



SAFETY ALERT

Deconfliction of Airspace

The Region has experienced the second airspace intrusion by military aircraft for the 2009 fire season. This time, a near mid-air occurred with a military fighter jet and an ATGS platform coming within 100' feet of each other. (SAFECOM 09-187) The Southwest Mob Guide states *"To augment the FAA NOTAM system, initial attack dispatchers must immediately notify the responsible military scheduling agency of known aviation activities."* It does not go into further deconfliction contacts or procedures. Deconfliction had occurred prior to the near mid-air appropriately according to the protocols of the Forest, however, there is more we can do. The Regional Aviation Staff is recommending a review of your deconfliction protocol to ensure we are doing all we can to avoid a mid-air collision. We also recommend your protocol includes a requirement for daily deconfliction calls to occur during periods of aviation activity. We cannot assume the military checks the NOTAMS, or will avoid the area of operations. Here are actions we should be taking towards deconfliction efforts:

- ◆ **Keep aviation hazard maps current and utilize in briefing missions.**
- ◆ **Ensure that the contacts for scheduling offices applicable to your area are kept current.**
- ◆ **Review Southwest Mob Guide section 24.11 -MTRs & MOAs**
- ◆ **Ensure personnel in your dispatch office understand protocols, including temps and ADs who might function as aircraft dispatchers.**
- ◆ **Consider daily deconfliction calls during periods of aviation activity.**
- ◆ **Document your contact, including names, at the scheduling office.**
- ◆ **Report any near mid-air and close calls to the RASM, follow up any intrusion with a SAFECOM for trending.**
- ◆ **Review the Aviation Accident/Incident Response Guide.**
- ◆ **Ensure your notification list is up to date (Especially with all the 'Acting' positions)**

Recognizing that the Southwestern Region has quite a high level of border aviation and military activity, including an unmanned aerial system (UAS) base at Ft. Huachuca, we must make every effort possible to ensure folks know where our aviation resources are operating.

/s/ Jami L. Anzalone
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