

MEETING NOTES
FIRESCOPE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
July 31 and August 1, 1979

I. Attendance

Those present:

Bragdon	Gerard
Callahan	Masson
Chaffin	Patterson
Cunningham	Richey
Dresser	
Irwin	Land

(Operations Team members and Task Force personnel were in attendance on July 31, 1979. Some attended part or all of the session on August 1, 1979).

II. Progress Reports

A. FIRESCOPE Economic Effectiveness Study

At the March 14, 1979 Board Meeting, the Program Office was directed to prepare a short "Executive Summary" of the three-volume "FIRESCOPE Economic Effectiveness Study." The Program Office was also to provide a slightly more in-depth explanation of the Study. This is being called the "Analyst Summary" and contains information of interest to fiscal and budget personnel.

The two-page "Executive Summary" was approved, subject to the addition of a footnote on the cost and availability of Volume III of the Study. (This has been added, and a corrected copy is attached.)

The "Analyst Summary" was approved. Board members have one copy each.

THE PROGRAM OFFICE CAUTIONED THAT: THE BENEFIT/COST INFORMATION IN THE STUDY IS BASED ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FIVE-INCIDENT "RECOMMENDED SYSTEM." ANY SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN COSTS OR EFFECTIVENESS RESULTING FROM REDESIGN OF MACS COULD CHANGE BENEFIT/COST RATIOS.

B. Integrated Fire Management for Southern California

The Program Office also received direction on March 14 to prepare a position statement from the Board which could serve as a basis for concerted media and public contacts. This statement was to express fire service consensus that the southern California fire problem was multifaceted, and that an integrated approach to fire management was necessary.

This position statement was approved. Board members have a copy of this also.

The Program Manager was directed to meet with agency P.I.O.'s/ F.I.O.'s to develop a media contact plan for all agencies. This meeting will emphasize the use of the theme of the position statement in all agency's media contacts.

III. Program Decisions

Three sets of planning documents were reviewed.

These were:

- Program planning flow charts showing each element of the Program and steps necessary to reach full implementation.
- ICS and MACS decision areas and relative progress in each area toward full implementation.
- A matrix chart showing specific necessary decisions that need to be made in the near future along with assigned responsibilities for the decisions.

Board direction to the Program Office are to:

- A. Match the matrix plan (summary) with the overall Program planning flow charts so that Board members and others can measure progress and develop action plans.
- B. Use the Program planning flow charts as guides to the Operations Team in developing agency "implementation and integration plans."

IV. Implementation Planning

Three key questions of basic importance to the Program design were discussed at length. Those topics, and the resulting directions on each, are:

A. Coordination System (MACS)

Four briefings were presented on the coordination system to be implemented:

- The evolved Research design, based upon a centralized coordination system for the FIRESCOPE region (Callaham).
- The present OES/Mutual Aid decentralized system, which is the current political reality (Barrows).
- A "compromise" system, requiring limited political and design change to achieve a centralized system (Harris).
- A reiteration of design goals desired in the implemented system (Borden).

The resulting discussion developed a set of guidelines which are only partially agreed to. These are:

1. Design goals.
 - a. Provide for the timely commitment of adequate resources to all incidents which exceed the capability of any single agency.
 - b. Efficiently allocate multiagency resources on a regional basis.
2. System goals.
 - a. Establish an "all-risk", 24-hour coordination system.
 - b. Establish "one-stop-shopping" for all resource assistance.
 - c. Obtain closest available appropriate resources.
 - d. Multiagency resources are to be allocated according to regional priorities.

- e. Develop efficient agency cooperation.
 - f. Centralize fire behavior predictions and situation information.
 - g. Anticipate incident needs (for single major incidents as well as for multiple occurrences).
3. Multiagency Coordination System (MACS) functions carried out by assigned agency staff and management personnel.
- a. Maintain current selected regional resource and situation status information.
 - b. Evaluate the potential and the resource needs for major incidents.
 - c. Establish priorities for resource allocation in multiple incident situations.
 - d. Determine most appropriate source for resources to fill agency requests for assistance.
 - e. Request resources on behalf of agencies in accordance with appropriate legal authorities and agreements.
4. MACS design will provide for:
- a. A comprehensive geographic data base (including vegetation).
 - b. Current regional information on weather, resource use, fire, and other incident activity.
 - c. Prediction of fire behavior and probable resource needs for incidents.
 - d. Dynamic evaluation of multiple incident situations for setting resource allocation priorities.
5. Basic operational requirements.
- a. Integration of OES, CDF and USFS regional resource coordination in a MACS.
 - b. MACS design will include OES areas.

- c. Current reporting of selected status and situation information to MACS by agencies.
- d. All requests for assistance beyond local Mutual Aid will be made to MACS through regular dispatching procedures.

A basic ground rule is that OES Regions 1 and 6 are to maintain their identity and function.

It is now the task of the Operations Team to detail out the processes that will meet the above guidelines.

B. Reimbursement

The Board agreed that no new or special reimbursement procedures were to be developed at this time.

The consensus, for urban departments, was to continue with current Mutual Aid procedures and various payment methods. USFS, CDF and OES reimbursement procedures will remain unchanged.

A "permissive tracking system" could be developed to allow documentation of resources loaned and/or borrowed by departments.

The Operations Team was charged with analyzing ways and means of implementing such a system. The CFRS program should be analyzed as part of the study.

C. Qualification and Certification

The Board agreed to two basic items on this issue:

1. Qualifications should eventually be developed for ICS positions only.
2. The priority task is to complete the documentation and training guides necessary to provide standard training in ICS to all personnel. (Program Office will contract this work.)

The Operations Team was directed to describe a proposed qualification system (which could include recommendations for certification).

It was suggested that National systems (NFPA, NWCG) be considered in any development of FIRESCOPE qualifications.

V. Management Analysis

The briefing on this topic resulted in direction from the Board to strengthen the FIRESCOPE decision process.

This is to be done by:

- A. Having the Program Office serve in a Line capacity as "Executive Secretary," with management authority over the Operations Team, Task Force, and Specialist Groups.
- B. Requiring the Operations Team and Program Office to provide complete staff work on all issues presented to the Board.
- C. Operations Team members will be responsible for developing "Agency implementation and integration plans" and carrying them out.
- D. Except for special circumstances or invitations, meeting attendance at all levels will be limited to those persons actually assigned to the group in session.

The Program Office will prepare a new organization chart and revise the present narrative to reflect these changes. The revisions will be routed for Board signatures.

VI. Other

A demonstration on the new AFOS equipment was presented. This is the hard- and software that will provide real-time weather data, "drive" the wind model, and provide inputs to the fire perimeter model.

Roger Land presented a summary of progress in multiagency training. He was directed to continue current efforts.



ROBERT L. IRWIN
Program Manager