



Standard Operating Procedures  
for  
Bureau of Land Management  
Nationally Funded  
SEATs

May 2024

## **Introduction**

The intent of this SOP is to both communicate and standardize the processes used in the overall management of the BLM Nationally Funded SEATs where procedures differ from existing processes. BLM Nationally Funded SEATs are hired under the DOI On-Call Parent Contract utilizing task orders. These SEATs will be funded and managed Nationally. This SOP covers how the BLM Nationally Funded SEATs will be mobilized, the roles and responsibilities of the people involved in the management of the BLM National SEATs, invoicing and cost coding procedures and an overview of the contract differences from previous SEAT contracts.

## **Mobilization Considerations**

BLM Nationally Funded SEATs start their task order at an identified initial reporting location. Based on the number of BLM National SEATs allocated to their GACC, BLM State Aviation Managers (SAM) and BIA Regional Aviation Managers (RAMs) will coordinate with BLM/BIA fire staff and/or the Geographic Area Coordinating Group (GACC) to determine the initial reporting location of these SEAT's. This information is coordinated through the BLM National SEAT Program Manager and National SEAT Coordinator. The task order will outline initial mobilization information to the contractor.

It is the responsibility of the Geographic Area/Local Unit to ensure that qualified SEMG or ATBM managers are in place to manage the aircraft. Staffing and funding of these positions is the responsibility of the hosting unit.

Consistent with the DOI authorization, BLM Nationally Funded SEATs will be managed as national shared resources. As National assets, these SEATs can and will be moved to areas of greatest need. Within Geographic Areas, Fire Staff on an interagency basis will provide direction to the Dispatch system on the mob/demob of SEATs to meet existing or forecasted fire loads within their jurisdiction.

BLM National SEATs are national shared resources similar to large airtankers. GACCs can preposition SEATs using the same mechanisms and rationale that are used with LATs, including using the same staging or preposition fire codes to move SEATs that are used for other national resources. (Reference Interagency Standards for Fire and Aviation Operations, chapter 16 and the National Interagency Mobilization Guide Chapter 50).

Nationally, when competition for SEATs exists, NMAC will provide direction to NICC based on intelligence developed by the National SECO on the allocation and reallocation of these SEATs between Geographic Areas.

Once the initial start locations of BLM National SEATs are determined, mobilization will occur pursuant to a Task Order.

NICC will facilitate transfer of the SEAT resource item in IROC to the host GACC to manage at their discretion for the duration of the allocation. As National Shared Resources, BLM National

SEATs will be statused in IROC as available nationally. When assigned to an incident, BLM National SEATs will be released back to the GACC/Hosting unit at the end of each shift and shown as available “National” in IROC.

Mobilization for incident response will occur via resource order; however, once a decision to reallocate a BLM National SEAT to another GACC is made, the receiving GACC will place a request for the mobilization, and the resource item will be transferred as described above after mobilization is complete.

### **Roles and Responsibilities:**

#### **Contracting Officer (CO):**

The CO for the DOI On-Call/Combined SEAT Services Contract is:

Angie Clements  
(571) 479-0325  
angelina\_clements@ibc.doi.gov

#### **Contracting Officers Representative (COR):**

COR for all the BLM National SEATs is the BLM National SEAT Program Manager, Alternate Contact is the National SEAT Coordinator.

- Maintains contract documentation at the National Office.
  - Assists in coordinating with Administrative PIs and CO.
  - Inputs the final evaluation into CPARS.
- National SEAT Program Manager contact information:  
Kristina Curtis  
208-387-5441 (D)  
208-850-2780 (C)  
kcurtis@blm.gov
  - National SEAT Coordinator contact information:  
Angie Forbes (or delegate as needed for coverage)  
208-387-5419 Desk forwards to cell  
208-954-2072 (C)  
blm\_fc\_seat@blm.gov

#### **SAM and RAM:**

The SAM and RAM primary role is to provide program oversight to the Administrative PI. Each SAM / RAM will develop their own level of interaction and involvement with the PI as needed. SAM/RAM can choose to be the Project Inspector for their area.

#### **Duties:**

- Submit nominations to the COR for the Administrative PI for their area.
- Provides oversight to the Administrative PI s in their area and outlines what type interaction and documentation they will require for their records.

- Monitor Administrative PI performance, and interacts with the COR on any concerns, problems or recommendations.
- Interacts with any additional Administrative PIs or host SEMG/ATBM who may be assigned to or temporarily working within their area.
- Elevates any problems or concerns identified by the Administrative PI about Managers (SEMG/ATBM) assigned to their SEATs to the COR for resolution.

**Administrative Projector Inspector (PI):**

Administrative PIs will be approved by the SAM / RAM and the COR each year. PIs can be assigned to multiple SEATs if approved.

**Duties:**

- Administrative PI will provide the SEMG/ATBM a copy of the original initial inspection form at the beginning of their assignment.
- Interacts with the SAM / RAM appointed for the area on oversight during the contract.
- Document all conversations and correspondence in an *Administrative PI Log*. Provide the COR and the SAM / RAM with a copy at the end of the contract, or as requested.
- Participates in any pre-work for their assigned SEATs.
- Touch base with the Host SEMG/ATBM at the beginning of each assignment, and periodically throughout their assignment, and provide assistance as requested.
- Coordinates with the Host SEMG/ATBM to ensure that the Fuel Service/Support truck is available to support the pilot as needed or requested.
- Notify the SAM / RAM and COR with concerns or problems concerning SEMG performance.
- Provide the Host SEMG/ATBM with a copy of the contract, current modifications, current pricing, task order number, reporting location, days off, MAP dates and extensions.
- Establish a contract file, and retain records as directed by DOI/BLM policy (retain for a minimum 3 years).
- Obtain copies of the Daily Operations Worksheets from the host SEMG/ATBM on a daily basis for the contract file.
- Obtain copies of the OAS-23E's from the host SEMG/ATBM for the contract file and reviews them for accuracy. Contact the Host SEMG/ATBM if there are problems and work with OAS to correct any discrepancies.
- Provide the SAM /RAM with copies of any documentation they identify or request.
- Ensure any unavailability has been documented and the aircraft has been approved for return to contract availability by the appropriate personnel.
- Review any SAFECOMs with the SEMG/ATBM and/or contractor personnel.
- Touch base with the National SECO to ensure Daily Operations Worksheets are being submitted in a timely fashion.
- Maintain communications with the Manager where the SEAT is currently stationed.
- Maintain communication with the contractor personnel as needed. Provide information to the pilot for administrative items such as pay documents.
- Provide the COR with periodic updates, notify as needed with any concerns or issues.
- Ensure the outgoing Host Manager has prepared a transitional packet for incoming Host Manager.

- Ensure the host SEMG/ATBM has completed a Contract Evaluation and has routed it to the Administrative PI and the COR at the end of their assignment.
- Complete a Contract Evaluation at the end of the MAP.

### **Contract File:**

The contract file developed and maintained by the Administrative PI will contain the following:

- Copies of Administrative PI Log
- Daily Operations Worksheets or Flight Aircraft Daily Use Summaries
- Copies of OAS-23Es
- Copy of the Contract and any Modifications
- Contractor Evaluations

### **The Hosting SEMG or ATBM:**

Below is an outline identifying the general duties associated with hosting one or more of the BLM National SEATs. Please keep in mind that the identified duties are focused on the BLM National SEATs *only*. Traditional On-Call and other types of contracted SEATs have different cost coding, logistical needs and administrative chain of command.

The hosting unit is responsible to ensure there is a qualified SEAT or Airtanker Base Manager. Reference the NWCG Standards for Airtanker Base Operations (SABO), and the Interagency Standards for Fire and Aviation Operations Ch. 16.

### **Duties:**

- On the first day of the contract, the SEMG/ATBM will perform the initial required inspections for the SEAT, Pilot and Support vehicle.
  - Provides a copy to the Administrative PI, and the pilot.
- Ensure any replacement or relief pilots are carded for the contract, the Primary Pilot for the Nationally Funded SEAT task orders are to be Level 1, relief Pilots may be Level 2 (ATBM/SEMG to monitor).
- Depending on where the Fuel Support Vehicle (FSV) or SEAT Support Vehicle (SSV) is located, it may be necessary to assist the contractor with obtaining transportation, meals and other logistical support as needed.
- Keep all documentation generated during the assignment as part of the base records. Regardless of flight activity the SEMG/ATBM completes the daily operations worksheet and emails to National SECO by 10 AM the following morning. Please ensure all contract documentation is filled out completely and accurately as this is a document of record.
- “FLIGHT” program data entry for Nationally funded SEATs is required. The Flight “Aircraft Daily Use Summary” may be submitted to the SECO as daily ops as long as it is filled out completely. Extra info can be entered into the comment section when entering AV if needed for documentation.
- Provide the assigned Administrative PI with a copy of the Daily Operations Worksheet each day for their contract file.
- Coordinates with the PIC on the completion of the OAS-23E on a daily basis.
- Contacts the Administrative PI with any problems or concerns with contractor personnel.
- Notifies the Administrative PI when they are transitioning out of an assignment.

- Ensures incoming SEMG receive a transitional briefing packet and the name of the assigned Administrative PI.
- Completes a Contract Evaluation at the end of their assignment and forwards it to the Administrative PI and COR.

### Invoicing Process for BLM National SEATs

1. SEMG/ATBM and pilot complete OAS-23E at end of each day.
  - a. SEMG/ATBM notates in the “remarks” section receipt of services for those dates they manage the aircraft. Final pay documents must have reconciling SEMG/ATBM signature, and include name, phone # and email (top right corner of OAS-23e).
  - b. After mobilizing to a new base the receiving SEMG/ATBM Manager will touch base with the previous manager to ensure OAS-23E is up to date.
  - c. Provides the contractor with the appropriate mission, billee and charge codes each day for them to complete the OAS-23E on a daily basis. Reviews and signs as the government representative for receipt of services received.
2. OAS-23E will be closed out by the pilot/SEMG every two weeks.
  - a. At the end of the two week period the Host SEMG/ATBM doing the two week sign off needs to ensure that all previous Mangers have initialed off receipt of services in the “remarks’ section throughout that two week period.
  - b. Obtains copies of all OAS-23E prior to the contractor submitting for payment, and provides the Administrative PI with copies for their contract file.
3. Companies will submit invoices via the established process in AIRS and IPP, attaching the OAS-23E as supporting documentation. Link to information on the New AIRS payment system. <https://www.doi.gov/aviation/aqd/ams>

### Cost Coding for BLM Nationally Funded SEAT’s

All Aircraft Use Reports for SEATs hired and funded by the BLM National Aviation Office will be completed in the electronic format utilizing the OAS-23E, pen & ink hardcopies are not acceptable.

OAS-23E’s must be updated daily and submitted by the contractor every two weeks for this contract:

1. The first line each day of the OAS-23E’s will be filled out for Daily Availability.
 

Note: For each OAS-23E you will enter the appropriate “**Task Order #**” for that specific Aircraft in the Contract # block on the OAS-23E.

  - *BLM Nationally Funded SEATs will have Task Order Numbers (75 or 90 days) specific to each aircraft. Contact the National SEAT Coordinator to request this information.*

- The subsequent lines of OAS-23E's will be filled out for Flight Time and all other charges/pay item codes.

Availability (AV) cost code for the BLM Nationally funded SEATs regardless of who the aircraft are actually working for, is listed below. **The "SEAT" Charge Code is to be used for BLM Nationally Funded SEAT's AV only.** This charge code is **not** applicable to any other On-Call SEATs, and any other additional charges (such as SC, SSV, etc.) will need to be coded to a Fire/Support code that is applicable or another funding source. For a current list of BLM Nationally funded SEATs please contact the National SEAT Coordinator at 208-387-5419.

**Non-Fleet FEE Based Charges (Availability)**

Pay Item Code	Billee Code	Billee Agreement #	Charge Code	Fire
<b>AV</b>	<b>61C0</b>	Leave blank	<b>SEAT</b>	<b>Y</b>

\*Task orders will identify which AV rate AV1/AV2/AV3/AV4 etc.

OAS23Es will need to be filled out for all other charges using the Billee Code **61C0 (Six One Charlie Zero)** and **the four digit Fire Code (to include suppression/severity/GACC support code)** for the Fire or Unit ordering the services.

**Non-Fleet TIME Based Charges (Flight Time)**

Pay Item Code	Billee Code	Billee Agreement #	Charge Code	Fire
<b>FT</b>	<b>61C0</b>	Leave blank	<b>The four digit Fire Code (to include suppression/severity/GACC support code)</b>	<b>Y</b>

\*Task orders will identify which FT rate FT1/ FT2/ FT3/ FT4 etc.

The following link is provided for the respective documents: OAS-23E Instructions, Pay Items codes and Mission Codes: [http://www.doi.gov/aviation/aqd\\_ams.cfm](http://www.doi.gov/aviation/aqd_ams.cfm)

**DOI On-Call/Combined SEAT Services Contract - Summary of Contract requirements**

**Measurement and Payment Items**

- Per Diem will be entered on the OAS-23E per federal FTR rates found at <https://www.gsa.gov/travel/plan-book/per-diem-rates> and is approved for relief crews. EU SEAT Per Diem please code to **DIEM**, this only applies to the EU SEAT fleet.
- Measurement of Flight Time.** Flight Time will be measured when the aircraft moves under its own power for the purpose of flight and ends when the aircraft comes to rest after landing at an airport.
  - C22.1.1 For purposes of this contract: “...moves under its own power for the purposes of flight...” is defined as the time at which the aircraft begins taxiing to the runway with the intent to takeoff. Start times are the time at which the aircraft leaves the pit or begins taxiing from the ramp on any government ordered flight.

- C22.1.2 For purposes of this contract: “...when the aircraft comes to rest after landing...” is defined as the time at which the aircraft comes to a stop for the purpose of parking and shutting down the engine. Taxi time and time spent hot loading or hot refueling is considered flight time. Engine cool down time after the airplane comes to a stop for the purpose of parking is NOT flight time.
- Mission Currency Training Flights for BLM EU SEATs will be charged to CURR.

### Recording Flight Time on the Daily Ops Worksheet and OAS-23E

- SEMG will record the flight time on the Daily Ops Worksheet for each load the contractor takes out of the pit. The sortie must be recorded to reflect the correct refractometer reading, gallons delivered, correct charge codes for multiple fires, and to track cumulative flight time.
- **Example of how to document the flight time on the Daily Ops Worksheet.**
  - When a pilot departs the pit for the 1<sup>st</sup> load, the SEMG will record their start time in Line #1 of the Daily Ops Worksheet, and complete all the other required columns on that line. When the SEAT comes back into the pit for a second hot load of retardant, the SEMG will record the **stop** time for that line.
  - The SEMG will use the same **stop time** recorded in Line #1 as their **start time** for Line # 2 or the second sortie.
- **NO lumping of Flight Time on either the Daily Operations worksheet or the OAS-23E.**

### Other Applicable Items

- Fuel Service/Support Vehicle mileage will only be paid for mobilization to support the aircraft. Mileage will not be paid for transportation to and from lodging accommodations or meals.
- Relief pilots and drivers are required throughout the period of time the aircraft is hired. Any travel costs associated with relief pilots and/or drivers is the responsibility of the hosting agency. Primary Pilots for the National SEATs are to be Level 1 unless they are substituting a level 2 pilot for training and mentoring purposes. There must be a level 1 pilot co-located at the base of operations with the level 2 pilot. Relief Pilots may also be Level 2. Please work with local unit/State/GACC and COR/PI for relief crew planning as well as COVID-19 mitigations if they involve pilot/relief crew schedules that may differ. Approvals may need to be elevated to the CO.
- *SEAT Support Vehicles (SSV's) are the responsibility of the hosting Agency. They will need to have a Resource Order generated and a separate OAS 23E will be filled out utilizing the Daily Task Order Number for the Vendor. Do not use the Nationally funded task order numbers for SSV's.*



- Mobilization to the initial reporting location is the responsibility of the vendor, demobilization costs will be paid consistent with the parent contract language in C24.4.