

News Release

National Interagency Fire Center
3833 S. Development Ave.
Boise, ID 83705

<http://www.nifc.gov>



For Release: September 16, 2020

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Additional military personnel mobilized to provide wildfire support

Boise, Idaho – At the request of the National Interagency Fire Center and in support of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service, approximately 250 Marines and sailors will assist wildland firefighting efforts in Central California. The National Multi-Agency Coordinating Group (NMAC), comprised of state and federal wildland fire managers at NIFC, requested the personnel, along with command and support staff, from the Department of Defense (DOD). After receiving training, the Marines and sailors will assist with wildfire suppression efforts.

The Marine unit, the 7th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group, I Marine Expeditionary Force, from Camp Pendleton, California, will receive wildland firefighting training before assisting with response efforts in Central California. U.S. Army North (Fifth Army), U.S. Northern Command's Joint Force Land Component Command, will oversee the military support effort. As the DOD Defense Support of Civil Authorities synchronizer, USNORTHCOM coordinates and collaborates all DOD efforts to apply military capabilities to fulfill NIFC's requests for wildland fire response assistance.

This is the second mobilization of military personnel to support wildland firefighting response efforts in the state this month. The 14th Brigade Engineer Battalion from Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington, continues to provide support at the August Complex in the Mendocino National Forest in Northern California.

Currently, 106 large wildfires are burning across the western U.S. and nearly 6.7 million acres have burned this year. Above normal fire activity is occurring in California, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and other western states. The National Preparedness Level is currently at 5, the highest level, indicating above normal wildfire activity and a maximum commitment of wildfire suppression resources.



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The DOD has been a key wildland firefighting partner for decades, providing aircraft and personnel to support wildland firefighters. Since 1987, active duty military personnel have been mobilized to assist wildland firefighters a total of 39 times.

For media queries on the mobilization of the Marine unit, please reach out to U.S. Army North Public Affairs at 210-428-9835 or usarmy.jbsa.arnorth.mbx.pao-media-operations@mail.mil.

For more information on military activations for civilian wildfire support, visit:

www.nifc.gov/fireInfo/fireInfo_military.html

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The National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC), located in Boise, Idaho, is the nation's support center for wildland firefighting. Eight different agencies and organizations are part of NIFC including, the Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Indian Affairs, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, National Weather Service, U.S. Fire Administration, and the National Association of State Foresters.

