



National Interagency Aviation Committee Meeting Notes

February 13, 2020

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

Guests: Leslie Casavan (USFS), Steve Price (BLM), Dan Boyle (NASF), Cory Noordmeer (USFS), Gil Dustin (BLM), Annie Benoit (NWCG), Brad Koeckeritz (DOI), Kristina Curtis (BLM), and Justin Jager (NPS).

Topic & Notes	Decision
January minutes review and approval <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group discussed status of action items from prior meeting. 	Approved.
Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Aerial Ignition <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aerial ignition has been approved for interagency use in support of wildland fire (wildfire and prescribed fire). Challenge to get successful missions accomplished due to the inability to conduct training. The USFS is currently sponsoring a non-flying orientation to the Ignis system. This will enable the field to conduct on-the-job training missions. Anticipate putting 20 individuals through the course. The Interagency Fire Unmanned Aircraft Systems Subcommittee (UASSC) will be working on IPD development for the UAS Aerial Ignition position. 	N/A
DOI Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) Program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secretary Order 3379, Temporary Cessation of Non-Emergency Unmanned Aircraft Systems Fleet Operations was signed January 29, 2020. Follow-up guidance sent out January 31 to each bureau providing information on the process for reporting emergency flights and training. H.R.4753 Drone Origin Security Enhancement Act prohibits the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) from operating, financing, or procuring foreign manufactured unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) has passed the House. No further guidance issued regarding the procurement of new systems. Department of Defense (DOD) is looking to get the <i>blue drone</i> on the GSA Schedule for purchase. Request for waivers need a 30-day notice. Current successful approvals for training and prescribed fire. 	N/A
Interagency Airtanker Base Subcommittee (IABS) Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current projects: Created the SEAT Unit and Airtanker Base Risk Management Unit and will be looking for members soon, reviewing and updating IPDs, working with NWCG training in developing the Fixed-Wing Parking Tender (FWPT) training requirements, and reviewing and updating SOPs. Future projects: “Green, Amber, Red” status for Airtanker Base Operations and working on AD Pay Plan Airtanker Base revisions. 	Topic added to March.
Interagency Aerial Supervision Subcommittee (IASS) – Helicopter Coordinator Unit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of National Helicopter Training Platform, HLCO integrated into the National Aerial Supervision Training Academy (NASTA). This will be done to increase the amount of people trained as a 	N/A



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<p>Helicopter Coordinator (HLCO) and will result in an increased ability to utilize the right tool for the right request at the right time. Mirror what the Air-Attack program is doing. Shawn Walters is taking the lead on the issue.</p>	
<p>Establishing a national system to set call signs for Exclusive Use (EU) Air Attack platforms</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suggested numbering system will standardize call signs for EU Air Attack that aligns them with other resource identifiers and will help create a national system. These will help wildland fire aviators develop situational awareness (SA) and will not change the way Air Attack platforms apply call signs operationally and continue to take the call sign of the incident when assigned. • Have received good buy-in from the Geographic Area Coordination Centers (GACCs) and dispatch centers. The standard would eventually live in the <i>NWCG Standards for Aerial Supervision</i>, PMS 505. 	<p>Approved.</p>
<p>Interagency Airtanker Board (IAB) Approval of Helicopter Fixed Tanks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conformity checks on tanked helicopters ended in 2005 and it is unknown of those systems have changed since the last time they were tested. There are several new designs that are currently in the late stages of development. • Testing helicopters for coverage is harder to establish due to the variability in height and airspeeds associated with helicopters. Static tests can establish flow rates and if the system meets basic requirements. Grid testing is not effective due to the variability in airspeeds over specific dial settings. Accomplishing static and basic approval/conformity for a current and/or new system would depend on the number of aircraft and systems available. 	<p>At this time, NIAC does not recommend the Interagency Airtanker Board (IAB) develop a processes and procedures for the test and evaluation of fixed-tanks on helicopters.</p> <p>The focus of the IAB is to evaluate fixed-wing airtankers against established performance criteria and recommends approval for use.</p>
<p>Interagency Helicopter Operations Subcommittee (IHOPS)-Aerial Ignition Unit – Test and Evaluate Current/New Helicopter PSD Machines for Effectiveness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some Federal Interagency Cache systems have historically carried PSD machines as an order source for Agency and/or Interagency ignition operations. These machines have traditionally been difficult for the cache systems to refurbish due to lack of training and knowledge. These machines are often times returned with parts missing and/or in poor working condition. The cache system lacks the personnel with knowledge or experience to maintain the machines to a desired standard. 	<p>NIAC will draft a tasking to the Interagency Helicopter Operations Subcommittee (IHOPS) to begin the process of removing PSD machines from the cache system with the exception of Alaska.</p>
<p>Establish Point of Contact (POCs) to update and maintain <i>Interagency Helicopter Extraction Source List</i>, PMS 512</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Interagency Helicopter Operations Subcommittee (IHOPS) will work with the Helicopter Short-Haul Unit (HSHU) to identify those individuals who will help maintain the publication. 	<p>Approved.</p>
<p>Incident Position Description (IPD) Review Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operation Positions – review and verify the air operations statement in the following positions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ CRWB, ENGB, FFT1, STCR, and TFLD. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Provide status updates on conditions affecting operations, hazardous conditions, unresolved conflicts, air operations, etc. to supervisor.</i> ○ DIVS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Establish air support protocols and communications. Coordinate and prioritize activities with aviation operations.</i> 	<p>N/A</p>



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- *Provide status updates on conditions affecting operations, hazardous conditions, unresolved conflicts, air operations, etc. to supervisor.*
- Consider:
 - Adding a statement to each of the operation positions regarding *line clearance*. Work with Kent Hamilton, Steve Price, and Walter Bundt for applicable language.
- Next Steps: ICT3, ICT4, and ICT 5 will be available for NIAC's review within 1-2 months.
- Air Ops Positions:
 - ABRO, DECK, ATBM, HECM, and HMGB.
 - The Interagency Helicopter Operations Subcommittee (IHOPS) tasked the Standards for Helicopter Operations Unit (SHOU) to refine and categorize these IPDs.
 - AOBD and ASGS.
 - Work with IHOPS, Dan Boyle to review and provide input on these positions.
 - HLCO and ATGS.
 - Need engagement by the Interagency Aerial Supervision Subcommittee (IASS), Steve Price to develop these IPDs.
 - ACAC.
 - Will need to seek input from the Area Command/Incident Command (ACIC) and the National Multi-Agency Coordination Group (NMAC) for the validity of this position and draft the position.
- All groups will be working with Annie Benoit for input into these positions.