



ROCKY MOUNTAIN AREA COORDINATION CENTER

Bureau of Indian Affairs (Southwest, Rocky Mountain and Great Plains Regions)
Bureau of Land Management (Colorado and Wyoming)
Fish and Wildlife Service (Mountain/Prairie Region)
Forest Service (Rocky Mountain Region)
National Park Service (Intermountain and Midwest Regions)
State Agencies in Colorado, Wyoming, South Dakota, Nebraska and Kansas

2012 Fall Center Managers Meeting November 14-15, 2012

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service · Mountain-Prairie Regional Office · Lakewood, Colorado

Intro

Ken Kerr

- Recent years more difficult to fill key dispatch positions
 - Workload vs budget
 - Re-evaluation of dispatch functions
 - IDOPP studies in some areas leading to reorganizations
 - Center manager positions difficult to fill.
 - Finding willing people to apply
 - Finding individuals with experience and leadership qualities.
- Delegations of Authority from Zone Boards (**Discussed at RMCG Winter Meeting, and being followed-up by dispatch liaisons.**)
 - Montrose, Durango, Pueblo, Casper & Rawlins do not have delegations.
 - Enables dispatch center to act on board's direction, or in place of board before activation of LMAC to allocate resources and prioritize incidents.
 - Typically dictated by PL for the zone.
 - Provides day-to-day operational authorities and orders.
 - Lack of delegation leaves dispatch center without proper agreements in place to authorize step-up or step-downs.
 - Some zones lack delegations for center manager to supervise employees from different agencies.
 - Need RMCG to leverage issuance of DOA.
 - Request that Center Managers provide RMCG with written documentation of each zone's charter, configuration, problems, requests, etc.
 - Need to identify standards (minimum) for membership, etc.
 - Should include DOA from zone board and DOAs for supervision of employees.
 - Dispatch centers should work through liaison to resolve issues.
 - Action Item: Kerr requests rating from each center for liaison to help determine if areas need improvement.
 - Need to improve communications between zone board, dispatch, RMACC and RMCG.

- RMCG needs to arrange a zone board liaison backup plan for times when the chief liaison is unavailable or disengaged. (Discussed at RMCG Winter Meeting.)
 - Make sure liaisons are informed of what centers need & how to best serve them.
 - Incorporate liaison responsibilities into RMCG Operating Guide
 - Be involved with dispatch meetings & zone board meetings, including daily conference calls.
 - Need to develop list of liaison responsibilities with detailed expectations to include in Mob Guide, RMCG Operating Plan, and zone Mob Guides.
- 2013 Red Book will include chapter on dispatch.
- RMCG found that elevated activity levels (higher PLs) also require ramp-up of dispatch functions.
 - INTS should be one of the positions to be included in the staff-up.
 - Trigger points and staffing tied to PL should be in writing (Mob Guide, Operating Plan, etc.)
 - USFS support code guidance is being clarified.
 - BLM should have support codes with guidance in 2013 fire season.
 - Trying to align BLM & FS policies.
 - Topic for national Operations Meeting at end of November to alleviate confusion on use of support codes.
 - Request for addition of support codes in Mob Guide for 2013.
 - RMCG Bin Item: address issue about one agency (FS) being taken advantage of by other agencies to staff vacancies on support code vs. host agency funding; vacancies at dispatch centers not being funded adequately.
 - RMCG speak to boards about cost to government of vacancies in dispatch.
 - Kerr: Request for list of vacancies at each center, what agency is hosting, how long vacant.
- LMAC
 - Importance of LMAC for coordinating information flow between board, dispatch, RMA MAC, Operations Group, etc.
 - LMAC based upon local activity level, and can be activated outside of RMA MAC activation.
 - RMCG Bin Item: make sure Operations Group & RMA MAC are disseminating information adequately to all zones.
 - Also requires participation from dispatch zones to share information.
 - RMCG needs to educate zone boards about LMAC and encourage their use. (Discussed at RMCG Winter Meeting; being followed-up by dispatch liaisons.)
 - Suggest using Spring board meetings to do so.

MAC/LMAC

Jay Esperance

- USAF Report on C-130 MAFFS crash coming out soon.
 - Interagency incident.
 - Microbursts blamed for crash.
 - Secondary human error: pilots not aware of weather factors. Lead plane & A/A did not adequately communicate weather situation, but time to do so was very limited.
 - Esperance was informed immediately after accident, but notifications came out through social media before agency statements could be formulated and communicated.
- Importance of acting and LMAC
- MAC coordinators available in RMA to help with MAC activation and setup, and to facilitate daily operations.

Round-Robin AAR

- GPC
 - Most of board is on team or was gone on fires through busy season.
 - Thought things went well, but there was a need for LMAC coordination.
 - Steve Gage came in to help facilitate by teaching local participants how to optimize function of LMAC.
 - RMCG liaison (Dave Hall) was very engaged and helpful.
 - Some felt that RMACC was trying to dictate priorities to local zone.
 - Need more specific guidance on Special Needs justification and documentation required for teams and other resources.
 - **Action Item: Resend Checklist for Team Mob SOP's from RMACC.**
 - **Action Item: Mob Guide provides guidelines, but will be expanded and clarified for 2013.**
- CPC
 - Didn't activate LMAC fully.
 - Used some conference calls and meetings to coordinate incident priorities.
 - Would have been helpful to have board and/or LMAC involved to make decisions and provide guidance.
- CDC
 - LMAC went well.
 - Would like to use an intel person in the future to assist with info gathering and dissemination.
 - **Action Item: Prepositioned resources: need guidelines spelled out in Mob Guide for how they can be used, who makes decisions, how to plan for resources being prepositioned. (Ops Committee to prepare RMA incoming resources Guide)**
 - Allow for better briefings, planning, etc.

- Paperwork system for prepositioned resources is cumbersome.
 - Need standard process for dispatching prepositioned resources (particularly aircraft).
 - Suggest using paper dispatching for aircraft to speed process. RMACC should create a standard process for prepo resources.
 - Also suggest using support positions in aircraft to handle paperwork/ROSS coordination.
 - Information coming from RMACC (guidance) wasn't always consistent, particularly with aircraft desk; may be a need to elevate more issues to COD.
- CRC
 - Same issue as CDC regarding crews.
 - Would be helpful to have a RMA Briefing packet for all incoming resources.
 - Highlight expectations for resources; include in Mob Guide
 - Paul Hohn & Cliff Hutton have already been tasked with developing; should be posted on website when complete.
 - Pulled together LMAC, even if people didn't know that's what was happening.
 - Need to encourage & educate players; need to reevaluate MAC plan locally
 - Would be helpful to have ROSS practice again.
- GJC
 - Working with IMTs was cumbersome this year.
 - Pre-orders were bumpy; line officers very concerned about what was being ordered.
 - Most chaos was in initial phase
 - Mob Center took demob out of the hands of dispatch
 - Was disconnected from entire process, which increased chaos and miscommunication.
 - Will have dispatcher assigned to mob center in future.
 - Fire Business Interface for Mob Center was challenging.
 - Large part of the problem was that fire business leads were on fire assignments.
 - Will use a fire business advisor in future to avoid similar situations.
 - Service & Supply Plan is no good.
 - Needs to be re-worked.
 - All local vendors need to be in VIPR in order to make sure they are included in DPL. (Vendors have to compete to be on a DPL via VIPR)
 - Bus contracts are not adequate to meet needs.
 - Needed to bring in buses from outside the contracted system.
 - Required an equipment inspector to approve buses hired.
 - Need capability to hire and train equipment inspectors.
- DRC
 - Type 3 teams

- Problem with fire management not wanting to spend the money for Type 2 teams, so just ordering pieces to augment Type 3 team.
 - Suggest more standardization for acceptable qualifications to fill needed positions.
 - Area of most concern is Logistics.
 - Should fall back to zone coordinating group to address standards & procedures.
 - ACDP or IADP orders with name requests were rejected.
 - Orders required to be shopped, when there may be justification for the name request. (Discussed at National Cord. Mtg.)
 - Success with California dispatch module
 - 6-7 dispatchers who were able to set up and run Expanded.
 - Incident ordered IHCs due to steep, rugged terrain, but got questioned for justification by RMACC. (Required by NMAC and RMA MAC for resource allocation/prioritization at certain PL's)
 - Was due to elevated activity level, and justification was needed to prioritize allocation of resources.
- MTC
 - GACC sometimes not calling centers when orders are placed; some orders sat for half a day before they were seen.
 - RMACC policy is to call—please notify if not called.
 - Many CRRF resources that are supposed to be in ROSS are not entered by GACC.
 - OEM agreement is only to enter fire resources into ROSS. (May change this winter)
 - Team Pre-orders would be helpful to have ahead of time.
 - A/G Frequency maps should show frequencies according to dispatch boundaries. (Can't see dispatch boundaries from the air, but can see Highways)
 - ROSS standardization needed:
 - Stop using Navigation Instructions
- PBC
 - Center Manager vacancy OCR issues. Working to resolve.
 - Royal Gorge BLM position (18/8 GS-6/7) flying now.
 - Rio Grande NF sponsoring 18/8 GS-5/6 dispatcher position.
 - Problems with ROSS going down during Springer & Waldo fires.
 - Had Rex Alford come to assist with ROSS issues.
 - No purchasing personnel for county fires until BUYT comes in.
 - Working with counties and state to arrange purchasing authorities for Ty3 fires.
 - Mob Center was helpful
 - Had difficulties with buses coming in, but no support transport on arrival.
 - Very little severity funding available to unit.

- Hosting prepositioned resources helped.
- DPL issues
 - Vendors were passed up inadvertently.
 - Needed ROSS logins to status themselves. (Not all equipment/ services can be statused in ROSS)
- Non-Forest Service employees must have IT security class and certification before they can come in to a FS center.
 - Managed accounts require Security Awareness training through USDA.
 - Need to elevate to national level to reach some agreement with DOI crossover, and to change policy regarding managed accounts.
 - Fletcher will assist with coordinating documentation of crossover. (See HSPD-12 Document)
- MAFFS training very successful
 - Used Peterson AFB, Pueblo Tanker Base & other local resources pre-season.
- Investigation ensued after reports of metal falling from sky, blue glow in sky.
 - Caused creation of another incident.
 - Springer Fire aircraft grounded until after investigation.
- Lower North Fork fire
 - Issues with initial Team Orders – team order filled without communication from the incoming IC and Agency contact – Resolution: provided better incident information, critical needs and contact documentation on team orders.
 - Once team arrived additional members were needed - Caused problems when supplemental team members were ordered as name requests without point numbers.
 - NICC would not process name requests without justification.
 - Caused a lot of confusion and delays in processing of orders.
 - Required PBC to identify reason for need, scope and status of incident, and consequences if resource was not received by time requested.
 - Caused friction with Jefferson County, due to perception that PBC was questioning needs of incident and resource orders.
 - Conducted an AAR with Jefferson County and State of Colorado to explain and troubleshoot this issue. (Took to National Cord Meeting – Decision was to have filling unit not close Parent team order until Inbrief, team members (name Requests should be point number. Still need doc/justification in Special needs)
- Had trouble in “shoulder season” getting crew orders through NICC due to winter staffing hours.
 - Processing resource orders - Time-critical resource orders were delayed until the next morning, which caused shortages for incident.
- Some detailers were sent home due to lack of active ROSS account/login.
- Problems getting name requests through NICC

- Responsibility for approval should lie with ordering dispatch center manager. Feel it should be a GACC approval only, and not be subject to NICC scrutiny. (Discussed at National Cord meeting, Doc/Justification/communication with GACC(s), NICC COD critical)
- Will be addressed at NMAC/GMAC meeting in January.
- Wetmore
 - Time critical crew orders were not processed the night the orders were created at NICC level, they were handled in the morning late, causing delay in the arrival of resources
 - Accident review team mobilized.
 - Concerned that dispatch was not informed of team's order or presence until fire closeout.
 - Per Fletcher, FMO was aware, and RMACC tries to inform dispatch whenever possible.

Rocky Mountain Area Cache

Humberto Ontiveros & Ricardo Reynoso

- Fairly new staff at cache.
- Changes coming for cache vans.
- Created new resource order for all cache supplies, which includes unit of order, etc.
- Suggest taking ROSS course to help with ordering.
- Maybe use quick reference for new dispatchers to aid with accurate ordering.
- Incident replacement process is improving; would help if communication is improved regarding whether order is for local cache or not.
- Cache van prepositioning went better this year. Will continue to look for ways to improve.
 - Need better process spelled out for tractor orders with prepositioned cache vans going to incidents or other units.
 - Need better communications about when cache vans are moving in or out of a zone.
- Primary hose-washing cache for 2 other caches; primary refurb for pumps.

Training Committee

Kim Bang

- Priority Trainee Process
 - Zone training reps responsible for compiling list of trainees.
 - GATR worked from 2-week availability list, reported daily availability to RMACC.
 - 74 RMA trainees mobilized in 2012; 17 non-RMA trainees came to area.
 - Prioritization process document sent to Fletcher & will be distributed.
 - Worked with center managers and (primarily) EDSPs in expanded to promote priority trainee assignments.

- Send feedback and suggestions for improvement re: process in 2012 to Kim Bang.
- Important to ensure process is communicated to expanded dispatch organizations.
- National priority trainee system in process.
- National effort to combine D-311 & D-312 courses.
 - Hope to have finished by Spring 2013, ready for roll-out for 2014.
 - Hoping to present both courses next year during same week.
 - Looking for ways to improve currency maintenance requirements between IADP/ACDP.
- First courses to be eliminated from offerings are non-required courses.
 - Many dispatch courses fall into this category.
 - Best solution may be to make dispatch training mandatory.
 - Fletcher will talk to Suzie Stingley and possibly address at NMAC/GMAC in January.
 - SWA attempting to present courses via VTC, but may not work with some.
 - Send input on alternative delivery methods to Kim Bang.
- D-310 will be offered in RMA.
 - 17 nominees so far, with more RMA nominees than prior years.
- ROSS training needed beyond on the job training.
 - Winter training academy will be primary place for systems training.
 - Many people cannot travel to academy for training.
 - May need two types of ROSS training—one for dispatch, one for ORDMs.
 - Some units intend to put on local ROSS training.
 - May be possible to bring in ROSS instructors to local units to reduce travel expense.
 - Should be elevated to national level because many resources from outside RMA were not ROSS proficient.
 - Possible to require an annual refresher on systems for dispatchers.
 - Preference from CMs is to have ROSS class offered during both Winter & Summer wildfire academies. Will be taken back to Training Committee.
 - Suggestion to add ROSS training to Spring Meeting.
 - Needs analysis should be extended to dispatch for input also.
 - Considering adding breakout for ORDMs (& others) to IMT meeting in April.
- Decision not to continue developing M-481 course.
 - Current pending request to put on course in South Dakota.
 - Fletcher will follow up with RMCG.
- Committee assembled to create/offer equipment inspector training course for RMA (VIPR).

Aviation Committee

Steve Sorensen/Sandra LaFarr

- New committee
- Limited number of taskings this year—partly due to real-time participation in daily activities.
- Fire traffic area policies

- California issued no-divert orders for tankers; decided that RMA did not need to do same.
- One major accident—C-130 MAFFS.
- Current projects
 - Large airtanker certification plan for tanker bases; draft plan will be submitted to RMCG.
 - Need for guidance and standardization called for development of “checklist” for tanker bases.
 - Anticipate inclusion in 2013 Mob Guide.
 - Training—limited success in experienced aviation positions.
 - Some problem is lack of field training for people who attend classes.
 - Conducting needs analysis for aviation training.
 - VLAT training needs also being evaluated.
- Have started national process to request that Casper tanker base gets officially added to VLAT approved bases.
- VLAT presentation
 - Largely sales pitch
 - VLAT operators are responsible for agreements with tanker bases.
 - New VLAT contract
 - Next Generation bidding 2 contracts this year.
 - Evergreen (747) also bidding same contract.
 - Cost-share agreement for CWN being discussed.
 - \$50,000/day availability would be shared on a pro-rated basis by agencies using the tankers.
 - Would take some financial burden off of USFS for cost of tanker availability.
 - Guidance for VLAT applications (terrain, elevation, weather, etc.) based upon studies of airframe capabilities.
- Next Generation contract for large airtankers was protested in the first round. Award should be made in December.
- Any questions about MAFFS crash Jennifer Jones in Boise.
- Now require Readiness Level 1 (RL1) instead of 1500 hours for airtanker pilots on firefighting missions.
 - Performance-based certification.
 - List of approvals needed before USFS will certify.
 - Bucket work, etc.
- Rappel
 - No additional rappel crews will be added for 2013.
 - Will be discussed again in February.
 - Goal of 22 platforms and crews may be impossible with current budget situation.
- New studies on aviation issues

- Airtankers and wildfire management in the US Forest Service: examining data availability and exploring usage and cost trends. (handout)
- Aerial Firefighting System – fixed-wing issues. Internal draft—will be distributed when final.
 - In response to several aircraft incidents or accidents during firefighting operations in 2012.
 - Addresses problems with aviation management for wildland firefighting.
 - USFS does not have the mechanism to effectively manage aviation in a firefighting environment.
 - Aerial supervision hazards
 - Concerns raised that dispatchers “badgered” flight crews during critical times for flight following purposes.
 - Complaints that flight crews may not be experienced enough to handle complexities of firefighting communications (listen to rec)
 - Findings included:
 - Need for requirement for all agency dispatchers to have formal aircraft training. (D-312 ACDP no longer required to become an ACDP per NWCG 310-1 or FS 5109.17, so with training budgets fire managers are not sending folks)
 - Ensure that region aviation officers instruct dispatchers not to inappropriately pressure pilots to fly when pilot feels safety is an issue.
- Looking at issuing a safety alert for dispatch offices to direct required training and experience for aircraft dispatchers.
 - USFS and DOI requirements do not match.
 - Currently no requirement for formal weather training.
 - Weather program available on USFS website for training (Aviation Weather).
 - AOPA site has weather training available also (AOPA.org).
 - ACE courses will be moved over to AgLearn for USFS.
 - Current push to require at least one ACDP in every dispatch center.
 - Would need either PD for ACDP or redcarded ACDP or both.
 - May be a need for RMA to develop consistent training requirements for ACDPs in the area.
 - Suggestion for each agency’s training committee be addressed to create and enforce training requirements.
 - Concern that requirement to have redcarded ACDP could backfire under some circumstances. (redcard vs. PD, ACDP out of office, etc.)
- New map to indicate positions of SMKJ, Helitack, and Rappel platforms to assist with planning and prepositioning.
- Use of High Altitude Training Sites (HATS) worked well for Grand Junction zone.

- Required USFS approval via letter, either copied from regional letter or using regional agreement.
- Need to specify procedures and policies to be sure all agreements are in place and instructions are clear.
- Need DOI agreement to mirror USFS agreement for HATS use during firefighting.
- Aviation Committee will have all National Guard agreements to work from to develop RMA agreements for HATS use.
- Request from J. Kent Hamilton to speed process of reporting for aircraft incidents, accidents, etc.
 - Notification to aviation management has been slow in some cases.
 - Responsibility should lie with unit aviation manager, but dispatch should give heads-up if aware.
- Requests for tanker base staffing extra hours, or beyond regular season
 - Any extended staffing must be charged to a fire or the regular base funding.
 - Regional office does not have access to additional funds for extended tanker

Operations Committee

Cliff Hutton/Scott Sugg

- USFS Updates
 - New national Operations is Steve Gage, who assisted in 2012 with RMA MAC
 - Vice Neil Hitchcock is Kim Christensen
 - Acting vice Mark Boche is Willie Thompson (120-day detail)
 - Kelly Kane accepted new position with NPS, starting mid-January
 - Jaime Gamboa (GMUG) and Richard Bustamante (San Juan) new FMOs in Region 2.
 - Recognize need to close communication gaps between local, regional & national MACs.
 - Will be discussing rappel program, vacancies, and other key issues at USFS national meeting last week of November.
 - FAM Board meeting Dec. 11 will focus heavily on budget issues.
 - Will include severity & support code usage
 - Staggering start dates/end dates for resources (crews, etc.) to accommodate longer season.
 - Looking into ways to increase availability of SMKJ in future.
 - Important for FMOs, etc. to be familiar with capabilities.
- BLM Updates
 - WY & CO will no longer share a budget or aviation person. Each state will now have its own.
 - Acting vice Beverly Derringer is Gill Fay (120-day detail). Position being flown now. (Gill was hired permanently to this position.)
 - New FMO in Grand Junction is Chris Farinetti.

- State Director (short-term) and National BLM severity funds may be available to assist with some staffing.
- National Operations meeting in Boise last week.
 - Direction to specify in Special Needs for crew requirements (break-down capable, self-sufficient, etc.)
 - Chapter 2 of 2013 Red Book will include specific requirements for BLM Type 2 IA crews (purchase card, qualifications, etc.)
- Chapter 19 in 2013 Red Book devoted to dispatch.
- IMT selection using new electronic application process.
 - ICs have already been selected:
 - Type 1: Blume (Deputy IC Pechota)
 - Team A: Richardson
 - Team B: Dallas
 - Team C: Esperance
 - All other team members must re-apply using the website to capture everyone's information in the database.
 - Jan. 14th is Operations Committee meeting for IMT selections. (Team selections were made and rosters approved by RMCG at Winter Meeting.)
- IMT seasons will probably be extended for 2013 to accommodate longer fire season. New rotations for Type 2 teams may be March/April through October/mid-November. (Rotation schedule will remain the same for 2013, with re-evaluation for 2014 season.)
- Re-emphasis that 209s are very important for incident prioritization at GACC level.
- Optimistic about bringing State of Nebraska into fold as a more active player. (RMCG met with Nebraska representatives at Winter Meeting to discuss future of relationship.)

GeoTech Committee

Elise Bowne/Melinda McGann

- Issues regarding availability of data to public and administrators. (Addressed by RMCG at Winter Meeting.)
 - Caused some problems with public distribution of data accompanied by incorrect information.
 - Data access and distribution process being worked on by committee to be presented to IMTs.
- Issues working with EOCs. (Addressed by RMCG; currently under review for further action.)
 - Information flow not efficient between all players on incidents where EOCs (sometimes multiple) are involved.
- Data drives will be used to collaborate data for all entities that need it.
- GISS now requires S-421.
 - Due to travel restrictions, most people cannot travel to training.

- Trying to get approval for a class to be held on Colorado Front Range to improve accessibility.
- NIROPS
 - Very successful season from March to November
 - Nationally, there were 1,741 orders for IR flights, 80% of which were filled.
 - 39 large fires supported in RMA, including 6 high-profile urban interface fires (70% of total acres flown)
 - Only 60% of IR requests were for Type 1, 2 or NIMO team fires.
 - Excellent communications with dispatch regarding IR requests and scanner orders.
 - Supported Area Command and NIMO team at regional level.
 - 12 qualified IRINs in RMA; 10 had assignments in 2012.
 - 1 trainee IRIN completed some taskbook items.
 - Melinda McGann & Bob Malcolm worked part of the season at the national IR desk.
 - Some downtime due to mechanical issues and scheduled maintenance.
 - Some orders were filled by Firehawk when agency aircraft was unavailable
 - Liaison in Salt Lake is key to interpreting data, since the product is different.
 - Class in March for IRIN at USFS Regional Office in Denver.
 - Cost & contact information on handout.

Technology & ROSS

Flint Cheney/Beth Spencer/Beth Greycloud

- Windows 7 upgrade
 - All computers need 4GB RAM to upgrade to Windows 7.
 - Cost \$50-\$60 per machine to upgrade.
 - All centers should make arrangements to upgrade RAM for machines that need it.
 - Can call Flint Cheney or Doug Wagner to coordinate.
 - Check existing memory on machine by right-clicking My Computer > Properties.
- ROSS 3.0
 - Lockheed Martin contract for ROSS ends Dec. 2012.
 - High probability that will be extended to Dec. 2013 to allow contractor to complete ROSS 3.0 project.
 - 12 FTRs (Field Test Release) scheduled
 - Training Plan
 - Pre-Deployment
 - Scheduled weekly demonstration through Live Meeting
 - 2 conference calls per week to answer questions.
 - Computer-based training options
 - Train the Trainer sessions
 - Post-Deployment

- Continued weekly conference calls for help
- User documentation on ROSS webpage
- Spot checks with dispatch centers
- ROSS SMEs available for incident assistance
- Suggestions for training and rollout:
 - Deploy during off-season
 - Keep modules available for training
- NAP login for ROSS 3.0 demonstration

BLM Mentoring Program

Mike Ellsworth

- Ass't nat'l training officer for BLM
- Mentoring for workforce development: <https://fam.openmentoring.com>
 - Third-Party website contracted to DOI & USFS.
 - Can also allow all cooperators & contractors to participate.
 - Shares competencies and expertise from experienced personnel to new personnel.
- Creates network of people, similar to hybrid of Facebook and LinkedIn.
 - Builds connections between "advisors" and "learners".
 - Facilitates information sharing to enhance the training background of personnel at all levels.
- Research shows that 1-3 hours per month spent on the network results in a positive experience for the individual.
- Reports can be run to show top competencies and top competency gaps to assess what groups may need to be created.
- Network report can be run to show all of the participant's connections, including the connections those people have.
 - Includes areas of interest for each connection.
- Need more participants to build the network to make it more functional and draw in more expertise.
- Electronic brochure will be e-mailed out to everyone.

InfoEd Committee

Gaylene Rossiter/Sheryl Page/Lynn Barclay

- Formed 3 years ago to be an advisory committee to RMCg for fire information and education in RMA.
- Consists of regional PIOs and fire prevention personnel.
- Rocky Mountain Fire Information website: www.rockymountainwildlandfireinfo.com
 - Undergoing updates and revisions to make it more functional and useful.
- Have 11 members on core committee and 6 regional PIOs on advisory committee.

- FPET
 - Task group formed to handle nominations for area FPETs.
 - Teams are re-formed each calendar year due to turnover.
 - Currently accepting applications for 2013 (due early December).
 - Reviewed by task group, compiled into rosters, then presented to RMCG for approval.
 - Not planning to move to ICAP system for applications, but will discuss.
 - 2 FPET teams in RMA in 2012.
 - Worked in RMA to raise awareness of fire danger, prevention, and disseminate information.
 - Had opportunities to send out trainees with FPETs.
 - 4 FPET team members and 1 leader were qualified in 2012.
- State of Committee
 - Committee initially created to share information due to disconnect between FPETs and IMTs.
 - Website created to be a repository for prevention and fire information.
 - Trying to determine if website interest warrants keeping it live.
 - Contains database for grants and funding.
 - Committee has decided that Colorado State Forest Service will take over database maintenance, and rest of page will be nested under InfoEd committee page on RMACC website.
 - Developed and produced PSAs.
 - More participation from prevention than PIOs.
- Public information role is moving away from RMACC to another configuration with the departure of Steve Segin.
 - Will allow RMACC to focus on daily operations and return public affairs responsibilities to agencies involved.
- Many uses for FPETs beyond public engagement to spread fire information.
 - Evaluate prevention plan and provide suggestions.
 - Assist with Smokey Bear items.
- Esperance suggested opening chat room or “gossip line” for PIOs to participate in disseminating accurate information and dispelling gossip.
 - Currently monitoring sites and social media to ensure quality and accuracy of information.
 - Requires working with local area’s social media or other information outlets; can be sensitive in some situations.
 - Key is to monitor all communications to make sure bad information isn’t being spread.

Neighborhoods & Boundaries

Fletcher/Bartter

- Request for neighborhoods and selection areas to be re-evaluated.
 - Open neighborhood ordering for Arapaho-Roosevelt & MedBow between FTC/CRC/CPC
- CPC/RWC have neighborhood ordering for Medicine Bow-Routt NF.
- GPC briefing paper re: need to share resources between GPC & CPC.
 - Major delays this summer getting resource orders through RMACC to cross zone boundaries when neighborhood ordering was turned off.
 - Some misunderstanding about neighborhood ordering rules. (Initial Attack vs Large Fire Support. RMA PL 4+and MAC etc...)
- Lend/Lease may be an option for border incident sharing.
 - May be modeling after Northwest Area plan.
 - Fletcher will distribute NWA documents for review.
- Action Item: AOP for neighborhood ordering with Northern Rockies will be incorporated into Mob Guide as a generally accepted practice.
 - Fletcher will disseminate the verbiage to border centers for input.

IMTs

Pete Blume/Jay Esperance

- Rostering issues
 - IMT availability needs consistency between zones.
 - Some centers sweep, and each on a different schedule.
 - Resources are not keeping their status current.
 - ROSS prevents orders from being sent if all resources on roster are not statused available.
 - Problems with delays in mobilization due to resource status not being current.
 - Suggestion to leave team member status set to Available Local, which will make rostering more efficient.
 - Issue of standardizing team member statusing may need to be elevated to national level. (Should be addressed in ROSS 3.0, in 2014)
- Pre-Orders
 - Need to make sure pre-order has been negotiated before team arrives. (Need communication between - IC, Logs. Chief, Dispatch, and Agency administrator...)
 - Need to make sure pre-order contains updated, accurate information (cache items, etc.), including current ROSS terminology.
 - Suggest building pre-order in ROSS as a template that can be edited and updated.
 - Suggest prioritizing pre-order with critical needs vs. less critical ones.
 - Suggest posting dated pre-order on team website to make it available for host dispatch.
 - Suggest presenting issue paper from IA centers to RMCG to review this issue at the Spring Team Meeting.

- May be an issue that needs to be elevated to a national level, since out-of-area teams coming into RMA also have pre-order problems.
- Need Date/Time should be more realistic, and according to negotiations between IC and incident agency.
- Suggest using EDRC or EDSO that can help ORDM with ROSS orders on site.
 - Has worked well in several zones on large incidents.
- Suggest doing refresher for ORDMs at Spring Meeting for ROSS ordering and standard dispatch questions for team requests. **(Relayed to Spring Meeting coordinators.)**
- Issues with trainees on teams
 - Problems with trainees being held back from completion of task books in order to keep them on the team as a trainee. This prevents qualified individuals from filling vacancies.
 - Regional priority trainee list has helped alleviate some of the problems.
 - Need local priority trainees to be designated for incoming teams and negotiated positions.
 - Some trainees with completed taskbooks are held up by home agency certification process or committee meeting schedule.
- Difficult-to-find items requested by teams (high-volume printer, plotter, etc.) should be purchased by the team and brought to the incident, especially for situations where the team is in a remote location without resources readily available.
- Need to get word out to FMOs and other administrators about importance of 209 completion.

Mob Centers

Scronek/Fox

- 1994 was last mob center on Western Slope.
- Brought in Chuck Cook from NWA to assist with mob center set-up.
 - Gained access to mob center plan from NWA to pilot the program in RMA.
 - Drafted Mob Center Guide for RMA.
- No delegation of authority, which was not optimal.
- Requires 3-4 days to establish mob center basic organization.
 - Level 1: Crews in transit (arriving within 24 hours)
 - Requires Mob Center Manager, LSC2, BCMG, and procurement support.
 - Level 2: Up to 8 crews
 - Need to consider where crews are coming from, self-sufficient?, transportation needed?
 - Mob center set up to provide everything for all crews coming in.
 - Level 3: 9 to 18 crews plus equipment
 - Requires larger mob center operation.
 - Additional requirement for EQPM and SEC2s for 24-hour shifts; also used PTRC and EDSO to assist and camp crew with drivers and pickups.
- Fire business and procurement components crucial.

- Needed ability to sign agreements for buses, facility, etc.
- Was 5 days before IBA was brought in.
- Buses: Worked with First Student to contract.
- Issued block of S numbers in ROSS dedicated to mob center.
- Very important to ensure Service & Supply Plan is current and accurate each year.
 - Ran into trouble with SSP locally being outdated.
- Suggestion to use BLM mentoring site to pull together a group for mob center planning.
- **Action Item (Scronek): Request from Operations Committee to provide chair with info on key needs, hot topics, lessons learned, etc.**
 - Can take ideas into account when trying to develop area-wide plan for mob centers.
- Great Plains Mob Center
 - Overall worked very well. Intent was to stage resources for emerging Type 3 incidents.
 - Had delegation signed by all agencies.
 - Removed from dispatch center entirely, so there was no impact on dispatch operations.
 - Focused on BKF and Nebraska mobilizations.
 - Used Type 2 team to manage mob center; was probably more than was necessary.
 - Staged enough resources for 5 type 3 incidents.
 - Emerging incident ICs determined whether or not to use mob center.
 - If used, expanded and mob center took over all mobilizations from IA shop.
 - Identified need to improve communications and share information when mob centers are active.
 - Resource sharing protocols not clear to everyone (including neighbors).
 - Plans changed when NIMO team changed; would have preferred to have uniformity instead.
 - Would prefer using GACC preposition orders instead of local orders to stage resources.
 - Would have alleviated some problems with resource availability/ownership.

Incident Business

- VIPR (handout with slides) **Kim Luft**
 - Overview of VIPR program
 - Advertising for Preseason BPAs currently—will announce awards by April
 - Issues in 2012 with requests for modifications to awarded agreements for the year.
 - Should always be directed to Kim Luft for formal modification process.
 - Even simple modifications to agreements (i.e. contact information) must go through formal process.
 - Agreements are written to the benefit of the government, meaning that there is no guarantee of work or liability for not using a vendor.

- In the RMA, only dispatch centers may use the DPL/VIPR vendor agreements. They are not available for BUYT or other contracting officers to use.
- VIPR agreement contains clause requiring vendor to contact local dispatch center within 10 days to arrange statusing (ROSS self-status, call-in status, etc.). (Not all Equipment/Services can be statused in ROSS.)
- 2013 solicitations for (regional) heavy equipment, refrigerated trailer, heavy equipment with water, water handling equipment, weed washing units, and (local) cache van movement and school-type buses.
- Will be conducting AAR conference with vendors to discuss problems encountered in 2012.
 - Non-compliance due to wrong equipment, no copies of VIPR agreement, etc.
 - Point of hire vs. contracted location of equipment
 - Availability issues
 - Date/time needed problems (i.e. Are we asking for violations of the contract by mobilizing when date/time needed cannot be met?).
- VIPR vendor conference scheduled for Jan 22-23 at USFS R2 Regional Office.
- Concerns raised about VIPR bus contracts:
 - If buses are hired on EERA, the agreement is incident-specific, and is void on any other incident.
 - If bus vendors decide to enroll in the VIPR system, buses would be on a regional agreement that would not need to be re-created for each incident or reassignment.
- Vendors who are signed up on EERAs will only receive a maximum of 90% of the lowest VIPR rate for that equipment item.
- Incident Business Management **Denise Tomlin**
 - New IIBM for 2013.
 - New format
 - Clarification of business rules for length of assignment and days off required under work/rest.
 - Mandatory days off may or may not be paid, depending on which agency the resource works for.
 - Mandatory 2 days off must be consecutive days for a 14-day assignment.
 - For extended assignments, 2 days off must be taken by day 22.
 - Job code validation
 - National direction will be coming out in December for when P-codes can and cannot be changed when the incident jurisdiction changes. (Discussed at Nat'l Coordinators meeting. Has it been issued??)
 - Relationship between Buying Teams, IMTs, and Expanded Dispatch
 - Question of whose responsibility it is to enter fill information into ROSS.
 - Needs to be determined at beginning of incident.
 - Responsible party needs to have access and knowledge of ROSS.

- Possible solution is to assign EDRC to buying team, or make sure buying team member(s) have ROSS capability.
 - Other solution is to assign ROSS responsibility to expanded dispatch, relying on fill information being delivered by the buying team.
 - Buying team reports to the host agency's line officer, not to dispatch or to the IMT.
 - Incident Business Advisors can help coordinate communications between all parties involved.
 - Issues were raised about buying team making decisions to change requests, which were beyond their authority.
 - Necessary communication was not received by dispatch about why decisions were made, and who authorized the change(s).
 - Suggest elevating this issue to the RMIBC with request to include EDRC on buying teams.
 - Type 2 BUYTs from Rocky-Basin do not have Contracting Officers attached.
 - Will need to order contracting officer if it is needed.
 - If local contracting officer is not able to support incident, it must be requested separately.
-
- **2/26-27/2013 is CO Division of Emergency Management meeting in Loveland.
Contact: Bill Mederhoff 720-219-3411**
 - **Spring CM Meeting scheduled for first week in April with Spring IMT meeting.**