

2003 BLM Exclusive Use Helicopter Workshop

BLM Aviation Management Conference – Clackamas, OR 10/28-29/2003

TUESDAY, 10/28

0802 Brad Gibbs – Housekeeping and Introductions

- ✍ Workshop format, logistics, breaks, etc.
- ✍ Very limited response to call for agenda items.
- ✍ Individual introductions were made by all attendees

0817 Kevin Hamilton – Program Updates

- ✍ National Aviation Plan intent and content
 - Identified areas that will eliminate annual memos.
 - Discussed the need for everyone to read and provide feedback.
 - Discussed the potential conflict between NAP & Redbook & 9400
- ✍ Review of training/experience requirements for BLM excl. use positions
 - Attempt to achieve interagency standard
 - Group ok with wording “HELB or HCWN” for Assistant experience
 - One season vs. “experience”. Leave as: one season = 90 days
- ✍ Personnel Development Questionnaire
 - Aviation Mentor Program is being eliminated; need methods to develop personnel.
 - Q asked for series/grade/tour, Redcard Quals, long-term goals.
 - Q was completed and turned in by each helicopter mgr.

0842 Brad Gibbs – Program Updates

- ✍ Reviewed commitment to submit 00-02 data from 02 meeting notes
 - Agreed to include CWN stats also.
 - Group review and input on needed changes on Data sheet
 - **Tasking:** Brad will revise Alaska and Lower 48 Data Collection Sheet and send out to SAM’s and Managers for comment
 - **Tasking:** Brad will post final Annual Year end Data sheet on NAO website
- ✍ Discussed BLM Helibase Directory
 - Useful – yes, continue. Need larger font.
 - Hardcopy distribution numbers are adequate
 - Will publish 04 hardcopy version and post on NAO website

0935 Break

0945 B. McAlpin/A. Wittenburg – AK Resource Helicopter Program

- ✍ Huge resource program with varied aviation expertise.
- ✍ Resource helicopter managers assigned to north and south.
- ✍ Provided detailed presentation to include program statistics and accomplishments.

✍ National office needs to clarify and simplify non-fire helicopter mgr
1055 Break

1104 Shad Sitz – Combined Helitack Training

- ✍ Lakeview hosted combined S-217 training for the four Oregon Exclusive Use Helitack crews
 - 68 people participated, two and one half days in the class and one and one half days in the field
 - Builds crew cohesion and enhances fire readiness
 - Host unit receives benefit of project accomplishment
 - Urge other units to adopt combined training

1125 Ben Hinkle – Flight Planning

- ✍ Ben reviewed capabilities of Flight Planner website

1152 Lunch

1304 Shad Sitz – Aviation Safety Summary 2003 Helicopter Operations

- ✍ Discussion of why accidents occur
- ✍ Review of 2003 BLM helicopter Safecomms

1351 Break

1403 Harlan Johnson – Best Value Contracting

- ✍ Outlined in detail the OAS Best Value process
- ✍ Explained some of the limitations and pitfalls
- ✍

1504 Break

1516 Kevin Hamilton – BLM Helicopter Fleet Plan

- ✍ Reviewed history and current makeup of exclusive use fleet
- ✍ Discussed upgrade issues
 - Within type
 - Upgrade to medium aircraft
 - Issues with Fire Management
 - Perceived increase of safety margin
 - Funding availability
 - Efficiency and cost efficiency
 - Contracting requirements
 - ✍ Upgrade at end of contract cycle vs. option year
 - ✍ Targeted upgrades/spec performance (need approved plan and funding)
 - ✍ Opportunity upgrades (base spec) fluctuating funding

- ✍ NAO wants to progressively upgrade the BLM helicopter fleet whenever possible and as appropriate
- ✍ Not all bases require an upgrade
- ✍ Locations must be prioritized for upgrade
- ✍ Fire planning and funding are paramount

Tasking: Helicopter Managers, Unit Aviation Managers and SAMs to begin now working with FMOs and Fire Planners to determine helicopter requirements.

Tasking: Kevin & Brad to work with Ops & Planning to explore funding opportunities; with Contracting Officers to explore award options.

1602 Break

1615 Clay Hillin – Standard Helitack Facilities

- ✍ Review of achievements of Facilities Work Group (Clay & Mickey)
- ✍ Modular Building options
 - Unlimited design options, meet Uniform Building Code requirements
 - Lower cost per square feet
 - Decreased construction time
- ✍ Discussed budgeting process
- ✍ Standard Helitack Facilities website:
 - <http://fsweb1.r6.fs.fed.us/aviation/sam/>
 - ✍ List of lessons learned, progression of task, available resources
 - ✍ Need folks to use discussion thread for input with task
 - ✍

1653 Adjourn For The Day

WEDNESDAY 10/29

0900 Brad Gibbs Q & A

0910 Kevin Hamilton – Interagency Issues

- ✍ Fixed Weight Reduction
 - New download formula in for approval now for '05 implementation
 - Values will be listed in procurement document (not load calculation)
- ✍ Helicopter Typing System
 - Current system out of date?
 - Conflicts between policy documents (IHOG, Fireline HB)
 - New Work Group tasked under IHOP's to analyze existing proposals and develop a new proposal if necessary
 - Will utilize a comment period for field input prior to making recommendation
 - Completion date of April 30th 2004 with implementation by late 2005

- ✍ 310-1 in the revision process during 2004 for 2005 re-print
 - Opportunity for Helicopter position changes
- ✍ IHOG revision process is about to begin for target publication in 2005 to include a lengthy comment period
- ✍ National CWN contract to be revised for 2005 to include being re-formatted to make more concise and user friendly
- ✍ Interagency Load Calculation
 - 15 test locations during field season 03
 - Comment period from May – October
 - Available in National Cache System January 2004
 - Group reviewed the new form and completed an exercise

1010 Break

1019 Larry Mahaffey – Transportation of Hazardous Materials Update

- ✍ December 8th meeting by the Work Group, DOT and Agency solicitors will provide more answers as to the Agencies being exempt vs. in commerce
- ✍ Agencies will provide a Handbook that will provide direction for transportation of hazardous materials for all operations that we have operational control over
 - Draft is currently being produced by a contractor
 - Will need input and review by the field

1034 Brad Gibbs – Interagency Aerial Ignition Guide Revision

- ✍ Will be additional equipment requirements for Helitorch and PSD operations (MTDC harness, foam extinguisher, eyewash station, etc)
- ✍ PPE requirements are augmented
- ✍ Contractor provided helitorch services procedures outlined
- ✍ New Forms package
- ✍ Reviewed initial training and annual refresher, re-cert process and requirements
- ✍ IHRG will require MTDC approved harness and hardpoints for PSD operator
 - Bryan Bitting recommends approved fall restraint equipment be included in PSD cache kits
- ✍ Will be hosted on BLM NOA website at aviation.blm.gov/library, hardcopy cache item TBD
 - **Tasking:** Brad will find out status of requirement for Helitorch Pilot training, syllabus and timeframes involved
 - **Tasking:** Brad will research Line Officer vs. Incident Commander approval for Incident Firing Operations
 - **Tasking:** Brad to explore harness as part of PSD cache kit.
 - **Recommend crash position for PSD operator w/out shoulder harness???**

1140 Lunch

1301 Dennis Lamun – Airtanker Modernization

- ✍ The existing contract is not adequate to bring new generation airtankers onboard
- ✍ A parallel solicitation has been advertised to encourage new technology in the <3000 gallon range
- ✍ The supertanker (>3000 up to +/- 24000 gallons) initiative is being worked on
 - Supporting large volume aircraft (747, DC-10) will provide many challenges to our existing airtanker base infrastructure.
- ✍ In the future large airtankers will be utilized more and more as national resources with local and area ownership diminishing

1317 Kevin Hamilton – Contract Helicopter Pilot Training

- ✍ IHOP's is tasked with formulating a syllabus for all (CWN and exclusive use) helicopter pilots
- ✍ Looking at computer based training so any pilot has access to complete at anytime as it will be a contract requirement at some point in the future
- ✍ In 1994 the "Professional Pilot" video and handbook were developed.
 - This training is still very useful and will provide a good basis to change to the computer format
- ✍ Computer based SEAT Pilot training is under development that will contain modules pertinent to any fire pilot, we can build off of it and develop modules specific to helicopter pilots
- ✍ Group broke out to develop "Top 10" topics important to a fire pilot (besides Fire Behavior/ICS/Communications)

1343 Break

1353 Mike Amicarella and Kim Reed – Mountain Flying Discussion

- ✍ Discussed aerodynamics, HIGE vs. HOGE, Translational Lift, LTE, mountain winds, etc. Good presentation.

1512 Break

1524 Brad Gibbs – Straight and Level Flying Presentation

- ✍ Presentation on several stupid-mistake accidents.

1615 Brad Gibbs – Critique and Bin Items

- ✍ Conference
 - UAMs need their own breakout (4 hrs)
 - Facility was poor: noisy, not enough room, poor lodging rooms
 - Need to reconvene General Session on Thurs with panel discussion
 - Need combined group review of Safecomms
 - Liked the combined conference format
 - Mixer was a good idea. Good turnout. Lots of interaction.
 - Extend to 3 days for all attendees.

- ✍ National Aviation Plan
 - BLM needs solid policy on airbase/aircraft security
 - Like having redundant yearly memos replaced by NAP language
 - Need to clarify aviation training requirements; host in 1 document
 - Merge 9400 with NAP. Do away with 9400.
 - Need good 'boundary airspace checklist' in NAP
 - Yearly updates/changes in NAP should be italicized (flagged)

- ✍ Miscellaneous
 - Need funding for participation on interagency work groups (NAO?)
 - Need to standardize Flight Manager/Chief of Party with USFS.
 - Need to get Helicopter Squadleader PD reclassified to GS-7 (Kevin)
 - Need to increase Helitack crew size from 9 to 10. (Kevin)
 - Still need interagency Lat/Long format standard.
 - Need clarification/direction on Proj. Helo Mgr qualification standard
 - Need 1-stop shopping for TFR/Airspace info
 - Need consolidated national schedule for S-372 & RT-372 (Brad)

1705 Adjourn Helicopter Session (Thanks Everybody!!)