



National Interagency Aviation Committee Meeting Notes

November 14, 2019

NIAC Members: Joel Kerley (BIA), Brad Gibbs (BLM), Brian McKee (NASF), Neal Laugle (NASF), John Buehler (NPS), Tim Blake (NWCG), Krysta Shultz (NWCG), Walker Craig (OAS), Keith Raley (OAS), Paul Linse (USFS), Kent Hamilton (USFS). Not present: Anthony Lascano (FWS).

Guests: GaBriella Branson (Data Management Committee), Dan Boyle (Interagency Helicopter Operations Subcommittee), Cory Noordermeer (Interagency Airtanker Board).

Topic & Notes	Decision
October minutes review and approval <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group discussed status of action items from prior meeting. 	Approved.
Interagency Helicopter Operations Subcommittee (IHOPS)/Aerial Ignition Unit – Test & Evaluate Current/New Helicopter PSD Machines for Effectiveness <ul style="list-style-type: none"> IHOPS approved the use of SEI Industries Sling Dragon, letter was sent to NIAC in late October. Use is contingent upon creating operational standards. Working to draft language for the <i>NWCG Standards for Helicopter Operations</i>, PMS 510 that will include use guidelines, an approval process, as well as including Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) information. Anticipate finalizing the draft at their face-to-face meeting in January. IHOPS will provide an update to NIAC in February. 	Draft tasking to test and evaluate current/new helicopter PSD machines for effectiveness will be put on hold until February. Topic added to February agenda.
Flight Following and Resource Tracking Definitions – Request for Change <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Confusion amongst the Dispatch and Aviation community on the terms Flight Following and Resource Tracking. An aviation/dispatch task group was formed to work towards a solution. The current definition of Flight Following is more descriptive of aircraft tracking vs. flight following. Fails to include agency flight following methods which have been included in the extended definition. Definitions will be sent by the Data Standards and Terminology Subcommittee (DSTS) for a 30-day review. 	NIAC approves the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flight Following definition with the word “actively” deleted. Resource Tracking definition with the words “and safety” deleted. Ending the sentence with resource status. Will co-steward of the term Flight Following. Will <u>not</u> co-steward the term Resource Tracking.
NWCG Draft Aircraft Typing Standards <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members reviewed the proposed changes for aircraft typing standards. Further, the group recognizes that examples listed on the website under each typing standard (Airtankers, SEATS, and Helicopters) may or may not be approved for use. The group is okay with this practice, as the website is fluid and can be updated regularly. Members will be seeking input from their subcommittees to update the standards for SEATS and Helicopters. 	NIAC members reviewed and approved the draft aircraft typing standards for posting to the NWCG website.
<i>Interagency Helicopter Extraction Source List, PMS 512</i>	Added to January agenda.



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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members discussed the validity of information provided on the website in the PMS 512 and recognize that there is inaccurate information currently posted. Walker Craig will take the topic and added to the next Helicopter Short-Haul Unit (HSHU) meeting for discussion on which sections should remain and which can be deleted. 	
<p>Interagency Airtanker Board (IAB) – Request for Direction regarding testing Palletized Container Aerial Delivery System (PCADS)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NIAC discussed the request from entities such as Caylym to test dropping retardant and other liquids in containers over the gridded system. At this time, NIAC is not prepared to support the use of the Caylym Guardian Containerized Aerial Firefighting System (CAFFS) reasons are listed in the memo. 	<p>NIAC will draft a memo providing their clarification of their position on Containerized Aerial Firefighting System (CAFFS).</p>
<p>Feedback on Air Tactical Group Supervisor (ATGS) Qualification</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NIAC members discussed the feedback request that ATGS should maintain currency for ICT3 not ICT4 as ICT3 is a pathway to the ATGS qualification. Members looking for a timeline of when the standard was changed and why. Will seek input from the Incident and Position Standards Committee (IPSC). 	<p>NIAC consensus is to leave the ATGS position as is. Will seek further input from IPSC on corporate memory of the change.</p>
<p>Tasking – IAB Aerial Delivery System Subcommittee Request for Input from Industry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The National Training and Development Program (NTDP) is currently soliciting input from the airtanker, water scooper, SEAT, and helicopter industry regarding the process of developing draft aerial delivery system criteria. The USFS will be testing models to do away with the grid and go to more computerized models. Modeling would be proprietary to the vendor. Further investigations need to be done to see if a Request for Information (RFI) needs to be done to come up with a better solution. Looking to have a draft solution to agencies for review by December with decision by Jan/Feb 2020. 	<p>NIAC approved posting memo #18-01 Interagency Airtanker Board/ Aerial Delivery System Subcommittee Request for Input from Industry to the website.</p>
<p>Status of NWCG Tasking 18-001 Interagency Aviation Strategy Next Steps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members reviewed intent of the tasking and progress to date and agree the intent has been accomplished and the task can be closed. Can address the tasking for national resources, making information accessible on their webpage. 	<p>NIAC will attend the NWCG and FMB meeting to provide and update on the strategy and seek further direction.</p>