



**Aviation Operations Specialist Group
Meeting Minutes – May 21st, 2008
Joint Forces Training Base, Los Alamitos**

Attendees:

John Finnerty – LACOFD
Bill Frankel – MCP
Mark Schmitt – SBC
Heidi Dinkler – KCFD
Dan Carlson – CA-ARNG
Bruce Malarky – CA-ARNG
Mark Frederickson – CNRSW
Keith Dittimus – CHP
Brian Stephens – ORC
Greg Helsel – USFS
Dave McNary – SDSO
Tom Humann – CalFire
Bill Tyler – CNRSW/Fire

Introductions

Mark Schmitt leading the meeting. Chair John Buck not able to attend.

Minutes from last meeting. Bill Frankel motion to approve. Brian Stephens second.

Committee Reports:

Military MOU's/Aircraft Inventory/Helicopter Manager list were delivered to the FIRESCOPE task force last month. Tom Humann will give an updated list from the CalFire side. This cannot be tracked in ROSS due to the elimination of the Military Helicopter Manager acronym on the Fed side. General discussion of the use of Military assets. Do we include the snap shot picture of their inventory, when that number could be very different? Need a disclaimer on these inventories that lets users know that the number of aircraft available,

how many qualified aircrews is actually available, number of buckets, etc, can vary widely.

Mark Schmitt's MOU binder includes the plan of work items number 1, 2 and 5.

Does Les Matarazzi have an updated issue paper with regard to Public Aircraft Operations?

Communications – John Finnerty. Review of his Draft Communications Guidelines for Military Helicopters. The guidelines reviewed are basically the same as the direction CalFire is going. Schmitt had a couple of suggestions that John will review and email a revised edition to everyone.

Review of the Plan of Work. Schmitt would like to note that this committee is coming to the completion of its original tasking. When we deliver the binder and issue papers, would like some direction from the Taskforce on the future for this specialist group. Will we be handed additional issues to deal with?

Item 2 – review current rule of engagement and improve how agencies work together. Tom Humann will check on any changes that CalFire may have in this area.

Discussion of ASU's problems with certification. Some cockpits are now non-compliant and will have to be retrofitted by an FAA certified company. Affects CHP.

Communications update. John handed out an updated list of Fire Frequencies Initial Attack 2008.

Communications equipment guidelines for Helicopters – took this document to the Communications Specialist group. Handed out a Draft Issue paper. Big difference between us and them. We think all-hazard and they are just fire focused. Philosophical disagreements. Copy of this document will be included in Mark's binder. This document is complete.

For Plan of Work item 6b, John handed out a draft issue paper titled "Incident Aircraft Nocom Frequency." This frequency is for interoperability. Agreement by members that John will take this to the task force for guidance on how to proceed.

In house pizza lunch

The Taskforce has given this group direction on how to finalize our project for presentation to the FIRESCOPE Board of Directors. They would like:

- 1. Draft an outline paper for the members of the BOD that gives the background on how we were formed, and emphasizes the aviation related recommendations from the 2004 BRC summary. Then describe our recommendations that address each of those items.**
- 2. Include copies of the State-wide (Military, Federal, State and Local agency) Rotary Wing aviation assets inventory they asked for.**
- 3. Include copies of the state-wide Helicopter Managers and Military Helicopter Managers inventory they asked for.**
- 4. Put together a 10-15 minute PPT presentations that visually supports the above hard copy packet they will receive.**

Mark Schmitt will take on number 1. He also explained how the information will be converted electronically by OES. Also archived by OES.

Board of Directors meeting is tentatively scheduled for July 9th.

Gerald and Mark F. will update the inventory for item 2. Updates of State and Local helicopter managers will come from Tom Humane.

Next meeting scheduled for June 26th, at the Joint Forces Training Base, Los Alamitos at 1000. Main topic will be review of package before it is sent to the Board of Directors