NMAC Correspondence 2020-04 January 24, 2020

To: Interagency Aerial Supervision Personnel on assignment from the United States to Australia

From: National Multi-Agency Coordinating Group (NMAC)

Subject: Clarification of Roles for United States Aerial Supervision Personnel

In accordance with the Interagency Aerial Supervision Guide (IASG), this letter is to provide clarification for agency personnel and hosting governmental organizations specific to the training, duties and capabilities of United States Aerial Supervision personnel.

There are four types of aerial supervision resources and four aerial supervisor Incident Command System (ICS) positions. Although these positions are unique, they share the common purpose of facilitating safe, effective, and efficient air operations in support of incident objectives.

* Air Tactical Group Supervisor (ATGS): The ATGS coordinates incident airspace and manages incident air traffic. The ATGS is an airborne firefighter who coordinates, assigns, and evaluates the use of aerial resources in support of incident objectives. The ATGS must collaborate with ground personnel to develop and implement tactical and logistical missions on an incident. The ATGS supervises the subordinate positions of HLCO, ATP/LPIL when the positions are on scene of the incident and supervises all incident aircraft operations within the Fire Traffic Area (FTA) from a fixed wing or rotor wing aircraft. Standard flight profiles for fixed wing ATGS is 2,500 feet and for rotor wing ATGS is 500 to 2,500 feet above ground level (AGL).
* Air Tactical Supervisor (AITS): The AITS is a qualified ATGS who has received specialized training and authorization to function as an Aerial Supervision Module (ASM) crew member from a fixed wing aircraft. Standard flight profiles are 150 to 1,000 feet AGL.
* Air Tactical Pilot / Leadplane Pilot (LPIL): The ATP/LPIL coordinates, directs, and evaluates airtanker operations from a fixed wing aircraft. ATP/LPIL can receive specialized training and authorization to function as an ASM crew member. Standard flight profiles are 150 to 1,000 feet AGL.
* Helicopter Coordinator (HLCO): The HLCO coordinates, directs, and evaluates tactical/logistical helicopter operations from a rotor wing aircraft. Standard flight profiles are 500 to 2,500 feet AGL

Aerial Supervision Personnel shall: Perform flights as ordered by an Australian government official by;

* Remaining within the scope of your agency qualifications and certifications.
* Remain within standard flight profiles for the type of aircraft and the qualification you are using.
* Completing an Operational Mission Checklist (OMC) as a flight crew prior to each mission.
* Wear appropriate personnel protective equipment (PPE) as defined in the IASG for the mission and aircraft you are flying in.

Note: Helicopters, regardless of mission, are not restricted to operating above 500 feet AGL, for this reason there is a higher standard for PPE.

Note: Leadplanes and Airtankers are the only fixed wing aircraft that can operate 500 feet and below, only qualified personnel essential to the mission are authorized to be onboard the aircraft.

Questions about the above information should be directed to either Brad Gibbs (BLM) at 208-387-5182 or Paul Linse (USFS) at 202-557-1545.

/s/ Joshua Simmons

Chair, NMAC