National Multi-Agency Coordinating Group
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NMAC Memorandum 2021-18 July 5, 2021

To: Geographic Area Coordinating Group Chairs

From: National Multi-Agency Coordinating Group

Subject: Management of T1 and T2 Exclusive Use Helicopters **(REVISED 7/5/2021)**

The Forest Service and the Department of Interior agencies have approximately 91 Type 1 (T1) and Type 2 (T2) helicopters on exclusive use (EU) contracts with mandatory availability periods ranging from 90 to 180 days. T1 and T2 helicopters, and associated personnel, are National Resources, allocated and prepositioned by the National Interagency Coordination Center (NICC), in accordance with the prioritization criteria developed by the National Multi-Agency Coordinating Group (NMAC) strategic considerations for geographic capability.

Helicopter distribution is often very dynamic, balancing priorities between preparedness, initial attack, and large fire support, geographically and nationally. Significant fire potential is also an important factor considered when allocating and reallocating these resources.

The standard 14-day length of assignment policy is applicable to helicopter crew personnel **(helicopter managers, helitack and rappel)** only and does not apply to the helicopter platform. Home (host) units must plan ahead for rotation of personnel. Rotating the personnel maintains the continuity of operations for national resources and provides much needed helicopter support to initial attack and existing incidents. Host unit Geographic Area Coordination Centers (GACC) will coordinate with the NICC by placing orders in IROC to address the need to backfill initial attack resources.

As helicopters become available, release or reassignment will be based on existing or anticipated needs and prioritized by the NICC/NMAC. Consistent and timely communication between the NICC and the sending and receiving GACCs is key to our success in the overall process of prioritization and allocation of these T1 and T2 helicopters and modules.

/s/ Joshua Simmons Chair, NMAC