



Interagency Aviation Lessons Learned



No. IA LL 25-03

May 28, 2025

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Subject: Mission Planning and Airspace Deconfliction

Area of Focus: Communication and Flight Safety

Distribution: All Aviation Operations

Discussion: One of the primary purposes of the SAFECOM system is to share lessons learned and provide recommendations to improve aviation safety. The following event was taken from [SAFECOM 25-0426](#). Multiple repeater maintenance flights were scheduled for the BLM and the NPS. During the initial planning, it was determined that on Day 2, flights would enter the airspace of a neighboring bureau as well as a military operating area (MOA). This triggered a need for boundary airspace coordination, requiring prior notification to the adjacent bureau and coordination on scheduling, as well as deconfliction with the military in the MOA.

During the planning phase, several key parties, including those in neighboring airspace jurisdictions, were not notified in advance. This lack of communication led to issues with scheduling, deconfliction, and didn't afford the neighboring bureau the opportunity to review or approve the mission in their respective airspace, all of which were preventable.

This event is an important lesson learned on why effective communication and coordination are critical in aviation operations, especially when crossing jurisdictional or controlled airspace boundaries. All stakeholders must be included in mission planning early on, particularly when entering adjacent bureau airspace or military operating areas. [PMS 520 NWCG Standards for Airspace Coordination](#) is an excellent reference for interagency airspace coordination that standardizes safe, consistent approaches to issues involving airspace and agency responsibilities.

Emphasizing pre-mission coordination, deconfliction, and mutual notification can mitigate confusion, mission delays and improve aviation safety.

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