

**NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**

**Reference Manual #60: Aviation Management**

**Chapter 2 – Aviation Directives**

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Prepared by the Branch of Aviation

Reviewed by the Chief, Division of Fire and Aviation Management

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Signature / Date

Approved by the Associate Director, Visitor and Resource Protection

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Signature / Date

## 2 Aviation Directives

### 2.1 General

The following directives are available to all NPS employees using aviation resources.

#### 2.1.1 Office of Management and Budget Circulars

Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circulars No. [A-11](#), [A-76](#), [A-123](#), and [A-126](#) prescribe procedures for the acquisition of fleet aircraft, internal program controls, and the management and use of federal government aircraft. DOI policy is found in [OPM-08, \*Acquisition, Management and Disposal of Fleet Aircraft\*](#).

#### 2.1.2 Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Regulations

These regulations are the basic guide for piloting and aircraft operations within DOI. FAA Regulations Title 14, Chapter 1 of the Code of Federal Regulations may be obtained from the Government Publishing Office, commercial bookstores selling pilot and aviation materials, or may be viewed online at the [FAA website](#).

#### 2.1.3 Departmental Manual (DM)

[DM 350-353](#) are the aviation policies for all DOI agencies. OAS publications and forms may be obtained from the [OAS Document Library](#).

#### 2.1.4 DOI Operational Procedures Memoranda

Operational Procedures Memoranda (OPMs) are temporary or interim aviation policy directives. They also may be viewed at the [OAS Document Library](#).

#### 2.1.5 DOI Handbooks/Interagency Guides/NPS Operational Plans

The current version of the following handbooks and guides constitute NPS aviation policy, unless otherwise noted. They may also be viewed online at the [OAS Document Library](#).

##### 2.1.5.1 DOI, Interagency, and NWCG Guides, Standards and Handbooks

[\*Interagency Aviation Life Support Equipment Handbook \(ALSE\)\*](#)

[\*Aviation Fuel Handling Handbook\*](#)

[\*NWCG Standards for Aviation Transport of Hazardous Materials \(PMS 513\)\*](#)

[\*Military Use Handbook\*](#)

[\*NWCG Standards for Aerial Ignition \(PMS 501\)\*](#)

[\*NWCG Standards for Aerial Supervision \(PMS 505\)\*](#)

[\*NWCG Standards for Airtanker Base Operations \(PMS 508\)\*](#)

[\*NWCG Standards for Helicopter Operations \(NSHO\) \(PMS 510\)\*](#)

[\*NWCG Standards for Fire Unmanned Aircraft Systems Operations \(PMS 515\)\*](#)

[\*NWCG Standards for Airspace Coordination \(PMS 520\)\*](#)

[National Incident Management System: Wildland Fire Qualification System Guide](#)

[Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations \(Redbook\)](#)

### 2.1.5.2 NPS Strategic and Operational Plans

[National Aviation Strategic Plan](#): While not policy, this is the guiding philosophy of NPS Aviation.

[National Short-haul Operations Plan](#)

[National ACETA Operations Plan](#)

### 2.1.6 DOI and Interagency and Alerts & Bulletins

1. Information bulletins contain material of a general nature and do not have a defined expiration date. See [OAS & Interagency Aviation Information Bulletins](#).
2. Safety alerts are time-sensitive documents that are published as needed. See [DOI & Interagency Aviation Safety Alerts](#).
3. Accident prevention bulletins contain material with wide application and are issued as needed. See [DOI & Interagency Aviation Accident Prevention Bulletins](#).
4. Technical data and recommendations regarding aircraft are published in technical bulletins when warranted. See [OAS & Interagency Aviation Tech Bulletins](#).

## 2.2 Enhancements, Enhancement Modifications, Waivers and Exceptions

### 2.2.1 Enhancements

An enhancement refers to a deliberate risk assessment decision making process used to justify the need for an NPS unit to initiate a new aviation program for a specific aircraft category (fixed wing, rotary, or UAS). Initial enhancement applications are approved by the Chief, DFAM or designee. The Enhancement Application form can be found in Appendix 6, *Enhancement Application*. If an NPS unit decides to eliminate an aviation program, the approved enhancement will be rescinded by a memorandum signed by the Chief, DFAM or designee.

### 2.2.2 Approved Enhancement Modifications

Any modification to an existing enhancement must be documented and signed by the regional director or designee, in coordination with the RAM. The Enhancement modification form can be found in Appendix 7, *Enhancement Modification*.

Parks will utilize the Annual Aviation Program Report and Assurance Statement (AAPRAS) to document when there are no changes to an existing program. See Appendix 2.

### 2.2.3 Waivers

Waiver requests from NPS aviation policies found in this reference manual must use Appendix 4, *Policy Exception or Waiver Request*. Waivers are valid for a specific period of time and must be renewed. All waivers, except for park aviation levels and Personal

protective equipment (PPE) requirements, must be approved by the Chief, DFAM or designee.

Regional directors are delegated the authority to grant waivers for park aviation levels and from departmental PPE requirements outlined in the [ALSE Handbook](#). See Appendix 5, *PPE Waiver Request*.

#### **2.2.4 Exceptions**

An exception to NPS policy may be granted if the policy intent is met through another method and considered on an individual basis. The exception must be clearly described and will have an expiration date based on when the exception will be mitigated or resolved. See Appendix 4, Policy Exception or Waiver Request.

Exceptions to the DOI Departmental policy are submitted through the NAM to the Director of OAS for consideration. Any request should be submitted via a memorandum to explain the justification for the request and duration requested. See [350 DM 1.10](#).