

FINAL RECOMMENDATION

(June 1, 2001)

Recommendation of the Action Plan Team: CORE Mission

Statement of Issue #: 10-16 The current on- and off-campus student population may not reflect the geographic and demographic diversity of the United States fire service.

Recommendation #R-49

Summary: Encourage participation from the federal fire department population (e.g., DOD, USDA, Forest Service).

Recommendation: Work more closely with all Federal departments and agencies within the Federal Government to increase participation.

Background: On December 15, 1981, USFA organized a Federal Fire Service Task Group (FFSTG) to encourage participation from the Federal Military Fire departments. The key reasons for which the FFSTG was established was to assist in establishing a mechanism for information exchange, advocacy, acknowledgement of the unique challenges facing the Federal/Military fire protection sectors, sprinkler advocacy, pay issues, etc. Those who have participated in the FFSTG over these years have become true national leaders in their own right in championing issues for resolutions. In recent years the FFSTG had developed a somewhat stronger eastern regional focus instead of a national focus, therefore October 12, 2000, the FFSTG was dissolved.

Historical Note: Although this recommendation is specific to NFA audiences, it touches on the larger issue of fire protection and Federal agencies. This issue was recognized in Federal circles officially as far back as 1930 with the creation of the Federal Fire Council (FFC). As a champion of information exchange among and between various Federal departments on fire safety and fire departments on fire safety and fire protection, the Council (disbanded in 1977) had an almost identical role as is now being potentially considered via the proposed Federal Fire Working Group (FFWG). The FFSTG (described above) focused on Federal/Military fire services (a fire department based needs/issues forum) vs. global Federal fire policy.

Comment: The idea of establishing a new initiative for Federal fire policy should not be confused with the existing National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) whose purpose “is to establish and operational group designed to coordinate programs of the participating wildfire management agencies so as to avoid

wasteful duplication and to provide a means of constructively working together. Its goal is to provide more effective execution of each agency's fire management program. The group provides a formalized system to agree upon standards of training, equipment, qualifications, aircraft, suppression priorities, and other operational functions. Agreed upon policies, standards, and procedures are implemented directly through regular agency channels." [Source – National Interagency Fire Center (NFIC) website in Boise, ID]. The proposed FFWG to be potentially inclusive of all Federal fire protection policy issues could well benefit from the highly successful interagency wildland experience base of the NWCG.

Priority: High

Step(s) to Achieve: The following steps have been initiated to obtain Federal participation:

- During FY2000 USFA/NFDC initiated a fire department census that should provide a framework from which a representative sample of fire departments may be taken to facilitate a detailed fire service demographic survey. This survey will be completed in FY02.
- Effective August 17, 2000, the Federal Emergency Management Agency established a Federal Fire Working Group (FFWG), to be chaired by USFA. USFA is assigning its resources to a new opportunity by formally seeking policy-level relationships with Federal agencies having major fire protection responsibilities (taking our lead from Chapter 19 of America Burning, "Federal Involvement") just as was originally envisioned for the Federal Fire Programs. In linking USFA, as the Federal Emergency Management Agency's fire safety advocate, with other Federal agencies, we will be able to return to our legislative intent of high-level Federal agency partnering for fire protection leadership across government. The FFWG will still allow us to be a strong support of Federal/Military fire protection issues but now more globally from the highest levels of government.
- On May 24, 2001, the FFWG met at FEMA HQs, Washington, DC, to discuss the bold undertaking of the Federal agencies appointed to the FFWG.
- See attached for the list of participants on the FFWG

Estimated Time Frame: On-going effort

Estimated Cost: Staff time

Outcome: To provide an opportunity for Federal agencies to have close coordination and interface between various elements of the fire safety field within the Federal government.

Conclusion: The goal is to improve the fire protection and prevention efforts of Federal agencies by eliminating duplication, filling identified voids, treating common problems, maximizing utilization of resources, and disseminating technical information. With this effort the FFWG can further reduce this Nation's loss of life and property associated with fire.

Submitted by:

Core Mission Action Plan Team:

Team Leader and Team Members: Pam Kemenyas
Bob McCarthy
Wayne Powell
Jim Heeschen
Joe Gerbrick
Kathleen Carter
Gerry Bassett
Mark Whitney
Julie Davis
Elsie Davis

APPROVED/Date

DISAPPROVED/Date

FEDERAL FIRE WORKING GROUP

Organization

National Institute of Health

National Institute of Standards & Technology

Department of the Army

U. S. Army Corps of Engineers

Department of the Navy

Department of the Air Force
DoD Fire & Emergency Svcs Academy

HQ USAF/ILEXR

Department of Veterans Affairs

Department of Interior, NIFC/Boise, ID
Deputy Director, Office of Fire & Aviation

Central Intelligence Agency

U. S. Coast Guard

Federal Aviation Administration

Department of State

U. S. Department of Agriculture/Fire & Aviation

U. S. Marine Corps

Department of Energy

U. S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

Center for Disease Control

Federal Emergency Management Agency
U.S. Fire Administration

Name

Chief Gary C. Hess

Dr. David D. Evans

Ms. Kathryn A. Condon
LTC James Rice

Ronald R. Conner
Edward J. Hecker
Robert K. Grubbs

William Killen

George F. Hall
Lt Col Patrick J. Smith
Mr. Randy Moore
Major Mike Griffin

Kenneth Faulstich

Pat Durland
Anne Jeffery

Lawrence J. McGinty

James Karcher

Douglas Plummer

James D. Fries

Buck Lataple

Kevin King

Richard Black

William King

Dr. Kim Blindauer, DVM

Joe M. Allbaugh
Kenneth O. Burris, Jr.