

FINAL RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation of the Action Plan Team – Core Mission

Statement of Issues #11-17

Recommendation #R-52
Resubmission 6/29/00

SUMMARY: Consider offering Resident Technical Training Courses at Regional Sites

RECOMMENDATION: To expand our existing Regional Delivery Program by establishing additional partnerships with training organizations, enhance marketing of the course offerings, increase stipend allowances for individual students and increase the course-offering menu.

BACKGROUND: In 1992, the NFA working in partnership with the 10 regional based Training Resource and Data Exchange (TRADE) networks began to offer NFA resident courses at the Regional, State and local levels. Each region can select up to 3 courses per year from an established course menu that consisted of 7 six-day courses and 1 two-week course that are technical in nature for the last five years. From 1992 through 1998, this program has experienced an 84% course delivery rate. In 1999, this delivery rate declined to 67%. It is the team's considered opinion that the decline was influenced by several factors including the lack of a full time manager, marketing at both the national and regional levels, limitation of stipend amount, and limited course offering selection.

The program has been limited in delivery only through the TRADE network. In many cases other interested training organizations representing other interest groups such as Fire Prevention and EMS have not been able to sponsor or request a regional delivery course that meet their interest. The program has provided limited success in providing additional training and education opportunities for NFA resident courses at the regional level for student who cannot attend the traditional on-campus resident offerings.

The Regional Delivery Program provides the opportunity for a student to attend a NFA course within his or her own geographical area. Those opportunities are in addition to the on-going resident course offering that are difficult to

obtain acceptance due to the high demand and limited student capacity at NFA.

1. Steps to Achieve:

- Expand the partnership groups that can host or sponsor a regional delivery course that represent the diverse interests and educational needs of the fire service community. Examples of new partnership groups are: military, college/universities and State/metropolitan fire training organizations outside of the TRADE organizations. In addition, consideration to establishing fixed course delivery sites that meet the course delivery requirement in each region of the country should be considered.
- Increase our marketing effort of each regional delivery on behalf of the local sponsoring organizations through the use of the FEMA website on the Internet and listing within the various national fire service organization and publications.
- At the present time, NFA limits a stipend of only \$100 per week for each student to reimburse for the costs of his or her travel, lodging and food. With this limited amount, the regional deliveries are only local or at most statewide deliveries rather than region-wide deliveries. In order to fulfill the actual expenses of a Regional Delivery course, a realistic stipend must be established to offset the student's expenses. Stipends should be increased to \$200 per week, which is a \$100 increase above the present \$100 per student.
- Additional resident technical type courses should be added to the regional delivery menu. This would in effect be getting more resident courses out into the field to provide greater opportunity for the fire service, and to reach more students with more diverse interest and educational needs. The only limitation in determining what courses could be offered regionally are those that require specific NETC facilities or resources. Beginning in the year 2001, at least two new additional resident courses should be added to the course menu per year.

NOTE: At the present time, USFA has no full time employee (FTE) that can devote a full time effort in directing, managing and promoting the program.

1. Estimated Timeframes:
 - Achieve step 1 – Begin July 1, 2000. To complete by January 1, 2001. To expand new partnership and complete by July 1, 2001 to establish fixed delivery site.
 - Achieve Step 2 – Begin July 1, 2000 through December 21, 2000
 - Achieve Step 3 – Budget impact would begin Jan 1, 2001 through August 31, 2001. Refer to estimated cost below
 - Achieve Step 4 – Selection completed by July 1, 2000

2. Estimated Cost:
 - Achieved Step 1 – No direct cost associated with the step other than FTE work hours. With additional partnerships, an estimate of 10 additional deliveries will occur with an increase of \$79,000.00
 - Achieved Step 2 – No direct cost associated with the use of FEMA website and writing of notices for publications other than FTE work hours.
 - Achieve Step 3 - \$100 increase stipend cost per student above the existing \$100 now allowed. At present time \$250,000 is budgeted each year for regional deliveries based on 30 courses per year. Considering the new partnership and course selection, it is estimated that we could have a 1/3 increase to 40 courses per year. The estimated number of students attending would be 1000 total, with an additional stipend cost. Additional stipend cost of \$100,000.
 - Achieve Step 4 – cost related to preparing at least two new courses for off-site delivery \$8,000. Delivery cost for additional courses is noted in achievement Step 1 above.

NOTE: Total estimated additional cost to achieve all steps with an increase of 10 additional deliveries and stipend increase.

\$250,000 - existing cost for 30 deliveries

\$279,000 - for additional 10 new deliveries and increase stipend

\$529,000 - for total enhanced regional delivery

3. Outcome: Through expansion of partnerships, improved marketing, increase of student stipends and

adding more courses to the delivery menu, USFA can expect the following:

- Increase number of personnel trained in NFA courses, in turn providing enhanced training and education to at least 1000 additional student per year.
- Provide greater visibility to NFA and access to NFA resident courses.
- Reduce the present backlog of student waiting to attend the high demand of resident courses.

Conclusion:

The Core Mission Team supports this recommendation.

Submitted by:

Action Plan Team: Core Mission

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