



NOAA Aviation Safety Program

NOAA Aviation Safety Board Meeting
May 16, 2006

Lieutenant Commander Debora Barr



Jan 10, 2006 ASB Meeting Action Item Update



- **How will the aircraft commander know that a qualified non-crewmember has a valid aeromedical clearance notice?**
 - Clearance Notice statement added:
 - This Aeromedical Clearance Notice must be carried onboard the aircraft and presented to the aircraft commander or NOAA Line or Staff Office Manager responsible for the flight upon request.
- **How will the aircraft commander know that aviation safety training is completed for qualified non-crewmember**
 - The Aviation Safety Program is drafting a Qualified Non-crewmember Safety Program Manual that includes provisions for supervisor validation of personnel training and medical screening. The Aviation Safety Program plans to track personnel medical and training currency and issue flight qualification cards.
- **Jan 10, 2006 version of Aviation Safety Training table required no training for Mission Operations over land**
 - Table revised to require NOAA E-Learning modules (NOAA Aviation Policy & Procedures and Basic Aviation Safety & Survival)



Jan 10, 2006 ASB Meeting Action Item Update



- **Frequently Asked Questions should be posted on aviation safety web site**
 - FAQ posted on March 8th
- **Aviation Safety Board should develop and publish minimum training standards for aviation safety training**
 - The Aviation Safety Program has drafted standards for the Board's consideration at this meeting
- **Detailed aviation safety training course information should be posted on the web site**
 - The Aviation Safety Program has drafted a list of training vendors and course information for the Board's consideration at this meeting



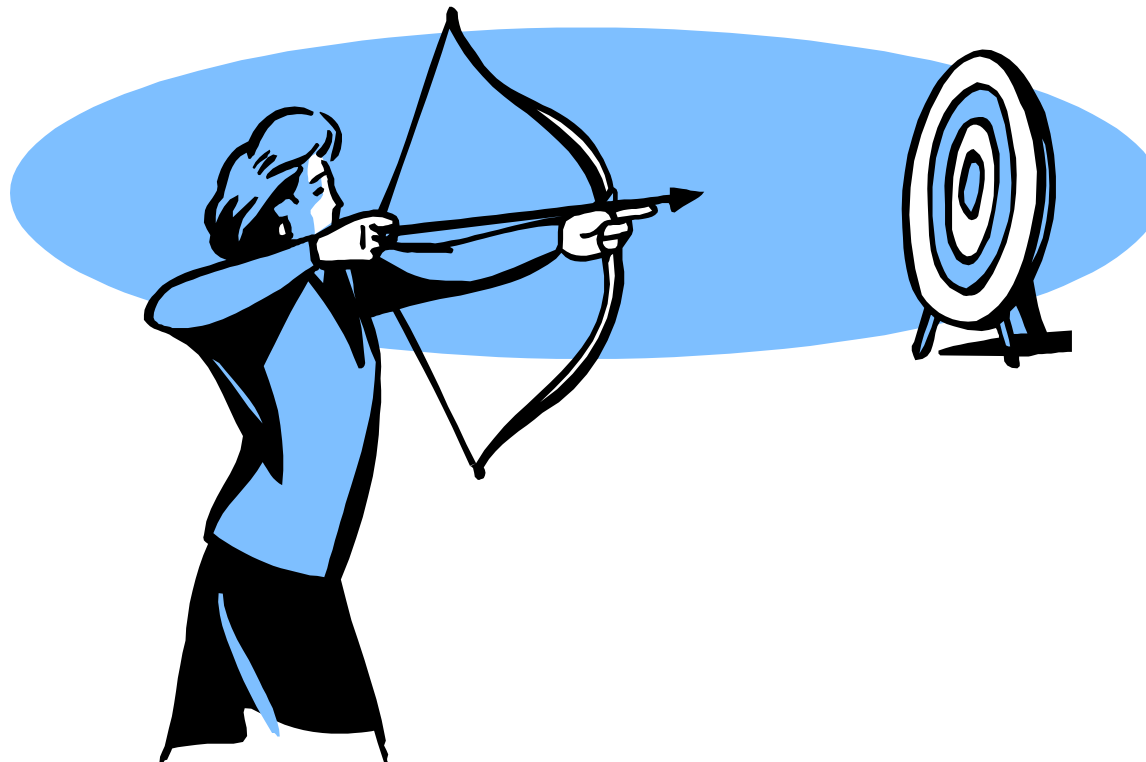
Jan 10, 2006 ASB Meeting Action Item Update



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- **After the Board approves the list of training vendors, a notice should be drafted for posting to the web site for new training vendors to solicit NOAA for inclusion on the list**
 - The Aviation Safety Program will work with Acquisitions & Grants and NOAA General Counsel to draft appropriate language for the web site



Are we on Target?





Policy Status

- **NOAA Administrative Order (NAO 209-124)
Aviation Safety Policy**
 - From January to late April – the policy was reformatted several times to satisfy clearance officials proposing different methods to communicate the fact that the policy was approved but cannot be complied with or enforced prior to October 1, 2006 because:
 - key components of the Aviation Safety Program are still under development
 - labor union bargaining on implementation has not yet occurred
 - May 9th – the final draft policy was printed is being routed for signature by the NOAA Administrator



Policy Status



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- **NAO 209-124 Aviation Safety Policy**
 - Will have an “effective date” of October 1, 2006
 - **After Oct 1, 2006 full compliance with the Policy will be mandatory**



Current Guidance



- **Interim Guidance Memo for Use of Non-NOAA Aircraft issued by VADM Lautenbacher on July 1, 2005 states:**

“While approved, full implementation of this Order [Aviation Safety Policy] will not occur until October 1, 2006, as OMAO must still establish several program components set forth in the policy.”

- > Interim Guidance has controls in place ensure safety while Aviation Safety Program policy components are further developed.



Signed Policy Required



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- **Until NOAA has a signed Aviation Safety Policy the following cannot commence:**
 - OMB Clearance for use of Medical Screening Form
 - Impact and Implementation (I&I) Bargaining with Labor Unions



Required for Policy Compliance



NOAA Aviation Safety Policy Program Component Estimated Completion Dates				
Program or Policy Component	Complete	1-Jul-06	1-Sep-06	1-Oct-06
On-Line Medical Screening accessible			X	
Aviation Safety Training Vendors Posted on Web Site		X		
NOAA E-Learning Training modules posted		X		
NOAA Aircraft Operator Database populated with vendors				X
NOAA Aviation Safety Board Operational	X			
Aviation Life Support Equipment Delivered to Field Units		X		
Contract Language Developed (Airworthiness and Operational Safety Standards)				X



Medical Screening



- **The secure on-line “Virtual NOAA Health Services Office” is in the final testing phase**
 - Provides web-accessible medical screening forms for both NOAA ship operations and NOAA flight operations
- **The NOAA Health Services Aviation Questionnaire cannot be utilized until OMB clears the form in accordance with Paperwork Reduction Act requirements**
 - DOC is holding application to be submitted to OMB until the Aviation Safety Policy is signed by the NOAA Administrator



Aircraft Operator Database



- **NOAA Aircraft Operator Database (NAOD)**
 - NOAA personnel will only be authorized to charter or fly aboard aircraft that are listed on the NAOD, unless a waiver is granted by the Director of Marine and Aviation Operations.
 - The only exceptions to this policy are for:
 - flights on aircraft owned and operated by other departments, agencies or instrumentalities of the United States;
 - by state or local governments;
 - or by the governments of countries that meet the Federal Aviation Administration International Safety Assessment Program Category I rating;
 - and for authorized use of privately owned aircraft for transportation.
 - Privately owned, military, and government aircraft will not be listed on the NAOD



NAOD



- **The online NAOD will not be populated with vendors until October 1, 2006 to avoid confusion about whether Interim Guidance or the new Aviation Safety Policy is in effect**
- **NOAA will automatically include on the NAOD:**
 - All Aircraft Operators evaluated and approved by:
 - Department of the Interior
 - Department of Energy
 - Department of Defense
 - 14 CFR Part 135 Aircraft Operators approved by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G)
- **NOAA will evaluate additional Aircraft Operators for possible inclusion on the NAOD**
 - The Aviation Safety Program will publish Aircraft Operator qualification standards



ALSE



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- **Aviation Life Support Equipment Update**
 - Line Offices transferred funds to NMAO in March to purchase equipment
 - NMAO provided CD 435's to Contracting in March
 - Contracting Office proceeding with procurement in late April and early May
 - Expect equipment delivery to field units by July 1st



Contract Language



- **The Aviation Safety Program still needs a contract specialist to develop this language and to work with the Contracting Officers in NOAA**
 - NMAO has a Memorandum of Agreement with Acquisitions and Grants for AGO to hire a contract specialist dedicated to the Aviation Safety Program
 - Expected hire date - early August



Aviation Safety Training



- **NOAA E-Learning Training modules are currently being developed for:**
 - NOAA Aviation Safety Policy and Procedures
 - Basic Aviation Safety
 - Expect these modules to be posted and available by July 1, 2006
- **Draft minimum training standards for aviation safety, water survival, and cold weather survival**
 - Presented today for Board review and approval
- **Draft list of qualified Aviation Safety Training Vendors to be posted on Aviation Safety Web Site**
 - Presented today for Board review and approval



Line Office Responsibility



- **Ensure all Line Office personnel know that compliance is required after October 1, 2006 with the following Policy requirements**
 - Medical Screening
 - Aviation Safety Training
 - ALSE
 - Flight on an aircraft not listed on the NAOD requires a waiver unless otherwise exempt from inclusion on the database (scheduled airlines, government aircraft, and employee's privately owned aircraft (POA) authorized for official travel are not listed in the NAOD)



New Business



- **Expressed Concern:**

- NOAA Emergency Responders are concerned about the requirement to fly only on aircraft listed on the NAOD since they have no control over aircraft provided to complete their mission
 - Requesting 24/7 coverage and quick turn-around to process waivers as necessary

Draft Aviation Safety Policy Section 6.10 states:

Requests for Waiver to provisions of this Order shall be presented in writing to the Director, OMAO, with a copy to the ASPM. The Director, OMAO, is the approval authority for all waivers to provisions of this Order.



New Ideas/Questions?

