



United States Department of the Interior
National Business Center
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DOI AM OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES (OPM) MEMORANDUM NO. 04- 41

Subject: Interagency Fire Use of National Guard Helicopters

Effective Date: January 1, 2004

Supersedes: OPM 03-41 dated January 1, 2003

Distribution: A, B, & C

Expiration: December 31, 2004

.1 Purpose. This OPM identifies specific missions for which civilian Helicopter Managers are not required for National Guard helicopters supporting interagency fire operations.

.2 Authority. Memorandum of Understanding between the United States Department of the Interior and the United States Department of Agriculture dated January 28, 1943, and the Interagency Agreement dated November 25, 1985. Additional authority can be found through Secretarial Order 3250 dated September 30, 2003.

.3 Policy. This policy has been coordinated with the U.S. Forest Service and has been established pursuant to the "Interagency Fire Helicopter Standards" signed and dated by the Acting Director, Office of Aircraft Services, DOI, and the Acting Assistant Director, Fire & Aviation Management, U.S.D.A. Forest Service, on June 4, 2001.

The intent of this policy change is to enable National Guard helicopters to perform specified missions without the utilization of a civilian Helicopter Manager. This change will be accomplished by modifying *Chapter 2: Personnel, Section III, Helicopter Management*, on page 2-9 of the Interagency Helicopter Operations Guide (*IHOG*), by inserting the following information as the third paragraph in that section:

Civilian Helicopter Managers will not be required for National Guard helicopters **carrying National Guard personnel** with the following mission profiles:

1. Transport of military personnel or transport of internal or external cargo in support of the military operation. Note: Civilian agencies should provide the National Guard with appropriate military liaison assistance (type of assistance to be coordinated with the Guard unit) when personnel and cargo are transported.
2. Water bucket operations. Note: In order to perform water bucket operations, civilian agency helicopter inspector pilots must approve the military pilot, and appropriate aerial supervision must be provided (i.e. radio contact with incident personnel, air attack, lead plane, HLCO, etc.)

/s/ Michael A. Martin
Associate Director