



November 15, 2010

To: S495 Students

Re: Successful Completion of Qualifying Exam

Congratulations! You have passed the S-495 Qualifying Exam; have been accepted into the S-495 Geospatial Fire Analysis Interpretation and Application course, and can continue with the Distance Learning portion beginning today, November 15, 2010.

Please understand that there is a significant time commitment needed on your part to pass this course. There are at least 100 hours of online instruction and 40 hours of in-residence classroom training required to obtain a certificate of completion. Periodic emails will be sent to you over the next several weeks to remind you of critical timelines. Start your work early to avoid last-minute frustration. We want you to succeed, so let us know if you experience problems.

If you decide at any time that you are unwilling or unable to continue, please let us know as soon as possible. If you drop the course, you will need to complete the qualifying and retake all online material/quizzes for the next course offering, because there may be substantial changes made to the 2010-11 coursework.

Critical Dates to Consider:

**November 15, 2010** – Pework and Units 1-4 will be available on Blackboard through the University of Idaho to students (approximately 40 hours of material and quizzes).

**November 29, 2010** – Units 5-8 will be available on Blackboard (approximately 60 hours of material and quizzes).

**January 21, 2011** – Last day to complete Unit 1-4 quizzes to avoid being dropped from roster.

**April 8, 2011** – Last day to complete Units 5-8 quizzes. All online course learning ends.

**April 11, 2011** – Qualifying students will be notified to proceed with travel plans to attend in-residence classroom session at NAFRI in Tucson, AZ. Non-qualifying students notified to discontinue travel plans to NAFRI.

**April 17, 2011** – Students travel to Tucson, AZ for in-residence classroom course and attend evening icebreaker (details to follow).

**April 18, 2011** – Computer setup/check begins at 0700; classroom portion begins at 0800 hours.

**April 22, 2011** – Class ends at 1700 hours.

**April 30, 2011** – Course certificates of completion mailed to all passing students.

***Please, DO NOT ATTEMPT TO COMPLETE THE ON-LINE INSTRUCTION AT THE LAST MINUTE! SUPPORT STAFF WILL BE IN SHORT SUPPLY OVER THE HOLIDAYS! YOU WILL RUN OUT OF TIME!*** We strongly suggest that you set aside time to complete the On-Line Learning and that you limit outside distractions that may interfere with your success.

If you have questions, please contact Clint Cross (404-347-3192/[clintcross@fs.fed.us](mailto:clintcross@fs.fed.us)) or either of the Co-Lead Instructors Laurie Kurth (406-329-4947/[lkurth@fs.fed.us](mailto:lkurth@fs.fed.us)) or Tonja Opperman (406-461-0780/[tsopperman@fs.fed.us](mailto:tsopperman@fs.fed.us)). For questions about the training facilities and logistical information, see the NAFRI website at <http://www.nafri.gov>. For questions about University of Idaho Blackboard services, notify the NIFTT helpdesk at [www.nifftt.gov](http://www.nifftt.gov). Finally, for questions related to each of the online Units, post questions to the Blackboard Discussion Board or refer to the listed instructor in the lesson.

Again, congratulations and we look forward to working as you work towards completion of this course.