Third Reserve C-130 joins California wildfire fight

by Senior Airman Stephen Collier
302nd Air Expeditionary Group Public Affairs

6/30/2008 - **SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AFPN)** -- A third Air Force Reserve Command C-130H Hercules was dispatched June 27 to help fight raging wild fires in California.

Officials from the 302nd Airlift Wing from Peterson Air Force Base, Colo., sent the additional airplane and crews to join the 302nd Air Expeditionary Group at McClellan Airfield in Sacramento to help battle the northern California Corral and Piute fires.

As of June 29, Airmen at McClellan Airfield launched their fourth day of missions in support of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection's war against California wildfires. The fires are the result of lightning strikes that blanketed most of the state June 21.

The Corral fire, located about 200 miles north of Sacramento, is more than 10,000 acres wide and is 5 percent contained with some structures are threatened. The Piute fire, which started June 28, is more than 260 miles south of Sacramento. That fire is uncontrolled, raging throughout the Sequoia National Forest near Lake Isabella. Fire officials are reporting that structures are being threatened by this fire.

More than 5,400 lives are being threatened by both fires. Fire information is current as of 2 p.m. June 29.

The C-130s carry the Modular Airborne Firefighting System, known as MAFFS, and are capable of dropping up to 3,000 gallons of fire retardant per mission. The 302nd AEG has eight C-130s under its command and will launch as many missions as California officials require to contain the wildfires.

Aircrews have dropped approximately 117,000 gallons of fire retardant since airborne missions began June 26. Members and aircraft of the 302nd AEG are based at the Sacramento-area airfield, which allows these military transport aircraft to fly with maximum fuel loads and MAFFS to operate with full fire retardant capability. Aircrews and C-130 support members come from Charlotte, N.C., Cheyenne, Wyo., Colorado Springs, Colo.

View All Images

Michael Docklam watches as ground crews refill a C-130 Hercules with fire retardant prior to a firefighting mission June 29 at McClellan Airfield, Sacramento, Calif. Mr. Docklam is an aircraft structural repair specialist assigned to the 302nd Air Expeditionary Group. The 302nd AEG, responsible for eight aircraft, is currently fighting the Corral and Piute fires, each about 200 miles north and south of the California capital. (U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Stephen Collier)

Download HiRes

Related Stories

- **Guard chief: Firefighting, flood efforts 'outstanding'** - 6/30/2008
- **National Guard on duty from coast to coast** - 6/27/2008
- **Citizen Airmen prepare for war on fire** - 6/27/2008
- **Airmen launch fifth day of California fire support** - 7/1/2008
- **Airmen support California firefighting for sixth day** - 7/2/2008
- **National Guard ordered to battle California wildfires** - 7/2/2008
- **Airmen's support of California fires goes into seventh day** - 7/3/2008

Related Fact Sheets

- **C-130 Hercules**

Story Tools

Printable story E-mail story

Subscribe now

Airmen are deployed here in support of California firefighters and the National Interagency Fire Center to battle wildfires in the state. For more information on fires throughout California, visit **www.nifc.gov** or **www.fire.ca.gov**.

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