

2014 Interagency Helicopter Operations Subcommittee (IHOpS)

Interagency Helicopter Operations Workshop (IHOW)

February 24-26, 2014

Anaheim, California

Attendees:

Bryan Bitting	BLM Helicopter Manager	IHOpS Member
Vince Welbaum	FS National HOS	IHOpS Member
Cameron Dingman	BLM Utah SAM	Rappel Unit Member
David Underwood	BIA HOS	IHOpS Member
Brad Koeckeritz	OAS	IHOpS Member
Bill Schuster	MN State HOS	IHOG Unit Chair
Darren Mathis	BLM AZ SAM	IAIG Unit Chair
Brian McKee	State FL	NIAC Unit Member
Dan McCarron	State OR	Chief Pilot ODF
Neil Laugle	State OR	NIAC Unit Member
Shad Sitz	RAM NPS	IHOpS Member
Anthony Lascano	FWS	Visiting Member
Dan Boyle	State Rep	IHOpS Member
Joel Kerley	BIA Aviation Chief	NIAC Chair
Arlyn Miller	OAS	IHOpS Member
Walker Craig	FS	Visiting
Sheila Valentine	FS	Scribe

Action Item list Status:

- Work on NWCG Website. **Ongoing. Vince to work with Tandy Bolling in getting IHOpS on My Fire Community web site**
- Submit OWDC Change Request to add A-110 – triennial training requirement for HMGB in 310-1 - **Done**
- Update working group unit member listing-**Bryan**
- Draft letter to NIAC requesting LE Aviation unit – **DONE**
 - **IHOpS Rep/Liaison with LE Aviation = Shad Sitz and Dave Underwood to lead establishment. Each agency rep needs to work within their structure to identify LE rep from their agency/bureau**
- Conversion of IHOG forms to fillable PDF - **All Good. Not an issue**
- Congested Airspace clarification with USFS solicitor – **In the IHOG**
- IHOpS approval of letter and Interagency Fire Helicopter Standards MOU to NIAC - **Done**
- Updated Aircraft Identification Guide. **Ongoing (Dan Boyle)**
- Re-Introduction of Helispot Manager proposal into 310-1 - **Assigned to Vince**
- Assemble a task group to address a possible new typing standard for high performance T3 helicopters-**Vince Welbaum, Bill Schuster, Walker Craig, Dan Boyle**
- Set up with AMD Safety distribution of pertinent SAFECOMs to unit chairs- **Done for Aerial Ignition, Rappel, Cargo Letdown**
- New USFS rep on IHOG Unit - **Done**

- Complete edits and updates to the ACETA Guide/Handbook. **Brad K will try to get this project going again. Possibly consider if ACETA should be under IHOpS since this is DOI only?**
- Work with Shawn Steber to contact manufacture about equipment availability for further testing – **Table Rairdence until they approach us.**
- Letter from IHOpS to NIAC requesting assistance in getting ACETA Guide out & published - **CANCEL**
- Bill Schuster & Glen Cullingford to contact Diane Maclean about her interest in continuing on the IHOG Unit. – **DONE – She is soon to be retired**
- Contact IT personnel about IHOG as an Application for electronic wiz/bank devices **Created a QR code to go to IHOG Web site. Bryan to email to members**
- Construct a Technical Bulletin announcing the availability of the IHOG and the notification future IHOG as electronic only - **Done**
- Contact IAIG Unit about: FIRB/RXB2 Quals; Type 2 Helitorch operations, do we need? Limit Helitorch to Type 3 only? **Done**
- Letter to the Rappel Unit on the expectations of IHOpS and the tasking of guide re-write. **Done**
- Create a PowerPoint presentation for all the IHOPS members to use to brief various groups on. – **Ongoing- Each unit Chair to send to Liaisons a maximum of 2 page briefing from each unit. Maximum two page briefing from each agency IHOpS rep. Needs to be done within the next two week.**
- Complete Unit Charter updates from IHOW meeting and send to NIAC **Rappel and Short Haul needs to be sent to NIAC - Vince**
- Write dispatch briefing regarding ordering appropriate PLDO for the device to be used. **Darren to follow up on making sure it's in the National Mob guide**

NIAC Update: Joel Kerley

- Joel will send a Diagram showing who's who to Bryan. **Bryan forwarded to Vince and members. Request \$20,000 to IHOpS for travel for members and \$5,000 for each subunit. Vince to submit funding requests to NIAC**
- Lots of new groups being created above NWCG. He feels this may complicate getting approvals for interagency guides
- He realizes the importance of guides and keeping them updated. He is working with NWCG to keep the process flowing.
- Joel accepted the NIAC Chair duties for another year
- Tandy (Forest Service) New Executive Assistant - She is currently posting NIAC documents on My Fire Community Website. **Possibly add the IHOpS documents to this web. Contact : Tandy Bolling (Utah) (Vince)**
- Budget Due date: April 28, 2014. **Joel will send format to Bryan**
- Invasive Species Group: The group is sending team out to work with heli-bases this summer to get a snap shot of operations. Their intent is NOT to interrupt operations. . Goal is to identify species in various locations and to identify appropriate equipment that is compatible. Joel recommends that we enlist some of our folks into their group as SME's. **Joel and Bryan to meet.** Minnesota DNR has an Invasive Species Guide posted.
- Hazard Mapping. Approximately in a month all the bases will have these maps. All of the bases will continue to create their own hazard maps while these are sectioned off in areas. All the icons are standardized between the agencies. Dale Gunther is the lead.

Civil vs. Public - Arlyn Miller

- Public letter as recommended in public aircraft operations advisory circular. OAS stance is that AC is strictly advisory and not regulatory
- **Task: Communicate with NIAC on agency interpretations on public aircraft AC dissemination. Vince**
- FS sent out letters to all contractors EU and CWN. Vendors chose to Declare or not.

Helicopter Typing /IHOG Chair- Bill Schuster

- Get rid of the Non- Jettisonable Box
- How is fixed weight reduction calculated? Average equipped weight for a 212, 10% of the useful load (Ask Vince) **Will get the process from Walker Craig.**
- IHOPs agreed that this is a worthy endeavor. Bill was tasked to create an implementation plan to include complete communications throughout.
- Bryan asked that this concept remain within the group and not disseminate yet.
- Concern that IHOG Unit meeting tomorrow, he is only expecting 2. IHOpS, suggested that if happens to contact them for recommendations
- Updates on IHOG
 - Helicopter Manager Check List form is now included in the Helibase Manager
 - Added Chart 9-11
 - Change 6-10 passenger seats to 9-14 passenger SEATs
 - Added CPARS as a new Standard Form
 - Electronic Version: Can submit updates for approval; after approval, the last version is updated and create revision log.
 - Updates approval goes through IHOpS then disseminated.
 - Paper updates will be formatted with a revision log and to fit into the physical book.
 - IHOG is on NIFC website with a link to NWCG but the forms are on the NIFC website.
 - **Task Vince: Move updated heli-base forms to the NWCG Website.**
- Bill asked IHOpS for \$20,000

Note to IHOpS Chair: Notify the Unit Chair of changes after their guide or documents has been passed off to NWCG and any changes decided on after their submission to IHOpS, changes made at the NWCG level.

Note: Set up a block of time to invite Vendors to the IHOW

ACETA – Arlyn Miller

- Mark Bathrick cannot sign (authorize) on handbooks (Policy). Must go to the undersecretary of the DOI for signature
- **Task: Brad Koeckeritz to lead and update ACETA unit roster. Possibility of a training subunit Group will stay under IHOpS for the time being. To be re-evaluated at the next IHOW. Shad volunteered to help**

Aerial Ignition – Darren Mathis

- Bryan Bitting will continue to be liaison for Aerial Ignition Sub-Unit
- Looking for Vice Ken Morin
- Looking for Scribe
- Sub Working Unit. Looking for State Rep. NIAC will get a name to Darren
- Add Floyd Keller as an Advisor
- Would like funding from NIAC
- Aerial Ignition Sub Unit Approved use of new Torch from MTDC. How to implement? Looking for guidance from IHOpS. Who will inspect the torch? (Need a process for approval) **Steber at MTDC RFI for construction - Darren**
- Rain Dance Machine been shelved for a while. Is it time to look at it again? Concern about the lack of support from the Co. IHOpS opted to leave it on the shelf until the contractor approaches us.
- Brainerd Bracket. Working on getting an STC. Aerial Ignition unit approved the use of the bracket. They will submit a letter to IHOpS. Agency owned machine with contractor owned bracket. Suggested that we use weight max x 4 for the belly strap. Do we require the vendor to ensure that this meets a certain standard? **Vince to send letter to NIAC of IHOpS AI endorsement of AIG recommendation.**
- Not use Type II Helitorch suspension system Extension? 100 Feet Proposal. Inspectors Pilots will add it to their agenda Need to use Type III. **Vince will talk to HOS about using Type II**
- Helitorch Equipment Survey was not successful from a couple of years ago. Looking at resending another survey
- Adding helitorch qualifications and experience requirements to the guide to maintain currency.
- **Vince to follow up with NWCG regarding Errata Process**

Rappel Unit– Donnie Campbell Chair

- Reconstructing the Interagency Helicopter Rappel Guide for implementation in 2015
- Trying to leave space for other groups, RADs, Fast Rope, etc. within the guide
- MTDC has developed a new descent device and is now being tested with a third party contractor. If approved, Equipment will be available to all
- Using Sky Genie, Nylon Ropes, (Bordoun Snap Hooks being Re-Pinged)
- Vince Welbaum is the Liaison
-

Short Haul Update – Shad Sitz

- Completed 51 short-haul missions this year
- Recommendations:
 - Remove PTS Test course diagrams from Handbook and put in the PTS to make it complete. Reference the PTS.
 - Standardize line length (Unit for Pilot testing is 150')
 - 3 Phases: Inspector will observe and evaluate pilot's skills and abilities from vertical reference flights, pilot control of the helicopter as well as the load, and response to variable weather conditions.
- Unit supports the proposal from OAS to adopt a line length of 250 in phase 3 of the PTS.

- Some of the revisions with the 2014 Handbook – Nothing to big
 - Remove 450 pound statement from 4.1.1
 - Add warning box in 4.4
- Standardization of specific carabineers and equipment
- Standardization of short hauler equipment
- Standardization of:
 - Audio
 - Visual
 - Tactile
 - Hand signals and Verbal
 - One Arm to two Arm. One arm is preferred
 - Crew Configuration
- Equipment Update
- FAA is going to require the pilot secondary release to be engaged while pilot has hands on the controls. Contractor Mechanical Specialties introduced a 2nd cargo hook device that can be used by the pilot without having the pilot to take his/her hand off of flight controls.
- There is an updated charter going to Vince for signature.

EHE-Short Haul – Vince

National Emergency Medical Short Haul Working Team (NEMSHWT)

- Larry Sutton is the Chair
- Don Campbell is Co-Chair
- FS will work with Park Service
- BLM is interested and involved
- **Task: Send Donnie your questions to be hammered out in the NEMSHWT meeting the first of March.**
- Mike Amicarilla (BIA) has been invited to the Ops Working Team meeting.

Emergency Helicopter Extraction Discussion

- Would like to see them as firefighting assets
- Plan on using IA Ships
- 120 Mile radius coverage
- Look at current bases to see where we might need to add a helicopter for Short Haul. IHOpS looking a map with bases marked to get a visual evaluation
- Basically we are the transportation platform for the mission
- There are usually EMT, paramedics around the incident
- There is EMT concern on the legality of crossing state lines.

- Incident Emergency Management Subcommittee (IEMS) looking for a Helitack SME, preferably current EMT, PFT. Does require lots of conference calls. **Vince to check with Donny for a person.**
- **Task: Vince asked that the members send any questions/ideas to him within the next week**
- **Task: Vince to keep IHOpS informed of progress of the program**

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Next Conference Call will be March 26 @ 1300