

Topic: New Ordering Guidance for UAS Module (UMOD) in IROC.

Date: March 7, 2025

From: National Coordination Center Managers (NCCM), National Interagency Aviation Committee (NIAC) and the Interagency Fire Unmanned Aircraft Systems Subcommittee (IFUASS)

Decision Summary: A new **UAS Module (UMOD)** has been added to **IROC** to streamline the ordering process for UAS resources.

Background: The Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) program has experienced significant growth in recent years, expanding in capabilities, capacity, and utilization. This growth has created a need for clearer guidance on coordinating, tracking, and ordering these assets within the established dispatch system.

The Interagency Unmanned Aircraft System Program website (<https://uas.nifc.gov/>) provides guidance on three UAS ordering scenarios commonly used by dispatch and aviation personnel:

- Situational Awareness/IR/Small Area Mapping Missions
- Aerial Ignition Missions
- Call-When-Needed (CWN) UAS Missions

Current guidance allows for only one A# per mission request, which can be filled by a single UAS aircraft resource item. However, UAS personnel often mobilize with multiple aircraft, and there is no formal guidance on how to include these additional aircraft in IROC.

Ordering Guidance:

A new aviation group resource item, UAS Module (UMOD), has been created in IROC to allow for multiple UAS and pilots to be rostered together under a single module.

Similar to task forces, engine strike teams, or smokejumper initial attack loads, UAS and pilots within a module will be subordinated to the parent request in the system.

Example of UMOD Structure in IROC:

- **A-1** UMOD - NRCC IR Module 1
 - **A-1.1** – UAR3 FA3LMKR939
 - **A-1.1.1** – UASP Smokey Bear
 - **A-1.2** – UAR3 FA39CF4WY7
 - **A-1.2.1** – UASP Yogi Bear
 - **A-1.3** – UASD Woodsy Owl

Or

- **A-1** UMOD - Bitterroot AI Module 1
 - **A-1.1** – UAR3 FA3LMKR939
 - **A-1.2** – UASP Smokey Bear
 - **A-1.3** – UAR3 FA39CF4WY7

- **A-1.4** – UASP Yogi Bear
 - **A-1.5** – UASD Woodsy Owl
- For established crews, engines and/or wildland fire modules with imbedded UAS resources, issue guidance that UAS resources will be filled as support off the parent C# (crew), E# (engine) or O# (module).

Minimum Requirements for a UAS Module:

- 1 UAS aircraft
- 1 qualified pilot

Benefits:

- Improved Organization & Tracking
 - As a rostered resource, all UAS and associated personnel remain linked to the parent request, reducing the risk of accidental detachment when reassigned or released.
- Simplified Ordering & Assignment History
 - The entire module (UAS and personnel) is easily identifiable, ensuring accurate assignment history tracking within qualification systems.
- Standardized Approach for Incident & Prescribed Fire Requests
 - Provides a consistent and efficient method for ordering and filling UAS modules across different mission types.
- Clear Mission Identification
 - The UMOD name can specify the mission type, such as:
 - Situational Awareness/IR/Small Area Mapping Missions (SA or IR)
 - Aerial Ignition Missions (AI or PSD)

This new approach enhances efficiency, coordination, and accuracy in UAS resource management within IROC.