AIR OPERATIONS BRANCH DIRECTOR (NQS)

RESOURCE CATEGORY	Incident Management
RESOURCE KIND	Personnel
OVERALL FUNCTION	The Air Operations Branch Director helps ensure the safe and efficient use of aviation resources.
COMPOSITION AND ORDERING SPECIFICATIONS	1. This position can be ordered as a single resource or in conjunction with a NIMS typed team (Incident Management Team). 2. Discuss logistics for deploying this position, such as working conditions, length of deployment, security, lodging, transportation and meals, prior to deployment. 3. Requestor specifies any additional qualifications necessary, based on incident complexity and needs.

Each type of resource builds on the qualifications of the type below it. For example, Type 1 qualifications include the qualifications in Type 2, plus an increase in capability. Type 1 is the highest qualification level.

COMPONENT	SINGLE TYPE	NOTES
DESCRIPTION	The Air Operations Branch Director: 1. Establishes or transitions into a branch under the Operations Section in the Incident Command System (ICS) 2. Supervises and configures the branch with groups as necessary 3. Maintains full operational control over incident-related air and support assets or coordinates the deployment of and support for Air Operations resources 4. Assesses both manned and unmanned air resource needs and ensures the appropriate use of both under Air Operations 5. Maintains accountability for all incident air assets 6. Oversees mobilization and demobilization of air resources 7. Ensures airspace safety and deconfliction by coordinating temporary flight restrictions (TFR) and flight routes 8. Monitors all significant air resource problems and emergencies, and reports them to appropriate personnel 9. Coordinates air resource needs and use with state and federal agency representatives 10. Supports the Operations Section Chief or Incident Commander (IC) based on their requirements related to the Incident Action Plan (IAP)	Not Specified
EDUCATION	Not Specified	Not Specified

COMPONENT	SINGLE TYPE	NOTES
TRAINING	Completion of the following: 1. IS-100: Introduction to the Incident Command System, ICS-100 2. IS-200: Basic Incident Command System for Initial Response, ICS-200 3. ICS-300: Intermediate Incident Command System for Expanding Incidents 4. ICS-400: Advanced Incident Command System for Command and General Staff - Complex Incidents 5. IS-700: National Incident Management System, An Introduction 6. IS-800: National Response Framework, An Introduction 7. E/G/L 0191: Emergency Operations Center/Incident Command System Interface 8. Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ)-approved Air Support Group Supervisor course 9. AHJ-approved Introduction to Air Operations course	The NIMS Training Program defines a national baseline to guide and promote NIMS training. It provides recommendations to assist AHJs in developing their own training plans, tailored to their specific needs.
EXPERIENCE	Knowledge, Skills and Abilities: 1. Knowledge of air tactical operations Experience: 1. Successful completion of the National Qualification System (NQS) Position Task Book (PTB) for the NIMS Air Operations Branch Director, or equivalent AHJ documentation 2. Experience in an air operations support position	Military rating (current or former) as a pilot or navigator may fulfill air tactical or air support experience requirement.
PHYSICAL/MEDICAL FITNESS	Light	The NIMS Guideline for the NQS defines Physical/Medical Fitness levels for NQS positions.
CURRENCY	Functions in this position or a higher position during a qualifying incident, planned event, exercise, drill or simulation at least once every three years	1. Military experience may fulfill this currency requirement. 2. A higher position is one for which this position is a prerequisite within the Operations Section.
PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL LICENSES AND CERTIFICATIONS	Not Specified	Not Specified

NOTES

1. Nationally typed resources represent the minimum criteria for the associated component and capability.
2. Additional training on this position is available from the National Wildfire Coordinating Group at https://www.nwcg.gov/positions.

REFERENCES

1. FEMA, NIMS 508: Incident Management Team
2. FEMA, NIMS 509: Air Support Group Supervisor
3. FEMA, NIMS 509: Incident Commander
4. FEMA, NIMS 509: Operations Section Chief
5. FEMA, National Qualification System (NQS) Position Task Book for Air Operations Branch Director, latest edition adopted
6. FEMA, National Incident Management System (NIMS), October 2017
7. FEMA, NIMS Guideline for the NQS, November 2017
8. FEMA, NIMS Training Program, May 2020
9. FEMA, National Response Framework, October 2019
10. National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG), Position Catalog, latest edition published