

**NWCG CURRICULUM MANAGEMENT ISSUE PAPER #51
RECOMMENDING A COURSE FOR AIR SUPPORT GROUP SUPERVISOR**

BACKGROUND/CURRENT STATUS

The 1986 I-375, Air Support Group Supervisor course was converted to a job aid (J-375) in 1997.

The Northern Rockies and Pacific Northwest geographic areas are presenting a 24-hour course biannually based on updated information from the old I-375 course. This course is strongly recommended for all ASGS in both areas before becoming certified.

There is an overwhelming desire of perspective trainees to attend this ASGS course. Supervisors in other geographic areas are reluctant to initiate the ASGS task book prior to the perspective trainees attending this course even though it is not a requirement of the NWCG.

Incident Management Teams are using the ASGS in the role of an Air Operations Branch Director (AOBD) when in actuality an AOBD should be ordered, in addition to an ASGS. This situation creates safety and liability issues and may pressure the ASGS to perform outside the scope of their knowledge and ability. Through proper training, the skill level would be greatly increased to give the ASGS the proper tools to identify these situations.

There is a reluctance of the Helibase Manager Type 1 (HEB1) community to step up to next level as an ASGS due to being uneducated to the roles and responsibilities of the ASGS. A training course will help alleviate this problem.

ISSUE

The ASGS position is where the two paths of fixed wing and helicopter operations meet. Currently, ASGS trainees have a strong helicopter background (HEB1 is a prerequisite for ASGS) but lack experience and skills in fixed wing operations.

Currently there is a lack of knowledge, skills, and abilities for ASGS relating to the following: aviation safety and risk assessment/management, Homeland Security, fixed wing operations, smokejumper operations, air space coordination/management, incident management team interaction, agreements/contracts - airport, land use, equipment and personnel, set up of portable retardant bases, military operations, span of control, understanding scope of duties, leadership abilities.

Currently there is no approved NWCG training course for ASGS, only a job aid. The prerequisite experience (qualified a HEB1 and satisfactory position performance as an ASGS) is the only requirement to be qualified as an ASGS. The current ASGS job aid vehicle is not sufficient to meet the requirements of the position due to the increasing number of high complexity fires and all risk incidents.

RECOMMENDATION

Design an S-375 course (see attachment) to fill the knowledge and skill gap. This course would be based on the course being presented by the Northern Rockies and Pacific Northwest geographic areas. Utilizing this approach would minimize time and costs involved in designing a new course.

ACTION REQUIRED

Approval of the subject matter expert's recommendation.

APPROVED / DENIED
(circle one)

SIGNATURE

A non NWCC version of the course has been developed in the field that meets a critical need.

[Signature]

TWT Chair

2/26/04

Date

cc: Incident Operations Standards Working Team

Attachment #1
Potential S-375, Air Support Group Supervisor
Course Outline
January 26, 2004

Estimate 24 hours to cover the following subjects.

- Aviation safety and risk assessment and management
- Understanding scope of duties (acting as AOBD)
- ICS 220
- Set up of portable retardant bases
- Fixed wing operations
- Air space coordination/management
- Military operations
- Crash and Rescue – standardization (AFFF, PPE)
- Homeland Security
- Smokejumper operations
- Incident management team interaction
- Agreements/contracts - airport, land use, equipment and personnel
- Span of control
- Leadership abilities