

# Modular Airborne Fire Fighting System (MAFFS)

The Air National Guard (ANG) and Air Force Reserve (AFR) use the Forest Service owned Modular Airborne Fire Fighting System (MAFFS), when requested, to assist with wildland firefighting during extreme conditions.

There are eight MAFFS units in the system. Two each are positioned at the following Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve locations:

- 153rd Airlift Wing (AW), Cheyenne, WY (ANG)
- 146th AW, Port Hueneme, CA (ANG)
- 145th AW, Charlotte, NC (ANG)
- 302nd AW, Peterson AFB, Colorado Springs, CO (AFRES)



Congress established the MAFFS Program in the early 1970's as a wildland fire program. Mission assignments are developed at the National Interagency Fire Center and their specific assignments on a wildland fire program are established by the local agency managing the fire.

A MAFFS unit is a pressurized 3,000-gallon five-tank system designed for installation in C-130 airplanes without structural modification to the aircraft.

The 3,000 gallons of retardant are discharged in about five seconds through two tubes exiting the rear ramp of the plane.

Most MAFFS are "single-shot" systems, meaning the full load is discharged at once.

One load may lay down a "line" about one-quarter-mile-long and 60 feet wide.

After initial qualification, MAFFS flight and ground crews undergo annual refresher training.



MAFFS may be used when there is "imminent danger" to life and property AND other aerial resources are committed.

A request for MAFFS is routed through the National MAFFS Liaison Officer at the National Interagency Fire Center, Boise, Idaho, and then formally submitted to the Director of Military Support in the Pentagon.

