MNICS AIR OPERATIONS WORKING TEAM – 2012 ASSIGNMENT WORKSHEET #14- Interagency Meeting Briefings

ISSUE: Role of the MIFC Air Desk relating to the combined duties for MN DNR MIFC, GLFFC, and MNICS.

BACKGROUND: MNICS Aviation personnel and dispatchers are often confused about the 4 different roles (Hats) that the MIFC Aviation Desk is responsible for.

RECOMMENDATIONS / EXPECTED PRODUCT: Educate partners, co-workers and others relating to the aviation desk duties/responsibilities and authorities including: 1. State of MN Initial attack aviation dispatch task. 2. Great Lakes Forest Fire Compact aviation dispatch tasks. 3. MNICS aviation dispatch tasks and support. 4. MIFC (& or expanded) Dispatch tasks and functions.

A. **Implementation Plan: Schedule a meeting / training with key player of the MNICS aviation and dispatch community.**

B. **Tasked to:**
    a. **Individual – Sheldon Mack**

C. **Target Completion Date: February 1, 2012**

Role of the MIFC Aviation Desk – Monday April 2, 2012

Present were: Bill Schuster, Sheldon Mack Jill Hebl, Dan Wagner, Brian Jenkins, Mark Hale, Mindy Lane, Ken Guith and Paul Wannarka.

Reviewed the MNICS Dispatch Review Power Point.

Recognized the differences between:

Initial Attack Dispatch (State wide MN DNR aviation assets)

Expanded Aviation Dispatch - For a specific MN incident)

MNICS expanded aviation dispatch -Dispatching aviation assets for all MNICS partners as needed)

GLFFC aviation dispatch – dispatching compact aviation resources

National Mobilization aviation dispatch – in support of other States and GACC's

The differences above help explain why the desk is often a source of confusion – especially to new and visiting dispatchers. Even folks working the desk are sometimes confused about their role and which policy or process to follow on a specific task or request.

The goal of the meeting was to talk about roles, identify the functional differences between the above tasks, and improve understanding relating to specific positions.

This helped to answer several questions including: why the helicopter operations specialist for the DNR would be so involved with federal fires?

The result should be a short term improvement in dispatchers and fire managers understanding of the relationships and processes of the MNICS aviation desk.