Airmen's support of California fires goes into seventh day

by Staff Sgt. Luke Johnson
302nd Air Expeditionary Group Public Affairs

7/3/2008 - **SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AFPN)** -- Airmen of the 302nd Air Expeditionary Group here have launched their seventh day of support missions July 2 in a coordinated effort to control wildfires in northern California.

Operating out of McClellan Airfield in Sacramento, the Airmen fly C-130 Hercules aircraft equipped with the Modular Airborne Firefighting System, which can drop up to 3,000 gallons of fire retardant per mission.

The 302nd AEG aircraft units include two Air National Guard units -- the 153rd Airlift Wing from Cheyenne, Wyo., and the 145th Airlift Wing from Charlotte, N.C. -- and one Air Force Reserve unit -- the 302nd Airlift Wing from Peterson Air Force Base, Colo.

Also fighting the fires throughout California are Navy and Marine aircrews also assigned to the 302nd AEG.

The Marine Medium Helicopter Training Squadron 164 and Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 268 based out of Camp Pendleton, Calif., and Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 465 based out of Marine Corps Air Station Miramar in San Diego are flying CH-46 Sea Knight and CH-53 Sea Stallion helicopters equipped with 2,000-gallon specialized firefighting buckets and are deployed to Naval Air Station Lemoore, Calif.

Navy Reserve helicopter assets are from the Helicopter Sea Combat Support Squadron 85 based out of Naval Air Station North Island, Calif. The squadron is flying MH-60S helicopters with 420- and 360-gallon specialized firefighting buckets.

A C-130H Hercules assigned with North Carolina's Air National Guard 145th Airlift Wing taxies down the ramp July 1 at McClellan Airfield in Sacramento, Calif. The aircraft just finished a successful mission of dropping fire retardant on the Piute fire burning in California's Sequoia National Forest. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Luke Johnson)

Download HiRes

Related Stories

- **National Guard ordered to battle California wildfires** - 7/2/2008
- **Reservists support California fires for sixth day** - 7/2/2008
- **Airmen launch fifth day of California fire support** - 7/1/2008
- **Third Reserve C-130 joins California wildfire fight** - 6/30/2008

Related Fact Sheets

- **C-130 Hercules**

Story Tools

Printable story E-mail story

Subscribe now

The joint force operations in California are part of a unified effort under U.S. Northern Command to provide assistance to the U.S. Forest Service, the California Department of Forestry and Protection, and the National Interagency Fire Center.

The California National Guard 146th Airlift Wing Airmen from Channel Islands Air National Guard Station, Calif., are also providing support to NORTHCOM missions by transporting personnel, cargo and equipment for the other Modular Airborne Firefighting System units.

Officials from NORTHCOM continue to closely monitor the California wildfires to anticipate additional requests for Department of Defense assistance to local, federal, and state civil authorities and will launch as many missions as officials require to battle the wildfires.

To date the military airborne assets in California have flown approximately 140 missions and dropped close to 287,000 gallons of fire retardant since June 26. Fire information is current as of 12 p.m. July 2.

Comment on this story *(comments may be published on Air Force Link)*

View the comments/letters page

Search
search stories
Advanced Search

News
Personnel Matters
War on Terrorism
Mission/Training
Sports/Recreation
Space/Technology
Humanitarian
Heritage
AFSO 21
Environmental

More Headlines
• Historic capsule makes trip to body shop
• Airmen's support of California fires goes into seventh day
• 3 contractors rescued in Colombia, return to U.S.
• Secretary delays global wing organizational structure
• AETC officials welcome new commander
• Airman laid to rest after 30 years
• Acting secretary shares his perspective with Airmen
• Former Secretary of the Air Force Seamans dies
• Hurlburt Airmen work together to save life
• Air Force strives to enhance communications networks
• National Guard ordered to battle California wildfires
• Air Force officials clarify uniform change announcements
• July 1 airpower summary: A-10 destroys anti-Afghan forces
• Speakers discuss aging aircraft at summit

Commentary
Show proper respect to U.S. flag

Podcasts and RSS Feeds
POD Air Force Podcasts
RSS AF News via RSS