

MNICS AIR OPERATIONS WORKING TEAM – 2012 ASSIGNMENT WORKSHEET #8- Wildfire Pre Op Planning

ISSUE: Minnesota Tanker Base Upgrades and Standardization

BACKGROUND: There is a need to standardize TB Ramp Freqs at all bases in MN to minimize confusion for pilots. Need to determine if our Tanker Bases in MN are capable of Supporting MAFFS, Very Large Air Tankers, and new BAE 146 air tankers. If not, suggest modifications that will be needed so we are in a position to accept and use the new generation of retardant tankers in MN, since there are fewer traditional air tankers available nationally.

RECOMMENDATIONS / EXPECTED PRODUCT:

- (1) Coordinate a common ramp frequency for MN tanker bases that is compatible with the rest of the nation.**
- (2) Get at least one tanker base in Minnesota approved for Military air tankers to use.**
- (3) Ensure all MN tanker bases are approved for BAE 146 use.**
 - A. Implementation Plan:** Gather required information and determine the ramp frequencies for next spring. Make formal requests for MAFFS and Bae 146 approvals by spring.
 - B. Tasked to:**
 - a. Individual – Luke Ettl**
 - C. Target Completion Date:** February 20, 2012
 - D. Update:** Ramp Frequencies have been changed and are now standardized. All MN Tanker Bases are capable to handle BAe 146 Tankers. The process to get Hibbing Tanker Base approved for MAFFS has started and if/when approved the process for Bemidji and Brainerd will follow.