

CENTER MANAGERS MEETING
February 21, 2007
Cibola S.O. Albuquerque, NM

Next meeting is scheduled Oct 1-5, 2007 in Prescott, AZ. This will be a combined meeting that will include 2008 mob guide updates/content review, ROSS Data Delivery System Training, and our regular meeting to include other topics/issues.

IMT's

- SW Mob Guide now states that a staged team will be the 1st one out, except when SWCG determines otherwise. IMT1 IC tenures have changed from 5 years to 3 years.
- SW Mob Guide now states that team members are only allowed to be on one roster at a time.
- SWCG looked at rosters for IMT1's and IMT2's – looked at duplications and they are making appropriate changes/recommendations to the ICs.
- Whitney and Oltrogge will be IMT1 IC's for at least one more year.
- Lawrence Garcia taking over for Bob Lineback on NM IMT2.
- Raley will be IC on Eastern AZ IMT2.
- Reinarz will be IC for NAZ IMT2.
- Sciacca will be IC for CWZ IMT2.
- AZ State will sponsor a short IMT2. Humphreys is IC.
- FUMT – Roy Hall will be IC. There will be a 2nd fire use team beginning Aug 1, 2007. Most likely will be converting Reinarz IMT2 over to FUMT.

Infrared

Infrared Interpreters – SWCC will work with Tom Mellin (R3 IR CORD) on trying to better utilize the few IRINs we do have as well as mobilizing trainees to increase the pool. There may be cases where we can have IRINs work remotely to service several fires instead of being on-site.

Presentation was given by Yolanda at Dispatcher's Workshop on doing on line scanner forms – Ken asked if there were any questions.

NIROPS – Usernames and passwords given to all center managers. Situation Unit Leaders will also get passwords.

The aircraft will base out of Ogden, UT instead of Boise.

SW Mob Guide – Look at Chapter 26 as there are significant changes in the way preparedness levels will be determined. Predictive Services components going to be integrated. The 7 day Significant Fire Potential product will be integrated in determining PL levels. Will be more of a pro-active approach, rather than re-active and also will make resource decisions based on probability, not possibility. A resource component also in the process of being integrated into the 7 day that will aid PS into determining the significant fire potential for a given area for that day.

Kenan would like to get group together next year to review the content of the mob guide and make the changes for the 2008 issue. These would then be presented to SWCG.

Kenan will meet with Aviation committee to discuss tracking of additional aviation resources, such as Air Attacks.

Kenan is not going to be able to be the lead for ROSS anymore. Couple of issues ...

Training – He was putting on 2 classes per year, but can no longer make the commitment. He would to put it in the lap of the steering committee. Would like to give those folks more to focus on than the dispatcher’s workshop. Ken will deal with Nicole on that.

Lynn Lovelace is coordinating 2 ROSS classes being held here at FUTA.
The dates are April 2-6 and April 9-13.

Data Clean-up – SWCC will make a list of all the areas needing clean-up in ROSS and send out to center managers.

Ken: some centers this will be no work at all. Some centers this will be a lot of work.

Ken would like to keep this an on going thing and keeping us involved. Organizational data and resources such as engines with out the correct provider, are kind of the main areas of focus.

One of the other things that are causing problems with data in ROSS is the way we name our type two crews. The way a lot of units are naming there type two crews is they have a pool of generic resource items in their database and then the crew is named/numbered in ROSS upon mobilization . Because of this, there is no way to get a handle nationally how many type two crews are in the system. Once we clean this up, ROSS can be queried for T-2 crews and accurate numbers of crews will be displayed (capability). It has to do with the numbering and naming of the crews.

They key is how many T-2 crews can an agency put out at any one time.

Proposal would be that we go into ROSS and only create resource items for the max number of crews an agency can put out.

Example...

Navajo agency can put out 10 T-2 crews at one time. The ROSS database would have 10 resource items...

Crew – T2 – Navajo 1

Crew – T2 – Navajo 2

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Crew – T2 – Navajo 10

These resource items would be re-used when Navajo agency sends out additional crews after the first ten returned from assignment. Navajo 1-10 resource items would then build

assignment histories. This way, NICC, SWCC, etc can query T-2 crew “capability” and not just availability.

Proposals need to be made to the agencies regarding why we need to do it this way.

The decision was made to wait till the Fall to put on D-312 (Aircraft Dispatcher) because NIFC is rewriting the course and the feeling is that the class is only a 200 level course and the end product after the re-write will be a much better course for our folks to take. Also, on D-311 (Initial Attack Dispatcher) have way too many nominations. We can use some as coaches to fit more people in. Will let each center now so they can prioritize.

Beth is short on folks experienced in teaching the new version of D-310 that incorporates ROSS in the scenarios – Looking for people who have done the test course, would like help. Week of April 16 held here at FUTA. Ken will send a message out.

Jeremy announced that MAFFs training will be in Albuquerque 1st week of May. Looking for help and possibly a couple of Aircraft Dispatchers that could work on their task book.

USFS Severity dollars are being cut. Reference letter Ken e-mailed out...
With the new EATIS and EERAs being competitive we will be able to use EERA’s on Severity with severity dollars.

We talked about Wildcad. There are a few places in the SW using it, but there isn’t any national movement yet. The USFS is buying off on it. Getting close to about half of the areas are already using it. You have to have your license to attend the training.

Kenan will get with Leon regarding mega-expanded proposal on feasibility and facilities.

Dispatch Center to Dispatch Center Ordering (Neighborhood Agreement)

The center managers would like to propose a “neighborhood agreement”. This would mean that adjacent dispatch centers could order between each other all the time in PL Levels 1-3 for resources that are not National resources. This includes IA, Extended Attack, RX, Fire Use, and All Risk.

The National Resources (ie Airtankers, T-1/2 Helicopters, IHC crews, etc) can still be ordered between centers, but only in IA. SWCC will still reserve the right to “shut-off” center to center ordering when activity dictates and priorities must be assigned.

Teenie: about the Human resources ability and inability to get people paid. Is something being talked at the regional level regarding this issue. Jeremy, the forest supervisors are making some attempt to change things.

Frequency maps should be issued soon. SWCC will continue to check with NIRSC on this.

Ken passed out Info on Liability Insurance.

Yolonda presented names requests as part of the dispatch workshop. NR will be approved now GACC to GACC. Tell your people that name suggests are no more. Try to eliminate that terminology.

The desk pads. They are working on the new overlay and boundaries for the desk pad. Once Ken gets that back he will get that out to you via e-mail. Take a look at it for any discrepancies before we send it out to print.

Chuck, my fire community.net, decide how we are going use it and if we want to use it. Notifications, if you're a member of the dispatch community you can have your choice of when you are notified of stuff via e-mail. You can get that notification as it happens or once an hour once a day or week. How ever you decide to set it up. The fact that it is not tied into to just forest service stuff gives outside people the opportunity to get on. The site is set up and Chuck sent out 60 or 70 invitations for folks to join just to kind of get it rolling. Last time we checked 10 folks have signed up. It's not really something you have to do right now. There is a couple ways that you can get in. you can email the administrator or get in my invitation. You can have a public and private side. You can go public or private with each posting. Just kind of waiting to decide if and how we want to use it, its kind of open to us. My fire community almost has to be more as a discussion site. We need to find out what legal as far as posting certain documents. Chuck will check to see what items should be omitted from the site. Ken: What kinds of information are appropriate? Tini's concern is that if it isn't a mandatory thing people might miss out in information that they need. This seems more of like a tool of discussion. All the official stuff still needs to go out via e-mail, etc. Accept your invitations and we'll let it evolve.

Ken stressed the importance of trying to find agency employees to fill positions before we go to the AD's. We need to try and mobilize trainees as much as possible. Encourage your folks to take dispatch and ROSS training.

Tony from Silver City will try and make contact with Julie from R01 for assistance in DDS. We need a lead person to teach everyone DDS. We need to get serious about this DDS stuff. We need the knowledge on how to get to that data. We need the ability to reproduce resource orders for the DDS database. Jeremy contacted a private company to learn how to use the excel and access training. He has been in contact with both HCM and ASC. They are setting up a national training center at the ASC. A lot of training at this point might not be fire related stuff, but they may branch out in the future. Pulling the data is easy it's the tools to reformat it. That's where you need the access and excel training.

UPDATE: Per Jon Skeels, the COGNOS program will interface with ROSS this summer and will replace a lot of the DDS methods of retrieving data. The SW will hold on any formalized DDS training and see what COGNOS brings.

Name changes to the dispatch offices in Ross will be done after the archiving of 2006 data.

Driving policy in the SW Mob Guide will match what's in the Red Book. SW will discourage driving between the hours of 2200 and 0500.

SWCC will be bringing in an Airspace CORD when activity increases. This person will be made available to travel to the centers to assist them as well.

Dispatch center updates and three tier implementation.

Flagstaff: Looking at feasibility of taking in Navajo. There really taking a look at work load analysis and what goes on in the shop right now.

Alamogordo: Three tier implementation is moving along rapidly. Anticipating within a month to have all the radios running. Once everything works they are then going to issue change of station letters.

Tucson: Meeting with Safford BLM. Its going well. Tucson will take on all the aircraft stuff initially. District is divided with two pieces with two engines. The radio and frequency stuff is just about worked out. Trying to get a new fire center. Progress is looking good.

Taos: three tier issues have been put hold. A study has been done but no decisions have been made as of yet.

Williams: Dispatcher jobs should be advertised soon for park service. Putting on a D110 class. As for as three tier dispatching and Truxton Canyon, things may not get done till 2008.

Phoenix: Coming along pretty well. Pulling cables and stuff is going to be done this week. Next week consoles will be pulled. Come March 5th is when were going to flip the switch and do dispatching for all. Both BIA positions are being advertised. The fourth position is stuck in empower. Center and assistant center managers will be flown as 401. Repeaters are getting done for both San Carlos and Pima. They are the Mob center. They are the ones that are running it. Bids for the building were a couple of weeks ago. Hopefully in a year or two we should have a new building.

AIDC: there is a proposal in the discussion phase that Yuma BLM would possibly be coming over to AIDC. Radio communication personnel are reviewing radio compatibility systems, equipment that needs to be purchased and at a later date testing radio coverage of Yuma BLM and State Lands systems will occur. Also the Arizona State Coordinator position will be coming open.

Prescott: Four positions are vacant as of right now. All forest service positions. The 2 GS5/6/7 positions should be filled hopefully very soon. The 9 and 11 are at HCM waiting to be flown.

Santa Fe – Building new SO next 90 days. Move dependent on season. Many meetings with all involved. Goals have been given with many upgrades to radios, etc.

Silver City – Quiet in the South.

Springerville – Progressing along on move to Show Low 6 to 0 vote to fund new office at Showlow Airport. Engineers in works on facilities 2 mods end to end 4000 sq ft. space. Training Center and Expanded inclusive. ISO approved move, waiting for response on sitting down to discuss timelines etc. Phones have issues and trying to resolve. Looking for funding on permanent facilities replacing modulars (looks like 5-6 years in the making). Center Managers position vacancies in the HCM somewhere? Hopefully in line with 08/01/07 for direct move to Showlow. Detailers to be sought as needed for 2007 season. Phones – not PBX they want to envision a plan for consistency between dispatch offices. Voice Over IP etc., call manager. Currently have a mish mash that is not functional and trying to work with Ron Hunter on what to do to fix. Centralization in ABQ – Call Manager is grand plan for all to look forward to. BIA hired contractor to look at comms to move to Show Low major dollars requested to budget for 2007 or 2008 budgeting. Still looking to move in with Springerville Dispatch. Old equipment recommending dollars to replace in requested dollars.

Self-Status for Vendors... Workload can be a reason as to why some dispatch offices are not issuing self status to vendors. The maintenance of issuing the user IDs and passwords to 100's of vendors will be looked at more in depth in the future. Most centers are maintaining status for their vendors always showing available nationally, guaranteeing a phone call. Some centers would not have issue with vendors given access to self status themselves. No decisions were made on this at this point.

Wendy / Santa Fe will schedule conference call with Peggy Toya so everyone can be brought up to date on EATIS/VIPR etc.

ABQ – Working on 3 tier. Only issues @ this point are communication issues. IA for Lake Meredith to move in. Not sure on outcome but will be attempted. Rama and Zuni will be zone FMO GS-13. Should be staffed this summer and hope to send out on assignments.

Action Items

<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>ACTION NEEDED</u>	<u>RESPONSIBILITY</u>	<u>DATE</u>
Ross Data Clean Up	To get a list of items to the centers	Ken	March 2007
Mob guide update	Review content	Center managers	October 2-4, 2007
Type two crew naming	Contact your type two crew providers and explain problem and solution	Center Managers	March 2007
Mega Expanded	Contact CWCG regarding feasibility and facilities	Ken	March 2007
Ordering between dispatch centers for non IA ordering	To contact SWCG with proposal for ordering between zones for all resources except non national and aircraft @ PL Levels 1 2 3	Ken	March 2007
DMS Accounts	Change all the dispatch names	Ken	March 2007
Issues/?'s Contracting Process	Set up conference call with Peggy	Willard Tolman	March 2007
Center conference calls	Begin on Wednesdays	All Center Mgrs	04/04/07 10 a.m.