

GATR MEETING NOTES
November 3-5, 2015
Northwest Coordination Center
Portland, Oregon

Tuesday, November 3

D = Decision Item, I = Information Item

Welcome/Introductions

Chair

In Attendance: Renee Beams – NW, Chair; Steve Theisen – AK, Jesse Roach – N.CA, Anna Dinkel – S.CA, Matt Dillon – EA, Kelly Woods – GB, John Burfiend – NAFRI, Melissa Wegner – NR, Kim Bang – RM, James Villard – SW, Deb Fleming – NWCG Training/Development, Diana VanCurler – Logistics, Chris Buhrig – Facilitator, Cindy Forrest-Elkins – AK State, Glenda Womack – SW, Bobbie Scopa – NW Asst. Fire Director, Operations, Adam Kohley – Alaska Fire Service, Jake Nuttall – SW

Review and Update Action Log/ Update GATR Mailing List

Facilitator

The GATR list was passed around for review and update.

Reviewed list; #'s 206, 211, and 212 are on the agenda for this meeting.

Review OAS White Paper

Kelly Woods

The issue was OAS was delivering an RT course and there was confusion on what is NWCG and what is OAS and do they need to get permission like others do to present 300 level and above NWCG courses. There is new leadership there now and Kelly has a meeting scheduled with them to talk about the issues and then determine if the white paper is still needed or not. Sean Cross is going to take a more active role in looking at the OAS and NWCG Course presentations. We need to keep our eyes on this to make sure they are meeting NWCG Standards and the process they are using to make sure it is not getting too muddy and that we are communicating with each other. Maybe have them e-mail the GATR Chair what they are presenting.

AGENDA ITEM: Invite Keith Raley or OAS program lead (vice Gividen).

DECISION & UPDATE Action Item #206 – Kelly will attend meeting Monday, Nov. 9th and brief the group after her meeting on the outcome and whether

there is a need to continue with the white paper. GATRs will send anything they want discussed at the meeting to Kelly by the end of the week.

NAFRI Update

FML is going through a big change right now and has experienced big changes in the Steering Committee also. They are in transition for FY17. This year it will be held in Santa Fe in late March or early April and the end of the course will be the Cerro Grande Staff Ride to give them perspective on how small things can go really big. Then in FY17 the course will be the Cerro Grande Staff Ride. There have been meetings on M-581, LFML, and NFML and how they tie together and may need to be modified. Also looking at the required competencies needed by these groups and how they could be presented and how they relate to low, moderate, and advanced complexity operation approvals. Lots of different ideas of how and what is exactly needed. There are rumors that the BLM is not going to be sending folks to the NFML course and don't know if these changes will keep the BLM from withdrawing from sending folks. Group would like to know who the folks are on the steering committee for NFML.

S-520 steering committee lost a couple folks and they now have a new, fresh steering committee and they are making lots of changes to the course. HO #1. The course will no longer be pass/fail and folks will get a certificate of participation. The sim will still be there and all students will have to go through it and if someone does not pass the sim NAFRI is proposing that they get the certificate of participation and the home unit will have to determine certification or not. If folks pass the sim NAFRI is proposing they will get a certificate of completion for the course. The group wanted to know how that would work in IQCS since it is black and white whether it is completed or not. If folks go through the course they can get the course completed and if they don't pass the simulation the "Certification" for the position will be up to the home unit certification committees when and how those that didn't pass the sim will get certified and what they have to do to obtain that certification. The new idea has been presented to the OTC for approval and they are hoping to implement in FY16. There was a lot of discussion on this proposal and whether we are evaluating students or training students. It was noted that the letters or recommendations need to come to the Geographic Level so that the committees have them when they do the review of the person for certification.

e-Isuite

Brenda Johnson

E-Isuite is the new generation of Isuite and the intent is to go web based to make it easier to access the data. It is browser based for both web and site versions. The data used to be uploaded and then could not be accessed. The new system will be able to be accessed after uploads. The new system will track an incident for the life cycle of the incident. It has better reporting capability. It can be run on a non-internet system and then uploaded into the web based system. There are two versions, one totally web based and one that is a site version designed for remote location use. They both look the same. 14 refresher courses were presented this year in R6 so that the IMTs were up to speed for the fire season. They did experience issues with the system (as you would with any new system), and work arounds were

found and will be resolved in a future release. The Enterprise version will be released in 2016. The way that is set up is it will automatically connect to ROSS and any ROSS resources will be available to be grabbed by the e-Isuite system. Any one that gets access to the Enterprise system will have to have a NAP account to access it. There is an approval process to get this access. The R6 incident business coordinators met last week to work on the implementation process. R6 will be offering full e-Isuite courses this year. The online tutorials are good for refresher, but not for initial training. Brenda described the implementation process, what is going to happen and how the access application process will work. The Enterprise version allows folks to work remotely so there will be more flexibility on data entry. R6 is looking at having Finance Teams that work from a central location for more than one incident with the Enterprise version of the system. Once a person has been granted access to the Enterprise system they cannot be deleted for historical purposes. They can be deactivated though. All IMTs need to have their folks get a NAP account so if they go somewhere that is using the Enterprise version they will have access. HO #2 – List of Incident Business Contacts was handed out.

Update on NFDRS course update

James Villard

NFDRS is implementing a new system next year with no plan on how they are going to transition to it or support it after the transition. The Fire Environment Committee is willing to write the course materials, but they aren't getting any support from the OTC. There are major changes and no one is getting trained on how the system works or how to use it because there is no training material developed. This year S-491 will contain the old materials. Alaska uses CFFDRS and how will this tie in with that?

ACTION ITEM – James will write a White Paper to go to the OTC and National Training Officers from the GATRs. DD – Draft to group 11/20/15, Responses 11/24/15. Then this paper will be sent to the OTC in time for their meeting 12/1-3/15

Dispatch Successional Planning

I/D Renee Beams

NW Training Committee and Dispatchers are having a call next week to discuss successional planning for the dispatch positions. This is more than a NW problem and should be of interest to all other areas. There has been no effort regionally to focus on the dispatch positions as far as development and successional planning in the NW and we need to start looking at opportunities and development of these positions. The NW is going to look at their area and would like to do something nationally if there is interest. Would like input from the group on ideas that might help in this effort. The National Coordination Center is looking at successional planning and would like to have GATR participation for an IMT successional planning group and the evolving incident management concept that is coming out. One concept that the NW has started to explore is to have qualified Center Managers that have retired or have moved into different positions outside of dispatch go to areas where it is really busy and do some real time mentoring with new dispatchers. They would work for the GACC and be moved around where

they are needed. This could also work similar to what they are doing with the ATGS S-378 students and moving them around to areas where they would get the best experience to help the trainees get signed off. Could start with a pilot program with Aircraft Dispatchers, pick 2 or 3 from each area, and use Alaska as a place we could send them to get good experience in aircraft dispatching. Pair the trainee up with the mentor maybe and they could both move around to areas. Another concept is to do an RT D-312 with current aircraft dispatchers and work with them and have pilots there as well to talk about and work through some of the issues that come up in aircraft dispatching. SW is doing this now to try to help with issues that have come up. Have targeted recruitment and assignments for dispatchers. There are two separate issues really. Getting folks out on assignments and getting the centers staffed up sufficiently so they can spare folks to go on assignments. Need to get them into more leadership training also. Need to maybe list the leadership training as recommended for the dispatch positions. Renee will report to the group after the first call on the 9th. Finance would be the other area that the group could focus on as well. There are a lot of positions in finance that need to be supported and planned for. Concept to also have "Dispatch Teams" that can come in and help out in a center if something happens that they need to disengage for a time and the "team" would come in and take over to allow the local dispatchers to disengage. The team could be one person from each GACC or something like that so the local GACC wouldn't have to worry about trying to come up with folks to do this.

Renee will send an e-mail to the group so they can identify folks to come to the face to face meeting if they want to participate.

Leadership Course Providers

Renee Beams

There has been a lot of talk and phone calls lately regarding what is going on in the Leadership curriculum and with the committee. The committee has not been transparent on what the Leadership Committee is doing and how what they are doing is going to affect the GATRs. The group meets twice a year, but the curriculum is managed by a different group, so it is spread out and there is not a great communication link there. Some historical information was given on how the Agency courses curriculum came about and the changes in the process for getting blessed for the material and instructors. The website has changed now and has caused a lot of confusion. No one was notified of the changes before they took place. It was proposed that the GATRs write a letter to the OTC regarding what is going on and about how it will be affecting this training season. Long term the leadership website will be pulled into the NWCG website, will be looking at who owns the content and how that is managed, instructors, etc. Discussion of what is currently happening with L-481 development and processes for approval.

Immediate answers needed: Need to know that the vendors they have contracted with for L-380 and L-381 courses are good to use and approved and are good to go forward with presentation. What has changed with the instructor approval process and why are approved instructors being re-evaluated now? Who manages the web page and determines what gets put on and removed from that site? Include what we want it to look like and the organization of the site. Put the letters back because the areas need them for procurement purposes. Point

out what is the immediate effect. We are basically down to one vendor for L-481 and they need to be mindful of the need for options.

ACTION ITEM: Draft a letter to the OTC, Agency Training Leads, Tim Blake – Branch Coordinator. DD – Draft to GATRs 11/13/15. Final completed in time for the December OTC meeting. Renee, Melissa, Kelly

Request was made to have a letter or curriculum history of some sort to explain the history behind S-420, L-480/S-420 combined, and L-481 so that students will understand the transition of this.

Update Priority Trainee Program

Kim Bang & Matt Dillon

We had a very successful year and Matt is currently working up the report from the data provided. Thanks for using the spreadsheet! There was one area that didn't use the spreadsheet or format to capture the data. Need to better define the criteria for the priority trainee program and process for how we share the information and get these folks out.

RM – what worked really well was they tied their daily availability to ROSS and their coordination center worked with them to generate a spreadsheet for that. They had a person at the coordination center that worked the list. What didn't work well was trying to create a roster for IMTs prior to dispatch and it was a lot of work trying to fill the holes when they were mobilized.

GB – they struggled this year getting folks to some GACCs. They didn't get anyone out of GACC this year. They send Priority Trainees with their teams and the teams cannot roster DIVS trainees any more so they can fill with priority trainees. Folks are getting more familiar with the program and overall it is going well. Would rather send out the position and not the names of folks because things change so fast.

CA – they got a lot of people mobilized and they got names sent to them daily. Used Google Docs to share the information and that worked out really well because that way they were working with real time information. They got a lot of folks from outside the GACC.

NR – had a short list, it was the first year of participation. Had some problems getting buy-in from their teams. List resided with the Coordination Center. Once things got busy; those local areas pretty much quit participating due to their activity. The out of area teams that know the system were calling direct to see about filling with priority trainees so that was really eye opening for the coordinating group there.

NW – This was the second busy year in a row and feel they did well getting folks out. Do not send the list out because it changes too fast. Had one problem with getting a name of someone that was already on a fire and would prefer not to get someone already on a fire because logistically it can be challenging, especially if they need an extension.

SW – First year of participation. Some internal things need worked out before next year. Having the Coordination Center involved was a real benefit. 136 priority trainee assignments outside of their GACC. The Air Attacks were the only positions they had problems with. They ended up with two different lists because the ATGS program had one in addition to the GACC list, so they took that position off of their priority trainee lists and just worked with that group to get the ATGS folks out. Have priority trainee positions identified on the teams to help get folks out.

AK – They got 25 folks out of area. The GACC struggled a little with it at the PL5 level, but for the most part it worked. Still working on getting folks educated about the program and how it works. Amy did a GREAT job! Thanks!

EA – they moved 132 folks and still getting the numbers back on PTB status. It was a really good year. They experienced some issues with the ATGS position also. Not all the folks on the ATGS list got on their Priority Trainee list.

Overall there is more buy-in to the program by the Agency Administrators and the dispatch system is more involved as well. Having training specialists that could get the trainees re-assigned if the activity slowed and they still had time worked really well.

The GACC agreements outside of the priority trainee program were somewhat of an issue. They are supposed to be hard dollar mobilizations and not sure if that is being held to. Need to better define those agreements and how they work so everyone, Nationally, knows how those work and the parameters.

Is there a way to show Priority Trainee status in ROSS? Discussion of there being a button added in ROSS that can be checked for the priority trainees. There is a way to hide all the trainee positions for 7 days so that only the priority trainee position is shown for that person and discussion on how to make this consistent across all GACCs. If a checkbox was added to ROSS it would have to be made a permission based box so that only someone at the GATR level could check??

ACTION ITEM: Develop a response to Susie to be used at the December 8-10 Dispatch meeting. Melissa, Matt, Kim - DD – December 1.

The states that won't take trainees on their incidents are always going to be an issue also. It might be to our benefit to have one GATR representative to those two groups at the National level. It was suggested that Kim Bang be the representative to National Dispatch Coordinating Group.

AGENDA ITEM: Invite Evans Kuo to May meeting to talk about what they are doing (Oversight Group IMT succession planning).

DECISION: Matt will have the statistics report done for the CGACC by the first week of December. He will attempt to get the R8 data in a format that we can use prior to generating the report.

NAFRI Update – Take 2

S-520 Discussion Continued – in the end there won't be much difference other than it will be back on the GACC to deal with their students that don't pass the simulation. The areas need to identify to NAFRI who at the GACC level they need to be sending those notifications to.

DECISION: The notification of those that do not pass the simulation will go to the GATR, who will make sure it gets to the right people and is dealt with properly.

The group expressed concerns regarding the participation certificate vs the completion certificate. The group feels that all students should get a completion certificate but if they don't pass the simulation the notification and recommendations letter would accompany the certificate and be sent to the GATR and supervisor or something like that. This is going to come out as a draft recommendation from the OTC and feedback will be taken into account.

D-510 – It is the understanding of the GATRs that selections are made off grades and why are the GATRs being asked to prioritize prior to the students taking the selection test? They have 120 applicants and they are trying to decide if they should do two classes back to back, or two classes one in spring and one in fall, or some other option of getting as many folks as possible through the class. Doing back to back classes makes getting cadre to do that a problem due to funding that much travel for the same folks to teach. Need to get more cadre for the class so it isn't a problem.

John is working on a way that he can fund cadre from other agencies to come teach at NAFRI. They can do invitational travel right now, but is working on getting a reimbursable agreement to pay for that.

DECISION: The GATRs think they should do two classes back to back and have committed to helping get cadre to make that happen.

They have nine detailers coming in to NAFRI to help out this year. They have not filled any positions so staffing is still down. WO FAM cannot get the Organization Chart approved and cannot fill positions until that is done.

Just completed the A/V upgrade in the building. The projectors have all been replaced with high quality ones that the lights can be left on in the room and still see the screen. The audio system has all been upgraded. Very high tech and will be great for the center.

Moving all the course coordination stuff off the LLC site and moving to the FRAME site and all the course content, etc. will be there.

Nomination process is working for them, but is not liked by the local folks. Would like the feedback at the May meeting on how things went for the whole training season.

AGENDA ITEM: Add NAFRI Nomination feedback/critique.

There was effort to make the NAFRI steering committees as sub-committees to the Training Committee. The OTC discussed this and they will be listed as sub-committees under the OTC, but will not have charters. The NAFRI training specialists will be a member of the committee to give them equal standing on those committees as the other members.

FEMA Train-the-Trainer

GB hosted the L-953 so folks can teach L-952 and Kelly will be getting the list of completions to the GATRs. This was the first TtT to be held outside of Emmitsburg. The class sets up instructors to know what to expect when they get the course packages, etc. It was a good course and they had a lot of good discussion of the GATRs and their roles. Kelly worked direct with Robert Ridgeway to get that scheduled and presented.

S-341 GIS Specialist (Conference Call)

Kathy Hanson

Kathy is the Midwest region fire GIS Specialist for the NPS and chair of the geospatial training sub-group. Sean Triplett FS, NIFC Geospatial Training Unit liaison for the Geospatial Sub-Committee.

HO #3 – PPT for Geospatial Training Unit

Briefed the group on where they fit in and that they are under the NWCG Planning Branch. They maintain the S-341 course and the GPS for Fire Management course. Membership is interagency and spread out across the U.S. The roles and responsibilities were outlined and a little of the history behind that was presented.

They monitor when and where the courses are presented and if they are being presented outside of what the GATRs have agreed to. They are looking to present courses based on true need, not on wants. They are also looking to get the locations where they are optimal for student participation by all NWCG agencies. Making sure the courses meet their core values for presentation to ensure good course presentation. They have a very good screening process to make sure they get the correct target audience for the courses.

They are working on streamlining the pre-test and pre-work process, moving to some distance learning, reviewing the curriculum and updating it, and will be changing some of the technology requirements for the course. The Field Managers Course Guide is going to be updated also.

Update on new Webmaster

Renee Beams

Had a meeting with a potential webmaster a couple weeks ago to see if he had potential to take over what Jill Jolly used to do. Jill is talking with him and he is looking at the web to see if that is something that will work. Hoping to have an answer in a couple weeks whether he will take on that role or not. If it will, Renee will hire Jill to train him on the backend maintenance of the web site. Eventually the website will move to a NIFC server, just waiting on the word from Boise on when that will happen.

S-420 Update

Deb Fleming & Beams

The S-420 course has not been updated for years and it was not in a format that was feasible to present due to not being able to get complete teams for the course. The NW then went to the S-420 Field version to help with the backlog. Now no one is presenting a consistent S-420 across the U.S. because folks have re-worked the simulation and updated the material, but not as one entity and shared with everyone.

Renee proposed to Development that we take on re-writing S-420 and design it using the criteria from L-481, will have over 50% hands on, will have simulations, and practical exercises, etc. included in the course. The core group is small right now and consists of a lot of the people that have helped develop the L courses in the past to make sure it is a good course. It will not look like the S courses on the shelf now, but will be a course that can be presented by any geographic area, can be presented by agency cadre, and will not be dependent upon vendors for presentation. January, 2017 the alpha course will be presented and the beta will be March, 2017. She is working with the Development shop to adhere to the NWCG standards and fall within the NWCG Curriculum, they will have a development staff member assigned to ensure they follow NWCG course revision standards. NWCG will own the content when this is completed and anyone that has cadre that meets the prerequisites will be able to present the course just like they do with any other NWCG courses. The course would then go back into the development update rotation to be maintained.

ACTION ITEM: Give Renee a name of someone to work with her on S-420 to be the cadre for the beta course in March, would like interagency and one from each geographic area. DD – February, 2016

FWBM PTB Revision Request from GATRs

Diana VanCurler

Diana briefed the group on the history of this revision request. HO4

ACTION ITEM: Diana will send the Task Book to the group and draft a letter to be sent to the RTO, BLM TC, and Agency Leads to push this forward. Also need to define a revision process for the agency specific PTBs.

ATGS Priorities

Kelly passed out the spreadsheet of all nominees for the ATGS academy for review and prioritization. Make sure the right people are on the list also and let her know if there are folks that shouldn't be on the list.

L-580

Dates will be the first week in May. This is not confirmed. Noms will come from the GATRs. Priority groups would EA, CA, and RM. NR would be the alternate after that. Kelly will enter in IQCS once the dates are confirmed. Each group has 12 slots.

Priority IHC

In talking with the RM Coordinating group it was identified that it is really hard to get IHC overhead/crewmembers out because of their job and not being able to leave. Is anyone else seeing the same thing? Is there a way that if a crew goes to an area incident they are wondering if the GACC could be notified of a need to get someone that is a priority out on an assignment while they are there. Other areas said that they just find a replacement for the crew and then the person that needs the assignment can be dedicated to the position that needs signed off and also doesn't leave the crew short while they are on an assignment.

Wednesday, November 4

FEMA Courses (Conference Call)

FEMA courses/presentation/funding/Instructors, etc.

Bob Patrick and

Bob Ridgeway

-ICS instructor quals (lack of clarity/consistency)

The NIMS training program plan of September, 2011 is the guidance for this and they feel that it is spelled out pretty clearly in that plan. The lead and adjunct/unit instructors are the two levels and there are different ones for those and they wanted a broad based requirement because of the variety of instructors that will be teaching them. The position specific guidelines are pretty specific and they have tightened them up since they started and will continue to do so as needed. There was discussion about the many levels of ICs that we have and that the descriptions in the ICS guidance are very confusing. They said that NWCG could develop a policy that would clarify that for us and we could clarify things for our people that way. Question to Deb: Can we put these courses back in the FMCG and put NWCG instructor qualifications for those in that to clarify it for NWCG instructors. Answer is: Yes and they could put a group together to develop that baseline and be ready for when the NIMS Training Program Guidelines are updated and be ready for that. It becomes even more confusing for the

States that are trying to work under NWCG and NIMS to figure out which policy guidance they should follow.

- ICS-100 revision status and Instructor Led Training vs online hours

The online new product is out for review on their side and will come to NWCG for review. What they are trying to do is take the NIMS courses and make them generic so they can be tailored to the audience while still being true to the course materials. The classroom has exercises that add time to that delivery and the online course only has six unit and no exercises. The classroom has 7 units and that is why there is such a big time difference in the description. There will definitely be a classroom version. NWCG is trying to have their online courses have the same material as an instructor lead course and the students come out of both with the same level of knowledge. That isn't the case with these courses as they sit right now. The objectives being taught in both deliveries will be met and are right now.

- ICS-100/200 test and answer key availability for classroom delivery

They are available in three locations, CD for the 449 graduates, download, and State Training Officers. The issue we were having the access to the test and answers if you were teaching an instructor led course were not accessible. They are now available on the password protected site. Will follow up to make sure this is true.

- ICS certificates (could EMI post a template for all to use?)

With the agency of jurisdiction being NWCG they recommend we continue to use our certificates. They understand that verification of other agency training is important. They do not have the ability to do 300/400 level testing online at this time. They do not support issuance of a FEMA certificate because they are not the agency of jurisdiction for those ICS courses. Why is it different for the position specific courses? For the ICS courses it is the level of learning of the student and the volume; the agency presenting the course has the jurisdiction so FEMA is not associated with it. The position specific is a national program and is delivered only one way by people that are qualified to teach the courses and they have the control over that instruction and that is why the certificates are different for those.

- ICS-300/400 potential for electronic testing & auto generated certificates

Direction was that NWCG should request this officially and with LMS system it is possible to do this on that site and issue these. This request would have to be made officially from NWCG up to EMI. If we could do this online it would help with the certificate issues.

- NWCG feedback on delivery of position specific courses & status of revisions

The status of the revision is good and there is funding to do updates and revision to the courses and they are looking to start that soon. There are some courses that are up to date and will be

released soon. Will look to start on the C&G courses first because they are the oldest and will ask for help with those when they get to that point. When they get to the point that they need SMEs they will be recruited through the current NWCG process. We have had folks participate in course development already on courses that NWCG has not adopted yet in preparation for eventual adoption. The best way to get feedback on courses they can use the course evaluations and send them to EMI or to the GATRs. Once they receive that information they will use that in the update process. If you have specific issues with the position specific courses Robert Ridgeway is the point of contact for that and he will deal with it.

AGENDA ITEM: Invite both Bob's to May meeting.

Deb will draft a letter on ICS qualification guidance. She will also get a letter sent from the Exec Board requesting the online testing for the ICS 300/400 courses.

Call was ended and discussion continued on the above topics. If an ICS course is taught by an NWCG agency they should issue an NWCG certificate. They may try to add language regarding the certificates and clarify those questions. Right now there are no plans for NWCG adoption of the COML and Air Ops course. May look at the Medical Unit Leader course when it is done though. But no other courses are being looked at for adoption at this time.

GATR Rep for M-581/LFML Committee

All

The OTC is requesting SMEs for the M-581/LFML/NFML courses. HO5&6. There is no date to respond to this, but would like to give a response to this by next Friday 11/13/15. It would be good to have a lead from each geo area in addition to a GATR representative to be on that committee. This group would be working on how to tie all these courses together. Nominated Diana VanCurler and Melissa Wegner as the GATR representatives. This is a course development process that will be a big commitment because this is essentially going to be a new course. Starting the process as if nothing exists currently to get a completely fresh design for this target group.

ATGS Development Planning

Kelly Woods, Isaac Shinkle & Jason Baldwin

Isaac and Jason are the FS & BLM agency leads for the program. Standardization is the goal of the program and they had a meeting recently. The Aerial Supervision Guide is going through a process of getting everyone to adopt it and a revision. They are trying to get all agencies to agree on what the policy is and agree to it. There is policy in the guide right now that the Forest Service does not agree to. There are discussions on what the policy is and should be. The DOI policy is to fly five missions a year and not tied to the "assignment" because a person could go on an assignment and not fly a mission. It is mostly a matter of where the authority comes from for the policy in the guide. There may end up being a Check Workshop for those that are doing the check airman and some other things to get back to standardization and quality control in the program. NIAC is working with NWCG on the changes. A re-write of the PTB has already been done and will hopefully be ready for next season.

The alternate delivery of S-378 includes all the objectives of S-378. The program was discussed and the group was briefed on the plans for this project. The Air Attack Academy this year will include 2 slots for lead plane positions. HO #7 statistics were given to the group and discussed. They are assigning mentors to the students that attend the academy and they will be matched up with a student. Everyone will go through the academy and that mentor will primarily be the trainer for the next year and the mentors will have access to an exclusive use platform so it will be easier to get the flight time.

Question: How are you recruiting the mentors? It went through the RAOs and that is the piece that has been missing previously in the program. Jason and Isaac detailed the processes and plans for the program. They are optimistic that we will see a huge change in the numbers of folks completing the program next year. The goal is to also increase the speed to competency of the students because of the immersed training the students are getting.

California did not offer up any of their exclusive use platforms due to they put on their own ATGS academy with Cal Fire. They need to find opportunities for folks that go through the regular S-378 course to get the qualified as well. They also need to get folks that have already had S-378 to apply for the academy so that they can get the immersed training also. Really need to get the right folks into the class.

Question: should we (the GATRs) stop putting on the S-378 course because it is muddying things up by putting it on? The smokejumpers spotters need the course for their job so S-378 will have to be put on for that program. There is talk of resurrecting S-370 and if it could meet the spotter need if that is done. It would also meet the need to fill the gap between S-270 and S-470 and folks that “need knowledge for their day jobs” could get that without needing S-378. It does muddy things for folks that really want to be ATGS to take a regular S-378. They do not need more trainees, they need more air attacks and better training for them. An intermediate aviation course would solve the need.

The priority trainee list will be a really big help for the folks that are not on the mentor list and will help get them out on assignments and hopefully to get certified. The Forest Service has 14 folks that need mentors/assignments.

For the 2016 academies a note was sent to the RAOs that the list needs to be prioritized. They are trying to build a little more transparency into the project. It is really about recruiting and prioritization at the GACC level; getting the right students. The supplemental nomination strongly recommends an orientation flight and that is one of the things that holds the nominations up. It also requires supervisor approval of six assignments in two years and that is critical for the program and an interview with an ATGS.

The recruitment announcement comes out in June from GB training, Shaylor collects the noms and works with the GATR, the nomination is supposed to go through the GATR to Shaylor the same as all our other nominations for courses. The group would like to know who the ATGS

GACC reps are as well as the mentors for this program. That will be sent to GATR chair to forward out to the group.

Draft Aerial Supervision Guide should be out November 20th for review.

D-311/D-312 White Paper

Renee Beams

Some responses gave feedback to the paper that Renee had sent out earlier to the GATRs for review. AK was the only respondent that did not agree with the combination proposal. There are a couple options: let folks do the combined one or the courses separate using NWCG materials and not change the NWCG courses, issue two separate certificates and do not move forward with the paper; move forward with the paper to have NWCG publish the combined course and remove the separate course materials, or move forward with the paper and suggest that NWCG keep three versions of the course(s). The group discussed the options, what was done to build the course, and the objections to the combination of the two courses. In the discussion it was pointed out that the Dispatch Committee needs to buy off on the combination or it wouldn't happen or it would take a lot longer to get it moved forward. Everyone needs to be on board with this change. The Forest Service is the only agency that requires D-312 and D-311 is not required by any agency.

DECISION: Move forward with the paper recommending that these two courses be combined. Include the instructor guide and simulation summary with the paper so that everyone that reviews the recommendation has a chance to look at the material. Beams DD: letter out to OTC by November 13th. Kim will present this package to the Dispatch Center Managers.

NWCG Development Update

Deb Fleming

- Update on the Training Assessment Tasking and Action Plan

Did the group see the tasking, finding and recommendations? No. Deb briefed the group on what that was and will send it out to the group. It is an age-old problem that they have not been able to find a solution to. They determined that the training is driven by the qualifications and they had to look at PTBs, etc. and there needs to be one place that tells people what a position is and what it takes to be that position. It was explained how and why they got to where they are at right now and what analysis is going on right now and will set us up for endorsements when they come out. They are working on Resources UL, Situation UL, status check-in and demob now. They are looking at there being some kind of training on how to be an evaluator or even how to be a trainee. The thought is that the PTBs will have to be revised at some point and they will need a plan on how to accomplish that. They will do an analysis of the task book to determine what tasks need to have classroom training, or a job aid, or mentoring, etc. They are thinking outside the box on what training and how that training is obtained in relation to the PTB. They are hoping that in the future our curriculum can be more

modular based. They are working on some kind of action plan on how they are going to get this done and she will share that when it gets done.

- NWCG Website and Future Merge of the Training Program Site

The website was shown to the group and a briefing was given on the changes that have been made and some upcoming changes that are planned. The plan is to be more user-friendly and have things grouped together for ease of locating them. The group discussed that it isn't intuitive that you can sort columns in the PTB page to organize them into functional areas, etc. at the column headings. The website is really different and there are some things that need to be changed so the boots on the ground can find them. The Training Program Site will eventually look completely different than it does now, but they will be moving on the changes in a slower fashion than the NWCG site did and be geared more towards the user. The information on the Training site will migrate to the NWCG site if possible. For now all the online material will not be migrated. They have some really good vision on what the NWCG site will eventually contain when it is finalized.

- Online Training Update & Stats

The LMS that hosts our online material was just updated to a new version and it looks different. It will clean up some of the access issues experienced in the past. The online courses have had almost 13,000 user completions already this year and it is expected to be at least 15,000 by the end of the year. Deb will send out the statistics for this. They are now working on getting the S-130, S-190 and S-290 courses loaded into the LMS so that the online material will be identical to the instructor led courses. The new LMS has fixed the Java problems that people were experiencing. The results that Alaska has had with the S-290 course have been really good and they really like it. Alaska State is going to go solely with the online course and supplement it with CFFDRS which is being put online. BEHAVE is scheduled to be put online in 2016 and WIMS for 2017.

- Revision Status and FY16 Efforts

The revision status was sent out last week and was reviewed and explained. There was discussion of some of the courses and what really should be done with them, versus what is happening with them. It also boils down to what the SMEs think should be done (i.e. RX-410, RX-310).

- Refresher Program Update

Eric Hipke just retired and they have Mike Black detailing to fill that. The job is also being advertised now for fill. Two other detailers are there to help develop some modules. They are working with the Lessons Learned Center to get material that can be used for some of the modules. The four components are going to be revised and the WFSTAR site will be modified to make it easier to pull material to teach those. They want to incorporate some continuing

education modules for other courses and positions. The S-300 revision was designed where some of the modules will be put on the refresher site.

- Removal of S-336 and Addition of TDGs to Leadership Library

Apologies for the timing of that and how it affected those that have courses scheduled. It is really gone, and they will have a better plan in the future for removal of courses. The Forest Service missed it in the new Qualifications Guide and there will be an errata or something done to get it out of that book. There will be new TDGs built to cover material lost in this removal.

The Spanish courses were created for the 130, 190 and I/ICS-100 courses and when these courses were being revised it was brought up that the Spanish courses would need updated also. This primarily a BLM issue. Others feel that they could hire interpreters for presentations that needed it. A decision of removal still has not been made yet.

The Gap Courses are another set of courses that discussion is going on about removal from the system. They are working on developing a diagram to show the pieces of material that need to be pulled from other courses to be able to teach the Gap Courses. The actual material will be going away but if someone wants teach a Gap Course the chart will tell them what to pull from other courses to meet those old Gap Courses.

- Print-on-Demand Concept for Publications

They have had a request to post I-300/400 course materials somewhere to print. They have been working with GPO to see if they can do print-on-demand. It turned out that since it was not NWCG materials they could not be housed at the cache so they needed to get EMI to do that so Deb is working with them on possibly getting those files sent to GPO so they can be print-on-demand.

- Training Program Staffing Update & Priorities

They are making some headway in filling positions. The 50/50 vice Josh Haney position will be getting filled. The Park Service Training Specialist position should be getting filled after the first of the year. The instructional media position will be used to fill the webmaster position. The publication manager position should be getting filled in a couple months. Once all these get filled there will only be one vacant position left and they are looking at what would be the best to use of that position to keep up with the workload that they have.

Schedule Conference Calls

All calls are held at 10:00 pacific time

January 12

February 16

April 19

May 3-5 Spring Meeting in Boise.

November meeting will be hosted by the Eastern Area at Grey Towers, November 7-10, 2016.

Update course rotation list (add FY 18)

This was completed and will be sent to the GATRs as well as added to the Operations Plan. The updated Plan will be posted to the web when this has been added.

Thursday, November 5

Nomination/Business Process

All

Review NAFRI Process/Is there a Better Way Overall (Action Item 171)

Not being able to use credit cards hinders our ability to get rid of paper nominations because we have to have the second page (fiscal) to charge tuition. NR has been working on this for years and they are getting close to getting the approval to do that for all the Forest Service. That form has an NWCG number on it so if it ever gets to a point that we get rid of it the form would have to be removed from the NWCG system.

It was suggested that a small group take on looking at the form and see what can be done to change and streamline that.

ACTION ITEM: Task group for nomination form revision so it is ready to roll out once the Forest Service gets approval to use credit cards. Jake, Renee, Gary Luce, Matt Dillon, Anna Dinkel, Kim Bang, Mark S. (GB) and Melissa will get back with a name possibly. Report out at May meeting on what they have come up with.

AGENDA ITEM: Add to May meeting agenda report out for this group.

Folks are still struggling with the NAFRI nomination process because no one sees these before it gets submitted to NAFRI. It is creating more work for the training officers because the approval portion of the process is completely left out prior to the submission of the nomination. One of the things is when they see the list come out they realize that there are folks missing and the Google Docs was closed and then they couldn't get in to submit the missing nomination. There is also a problem if the website goes down and then it can't be accessed at all. Discussion of the process pros/cons and options of maybe the GATR can go look at what is getting submitted through the google process. Another suggestion of the GATR getting some kind of notification when someone submits a nomination.

DECISION: The task group will explore NAFRI nomination alternatives and make recommendations on a process that works for everyone.

RM built a Google Doc for the RAWs course and it worked really well and that is something that needs to be looked at for our work process.

The group discussed the PFTC nomination process and current struggles with that process and the prioritization process. There are a lot of funding issues at PFTC right now. The FWS and BLM have pulled out of contributing funds to them.

AGENDA ITEM: Invite Mike from PFTC to May meeting to brief the group on this process and the Line Officer class they are doing and any other course/programs that they have.

If nominations are in IQCS do the noms need to be sent to other GATRs or will a list work for those and then only the ones that aren't in IQCS need to be sent?

DECISION: If noms are in IQCS they do not need to be printed/downloaded and sent GATR to GATR. A list with course name, IQCS Session #, nominee names and priorities is sufficient.

S-520

All

The teams are not full due to the typical shortage positions. There is pressure at the GACC level to send folks that haven't really performed in the position because they just got the T2 certification and probably aren't ready to go. This is then creating a hole for next year also. NAFRI doesn't take ADs and they would prefer not to fill the position with NIMO folks if they don't have to, but would rather fill with NIMO folks than take folks that aren't ready to go to the course. The other problem is that there are a lot of people ready that cannot get in the course due to the way it is designed. NAFRI is working on getting this course revised and hopefully that will help with both of these problems.

RAWs Courses Not Claimed (3 on Web)

D All

These courses have not been claimed by a Geographic Area and there are folks that are submitting nominations for them.

DECISION: Courses should not be posted on the web until someone has committed to host them.

Need to follow up with the RAWs folks to see if they are still planning on presenting the two unclaimed courses. The group discussed how is it determined by the areas that they need a RAWs course.

If the RAWS folks are still planning on these the SW will take the March 21st course. The March 28th course can be cancelled.

Reminder that the S-358 nominations DO NOT go to the Great Basin. They go direct to Susan Blegg. Great Basin just posts if for her.

P-310

The P-310 course has a national cadre and they have virtual modules with “pods” throughout the county. Are there any SOPs with this course and how are others handling the “pods” within your area? When the GATR is notified they are planning a “pod” in the area they will advertise it on their web page. The coordination is complex and if the states want to put it on they need a Federal partner to facilitate payment for the cadre.

Engine Academy Update

There is going to be a national meeting in a couple weeks and Chris will attend and represent the GATRs. Renee gave a briefing on the history of the engine academy group and where they are at. They are building a two week class that is not a required class. The GATRs would like to see a State representative on the group and Chris will take that message to the meeting. The GATRs wanted it to be stressed that it should be an interagency course and testing standards should stick to the NWCG standard of 70%. The target audience piece should be considered and what are the requirements of the interagency audience. The feeling is that it is a critical course, but that two weeks is hard to take and is very expensive for a course that isn't required and folks don't send their people because of that.

Round Robin

SW – Finally got the second position hired. Outreach closed on James' position the end of October and the vacancy still hasn't been issued. It will be a 12/13 Regional Training Officer in Albuquerque. Things are going well, pretty much status quo.

NR – Front office staff (Tara) going on a detail and have a detailer coming in for 120 days behind her. Trying to get that position upgraded and make it a GS-7 shared IT/Training position. Working with a couple partner agencies to fund the third training specialist position that is vacant right now. Matt has revamped the S-490 quite a bit and the testing scores will be faster now than they were. Working with NAFRI on the satellite delivery of learning from unintended outcomes. CA helped the to present an IQCS Master Record auditing course and it went really well and want to thank them for all the help and putting on a great class.

EA – R9 finally filled the training specialist job. Finished the training needs assessment and the academies are being planned now. The priority trainee applications are out and the coordinating group will be prioritizing them.

RM – No staffing changes. Scott McDermit is now in the FS training position and is working with Kim on course presentation and helping out a lot. Hoping to get Randy a PFT. They now have dedicated off site coordinators and some other folks stepping up to help out in off-site locations. Working on a new PD for Kim's position because the ones they have are really old and need to be made more current.

GB – They have all the detailers in place for the training season. They have a shared position that they are struggling to keep filled. Working on getting that filled again. Adding a GS-7 permanent position to the staff and working on that. Have ~ 50 courses. Planning on going to the leadership sub-committee in a couple weeks. The L-481 course scheduled for December is not going to happen due to NWCG will not let them present that for that vendor because the material has not been vetted yet. Will be looking at seeing if they need to put one on using the approved vendor or not. Hoping to have resolution prior to the one scheduled in January in NW so the vendor can move forward with approval then.

CA – detailers not showing up until January so that is a struggle. The McClellan center manager is going through selections now. And the primary leader training specialist position is getting filled. Have a detailer in the apprenticeship coordinator position. The NCa position is going to be flown. Jesse's detail will run through February. They are making some adjustments to the Redding training IHC. The California Mega Fires alpha course is going to be delivered in May as a test to hopefully be added to the L-580 curriculum. They are still looking at the material at this point. The International Association of Fire Chiefs is the one working on this and they are still working through a lot of questions. It has been advertised as an L-580 Alpha course, but that remains to be seen.

AK – Have four folks in the shop with an additional detailer coming in the spring. Trying to get up to speed right now. Amy will be out in the spring with a new baby and will be trying to work from home as much as possible so another detailer coming in there also.

NW – working on FS national PDs. Just got a 301-7/9 approved and ready to be used. Working on a 12 Training Specialist PD for the NW and 12 Training Specialist for the FS hope to have it done by February. All will be switched to 301 series. The vacant training tech position will get re-written as a 5/6. Working on filling the vacant training specialist (vice Diana). RX-341/301 is a combined course. Diana is now in the workforce position.

NAFRI – got the 1702 positions classified as 5/7/9 training coordinator for the folks there.