

**Final Recommendation
As of April, 4, 2001**

Recommendation of the Action Plan Team: CORE Mission

Statement of Issue #10: The current on- and off-campus student population may not reflect the geographic and demographic diversity of the United States fire service.

Recommendation #: R-40

Summary: **R-40** “Develop a fire service census that captures demographic information that will help clarify the perception issue and establish baselines and benchmarks for USFA activities.”

Recommendation: Upon completion of the Fire Department Census (see R-64, scheduled for completion in October 2001), a detailed demographic survey should be administered to a representative sample of fire departments.

Background: The USFA needs to identify the composition of the fire service to ensure that the NFA student body is reflective of the national fire service. Currently, there is no definitive source of information on the demographic composition of the fire service. The NFDC’s fire department census should provide a frame from which a representative sample of fire departments may be taken to facilitate a detailed fire service demographic survey.

1. Priority: High

Step(s) to Achieve:

1. Seek input from USFA staff to determine items of interest, desired precision, other relevant parameters, and an estimate of resources available.
2. Develop a survey instrument and obtain OMB approval.
3. Upon completion of the fire department census, select a representative sample of fire departments.
4. Administer the survey using contracted support.
5. Publish final report and findings as applicable.

Estimated Time Frame: 6 months after completion of fire department census

Estimated Cost: Staff time + \$75,000

Outcome: Implementation of the above steps should result in reasonable, unbiased estimates of the demographic makeup of the U.S. fire service, in the most resource-efficient manner possible. This survey, in combination with the fire department census, should establish baselines and benchmarks against which USFA activities may be measured.

Conclusion: This will help clarify the perception issue for USFA activities.

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