2012 NC MAFFS Conference call notes

02-29-12

First item of business was to take roll to see who was on for the call. There were twelve present at the time for it.

On Call:

Frank Domingues & Scott Fisher of the MAFFS Cadre

Fred Mascher, Diane Henn & Dave Kuhn for the dispatch centers along with Calvin Miller from the SA GACC

Major Jon Locklear for the NC ANG

Aaron Knobloch for the USFS R08 Office

Frank Smith & James Reed for the National Interagency Incident Communication Division

Chief J R Boyce & Danny Moyd for GYH (Donaldson Center Airport)

Introductions were next. Frank introduced himself and mentioned the he would be the acting MLO and that Lee Burwell of NC State will be his mentor for the exercise in Greeneville. Also introduced the dispatch centers that we would be working with throughout the event and the names of the managers for those centers which are Fred Mascher and Diane Henn of NC Dispatch Center, and Dave Kuhn for the SC Dispatch Center. Frank also mentioned that the majority of radio traffic will be with NC Dispatch because the drop zones are located within their jurisdiction. Should we have to go to the alternate weather related drop zone that radio traffic will be handled through SC Dispatch with Dave Kuhn’s center.

NEPA clearance was next on the agenda. Fred Mascher was handling the ones in NC and mentioned that he was close to completing them and getting the ok to use the spots. It was brought up that the alternate weather drop zone was located in SC and that Dave Kuhn would work to get the clearance to use that area. He mentioned that it shouldn’t be a problem.

Next item discussed were the dates for the exercise. Frank mentioned that they shouldn’t be an issue for the training. NC ANG requested that the MAFFS mechanics should arrive in Charlotte on the 5th of May to help install the units and then they will be test fired on the 6th. Once the units have been checked out and are functioning properly, the mechanics can relocate to Greeneville, SC for the rest of the training.

It was also discussed that on the 7th the units will leave from Charlotte, NC for their first mission of the day and then load out of Greeneville for the rest of the training exercise. Issues were brought up about briefings and launch orders with necessary information getting passed to the flight crews. It could be done but we need to look into it a little further. Scenarios brought up on how we can do this are; have a conference call for the first morning briefing or fly into Charlotte with LP pilot and do a briefing. We will still need to discuss.

Support needed for the NC ANG in Greeneville came up. Water supply to fill the MAFFS units will be handled with local procurement a long with fuel supply. Rental vehicles and hotel room support would be needed for about 20 personnel. Dave Kuhn would be using his contracting/procurement personnel to help set up these arrangements. We will be looking at getting vans for the flight crews to transport themselves.

The issue of mobilizing a compressor to Greeneville came up and it was agreed by all that we should have one there. NC ANG will get it there on one of their support birds.

Pre-site meeting was brought up and MLO-Frank said we would look at it later to determine if one was needed. For the ANG side it would need to look into the security it may need to put in place for the C-130’s when they RON. The other issue would be to mark the parking points for the C-130’s when they return for reload. Last but not least, the number of rental vehicles needed for the military would be around five for the crews.

Radio issues were the next item on the board. The first being radio training for the flight crews. It was discussed how this is to be done before we start to fly the missions. One suggestion was to have LP pilots fly up to Charlotte on the 6th and give the training so that all the flight crews will be ready for Monday morning launch. The other suggestion would be to have Jim Reed drive up to Charlotte for radio training and then return to Greeneville. In addition to this, the base station set up needed to occur in Ashville at the reload base. Once all was up and running the radio techs would relocate to Ashville for the rest of the exercise.

The MAFFS Planning Checklist was the last and final task to be completed on the call. We needed to make sure all support elements for the exercise had been covered. Tasks that had not been assigned were done so. Any additional tasks identified later would be delegated in the future.