



AMC

INTERAGENCY AVIATION MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

To: Smokejumper Aircraft Screening and Evaluation Board Members

From: Interagency Aviation Management Council

Subject: Approval of SASEB Amended Charter dated December 11, 2000

The Smokejumper Aircraft Screening and Evaluation Board (SASEB) Amended Charter is approved as submitted.

9/7/01

Michael Martin Date
 Acting Director
 Office of Aircraft Services
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9/10/01

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 Acting Assistant Director
 Fire & Aviation Mgmt
 U.S.D.A. Forest Service

AMENDED CHARTER

of the

SMOKEJUMPER AIRCRAFT SCREENING AND EVALUATION BOARD

12/11/00

A. Membership of the Board:

1. The voting membership of the Board shall be composed of six regular members and a Chairperson appointed by the Aviation Operations Oversight Team. The selection of voting members shall be made as follows: Two shall be appointed by the Assistant Director of Fire and Aviation Management, U.S. Forest Service; Two shall be appointed by the Director of the Office of Aircraft Services; Two shall be appointed by the Director of Fire and Aviation, Bureau of Land Management. The Chairperson, who may be from any of the above named organizations, shall be appointed by the Aviation Operations Oversight Team. The Chairperson shall normally serve for a period of two years, but may serve an additional term/s if so desired by the Aviation Operations Oversight Team. The tenure of regular Board members will not be time limited. Vacancies on the Board shall normally be filled by the agency responsible for the position.
2. The Board may appoint advisory (non voting) members as needed. The Missoula Technical Development Center will always be represented by an advisory member. These advisory members may come from any agency represented on the Board, from industry, cooperators, or other government agencies of any type or level.
3. Membership on the Board, whether regular or advisory, shall be with the concurrence of the individual's parent organization. Expenses that members may incur incidental to Board membership (travel, per diem, etc.) shall be borne by their respective organizations.

B. Purpose of the Board:

1. Provide a common vehicle for cooperative effort among all using agencies for the introduction, evaluation, and selection of new smokejumper/ paracargo aircraft types, and for related systems and special equipment.
2. Provide a common vehicle for promoting and coordinating the ongoing development and improvement of previously accepted aircraft, systems, and equipment.
3. Provide a common vehicle for the review of previously accepted aircraft, systems, and equipment in order to reaffirm continued

suitability for the smokejumper/paracargo role, or alternately, to determine that a previously approved aircraft, system, or piece of equipment is no longer suitable.

4. Provide a common vehicle for cooperative effort among all using agencies for the evaluation of all new or existing operational aspects of smokejumper aviation.
5. Provide a common vehicle for the identification of Flight Crew minimum qualifications and Flight Crew Inspector minimum qualifications.

C. Functions of the Board:

1. The principal function of the Board shall be to act as an advisor to the Aviation Operations Oversight Team on all matters relating to the selection, development, and improvement of smokejumper/paracargo aircraft, related systems, special equipment, and flight operations.
2. Develop and provide criteria, engineering data, and procedures for the testing and evaluation of aircraft proposed to be used as smokejumper/ paracargo delivery platforms. To serve as a central source for such information to all using agencies.
3. Review and evaluate new aircraft proposals submitted by sponsoring units to determine whether further evaluation and testing of proposed aircraft should, or should not, be conducted.
4. Review and evaluate final reports, and other relevant data, upon completion of the new aircraft evaluation process, to determine whether or not subject aircraft should be added to the list of approved aircraft.
5. Review and evaluate reports from using agencies concerning problems with specific smokejumper aircraft, systems, or equipment and determine the appropriate corrective action, to include possible removal from the list of approved aircraft or systems.
6. Maintain lists of currently approved smokejumper aircraft in the SASEB manual.

D. Operation of the Board:

1. Scheduling and Conduct of Meetings:
 - a. The Board shall meet annually to review and evaluate new aircraft, systems, or special equipment proposals; to continue the evaluation process on projects underway; and to conduct such other related business as may have been placed before the Board or is generated from within the membership of the Board.

- b. The Board shall meet at other times as may be required to deal with situations that cannot, for good and sufficient reason, await the next scheduled meeting.
- c. Five voting members shall constitute a quorum for the conduct of any business.
- d. The Board will have the authority to appoint sub-groups, responsible to the Board, on any subject relating to the Board's function that require special expertise.

2. The Evaluation process (New Aircraft):

- a. New aircraft evaluations shall be based solely upon the relative merits and faults of the aircraft in question and not upon internal policies of using agencies.
- b. New aircraft will be evaluated for their potential as a total smokejumper/paracargo delivery platform. Aircraft will not be evaluated solely as a paracargo platform. Such evaluation/ utilization shall remain the responsibility of the agency sponsoring the aircraft for such purpose.
- c. Prospective new aircraft will have been determined to meet mandatory criteria prior to being formally proposed by any sponsor for further evaluation. Mandatory criteria are listed in the SASEB Manual.
- d. All new aircraft evaluations shall be conducted in full accord with MTDC Smokejumper Aircraft Evaluation Plan 8657 2804 contained in the SASEB Manual. With the exceptions of minor editorial corrections, that plan will only be changed as proposed by the Board and with concurrence of the Aviation Operations Oversight Team.
- e. The Board will not consider unsolicited new aircraft proposals that may be received directly from industry. All new aircraft proposals must be sponsored by a using agency; will be in the form specified by the Smokejumper Aircraft Evaluation Plan (Part 2 – Aircraft Sponsors Preliminary Investigation); and will be submitted through the appropriate line organization of the sponsoring unit to the Chairperson of the Board.
- f. The Board will review and evaluate properly submitted new aircraft proposals and will recommend to the Aviation Operations Oversight Team either further testing/evaluation (Steps III, IV, and V of the Smokejumper Aircraft Evaluation Plan) or rejection of the proposal. Steps III, IV, and V will normally be performed by MTDC. If the Board feels that these parts of the evaluation process should be modified, or performed by other than MTDC, it will so indicate when making recommendations for this testing.

- g. Following completion and documentation of Steps III, IV, and V the Board shall review and evaluate the results and recommend to the Aviation Operations Oversight Team that the evaluation proceed through Steps VI and VII (development of Preliminary Operational Guidelines and conduct of a Field Evaluation) or be terminated. The demonstrated capability of the aircraft to successfully drop all types of canopies currently in use will be a primary factor of consideration in rendering this judgment. Unless the aircraft has demonstrated such capability, the evaluation process will be terminated at this point.
- h. Following completion of Steps VII and VIII (Field Evaluation and Final Report), the Board shall review and evaluate the results and recommend to the Aviation Operations Oversight Team that the aircraft either be added to the list of approved smokejumper aircraft or not.

3. Removal Process (Previously Approved Aircraft):

- a. This process will be initiated upon receipt by the Board of written documentation from a using agency indicating that a specific problem is being experienced with an aircraft. As the situation dictates the subject aircraft may be removed from operations immediately. The problem may involve a performance or operational deficiency, maintenance deficiency, a question regarding airworthiness, or any other factor/s that have called into question the continued suitability of the aircraft for smokejumper/paracargo missions.
- b. Upon receipt of this notification, the Board will query all other smokejumper units using the same aircraft type regarding their perception of the alleged problem area.
- c. The Board will evaluate all user input and will simultaneously review and evaluate all available historical utilization data, with particular attention to operational effectiveness and safety considerations.
- d. The Board will consider possible modifications to the aircraft or related special equipment that might serve to correct the identified problem.
- e. The Board will make appropriate recommendations to the Aviation Operations Oversight Team.

4. Unresolved Board Issues:

- a. Generally, recommendations made to the Aviation Operations Oversight Team will represent the consensus of the total membership of the Board. On occasion, issues may arise on which the membership is strongly divided. In such a case, upon majority vote of the membership, the issue may be passed to the Aviation Operations Oversight Team as an open issue, along with supporting rationale for both positions.
- b. Even in those cases wherein an issue is passed to the Aviation Operations Oversight Team in the form of a recommendation, any member/s with strongly opposing views may have their dissenting opinion forwarded along with such recommendation.

E. Related Actions Exterior to the Board:

1. After the Aviation Operations Oversight Team approves the addition of an aircraft to the approved SASEB list, any smokejumper unit (with their agencies approval) may put such an aircraft into use, provided it is configured in the same fashion as the evaluation aircraft upon which approval was based.
2. Each agency Director will cause to have their agency directives amended as necessary to bring them into line with changes that have been approved by the Aviation Operations Oversight Team.
3. Agency Directors shall retain the prerogative to establish additional internal agency requirements or operating limitations in their agencies use of smokejumper/paracargo aircraft.