CURRICULUM MANAGEMENT ISSUE PAPER NUMBER 5
--AIR COURSE DEVELOPMENT--

A. REVISION OF INTERAGENCY HELICOPTER TRAINING GUIDE S-217
B. DEVELOPMENT OF J-376 AIR TANKER COORDINATOR JOB AID

NIFC DIVISION OF TRAINING
MARCH 17, 1994

BACKGROUND:

Development of air courses is scheduled for FY 95-96.

CURRENT STATUS:

Project leaders are currently preparing project plans and budget estimates for FY 95-96 projects. Discussion regarding S-217 and J-376 raised the following issues:

A. INTERAGENCY HELICOPTER TRAINING GUIDE S-217

This course was revised by the interagency aviation community (specifically, helicopter operations specialists) in 1992-1993. Based on our recommendations and those of the Aviation Training Steering Committee, this product was given a level III certification. Certification was made in November 1993 and publication through PMS was completed in February 1994.

It was agreed that the next time the course needs revision (estimate 3 to 5 years), NWCG would work jointly with the aviation community to obtain a level I certified product. In the meantime, the current product is valid and is meeting user needs.

B. AIR TANKER COORDINATOR J-376

During development of the qualifications and training system, there were a number of discussions regarding the Air Tanker Coordinator (ATCO) position (changed in 1993 to Air Tanker/Fixed Wing Coordinator) and the variations in the requirements for and use of the position. Within BLM and Forest Service, this position is filled by a qualified lead plane pilot who must meet extensive training and certification requirements. Other Department of Interior agencies meet their needs by using BLM and Forest Service lead plane pilots. Use of and qualifications for the position by State and cooperating agencies vary widely.

For these reasons, there was no position task book developed for the position and qualifications and training were designated in 310-1 as agency specific. Due to these variations, we believe that attempts to develop a job aid

for the position at this time would be unsuccessful. John Philbin (ICSWT) has agreed to pursue resolution of this issue and has requested that development of J-361 be delayed until such time as a clear definition of the position can be obtained and a task book developed.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Due to pending deadlines for preparation of the FY 95-97 budget submission to NWCG, an approval is needed from the Training Working Team by April 15.

1. Delay scheduled revision of the Interagency Helicopter Training Guide S-217 until the aviation community identifies the need (estimate 3-5 years). At that time NWCG should work with the aviation community to develop a level I product.

2. Delay development of Air Tanker Coordinator J-376 until the ICSWT can make a clearer determination on this position and a task book can be developed. The need for J-376 should be reviewed at that time.

ACTION REQUIRED:

Upon approval of these recommendations by the Training Working Team:

1. The NIFC Division of Training will reflect these changes in the development schedule and budget submission for FY 95-97.

2. The Training Working Team will need to coordinate action on recommendation number 2 with the ICSWT.

APPROVED:

Chairman, Training Working Team

4/2/94
Date