



**Aviation Operations Specialist Group
Meeting Minutes - January 17, 2007
Camp 2, Los Angeles County**

Attendees:

Gary Hart – VNC	Art Torrez – USFS
John Finnerty – LACOFD	Les Matarazzi – DOI
Greg Helsel – USFS	Jeff Power – USFS
Keith Dittimus – CHP	Brian Fennessy – SND
Bill Frankel – MCP	Jorge Camargo – OCFA
John Buck – LAFD	Karim Slate – OCFA
Mark Schmitt – SBC	Jon Brick – LASD
Gerald Cosey – LACOFD	Tom Humann – CDF
Heidi Dinkler – KRN	

0930 Chair John Buck opened the meeting and started introductions

Election of officers

- John Buck nominated for Chair by Mark Schmitt. Seconded.
- Gary Hart nominated Keith Dittimus for Vice Chair. Seconded.
- Gary Hart nominated Heidi Dinkler for Secretary. Seconded

Per Tom Dreyer regarding the Rotorcraft Utilization Survey, please collect information and send in.

Committee Reports

Military MOU's – Mark Schmitt

- The binder is coming together. Mark is preparing the information for presentation to the taskforce.
- Contents include a letter of recommendation, sample agreements, federal interagency agreements, California Interagency Helicopter Firefighting program, local agreements, training, qualifications and certifications, communications, public-use aircraft, military aviation assets inventory, support documents and existing agreements.
- Les will contribute paragraph to address aircraft from outside of California.

- Discussion about the extent of involvement of different agencies and one of the group's initial responsibilities to "determine the potential for inter-agency all-hazard operations capabilities."
- Question asked if the complete binder, when completed, can be maintained on the Firescope website. Art Torrez said the process goes thru the taskforce, and then to OES, who maintains the site.
- Consensus of group was to compile all sub-committee reports into one binder.

Night Operations Guidelines – John Finnerty

- Reviewed guidelines for NVG training and experience. This will be an insert into the Night Flying Guidelines. Asked group to review, constructive criticism welcomed.
- Would like posted on the Firescope website.
- John would like a white paper to introduce the Guidelines.
- Discussion of training and experience standards. FAA and Civil use 90 day cycles for flight training and military uses 1 month cycles.
- Consensus was that this document is a basic template for agencies to use. Can be made more restrictive by individual agencies.
- Discussion on how training and experience guidelines can reflect the need for all-hazard missions. Suggestions to place Asterisks on "Helicopter Firefighting Hours" and "NVG on actual night fire" to allow for non-fire missions experience to count. Also suggested that "NVG on actual night fire" could read "NVG flight time on agency specific missions"
- Discussion on if we need to evolve to the point that Firescope employs a check pilot to service all the agencies and cards pilots for certain missions like NVG. Camargo suggests that this carding issue needs to be a separate and distinct focus for Firescope. Should we present this as a recommendation?
- John Finnerty will make changes discussed and send out for revision. Will add training and experience guidelines as an appendix and send complete document to Art for approval as a final document.
- Camargo will work on the white paper and executive summary to submit to the task force.
- Torrez will find out which white paper format is preferred by Firescope.
- Buck – would like white paper and guidelines ready by next meeting.

Training, Qualifications and Certification – Gerald Cosey

- Keeping 1 page format of general information.
- Send Interagency Aviation Information spreadsheets to Cosey.
- Need to update the roster and confirm the participating agencies in this specialist group.

Lunch

1300 Reconvened

Communication – Finnerty

- Nothing new to report

Public Aircraft Operations – Jon Brick

- Discussed the FAA circular on Public Use Aircraft.
- www.airweb.faa.gov/regulatory_and_guidance_library/rgadvisorycircular.nsf
- Will prepare an outline for the use of public aircraft and send out for revision

Approval of minutes – Gary Hart motioned with Greg Helsel second.

Old Business – Plan of work

- Completion dates adjusted and noted by Camargo
- Discussion on “Review current rules of engagement and improve how agencies work together. a. Review agency air operations cut-off times and determine window of flexibility.” Consensus of group was that we should gather definitions/policy, from all the agencies involved, with regard to cut-off times and maximum flight hours.
- To follow guidance the group was given, we can recommend that all the agencies have the same requirements for cut-off times and max flight hours when operating on an interagency assignment. For example, all agencies use ½ hour before sunrise & ½ hour after sunset for cut-offs and 8 hours maximum flight hours in a duty day. Individual agencies can follow other limits when working in their own jurisdictions.
- Purpose is to streamline operations when agencies work together and promote interagency cooperation.
- Dinkler and Power will compile information and have ready for discussion next meeting.

Roster Update – Dinkler will handle

Next Meeting – March 7th in Camarillo. Gary Hart will email location.

Meeting adjourned.