Subject: Safety Communiqué (SAFECOM)

Area of Concern: Safety Reporting

Distribution: All Aviation Activities

Discussion: This past field season, a SAFECOM was anonymously submitted containing several allegations of illegal activities and other violations of aviation safety policies at a field location. A thorough on-site review was conducted which proved them all to be without any merit. This type of malicious reporting not only undermines the SAFECOM system but wastes valuable resources, unfairly subjects personnel to questions regarding their character and professionalism and damages the safety culture we all strive to improve.

The SAFECOM system was designed to report any condition, observation, act, maintenance problem, or circumstance which has the potential to cause an aviation-related mishap. Submitting a SAFECOM is not a substitute for on-the-spot correction(s). A SAFECOM is not intended to fix blame and is not to be utilized in disciplinary action against an employee or vendor. Additionally, the use of SAFECOM for contract evaluations or any other purpose is prohibited.

Within the USDA Forest Service and Department of the Interior, the use of SAFECOMs is limited to accident prevention purposes, not for virulent attacks on co-workers.

Be Professional – Be Safe

/s/ Keith Raley

Keith Raley
Chief, Aviation Safety, Training, Program Evaluations and Quality Management
DOI, Office of Aviation Services