

## **Southwest Fire Management Board**

**Meeting of September 16-20, 1996**

**Phoenix, Arizona**

### **SWFMB Members Attending:**

Cliff Chetwin (NPS, Chair)

Frank Smith (NM State)

Bob Lee (BLM-NM)

Bill Russell (USFS/R3)

Mike Phillips (FWS)

Al Alvarez (BLM-AZ)

John Burton (SWCC/USFS)

Willie Begay (BIA)

Dave Behrens (AZ State)

Jay Ellington (NPS/SWCC-Board Secretary)

### **Others in Attendance:**

See Attachment #1

September 16, 1996 - The meeting was called to order at 1300.

After opening remarks by Chairperson Cliff Chetwin, the Board meeting was turned over to Glen Joki (BLM-Phoenix District) to act as facilitator through the discussion of Type II team issues. Glen established ground rules for the session.

**Type II Team Issues** - The floor was opened for attendees to present to the group issues pertaining to the current Type II incident management team arrangement in the Southwest Area. Some of the issues presented to the group included: not enough qualified and/or available staff to have 9 Southwest Area Type I and II teams, utilizing Type II teams properly, tenure policy for Type I teams, role of Type II teams, relying upon retirees, etc. For a complete list of issues, see Attachment #2.

**Agency Administrator Discussion** - Each Agency Administrator, Zone Board Representative, and Line Officer's present was allowed to voice their concerns regarding Type I/II team issues. For a complete list of concerns presented, see Attachment #3.

Attendees were broken into four work groups. The work groups were directed to address the following four items which were condensed from these issues.

1. What is the role and function of the Type II team?
2. How many Type II teams should the Southwest Area have; how should they be configured; where will the necessary staff come from?
3. How can the complexity analysis be more effectively utilized in the EFSA process to assist Agency Administrators?
4. What is the role of the Southwest Fire Management Board and the role of the Zone Boards in the management of Type II teams?

For each of the issues presented above, each work group was responsible for providing the following 'desired outputs.'

1. Comprehensive description of the problem.
2. What is the desired future condition.
3. What are the alternatives.
4. What is the preferred alternative.
5. How do we get there.

A fifth work group was established to look at additional and 'out of the box' alternatives (i.e. non-traditional values, guidelines, and policies). This group was allowed to look at the issues from many different angles and was not restricted to the above issues and desired outputs.

Each work group presented the results of their discussions to the Board. Upon the completion of the presentation session, an additional work group was established by the Board to pull together all of the different presentations, look at the various alternatives, and to present to the Board a final product. The group was tasked to complete the project before the end of the week's meeting.

#### **FINAL REPORT OF THE TYPE II TEAM WORK GROUP**

The group presented 14 recommended items for the Board to consider, adopt, and implement. Some of the recommended items included making the support of fire every employees responsibility, recommending a work group explore incentives to reward participation on incident management teams, develop an Interstate Type II Team Board, recommending changes to the current policy on pay cap, reduce from seven to three or four the number of Type II teams in the SW Area, and require the use of complexity analysis as part of the EFSA process prior to ordering area or national teams.

After some modification the Board accepted and adopted the report. Each recommended item was discussed by the Board and implementation strategies were developed.

A complete report is included with the minutes as Attachment #4.

#### **SWFMB Business**

**Training Committee** - No Training Committee report submitted.

**Aviation Committee** - No Aviation Committee report submitted.

**Fire Cache Report** - Steve Warden (Prescott Fire Cache) emphasized to the attendees at the meeting that the cache system is available as a service to the fire community and that the importance of feedback to the cache managers from the SWFMB, Zones, and units is critical.

Overall, the two SW Area Fire Cache's conducted the following business over the past three

years:

CACHE			
<u>Prescott</u>		<u>Silver City</u>	
\$8.2M	1996	\$8.2M	
3.6M	1995	3.7	
3.8	1994	8.3	

Nomex Clothing: Steve stated that if an NFPA tag is attached to nomex clothing, then the nomex clothing is authorized. If a CAL-OSHA tag is attached nomex clothing, then the clothing does not meet current standards and is not authorized.

Backfiring Device: Steve stated that a manufacturer is developing a new backfiring device which has a 2.5 second delay and is much more efficient. More information to be furnished later.

**Fire Policy Action Items** - The Board worked on an implementation strategy for each of 43 action items in the new Federal Wildland Fire Management (Policy and Program Review) report. During the discussion, a question arose pertaining to the input of States. It was recognized by the Board that each State is a partner in the formulation of a 'boundaryless' fire management plan and that their input is vital to accomplishing each action item. The Board also felt that some direction is needed from the national level and that the States should be a part of the overall plan. A draft listing of the action items is attached; once they are finalized they will be forwarded to the Federal Fire & Aviation Council per their request.

**Internet** - Jay Ellington (SWCC-Intell) discussed the current progress on providing intelligence and information via the internet. Jay stated that the USFS has ordered additional file servers at the Region 3 office and these servers would have space allocated to allow SWCC to setup a HomePage. An early draft of what the HomePage would look like was presented to the group.

John Burton stated that each Zone would be receiving two laptop computers in the near future. One of these would be dedicated to internet access and the other to weather programming. John will work on a letter to the Zones to inform them of the new computers, the means for obtaining internet access, and the Board's intent that internet eventually become one of the primary channels of fire program related information.

**Team Awards** - Gary Loving has ordered the awards and SWFMB representatives are responsible for arranging appropriate ceremonies within their respective agencies. The awards are expected to arrive in about sixty days.

**Prevention Team** - Bob Lee passed out information on the 'Golden Smokey' awards. He stated there are three levels to the award: Golden for national scope, Silver for regional scope, and Bronze for local scope. The Board decided on pursuing the national or 'Golden Smokey' award for this summer's prevention team. Bob will be contacting Pat Entswistle and Bill Clark of the Prevention Team to obtain additional input for the nomination.

**Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) - New Mexico State** - The NM State JPA is currently at the BIA-Navajo Area Office being reviewed. All other agencies have signed the one year extension.

**Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) - Arizona State** - Dave Behrens is working on the JPA for the State of Arizona. Dave stated a 'draft' should be ready for review by January 1.

**Dome Fire Shelter Deployment** - On-going. Follow-up to last months meeting on the 10 action items were discussed; all have been completed except:

#1. Bob Lee continues to work on this item. It should be ready by the next meeting.

#7. Cliff stated the El Paso Paramedic is interested in expanding their contract to include CISD services next fire season. Board members discussed the possibility of other interested organizations and the means by which the Area is assured of quality service. The Board will set up a meeting with CISD qualified personnel to define the scope of work that should be addressed in a contract.

#10 Mike Phillips will prepare a draft for the October meeting.

**Medical** - The Board decided to remove the names of commercial organizations from the Southwest Mob Guide pertaining to medical services. In the place of a company's name would be 'Contract' or 'CWN.'

**Entrapment/Deployment Guidelines** - The Board sent a letter to USFS R-3 requesting the release of "lessons learned" information on the 'Hochderffer and Clark Peak' fires. R-3 responded by stating Cliff could look over the details and respond with those items the Board feels should be released. The Board agreed that Cliff should review the findings and respond. Cliff will make the necessary arrangements with R-3 staff.

**"Zone Study"** - Bob provided the Board with a draft of the findings of study. The results will be forward to each zone.

A suggestion was made to the Board to look at efficiency in the organization of the SW Area by zones. This included a study of the overall SWA organization be conducted by an organization from outside the SWA. Given the lack of overall Zone or agency administrator support for this project the Board decided to forgo any further activity unless the Zones approached the Board, as a whole, requesting such action. The project is now dropped.

**National Weather Service** - John Burton discussed his meeting with the National Weather Service (NWS) in August. NWS would like to provide the services contracted out during the 1996 fire season. Overall, John felt the meeting was productive and beneficial. He stated that SWCC will work to involve the NWS during the 1997 fire season.

The Board felt it needed to be involved in a working relationship with the NWS through SWCC. The Board felt it could be a conduit to providing feedback to the NWS from an interagency perspective.

**Revisions to SWA Mobilization Guide** - Al Alvarez provided a copy of proposed revision language to the aviation chapter. The 'draft' will be provided to the Aviation Committee for review.

**Review of 1996 Fire Season** - Bill Russell continues to work on a draft and will provide a copy to the Board for review at the next meeting.

**Revision of SWFMB Handbook** - The Board has reviewed and changes have been made to the Handbook. Jay Ellington is currently making the necessary changes in the Handbook and should have it ready by the next Board meeting.

**Review of BLM Handbook** - The Board recognizes the BLM's 'Fire Operations in America' handbook as an excellent start for providing agencies with notable direction on fire operations. However, for the handbook to be useful in the Southwest, it will need additional review and revision. The Board felt the handbook should be made a stand-alone document, re-done on annual basis, and referenced in the SWFMB Handbook. Al Alvarez will order 300, 1997 copies from BLM-NIFC for use in the Southwest Area for the 1997 Fire Season.

**Grand Canyon Agreement** - Cliff continues to work with contracting officers to develop an acceptable format for an areawide version of the Grand Canyon Zone's "all risk" agreement. A final version should be ready for the October meeting.

**SWFF Crew Handbook** - Willie Begay stated the Southwest Firefighter Crew Management Guidelines are at the printers due back to him by September 30. 1500 copies are being printed.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Tenure on Type 1 Teams** - The Board decided to abolish the 5 year tenure policy for assignment on a Type 1 team. Discussion of the issue included questioning the validity of the 5 year tenure policy, pre-identified training slots, extension of the policy, retention of the Board to make new selections when necessary, incumbent upon the Board and Team IC to keep highly qualified people on-board, and ensuring rotation & availability of people.

Eddie Lente requested that the Board get the word out to the fire community to make sure everyone understands this change in policy.

**Communication of Board Minutes** - Bob Lee stated he has received word from some of his field units that the minutes of the SWFMB meetings are not getting out to the field. Cliff noted that the minutes are sent to each Zone Board Chair and that it is incumbent of each Zone Chair to distribute the minutes to units throughout their zone.

**Air Attack Qualifications** - Al Alvarez is working on an issue paper pertaining to qualification of Air Attack personnel. He will present the paper to the Board at the next meeting. The primary focus of this discussion was directed at whether the requirement of Division Supervisor should be a pre-requisite to being Air Attack qualified and whether there should be qualification

levels developed in the field of Air Attack. In a related matter, there was a discussion of aviation qualifications for initial attack dispatchers.

**Crew Representatives for Type 2 Crews** - Willie Begay requested the Board look at changing the policy on assigning a crew representative to each Type 2 crew. The discussion focused on problems associated with Type 2 crews and the need for representatives. Bill Russell pointed out that we are currently experiencing less problems with our crews because of the use of crew representatives. The Board decided there was no need to change the policy at this time.

A question arose as to hiring AD's to fill the role of Crew Representatives. The Board decided the current policy stands whereby AD's will not be hired as crew reps.

**SWFF Identification Card** - A discussion was held on whether to require photo ID's for all firefighting personnel. The discussion was driven by the fact the commercial airlines require photo ID's for all passengers. It was proposed that the Crew Committee look into an acceptable SWFF Membership Identification Card. Willie Begay will work with the Crew Committee to determine the best means for obtaining cards. He will respond to the Board with a recommended course of action.

**Demonstration of MIRPS** - Rockwell, Incorporated conducted a demonstration of the Multi-Agency Incident Resource Processing System (MIRPS). The system is currently being phased into operations in the South and North Zones. The program has gone through various Beta tests and is presently operational at the GACC level. However, a new version (MIRPS 3.X) is being written and tested for use at the unit level. The system allows the dispatcher to order, track, and dispatch resources to and from an incident. The program is Windows based with pull-down menus, pop-up screens, and cross-referencing of entries.

The Board recommended continued monitoring of the results of the systems use in the South and North Zones and would consider future adoption within the SWA.

**EFSA/Complexity Analysis Training Course** - The USFS will sponsor a training course on the EFSA/Complexity Analysis sometime in March 1997. The Board encourages all agencies to nominate students.

**Southwest Mob Guide** - John Burton stated that the Zone Center Managers are very interested in revising the Southwest Mob Guide prior to the 1997 season. The Board assigned John the lead on the project.

**NEXT MEETING:** October 15, 1996, 1000 hours, in Albuquerque, NM.

The meeting was adjourned at 1030, September 20, 1996.

Jay Ellington  
Board Secretary

**Attendees at the Southwest Fire Management Board Meeting (9/16/96-9/20/96):**

Al Alvarez	BLM-AZ	(602) 650-0309
Mark Bickham	BLM-AZ	(602) 428-4040
Tim Stubbs	LNZ/NPS	(505) 785-2232 (X367)
Mike King	CAZ/PNF	(520) 771-4700
Chuck Bazan	CAZ/TNF	(602) 225-5200
Mike Rotonda	USFS/R03/AFM	(505) 842-3350
Mike Phillips	USFW/R03	(505) 248-6819
Roger Taylor	BLM/ASD	(801) 673-3545
Larry Humphrey	BLM/SAD	(520) 428-4040
Al Defler	USFS/R03/AFM	(505) 842-3350
Lyn Levitt	BLM/YUD	(520) 317-3205
John Kraske	ASLD/FLG	(520) 774-1425
Steve Makowski	USFS/SWCC	(505) 842-3473
Dave Boyd	BLM/SWCC	(505) 842-3473
Dave Cummings	LNZ/Smokey Bear RD	(505) 257-4095
Rich Kvale	SEZ/CNF	(505) 670-4528
David Behrens	ASLD/FMO	(602) 255-4059
Don Van Driel	CAZ/TNF	(602) 225-5240
Tim Bos	CAZ/TNF	(602) 225-5350
John Burton	USFS/SWCC	(505) 842-3880
Willie Begay	BIA/Tri-Area	(505) 842-3468
Abel Camerena	GLZ/GNF	(505) 388-8301
Gary Benavidez	GLZ/GNF	(505) 388-8305
Bill Russell	USFS/R03	(505) 842-3353
Glen Joki	BLM/PHD	(602) 780-8090
Bud Olivera	FWS RO3/ABQ	(505) 248-6812
Buck Latapie	USFS/WO	(202) 205-1488
Michael Yazzie	BIA/Navajo/Forestry	(520) 729-4233
Bill Watchman	BIA/NAO	(520) 729-7230
Cliff Chetwin	NPS/Santa Fe	(505) 988-6112
Jay Ellington	NPS/SWCC (Intell)	(505) 842-3473
John Hafterson	ASLD	(602) 255-4059
Steve Larabee	BIA/AAO	(505) 766-3150
Eddie Lente	BIA/SPA	(505) 766-2505
Gary Loving	WMZ/ASF	(520) 333-4301
Bob Lee	BLM/NM	(505) 438-7430
Scott Hunt	ASLD/A1S	(602) 255-4059
Terry Sloan	ASLD/A4S	(520) 778-9567
Rick Reiz	USFS/TNF	
Jerome Macdonald	USFS/CIF	(505) 281-3304
Dugger Hughes	USFS/PNF	(520) 445-4331
Charles Denton	USFS/ASF	(520) 333-4372

Mike Baca	USFS/LNF	(505) 881-4181
Beale Monday	USFS/KNF	(520) 635-8350
George Kleindienst	USFS/KNF	(520) 635-8355
Ron Moody	USFS/R03	(505) 842-3894
Chuck Scott	NPS/SAP	(520) 733-5130
Frank Smith	NMS	(505) 827-5838
John Philbin	BIA/PAO	(602) 397-6798
Rex Alford	BLM/LCD	(505) 525-4305
Gail Acheson	BLM/YUD	(520) 317-8656

## **Type I and Type II Team Issues**

1. Short of qualified people for both type teams (i.e. 9 T2 teams)
2. Proper utilization of teams (i.e. Type I, II, or III complexity)
3. Type II rotation - commitments
4. Too many Type II teams?
5. Tenure for Type I teams valid (i.e. 5 years)?
6. Standard configuration of Type II?
7. National use of Type II teams (i.e. out of area)
8. Objective of team use. What is criteria?
9. What is role of SWFMB to Teams?
10. Team member on both teams?
11. Need to share resources (overhead) Type II
12. Agency Administrators left short when team called
13. Heavy use of retirees (all teams)
14. Blurring of lines between Type I & II team (i.e. Type II expected to stay longer)
15. Reluctance to use other than SW Area teams (change)
16. Pre-identified training slots
17. Rise in cost of Type II teams
18. Type II team, stepping stone to Type I? - Need Type II assignment first?
19. Institute career (Type I from Type II...) ladders? - Whose decision should it be?
20. Identify role of Line Officer, Type I & Type II
21. Use of short teams
22. Use ICS to order what is needed
23. What's attracting Type II team member vs Type I?
24. Key on I-520 students for Type I teams.
25. Need consistency between zones? (Is it a problem?)

## **Agency Administrator's Concerns and Issues**

### **U. S. Forest Service**

1. \$200,000,000 spent in SW Area for 96
2. Define objectives, Type I and Type II for Line Officer needs
3. Consistency in incident management
4. Not strip local units for team commitments
5. Communicate "right stuff"
6. Concern over loss of Type II teams
7. Heavy use of retirees - Careful how we build structure
8. Have Type II teams on site first day
9. Cultural change. O.K. to be replaced by Type I team.
10. Complexity analysis for team needed
11. O.K. to use out-of-region teams
12. Year-round recruitment for teams
13. Flexibility on team rotation

### **National Park Service**

1. Concern over cost of teams (i.e. Type II) vs resource value at risk
2. Encourage more use of Type II teams.
3. O.K. to be less aggressive in lieu of unnecessary risk
4. Emphasis on recruitment for teams
5. SWFMB should provide oversight for Zones, but not direct management

### **Bureau of Land Management**

1. Definite need for Type II
2. Benefits of team from outside Area
3. BLM - Short term fires (Type II)
4. No 'cookbook' solution
5. Use of complexity analysis
6. Management needs flexibility (decision makers)
7. Support 1 person - 1 team
8. Use of retiree's indicates problems
9. Administration to address issue of \$'s.

### **Bureau of Indian Affairs**

1. Agency/Tribe interaction with teams is critical (esp. All-Risk)
2. BIA representation on teams (need more)
3. BIA/Tribes - Contracting Fire Management...
4. Cultural sensitivity of tribes
5. Small agency - few resources for teams
6. Careful with cost issue, up to administrator

### **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**

1. Most line managers short on fire experience (team needs to help)
2. Most fires are Type II complexity
3. Limited overhead for teams, must still deal with local Initial Attack needs

### **Arizona State Land Department**

1. Small workforce, limited participation on teams
2. Heavy use of retirees
3. Urban interface problems
4. Rural Fire Departments interaction with federal resources
5. Strongly support dispatch of closest Type II team, 4 hours after dispatch team should be on the fire, regardless of Zone boundary
6. Question sequestering of teams (need to help neighbors)
7. Reconstruction of Type II team makeup.

### **New Mexico State**

1. Small agency, little support from non-fire functions
2. State Forester supports out of region teams
3. More use of Type II teams
4. Support us of comptroller to hold down cost of Type II teams
5. Watch for abuse & fraud on fire costs

### **Zone**

1. Combine zones into one team Board
2. Rapid response team needed.
3. Out of Region to fill team, unacceptable
4. Concern about fire staff committed to teams. (i.e. A number of staff leave Initial Attack weak)
5. Call out times unrealistic for Type II. Look at use of Type III.
6. Reduction of Type II teams could cause problems
7. Definitely want answer to number of Type II teams and rotation schedule
8. Team depth limited in several areas
9. Support 1 team per person
10. Concern with combining zones (i.e. Distances, response times)