
From: Diaz-Greco, Gilma M. (COE)
Sent: Friday, May 23, 2014 9:16 AM
To: Sanchez, Rodzandra (COE)
Subject: Capt. Antonio Hernandez (MDFR) (Travel Expenses, Sec. 2-11.1(w)) INQ 14-125

INQ 14-125

From: Ethics (COE)
Sent: Thursday, May 22, 2014 3:35 PM
To: Seff, Flora (MDFR)
Cc: Diaz-Greco, Gilma M. (COE)
Subject: INQ - Capt. Antonio Hernandez (MDFR) (Travel Expenses, Sec. 2-11.1(w))

Flora,

You have inquired on behalf of Capt. Antonio Hernandez regarding whether he may attend a conference of the Public Safety Aviation Accreditation Commission (PSAAC) for the development of Aerial Search and Rescue Standards for public safety agencies in Phoenix AZ, where the expenses related to travel, lodging and meals will be paid or reimbursed by Bell Helicopter, a county vendor.

The applicable provision under the County Ethics Ordinance is Section 2-11.1(w), which prohibits any county official or employee from accepting "any travel expenses, including, but not limited to, transportation lodging, meals, registration fees, and incidentals from any County contractor, vendor, service provider, bidder or proposer." This prohibition may be waived only by a majority vote of the County Commission.

If the proposed arrangement involves Bell Helicopter either paying outright for Capt. Hernandez's expenses or directly reimbursing Capt. Hernandez for these expenses, then Capt. Hernandez may not accept such paid expenses absent a waiver granted by the County Commission. Inasmuch as there seems to be a clear public purpose and benefit to the County in these circumstances, the County Commission could well be disposed to grant such a waiver.

If no waiver is sought from the County Commission, then Capt. Hernandez may still attend this conference under one of the following circumstances:

- 1)The County pays for his transportation and expenses.
- 2)The County pays for his transportation and expenses and the County receives reimbursement from Bell Helicopter.
- 3)Capt. Hernandez personally pays for his transportation and expenses.

If you have any other questions about this, please call me at 305-579-2594

Regards,
Joe Centorino

From: Seff, Flora (MDFR)
Sent: Friday, May 16, 2014 2:09 PM
To: Ethics (COE)
Cc: Downey, David (MDFR); Barreto, Raymond (MDFR); Hernandez, Antonio (MDFR)
Subject: Attending Out of town Meeting

This Meeting is being organized by Bell Helicopters who is a county vendor and has supplied MDFR with its current helicopters. We are not however currently in the bid process with this vendor. This is the communication Capt.

Hernandez received advising him that he had been selected to participate in this. This is a unique opportunity for us to participate in setting standards for Search and Rescue. Capt. Hernandez would be paid by the Department for the time he is gone however, Bell is paying for the transportation costs and accommodations while the participants are there.

Please advise us as soon as possible if Capt. Hernandez may attend this meeting with the conditions indicated in the communication below from Mr. Giovanna? If the reimbursement arrangements are not acceptable to the County and would constitute an ethics violation, under what conditions may Capt. Hernandez attend?

Thank you for your assistance,
Flora

From: Jim Di Giovanna [<mailto:jdigiovanna@psaac.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, May 13, 2014 6:04 PM

To: Carl Crenshaw; Casey Ping; Cedric Smith; Don Roby; Glenn Gunn; Keith Wilson; Morrie C. Zager; Russ Dodge; Tim Kovacs; Tom Short; Tony Bowen; Hernandez, Antonio (MDFR)

Subject: Search and Rescue Standards

Gentlemen:

By virtue of your background and experience in Search and Rescue, you have been selected to become part of a committee appointed to develop Aerial Search and Rescue Standards for use by public safety governmental agencies throughout the US and internationally. The body responsible for the development of these standards is the Public Safety Aviation Accreditation Commission (PSAAC) who, in concert with the Airborne Law Enforcement Association (ALEA), developed standards for Law Enforcement Aviation Units and, independently through the sponsorship of Bell Helicopter, Textron, Inc., developed Initial Attack, Aerial Firefighting Standards for Fire Service Agencies. Bell Helicopter has again stepped up to sponsor the development of the SAR Standards. In developing the law enforcement and fire aviation standards, PSAAC has also initiated an accreditation program by which public safety agencies may apply for accreditation to validate their compliance with these standards. A similar accreditation program is envisioned for Aerial Search and Rescue.

In being selected for this committee, you have the opportunity to be part of the creation of meaningful standards related to aviation operations associated with search and rescue that will become internationally recognized best practices for aerial applications of search and rescue. We are planning the initial meeting of this committee on July 15 & 16, 2014 at the start of the Airborne Law Enforcement Association's Annual Conference which will take place in Phoenix, AZ, July 16-19, 2014. Funding has been secured through Bell Helicopter to allow committee members to obtain full reimbursement for expenses related to travel, lodging and meals for attending this meeting and subsequent meetings.

The attached information sheet more fully explains our initial goals and objectives in creating these standards. At this time, we are simply seeking an indication of your willingness and availability to participate in this effort. Beyond the initial meeting, subsequent meetings will be held on a date, time and place chosen by the committee members. Each meeting will be facilitated by a member of the Public Safety Aviation Accreditation Commission Executive Committee. For all those who are willing and able to participate, I will follow up with correspondence providing additional information regarding our meeting plans and necessary travel and lodging information for the initial meeting. I look forward to hearing from each of you no later than May 31st. Thank you.

Jim Di Giovanna, President
Public Safety Aviation
Accreditation Commission
Cell (714) 615-2057
e-Fax (888) 685-7251

jdigiovanna@psaac.com

Flora E. Seff, Esq.

Senior Legal Liason

Miami-Dade Fire Rescue Department

9300 N.W. 41st Street

Doral, FI 33178

(o)786-331-5103

(c)305-467-1371

(f) 786-331-5126

Email: FSeff@miamidade.gov

www.miamidade.gov/mdfr

"Delivering Excellence Every Day"



Public Safety Aviation Accreditation Commission

AERIAL SEARCH AND RESCUE STANDARDS AND ACCREDITATION

In keeping with the commitment made by the Board of Commissioners following discussions between the Airborne Law Enforcement Association (ALEA) and prominent public safety aviation agencies regarding safety standards, the Public Safety Aviation Accreditation Commission (PSAAC) is embarking on a project to develop standards for aerial search and rescue operations. The initial discussions, which resulted in the development of Aerial Firefighting Standards, have fostered an ongoing alliance of public safety agencies seeking a single standard of safety for aviation missions.

GOING FORWARD

As a result of the original discussions, the alliance identified a need for development of best practice standards for aerial search and rescue operations similar to those recently developed for aerial fire-fighting and those already existing for law enforcement air units. It is the intent of the Commission to develop best practice aerial search and rescue safety standards that can be adopted in their entirety as a standalone operation, or as an additional mission incorporating the previously developed standards for aviation law enforcement or aerial firefighting. Public safety agencies applying for accreditation will now have the opportunity to include their respective aerial search and rescue mission within the accreditation process where applicable.

Representatives from several prominent federal, state and local public safety agencies have been invited to participate in this standards development project to ensure qualitative input from all disciplines. The standards will include mission applications related to both mountain and urban search and rescue operations utilizing aviation resources and crews. Similar to the standards developed for law enforcement and fire aviation, the areas of interest will focus on unit administration, flight operations, safety, training and maintenance.

Once developed, state and local public safety agencies will have an established set of best practice operational, safety and training standards on which to build their programs and will also be able to participate in an accreditation assessment program to validate their compliance with these standards.

Bell Helicopter, Textron, Inc. has once again agreed to partner with PSAAC on this project and will financially sponsor the requisite meetings and ongoing process of standards development and review, as part of their continued commitment to advancing safety in the rotorcraft industry. Bell Helicopter was also the exclusive sponsor in the development of PSAAC's fire aviation standards and accreditation program.

An Affiliate of the Airborne Law Enforcement Association



AERIAL SEARCH AND RESCUE STANDARDS AND ACCREDITATION

ACCREDITATION

Similar to the accreditation process for law enforcement and fire units, the Aerial Search and Rescue Accreditation Program will be designed and developed to objectively evaluate and certify a public safety agency's air operations compliance with specific standards for aerial search and rescue. Eventually, airborne search and rescue units will be able to apply for accreditation on-line through a soon to be available PSAAC website. Once the application is received, the unit will be required to perform a self-assessment of its operation compared to the standards. Following the receipt of application and completion of the self-assessment phase, a team of assessors will conduct an on-site assessment, thoroughly evaluating all aspects of the agency's operations. The findings will be presented to the PSAAC Board of Commissioners for final review and approval.

It is our intention to work diligently and expeditiously in this effort to create a national model for public safety agencies throughout the country whose mission includes aerial search and rescue, by first quarter, 2015. Our purpose is to unify the standards for all airborne public safety programs with one collective goal, that of flight safety. Once established, the standards and accreditation process will be available for application in all public safety aviation search and rescue services throughout the United States and internationally.

Jim Di Giovanna, President
Public Safety Aviation
Accreditation Commission
jdigiovanna@psaac.com

An Affiliate of the Airborne Law Enforcement Association

