

**FIRESCOPE JOINT OPERATIONS TEAM
MEETING MINUTES
SHORE CLIFF LODGE AND RESTAURANT
PISMO BEACH, CA.
JANUARY 26-27, 2006**

WELCOME, LOGISTICS AND INTRODUCTIONS: SCHMITT/RALSTON

AGENDA REVIEW: ALL

- IMS Report added to agenda-Drake
 - Add Request to modify ICS 205 Form, Incident Radio Communications Form-Dougherty

GENERAL INFORMATION: RALSTON

- Andy Anderson, not present, offered Buck's Lake again for the July meeting venue.
- Paul Bannister, from BLM will replace Les Matarazzi as the Ops Team rep. for DOI.
- Tom Hatcher's retirement is scheduled for February 11th in Anderson, CA. RSVP by Jan. 21st, 2006 @ 530.581.3508. Make checks payable for \$30 to Casey Hatcher 946 The Esplanade, Chico, CA. 95926. Location will be at the Frontier Center, 2081 Frontier Trail, Anderson, CA.
- Discussed presenting a plaque or some other token of appreciation to Tom, Les and others who have served on the Operations Team. Ralph Domanski to handle.

REVIEW OF BOD MEETING: RALSTON

- Meeting was held on January 11, 2006 in San Marcos, CA.
- Discussed OES Engine Replacement Program. 57 total engines scheduled to be replaced with 15 of them to be Type III Engines.
- A brief review of the BRC recommendations that related to FIRESCOPE were discussed and determined that all such recommendations had either been addressed or were not within the scope of action for the FIRESCOPE organization.
- Discussed Topanga and Harvard fires. LFD was a big help sending resources to the Harvard Incident through Region 1 ordering process. Additionally, there was good coordination and integration of LFD's and CDF's Incident Management Teams. Communications was a big problem early in the incident and aircraft were scarce. Cost apportionment on the Harvard Fire went well. Follow up to concerns of firefighter exposure to toxic materials in the Rocket dyne area of the Topanga Fire were thorough and continue to be monitored. To date there has been no evidence of toxic exposure to firefighters assigned to the area.

- Considerable discussion ensued relative to how resources were ordered for the Harvard Fire, which occurred in the City of Burbank's LRA. This became a larger discussion about the application of "Assistance by Hire" vs. the "California Fire Assistance Agreement" (CFAA), vs. "Master Mutual Aid" (MMA). The group agreed that more work needs to be done to bring clarity and understanding to the proper application of our existing agreements, and to clarify and implement the original intent of the State-wide Master Mutual Aid Agreement. The reimbursement issues were further complicated by the impacts of the FMAG not being approved. It was suggested that the "who pays" identifier (ABH, CFAA, MMA) be included in the resource order number. No further action was taken on this item.
- The State Fire Marshal, Rubin Grijalva, briefly discussed the status of the California Incident Command Certification System (CICCS). The deadline for the "grandfather clause" officially ended on December 31, 2005.

NWCG/IOS WORKING TEAM UPDATE: ALWORTH

- Incident Operations Standards (IOS)
- Ralph reviewed the Jan.'06 draft rewrite of 310-1 manual and handed out copies to the Team.
- Highlights of changes include:
 - Structure Protection Specialist as a new position
 - Fire Use Manager has been divided into Type 1 and Type 2 positions
 - Fireline EMT was not included in rewrite.
 - Document is NIMS compliant
- IOS Working Team's next project is to review all Position Task Books (PTB).
- The working team has developed a charter to ensure that the standards are exportable to the "All Risk" environment without losing FIRESCOPE'S core wildland focus. Ralph handed out copies of the Charter's statements and the glossary of NWCG wildland terminology change protocols for the group to review.
- For NIMS compliancy, the term "All Hazard" will replace "All Risk" terminology.
 - Ralph distributed a handout containing the draft definition of All Hazard to consider for inclusion into the NWCG glossary of terms. The group provided input that resulted in a couple of minor changes.
- A suggestion was made that Ralph's replacement to the NWCG be identified ASAP so he could shadow Ralph to his last three meetings to get up to speed.
- LaPlant suggested that it not be a Task Force member due to their heavy monthly commitment.
- Each interested agency will nominate a member and a conference call will be scheduled in March to vote on Ralph's successor. ***NOTE: Only two names had been submitted at the time of the conference call on Wednesday, March 8th. The nominees were Vaughn Miller, Assistant***

Chief from VNC, and Paul Bannister from BLM. Before a vote was cast, Praytor informed the group that Ralph would be interested in staying on as the FIRESCOPE's representative to the NWCG as a retired annuitant. ACTION ITEM: It was decided that Ralston would contact Ralph to confirm his interest and add this item to the April meeting agenda.

FIRESCOPE TASK FORCE REPORT: LAPLANT

- Copies of the TF report were distributed to the team.
- Art Torrez has replaced Ralph Domanski as the USFS rep. to the TF
- The TF is seeking a replacement for Bill Plough as the CDF rep.
- A replacement rep. for Steve Hutchinson from the State Fire Marshal's Office is needed to represent State Fire Training.
- The TF continues to monitor the EMSA and CAA actions relative to Ambulance Strike Teams thanks to the efforts of Pat O'Bannon. Reimbursement and communications continue to be the hot topics. Other issues are:
 - How are they ordered
 - How are they tracked
 - Del Walters suggested AST's be ordered and signed up like any contract piece of equipment and entered into the tracking system by contract.
 - **ACTION ITEM:** Chief Ralston will e-mail Chief Freeman to determine if he, Mr. Renteria and Chief Cherry from Sacramento City, in fact did draft a Status Paper to present to the Nov. 9, 2005 State EMSA meeting and reported back at the Jan. 11, 2006 BOD meeting in San Marcos as described in our minutes from the Oct. 12, 2005 BOD meeting at Mather.
 - Chief Brian Kelly graciously volunteered to conduct follow up work on this important issue.
- The TF is aggressively working on the '07 FOG
- TF reps to the NWCG/IOSWT and the Training Working Teams are staying active.
 - The TF is reviewing the draft Structure Protection Specialist. PTB at the request of the IOSWT. Rep. Alworth.
 - The NWCG/IOSWT has decided to include the GIS Technical Specialist and the Damage Inspection Technical Specialist positions in the new 310-1 document.
 - Training Working Team rep. Geoff Wilford is monitoring "T" Course development at the NWCG and USFA.
- No conclusion has been reached from discussions about changing the FIRESCOPE Logo. This is a global issue requiring some direction from the BOD. However, the TF is prepared to recommend alternatives to the California logo that better represents FIRESCOPE nationwide.
 - Direction from the Ops Team was to have the TF forward their alternatives to us to take to the BOD, without a recommendation that it be changed.

LUNCH BREAK: 1155-1310 HRS.

- TF Report (cont.)
- MACS Orientation (Riverside/June) and Exercise (Redding/May 17th) is currently being planned
- Typing of Incident Mechanics being considered at the request of the mechanics group. Proposal distributed to Team.
- The combined BOD/Ops Team /TF Plan of Work being maintained by the TF is been updated for 2007. A copy of the 2006 update was distributed to the team for reference.
- The 2007 election of TF Officers was conducted with the following results:
 - Chair—Mike LaPlant (VNC)
 - Vice Chair—Greg West (LFD)
 - Secretary—Brad Dabro (CNT)
- Specialists and Working Groups report
 - Safety Specialists is continuing to review all FIREScope documents to ensure that safety is adequately addressed.
 - Safety Officer training curriculum being upgraded and standardized
 - High Rise WG meeting in March to focus on OSD rewrite
 - Communications Specialists working on interoperability issues across various agencies and disciplines. They presented a proposal for a Communications Quick Response Team to rapidly deploy on incidents with special communications challenges. TF supports the concept but feels FIREScope is not the best forum to develop and implement the plan.
 - Hazmat Specialists completed OSD. Working on upgrading website to become source for Hazmat incident information and guidance.
 - Training Specialists need to be revitalized when liaison from TF is established.
 - Air Operations Specialists meeting in February at LAC Camp 2 to work on BRC items specific to fire aviation assets.
- Future Meeting Schedule:
 - February 15-16 (LAC)
 - March 22-23 (KRN)
 - April 19-20 (LFD)
 - May 16-17 (Redding MACS Exercise)
 - June TBD (Riverside MACS Orientation)

USFS FIRE SIMULATOR DEMONSTRATION: DOMANSKI

- Mike Nobles present as Subject Matter Expert (SME)
- Chuck Mackelwayne present as Project Leader and only remaining member of original Project Team that initiated effort in mid 1990's in cooperation with National Fire Administration (NFA)
- Program runs on standard PC format or Dell laptop computer
- Displays 3D environment in "All Hazard" simulations

- Can actually walk into buildings in 3d on NFA's version
- Contains tabs that select scenarios
 - Fire, Environment, Resources, Audio, Students, Log, etc.
- Students see only production based on decisions, not actual visual depictions of resources deployed
- Instructor/Operator will input production rates based upon student's tactics and strategy
- Production rate adjusts automatically, in chains /h.,. based upon resources assigned by division
- This simulator was used by USFS for ICT-3 training of all Engine Captains
- Scenario editor (not yet available in phase one rollout) can download any USGS map from the internet, with user-defined vegetation, structures, etc. Once desired environment is created, it can be saved for any kind of all hazard scenario
- March 2006 is release date for USFS training without Scenario Editor function
- Once trainers are trained, USFS will release a 3 CD set to other agencies.
- Sims will be rolled out to four USFS Training Centers, including Vandenberg (AFV), to establish 16 hour Train the Trainer Courses
- Sims can potentially be used for AAR's, Prescribed Fire Briefings, Operational Period Briefings, Fire Safe Council Briefings, etc.

NATIONAL MUTUAL AID PROGRAM: WEST

- Origin was Post Hurricane Katrina direction from IAFC
- Chief West tasked by Chief Bamattre to examine existing models and create a single, stand alone model based on best practices for National Mobilization of All Hazard fire resources
- State>Regional Coordination Center>National Coordination Center (East & West) with span of control over 5 each of the 10 FEMA Regions
- Command and Control considerations (IMT's)
- Resource Management considerations
- Resource Tracking considerations
- Legal considerations (worker's comp., tort claims, etc.)
- NIMS Compliant
- Credentialing Considerations (Certs & Quals)
- Will ultimately require legislative action
- Chief West distributed a detailed handout titled the Emergency Resource Mobilization Plan for team review. He would appreciate any feedback you can provide

RAPID DEMOB (REVISITED): RALSTON

- Becomes a basic issue of Planned vs. Immediate Need Demobilization of resources

- The TF determined that the system is not broken. It's simply a matter of educating the IMT's that a Rapid Demob Process is a function of their Incident Management Authority.
 - There is a need to develop procedural guidelines that identify processes that lead to a Rapid Demob, such as, prioritizing the return of resources from another incident, shortcutting the mechanical inspection, etc

RESOURCE TYPING: O'BANNON

- Chief O'Bannon not present...No Report

OES/CICCS UPDATE: PRAYTOR

- Request from Mobile Fire Mechanics to type Fire Mechanics into Types 1, 2, and 3
 - Chief Praytor distributed proposal outline with desire from Mobile Fire Mechanics Group to incorporate typing into Field Operations Guide (FOG)
 - Inclusion into FOG would type the service units with the assumption that the personnel come qualified
 - The NWCG will look into the personnel certs and quals while the Task Force discusses how this will occur and arrange a meeting with the author of the proposal from Tahoe City Fire Department
- There are still 22 Level 500 qualifications applications to review. The grandfather provision expired December 31, 2005
- The Regions need to conduct a needs analysis to determine what positions have surpluses and deficits

IMS CONSORTIUM UPDATE: DRAKE

- Now meeting only two times a year because all large issues have been resolved
 - The term "Sectors" have been removed from their documents with the acknowledgement that they must be NIMS compliant

BACK TO BUCKS LAKE FOR JULY OPS MEETING

- The group determined that supporting Chief Andy Anderson's long-standing contribution to the Northern California Fire Service far outweighed the distances necessary to travel to our annual meeting at Buck's Lake. Most also agreed that the two days of isolation from our electronic tethers is a welcomed break from the routine. We'll see everyone there on July 13 and 14, 2006.

ICS 205 REVISION: DOUGHERTY

- Mike Dougherty requested a revision to form ICS 205, the Communications Plan.
- The request was to provide a location on the form to indicate whether the assigned frequency is a narrow or wide band format.

- Mike gave a draft copy of the revised form to LaPlant for the Task Force to input following contact with the FIRESCOPE Communications Working Group

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 1630 HRS..

MEETING RECONVENED ON 1.27.06 AT 0810 HRS.

CFAA UPDATE: RALSTON

- Should CFAA replace local agreements?
- Team agreed that CFAA could not totally replace local agreements
 - Engines, Water Tenders and Overhead could be a tie-in to ordering under CFAA rather than local agreements.
 - A difference of \$150K for Assistance by Hire (local agreement) vs. \$100K for CFAA reimbursement was roughly calculated for a S/T of Engines
 - An offset might be that all MMA requests could be reimbursed at the CFAA rate. This may prompt an adjustment from a free 12-hour period to a free 24-hour period.
 - Next meeting in November will focus on the financial aspects
- Multi-Jurisdictional Training Cadres would be developed to visit and train the Operational Areas
- Kim Zacharis will be working on clarifying the definition of Master Mutual Aid
- The BIA is being added to the 7 Party Agreement making it now an 8 Party Agreement
- Addendum B describes the standard inventory and capability requirements for Type 3 Engines
- Addendum D will be added to the CFAA Agreement that covers communications requirements
- The pay process with Form 42's would remain the same with 60 day allowed for reimbursement
- Considerable discussion occurred over how Master Mutual Aid is being used, and occasionally abused, by staging resources, or ordering through MMA when the ordering agency is not at drawdown.
- If CFAA resources are assigned to a Mobilization Center, the 12 hour free period is removed
- The 7 day rotation is in the agreement and allows reimbursement of the cost for agencies to change out their crews
- CICCS Certification, and compliancy with 310-1 is specified in the document as being tied to reimbursement
- **ACTION ITEM:** Chief Ralston will make draft copies available to the Operations Team members for comment
- Revision of the ICS 900 Document, which is a guidance document describing how to order resources and what reimbursements can be expected, is contained in the Task Force's Plan of Work

BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION ISSUES: RALSTON

- The Team discussed the BRC recommendations that referenced FIRESCOPE as the organization tasked to address the issues
 - All recommendations identifying FIRESCOPE were closed out, with the exception of the recommendation for local government to improve public outreach and emergency evacuation education
 - Chief West suggested that the Task Force address this by including the OES Law Enforcement Branch's Emergency Evacuation Guidelines into the 410-1 (FOG) Manual. This could become the guidance document for public education.

ROUND TABLE:

- Jim Marquis-Region IV. Jim has replaced Hank on the CFAA Committee
- Mark Schmitt-SBC. Implemented a year 'round, 12 person fuels crew that doubles to (2) 12 person fire crews during fire season. (2) Type 2 helicopters will available this season. Purchased and placed in service (2) replacement Type 3 Engines. The County split issue goes before the voters in June '06 but will not impact their CDF contract if successful
 - sncvittum@direcway.com Several have requested Steve Vittum's e-mail address. Steve says Hi and wants to be sent copies of our meeting minutes.
- Mario Rueda-LFD. Airports and Ports Authority are trying to follow ICS when addressing terrorism issues, establishing a model that will ultimately become the initial Unified Command
 - 5 Task Forces are being configured to be Light USAR units combined with RIC responsibilities
 - Hiring 250 FF's and dollars allocated for a new helicopter
 - UASI Grants going through the process
- Mike Dougherty-USFA. A reorganization of the NFA is underway with good things to come.
 - Work continues with the National MAC group
 - Working on All Hazard Incident Management Team program. It's a 6 day course funded through Office of Disaster Preparedness Grants. SDFD was the first agency to be trained. Similar to Command and General Staff exercises
 - 6-8 large air tankers will be available for the '07 fire season. MAFFS units down for maintenance until June
- Jim Lambrechts-City FD's North. San Francisco FD purchased 10 new engines. All 42 engine companies will have year 'round staffing.
 - Increased level of training is occurring with the neighboring counties. Trying to get out of the City more often with auto aid agreements bringing counties into the City.
 - Increased training activity with Dept. of Defense's Civil Support Unit

- Jim Middleton-Mariposa County. Not much activity
 - Purchased a Type 4 patrol unit and added a Water Tender to the fleet.
- Paul Bannister-BLM. Barely able to maintain status quo on engine staffing. Severity money may help this situation
 - Lost BLM rappel crew out of Bakersfield due to funding
 - 6 Single Engine Air Tankers and 2 Hot Shot crews available for '07 season
- Darrell Ralston-VNC. All Type 1 Engines will be equipped with Progressive Hose Packs
 - Operations Asst. Chief, Dave Festerling, retired this year
 - Steve Heil, who ran the VNC CDF camps is also retiring
 - Aaron Gelobter is the new Los Padres Chief
 - VNC had problems with the “Buck Eye” brand foam concentrate eating up their Foam Pro foam pumps on their engines. Dougherty will check the National Chemical List to see if it has been reported
 - VNC is now sending out a firefighter/paramedic on every strike team assignment.
- Del Walters-CDF North/Ralph Alworth-CDF Contract Counties. Reorganization of CDF has reduced the number of CDF Regions from 6 to 4.
 - Tulare County lost its Schedule “A” contract due to costs. Tulare will reform a County Fire Department
 - Monday’s fire on BDU had difficulty obtaining aircraft. Also the MIRPS/ROSS integration had trouble switching between the two
 - Lots of Chief Officer retirements in CDF statewide
 - CDF facing a 30 million plus budget deficit. Prompted cancellation of the annual Aviation Safety Workshop. Most meetings have been, or will be cancelled, except IMT annual meetings
 - 10 IMT’s may be reduced to 8
 - The Topanga Incident produced an agreement that allowed CDF to pay for LFD resources used for the state mission
 - New State Fire Marshal, Ruben Grijalva, is aggressively pursuing his 100 day plan
 - 10.8 million will replace 42 engines...still playing catch-up
 - Final independent study being conducted on CDF helicopter replacement program
- Tom Drayer-OES. 15 Type 3 Engines going out to bid with 22 Type 1 Engines being deployed to agencies
 - 3 Deputy Chiefs and 1 Assistant Chief positions open currently
 - Bob Paytor has been reassigned to Chief of Operations with Tom backfilling behind Bob.
- Mike Lococo-USFS. Mobilized 200 personnel to fires in Texas.
 - Incident Management Team announcements are out
 - After Action Reviews (AAR’s) for Hurricane responses went to Washington Office, Regions and GACC’s,. Recommendations will be incorporated into the National Response Plan (NRP).

- Predictive services still exist at each GACC
- 26 million budget deficit should not affect fire response unless season is unusually busy. No severity funding has been appropriated
- Dave Pierce-ORC-Have created a new Field Operations Division resulting in a new Division Chief and Battalion Chief position
 - Developing an “In-House” tiered dispatch protocol similar to priority dispatching where calls are assigned either a code 2 or code 3 priority
 - Developing 24/7 crew coverage
- Brian Kelly-Region II. New R-2 Director, Keith_____, from Contra Costa County is looking for improved communications between the Region and the Operational Area
 - 3 UASI areas in the Region
 - A multi-disciplined group will help integrate the UASI with San Francisco Fire Dept.
 - There are currently 15 fire departments in the county
 - Like Ventura, the county will be sending firefighter paramedics on all Strike Team assignments

**NEXT OPERATIONS TEAM MEETING WILL BE HELD ON APRIL 13,
2006 AT 0930 HRS. AT MATHER
OES HEADQUARTERS
35650 SCHRIEVER AVE
MATHER, CA. 95655
916.845.8711**

**THE JANUARY MEETING OF THE FIRESCOPE OPERATIONS TEAM
CONCLUDED AT 1130 HRS. JANUARY 27, 2006**