



## United States Department of the Interior Office of Aviation Services

### Information Bulletin

**Number:** 14-01

**Distribution:** All DOI-National Park Service Bureau Aviation Employees

**Subject:** Issuance of the 2013 comprehensive national level aviation Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), dated 10-30-13 between the Department of Interior (DOI) National Park Services (NPS), Mount Rainier National Park (MORA) and The U.S. Air Forces Northern (AFNORTH) via the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center (AFRCC) and The U.S. Army Reserve Command (USARC).

**Information:**

This Information Bulletin (IB) identifies and clarifies DOI-NPS responsibilities in the implementation and use of this MOU. All previous US Army Reserve Command negotiated MOU's, Extensions, and Agreements regarding air support operations are rescinded and are replaced with this 2013 MOU.

The MOU prescribes procedures and guidelines that support Joint Search and Rescue training and operations and provides the framework under which US Army Reserve Command will provide aerial support to DOI-NPS authorized missions. "The scope of this understanding includes civil SAR training and operations within NPS managed lands in the State of Washington to include Mount Rainier National Park. "

All DOI employees participating in aviation operations shall meet specific DOI and respective Bureau aviation requirements and policies. In addition, reference in MOU for NPS personnel under **2. NPS b.** further identifies NPS personnel qualification and training requirements. "NPS will provide only fully qualified and aviation trained medical personnel". Reference in **2. NPS i.** identifies the requirement for the issuance of an OAS annual letter approving Army Reserve aircraft and personnel to support this MOU. "This letter is required to be on hand during all training and Civil SAR Missions."

**Contact NPS Bureau Aviation Managers (Park, Region, National) for specific DOI and NPS requirements prior to use.**

The MOU is effective immediately and remains in effect until October 30 2016. The OAS point of contact is Gary Kunz, Western Region Director, at (208) 334-9300

**MARK BATHRICK**

Digitally signed by MARK BATHRICK  
DN: c=US, o=U.S. Government, ou=Department of the Interior, ou=Office of the Secretary of the Interior, cn=MARK BATHRICK,  
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Mark L. Bathrick  
Director

Date

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
BETWEEN  
THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
AND  
THE U.S. AIR FORCES NORTHERN  
AND  
THE U.S. ARMY RESERVE COMMAND (USARC)  
FOR  
SEARCH AND RESCUE OPERATIONS

ARTICLE I. Purpose.

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) prescribes procedures and guidelines that support Joint Search and Rescue training and operations involving the U.S. Army Reserve Command (USARC), the U.S. Air Forces Northern (AFNORTH) via the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center (AFRCC) and the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) National Park Service (NPS), Mount Rainier National Park (MORA). DOI encompasses all subordinate bureaus, services, and offices. This relationship maintains good risk management; adheres to Government policy regarding non-competition with private enterprise; and is in the public's best interest.

ARTICLE II. Authority.

This support Understanding is entered into pursuant to authorities contained in the following:

- National Search and Rescue Plan of the United States, 2007;
- United States National Search and Rescue Supplement;
- International Aeronautical and Maritime Search and Rescue Manual, June 2010;
- DODD 3025.18, Defense Support of Civil Authorities (DSCA), Dec 2010;
- DOI Manuals 350-354, as appropriate (These manuals can be located at the DOI Office of Aviation Services (OAS) website, (<http://oas.doi.gov/library/index.htm>))
- Operational Procedures Memorandums 16 US 12, 14d, and 17c (NPS SAR);
- Army Regulation (AR) 95-1, Flight Regulation, Nov 2008;
- Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for Search and Rescue (SAR) B/1-214 General Support Aviation Battalion (GSAB);

- FAA Advisory Circular 91-36D, Sept 2004;
- TC 3-04.93, Aeromedical Training for Flight Personnel, Aug 2009;
- AR 525-28, Personnel Recovery, Mar 2010;
- Field Manual (FM) 3-97.6, Mountain Operations, Nov 2000;
- TC 3-04.11, Aircrew Training Program, Nov 2009;
- Mount Rainier Operating Plan; and
- Joint Publication 1-02 (Search and Rescue).

### ARTICLE III. Scope.

The scope of this Understanding includes civil SAR training and operations within NPS managed lands in the State of Washington to include Mount Rainier National Park.

#### 1. The U.S. Army Reserve Command will:

a. Provide B/1-214 GSAB personnel who are current in the CH-47D helicopter to fly training and actual SAR missions.

b. Provide trained aircrews, in accordance with Army Regulation 525-28 (Personnel Recovery), Joint Publication 1-02 (Search and Rescue), and Field Manual 3-97.6 (Mountain Operations). Provide Civil SAR support operations as requested by the NPS within the limits of the flight crews and hoist equipped helicopters.

c. Ensure that B/1-214 GSAB will maintain a mountain flying program in accordance with Army Regulation 95-1, Field Manual 3-04.93, and Training Circular 3-04.11. Participate in Civil SAR Training exercises with the NPS as agreed upon by both parties in order to maximize mission readiness and safety for both parties.

d. Ensure that B/1-214 GSAB will conduct Civil SAR operations as directed by the NPS Incident Commander. The pilot-in-command shall retain final authority regarding all use of military equipment and personnel, including modifying or aborting any mission deemed unsafe or when other conditions warrant.

e. Ensure that B/1-214 GSAB will maintain Federal Aviation Administration Advisory Circular 91-36C minimum flight altitudes while operating in NPS airspace, except when NPS authorizes lower flight altitudes in order to meet actual SAR mission or to safely complete training requirements.

f. Ensure that B/1-214 GSAB will provide an After Action Report (AAR) to 244th Aviation Brigade, 11th Aviation Command and AFRCC upon mission completion.

g. Upon notification of receiving a SAR request for a mission, immediately after notifying the 11th Aviation Command, the AROC will notify the FORSCOM EOC and provide periodic updates.

h. In the event of an aircraft accident, the US Army Reserve Command should maintain the primary responsibility for accident investigation and reporting in accordance with their agency directives. The other agency should be afforded the opportunity to represent their agency and employee interests by participating in the investigation of all aviation mishaps that involve their personnel riding in another agencies aircraft.

i. Provide at least annually a letter identifying pilots and aircraft that will be provided to support this MOU. Copies of approval letters issued by OAS shall be carried aboard each aircraft and made available upon request.

2. The National Park Service will:

a. Request U.S. Army Reserve Civil SAR resources, specifically the CH-47D aircraft and flight crew, through the AFRCC when civilian SAR resources are unavailable or if the safe and effective accomplishment of the mission, due to location, requires military resources and capabilities.

b. Only qualified and aviation trained NPS medical personnel are authorized to conduct Civil SAR mission and training support. NPS will conduct annual hoist operation training with B/1-214 GSAB. Only trained NPS personnel are authorized to participate in Civil SAR mission hoist operations. The NPS will maintain the list of qualified personnel and expiration dates.

c. Follow current military procedures for helicopter hoist insertion and extraction activities.

d. Retain overall responsibility for the management and direction of all Civil SAR operations within the NPS area of operations. The Army Reserve retains final authority regarding the use of all military equipment and personnel.

e. Utilize the National Incident Management System (NIMS) – Incident Command System (ICS) to manage all Civil SAR training and mission support.

f. Allocate NPS training locations that are similar in environmental and topographic conditions to include training areas with elevations above 10,000 feet (MSL).

g. Coordinate all Civil SAR training with the Commander, B/1-214 GSAB.

h. Office of Aviation Services, Western Region Office, and (DOI OAS WRO) will issue an annual letter approving Army Reserve aircraft and personnel to support this MOU. A copy of the DOI OAS letter is required to be on hand for all training and Civil SAR missions.

i. Report SITREPs to the AFRCC upon mission completion and daily during an active SAR mission.

3. U.S. Air Forces Northern, via the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center (AFRCC) will:

a. Serve as the SAR Mission Coordinator and validate all SAR requests for DOD assets.

b. Utilize the Alert Notification Roster and Mission Approval Chain contained herein when requesting and executing Army Reserve SAR mission support.

c. Coordinate for additional federal SAR services and capabilities, if available, to the on-scene coordinator and/or incident commander as requested.

#### ARTICLE IV. SITREP Reporting Requirements to AFRCC.

##### 1. Mission

a. Agency directing search and rescue (SAR)

b. Objective of the search

c. Environment at rescue site (terrain, weather, etc.).

##### 2. SAR Forces/Unit

a. Number and Type of Aircraft

b. Number of Sorties

c. Capabilities (e.g. hoist, etc.)

d. Number of personnel

##### 3. Extent of SAR effort.

a. Time enroute

b. Time on scene

c. Total Flight Hours

d. Area/Grid Searched (as applicable)

e. POC/POD/POS calculations

4. Future Plans (if applicable)
  - a. Number and Type of Aircraft
  - b. Capabilities (e.g. hoist, etc.)
  - c. Number of personnel
  - d. Area/Grid to Search
  - e. POC/POD/POS calculations
5. Locating Data (Completes a Search mission)
  - a. Time located
  - b. Agency Locating Objective
  - c. Actual location (coordinates)
6. Recovery Data (Completes a rescue mission)
  - a. Agency making the rescue
  - b. Date and time (GMT) of rescue
  - c. Rescue method (hoist, landing, ground, etc.)
7. Disposition of objectives (Alive, Deceased, Injured)

ARTICLE V. Term.

This MOU is effective as of the date of the last signature and will remain in effect for a period of three (3) years. All parties will review this MOU annually with an email concurrence among the key officials. Changes to this MOU are authorized provided that all signatories agree to and approve any change. Authorized change will be implemented through the use of amendments to this MOU. All parties agree that this MOU is suspended during all periods of mobilization or deployment of B/1-214th GSAB.

ARTICLE VI. Key Officials.

1. U S Department of Interior  
Mark L. Bathrick  
Director, Office of Aviation Services

2. US Air Force Rescue Coordination Center  
Dan Conley or Dave Fuhrmann  
Search & Rescue Program Specialist
3. Mount Rainier National Park Service  
Glenn Kessler  
Park Aviation Manager
4. US Army Reserve Command  
Major General James V. Young, Jr.,  
Deputy Chief, Army Reserve
5. US Army Reserve Command  
Colonel Thomas P. McLeary  
Director of Aviation, G-3/5/7
6. 11th Theater Aviation Command  
Colonel Robert F. Singler  
G-3/5/7
7. 244th Aviation Brigade  
Lieutenant Colonel W. Alan Hardin  
S-3
8. 5-159<sup>th</sup> GSAB  
Major J. Adam Rizer  
S-3
9. B/1-214 GSAB  
Captain Rains Lowrance  
Commander

ARTICLE VII. Alert Notification and Mission Approval.

1. Alert Notification. All missions shall adhere to the following Alert Notification Chain:

- a. NPS, Mount Rainier, WA 360-569-6642.
- b. AFRCC, Tyndall AFB, FL, 850-283-5955 or 800-851-3051.
- c. USARC AROC, FT. Bragg, NC, 910-570-9750/51.
  - FORSCOM WATCH, FT. Bragg, NC, 910-570-5222.

- d. 11th TAC EOC, FT. Knox, KY, 502-817-1453.
  - e. 244th AVN BDE, FT. Dix, NJ, 732-688-8482.
  - f. 5-159 GSAB, FT. Eustis, VA, 757-878-4283 or 4114 x258/252.
  - g. B/1-214th GSAB, Joint Base Lewis-McChord, WA, 253-966-5338/5239 or Operations at 253-966-3036.
  - h. I CORPS, Joint Base Lewis-McChord, 253-967-0645.
2. Mission Approval. All missions shall adhere to the following Mission Approval Chain:
- a. NPS, Mount Rainier, WA 360-569-6642.
  - b. AFRCC, Tyndall AFB, FL, 850-283-5955 or 800-851-3051.
  - c. 11th TAC, FT. Knox, KY, 502-817-1453.
  - d. 244th AVN BDE, FT. Dix, NJ, 847-688-8482.
  - e. 5-159th GSAB, FT. Eustis, VA, 757-878-4114 x252
  - f. B/1-214th GSAB, Joint Base Lewis-McChord, WA, 253-966-5338/5239.

#### ARTICLE VIII. Reimbursement.

Reimbursement for Army Reserve SAR support is not required in accordance with the National SAR Plan, paragraphs 53 and 54.

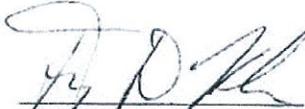
#### ARTICLE IX. MOU Termination.

Any party may terminate or suspend this Understanding by providing 30 days advance, written notice to the other party.

ARTICLE X. MOU Approval.



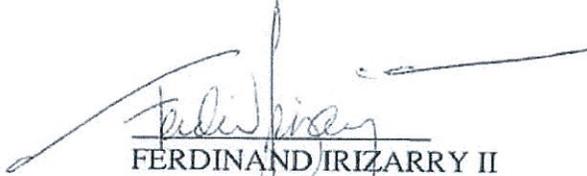
MARK L. BATHRICK  
Director  
Office of Aviation Services (OAS)  
Department of the Interior  
7-19-13 (Date)



TROY D. KOK  
Brigadier General, USAR  
11<sup>th</sup> Aviation Command  
30 Jul 13 (Date)



WILLIAM H. ETTER  
Lieutenant General, USAF  
Commander, 1 AF (AFNORTH)  
10-18-13 (Date)



FERDINAND IRIZARRY II  
Brigadier General, US Army  
Deputy Chief of Staff, G-3/5/7  
30 OCT 13 (Date)