available to vote for your respective bureau/agency/state on issues as needed to forward business conducted by the IATS. If not available to vote, IATS consensus is accepted.*

## **Minutes, Notes, Records**

Meeting leaders should ensure that notes/minutes are taken during each meeting. Minutes must include:

Date, time, and location

Names of attendees

Main topics of discussion

Decisions made

Action items assigned.

Meeting minutes, agendas and attached documentation are considered records. NWCG records management procedures must be followed for appropriate creation, maintenance, and disposition of electronic and hardcopy meeting records.

Additionally, completed minutes must be emailed to the respective Coordinator for posting to the NWCG website.