



**Aviation Operations Specialist Group
Meeting Minutes – November 20th, 2007
South Ops, Riverside**

Attendees:

John Finnerty – LACOFD
Bill Frankel – MCP
John Buck – LAFD
Mark Schmitt – SBC
Gerald Cosey – LACOFD
Glenn Smith – LAFD
Les Matarazzi – DOI
Heidi Dinkler – KCFD
Tom Drayer - OES

Pre-meeting confusion. Due to staging of teams, meeting location is being changed to another location. Changed to D&D Café at Riverside Airport.

Updating of roster in process. Updates will need to go to Don Weiss and Tom Drayer.

1050 AM – relocated to the Airport Commission meeting room, Riverside Airport. John Buck begins meeting with roundtable introduction.

John Buck would like to set dates for the next meeting. Several cancellations of meetings in recent months due to incidents.

Gerald Cosey move to approve minutes, Les Matarazzi seconded. All in favor.

Committee/Sub-Committee Reports

John Buck announced that FIRESCOPE Board approved the Night Vision Flying Guidelines. Chief Dreyer apologized for it taking so long to approve – also due to board members assigned to incidents. The Guideline is posted on the FIRESCOPE website. This is a tool for agencies to use in developing guidelines and for program support.

Military MOU's – Mark Schmitt

- Has the North Island agreement from Ray Cheney. Will review and include in MOU example section of binder.
- Has the binder pretty much in order, will have made into a more professional presentation.
- Did complete the FIRESCOPE issue paper and is now at front of binder.
- Reviewed contents of binder. Includes making agreements and the ordering process at the local, state and federal level.
- Chief Drayer will provide a copy of the AMES NASA agreement for the use of Predator aircraft. Schmitt will include in MOU example section.
- Chief Drayer reminding group that the Military MOU information is critical to formalize, especially in light of recent fires.
- Binder also includes Interagency Aviation Information Spreadsheets that Gerald Cosey has put together.
- Mark Schmitt will acquire all the binder contents in an electronic version. When Aviation Specialist Group submits to FIRESCOPE, goes thru approval process and then it is maintained by FIRESCOPE document control and posted on the website for reference by all interested agencies.
- Bill Frankel will identify a new military representative for military assets inventory.
- Will have a copy to review for January Meeting.

Training, Qualification and Certification – Gerald Cosey

- Created an issue paper based on info gathered from many agencies.
- Difficult to get all agencies on the same page. A solution is to share information through working groups and providing a mechanism for joint training using the national standard NIIMS.
- Qualification will be a big challenge.
- John Finnerty suggests a “recommended” list of minimum qualifications. Suggests including these recommendations in any new Military MOU’s. Will incorporate into Gerald’s paper.
- Will recommend joint training exercises. Crucial to bring together the military and civilian assets.
- Would like suggestions/additions/recommendations on the issue paper.
- Will have a revised version for next meeting. This paper will lead the Training, Qualification and Certification section of the Military MOU binder.

Public Use Aircraft

- Les will email Jon Brick’s public use document to Mark Schmitt

Communications –John Finnerty

- Created an issue paper titled “Communications equipment guidelines for helicopters.”
- Wants okay from this group to take this issue paper to the Communications Specialist group, via Art Torrez.

- This paper intended to be a stand alone document, but will also be a part of the Military MOU binder.
- John Finnerty made a motion to take issue paper to Comm. Specialist Group, seconded by Gerald Cosey
- Created an issue paper titled "Incident Guard Frequency." Discussion of having a state or national Incident Guard frequency. Motion by Heidi Dinkler to move this paper to Comm. Group, seconded by Les Matarazzi.

Plan of Work

- Plan of work items updated
- Plan of work and updated roster to be emailed to Art Torrez by Heidi.

Update of Roster

- Chair wants better representation from Law and the north.

Next Meeting – January 10th in Sacramento. 1000 hours.

Chief Dreyer presented update of FIRESCOPE Board issues.

- Emergency training for US/Mexico border responders. Issues of PPE, certifications and qualifications, language, equipment typing etc.
- Work group to study counties exchanging 5 strike teams (instead of 1) with notification to State.
- Use of terms "Emergency Traffic" and "Mayday."
- EMS Exclusive operating areas. Came from Santa Barbara County and the Zaca Fire.
- Wants a national approval/decision process. To approve/settle issues at the national level, not just who is the closest to the Beltway. Ops team rep to National NIMS.
- FIRESCOPE website (www.firescope.org) has some new items, including a banner for "New Items" that links you to the correct page. There is also a chat room for the Aviation Specialist Group. It is open for everyone to see.
- Now have a State Fire Marshal rep on the board.
- May add another MAC mode, a fifth level. They may equal the Feds National Preparedness Level system.
- EMS specialist group will meet for the first time December 5th and 6th at South Ops.

Adjournment at 1530