

National Multi-Agency Coordinating Group

3833 South Development Avenue; Boise, ID 83705

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To: Geographic Area Coordination Group Chairs

From: National Multi-Agency Coordinating Group

NMAC Correspondence #2014-2

Subject: National Strategy for Managing Type 1 and Type 2 Exclusive Use Helicopters

The Forest Service and Department of Interior agencies have approximately 77 Type 1 (T1) and Type 2 (T2) helicopters on exclusive use contracts with mandatory availability periods ranging from 90 to 180 days. T1 and T2 helicopters are national resources, allocated and prepositioned in accordance with the National Multi Agency Coordinating (NMAC) strategic considerations for initial attack capability and prioritization criteria.

Within a Geographic Area T1 and T2 helicopters are allocated and prepositioned in accordance with Geographic Area Multi Agency Coordinating Group (GMAC) strategic considerations for initial attack capability and prioritization criteria.

Helicopter assignments are often very dynamic; balancing priorities between preparedness, initial attack, and large fire support, geographically and nationally. Significant fire potential is also an important factor considered when allocating and reallocating these resources.

The 14 day length of assignment policy is applicable to crew personnel, but does not apply to the helicopter platform. There is often a need to extend the Helicopter (platform) past the crew assignment due to fire activity and the cost, and additional risk exposure of moving helicopters from one Geographic Area to another. In order to manage these critical assets in a cost and operationally effective manner, host units will need to plan ahead for rotation of personnel.

Extensions for T1 and T2 exclusive use helicopters (platform) beyond 14 will be negotiated and coordinated between the home unit, and the ordering and host GAs. If the issues can not be resolved at the GA level, they will be referred to NICC (during PL 1-3) or NMAC (during PL 4-5) for final determination.

As helicopters are released or reallocated, emphasis will be placed on getting them back to their home (host) unit. Consistent and timely communication between the host unit, GACCs, and NICC will be key to our success in the overall process of prioritization and allocation of T1 and T2 helicopters.

/s/ John Segar
Chair, NMAC

