

Talking Points/Key Messages for MAFFS 2012

Air Force Reserve Command Message Emphasis (302 AW/PA)

MAFFS is an extremely challenging mission -- only the most experienced Airmen fly this mission

- MAFFS certified aircrews are highly experienced having **on average more than 3,500 flight hours** in each aircrew position.
- Large, C-130 cargo aircraft are flying low, slow and heavy during MAFFS missions (150 AGL, 125 KIAS)
- Traffic pattern style approach, close formation
- Extreme hazards: *Density altitude, terrain, air traffic, smoke, visual illusions*

On average, Air Force Reserve members have high levels of experience

- Average total service of Air Force Reserve members: Officer – 18 years, Enlisted – 13 years
- Average age of Air Force Reserve members: Officer – 42, Enlisted – 35

Air Force Reserve – a surge force, trained and ready to deploy at a moment's notice

- Ideal special mission (MAFFS) partner, highly experienced and fully-trained
- Full-time readiness/part-time cost of AF Reserve efficient use of taxpayer dollars

MAFFS Safety record

- MAFFS is a mission that highlights interagency cooperation. The 302nd AW is a federal force belonging to the Department of Defense, yet works in concert with the Department of Interior and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. This cooperation has resulted in **40 years of accident free work, both on the ground and in the air.**
- MAFFS aircrew remain certified for up to two years, but training is conducted annually to emphasize safety on both the ground and in the air.

MAFFS, part of a larger federal effort

- The MAFFS partnership between land and natural resource management agencies and the military is very important because it provides a way to boost suppression efforts during periods of high wildfire activity.
- The MAFFS program is a joint effort between the U.S. Forest Service and the Department of Defense. The Forest Service owns the MAFFS equipment and supplies the retardant while the DoD provides C-130 aircraft, aircrew and aircraft maintainers.

MAFFS II – increased aerial firefighting capabilities

- In 2010 The US Forest Service transitioned all wings from MAFFS systems developed in the 1970s, known as “Legacy” systems, to new MAFFS systems, known as “MAFFS II.”
- MAFFS II systems incorporate new design features and technology that provide a number of advantages over the Legacy MAFFS systems. While Legacy MAFFS relied on specialized ground-based equipment, the MAFFS II is more self contained. This allows the MAFFS II to use existing agency tanker bases and reduce flight time to and from fires. Ultimately, this results in more efficient use with potentially reduced costs and more retardant on the fire.
- The MAFFS II provides the capability for higher concentrations of retardant that can be more effective in creating fire containment lines than the Legacy MAFFS.
- Finally, MAFFS II has the capability to use foam injection which provides additional options for incident managers.

2011: A record MAFFS season for 302 AW MAFFS

- Four 302 AW MAFFS activations
 - Mexico (April 2011)
 - Texas I (April – May 2011)
 - New Mexico (June-July 2011)
 - Texas II (Sep-Oct 2011)