



NIAC Meeting Notes

May 13, 2021

NIAC Members: John Buehler (NPS)- Chair, Jason Baldwin (USFS), Tim Blake (NWCG) Glen Claypool (BLM), Walker Craig (OAS), Brad Gibbs (BLM), Anthony Lascano (FWS), Keith Raley (OAS), Matt Woodwick (NASF) **Not present:** Joel Kerley (BIA), Neal Laugle (NASF)

Guests: Kim Owczarzak, Shawn Steber, Nic Strohmeyer, Jarrod Simontacchi

| Topic & Notes | Decision |
|---|---|
| Roll Call, Review Agenda, Approve Past Notes for Posting | April 2021 notes approved for posting on NIAC site |
| 1. 20-09 Tasking Update <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Pause on tasking due to question of liability due to the official charge of the emergency response. Question was elevated to the Office of General Council and they concluded that whoever is overseeing the airspace, so long as that individual is a federal government employee, they are protected by the Federal Tort Claims Act. FS may be liable. Document created by IASC has been advanced to the General Law and Research Division (GLRD), where it is now.○ Patrick Moran, with the GLRD has been provided a copy of the definitions (Aviation Participation Definition and Official In Charge Definition) procedures for Internal Notification and for Participating Aircraft, and forms (Hazard Relief Participant Request Form) that were created by the IASC for this tasking and will review the forms to see how they might be affected by the FTCA. | IASC will put out IB and standby for a decision. |
| 2. SlingDragon Back Brief- Nic Strohmeyer and Shawn Steber <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ After reviewing the documentation sent out to NIAC prior to the meeting, including the test plan details and timeline, there is much more buy-in on the testing within NIAC. | NIAC issues interim approval until March 1, 2022. Memo will go out with official documentation. |
| 3. Emergency Helicopter Extraction List <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ PMS 512 Source List was recently discussed. The question of upkeep remains, but it is clear that the list is needed and will serve as a good jumping off point even if it is outdated if those disclaimers are put in on the front end. The current process of submitting changes for updates works well and if the workflow is altered so that NWCG can validate the changes. Jarrod and Jesse will work together on the transport of information and have an annual deadline for updates. NIAC could then review once a year for validity. | Jesse Bender and Karla Singer will work together to create a process and timeline for validating the EHE list annually. |
| 4. AC Dispatch Taro/Kneeboard Form <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Discussion on keeping the form as it was when it was created in 2018. Jesse, Tyler, and John will work on the form to make it more user-friendly, but no fundamental changes will be made. | NIAC agrees to keep Dispatch Form as it was in 2018 with no changes. |
| 5. Interagency Cooperator Aircraft and Pilot Standards <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Standards will be going back to the FS for final review. | NA |
| 6. Scooper Group Final Briefing | |



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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Everyone within the tasking group is confident that the current product is safe and usable until the next meeting in September. Asking for NIAC concurrence on it.○ After discussion that the document may contradict itself, portions of the introduction and the section of “Leader’s Intent” can be removed for concurrence as an “interim plan” | NIAC approves with the discussed language removed. |
| 7. Review of NWCG Committee Charter and NIAC Composition <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Ensure that the group keeps the roster as outlined in the charter. There are primary members and there are advisors- each agency gets one member and one primary vote and then have the option of having and advisor. | |