CURRICULUM MANAGEMENT ISSUE PAPER NUMBER 10

--HELICOPTER COORDINATOR TRAINING AND QUALIFICATIONS--

BACKGROUND:

The approved curriculum identifies a job aid (J-374) to support the position of Helicopter Coordinator (HLCO), but provides for an S course if the development group determines that a course is necessary.

CURRENT STATUS:

The development group developed a task book for this position. The task book had not been developed previously due to the non-availability of qualified personnel and limited use of this position. Use of this position has increased over the past five years and qualified personnel were available at this workshop. Tasking showed that the HLCO job is very similar to the Air Tactical Group Supervisor job, but is focused specifically toward the tactical coordination of helicopters.

Based on detailed analysis, the development group determined that a job aid will not provide the skills necessary for this position. Such skills include traffic patterns and air traffic control, mountain flying safety, tactical use of retardant, and coordination with fixed wing aircraft. A course specifically for the HLCO is not necessary, however, because these same skills will be taught in Air Tactical Group Supervisor S-378.

The development group also determined that the existing operations experience required of the HLCO position (FFT1) is not adequate. The group recommends that the prerequisite qualifications for HLCO include a requirement that the individual be qualified as a Task Force Leader (TFLD) and that suggested training include Division Group Supervisor S-339. The following supports this recommendation:

ICS 307 DOES NOT SUPPORT THIS

> A helicopter coordinator is required to set priorities on the tactical use of helicopters used on multiple division incidents and wildland urban interface situations. Helicopters are among the most complex and expensive fire fighting resources. The tactics and safety issues related to utilization of this resource in the situations described require a minimum qualification of Task Force Leader.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The NIFC National Fire and Aviation Training Support Group agrees with the recommendations of the development group that:

1. The Helicopter Coordinator Job Aid J-374 should not be developed.

2. That Air Tactical Group Supervisor S-378 contains the necessary skills training for the Helicopter Coordinator and should be required training for this position.

3. That the level of operations experience for the HLCO position should be increased to TFLD.

Approval of the Training and ICS Working Teams is needed by May 15, 1995, so that development can continue without interruption.

ACTION REQUIRED:

1. Upon approval of this recommendation, the NIFC Fire and Aviation Training Support Group will terminate development of J-374. SMEs and development funding assigned to J-374 will be reallocated to S-378.

2. The ICS Working Team will need to make appropriate changes to the qualification system during the revision of 310-1.

APPROVED:

Chairman, Training Working Team — Date 1/29/96

Chairman, ICS Working Team — Date 1-29-96