

National Multi-Agency Coordinating Group

3833 South Development Avenue; Boise, ID 83705

NMAC Correspondence 2019-05

April 30, 2019

To: State Foresters, State Adjutant Generals for the States of California, Oregon, Washington, Montana

From: National Multi-Agency Coordinating Group (NMAC)

Subject: Use of National Guard Troops for Federal Requests on Federal Land

Active Component and National Guard Ground Forces are considered surge capacity and will only be requested when all civilian firefighting crews are committed. In 2018, all Federal requests for military ground forces on federal land were offered to the National Guard through the appropriate lead state agency of the affected state before consideration of Title 10 Department of Defense (DoD) Forces. This model worked very well and contributes to increased efficiencies in mobilization and effective use of resources. For 2019 NMAC will continue to focus specifically on the four (4) states that have historically required surge capacity from military ground forces; California, Oregon, Washington, Montana. While this business model worked well last year, we recognized the criticality of timely communication and confirmation of either affirmative or negative response to the request. NIFC will require an answer to this request within 72 hours. Upon a negative response, or if there is no response within 72 hours, NIFC will then initiate a request for Title 10 forces through the Defense Coordinating Officer.

Critical to the request for forces is maintaining and providing status of crew readiness and training to NIFC. NIFC will provide just in time training for Title 10 forces as well as train National Guard forces employed for ground operations unless the State has agreed to train the National Guard forces. This training typically requires 4-5 days to complete. We also understand that some states issue National Guard Ground Forces red card certification upon completion of the full firefighter training curriculum in advance of fire season. Visibility of red carded and untrained crews will assist us to determine which National Guard Ground Forces are available in the aforementioned states. Red Carded crews will only require firefighter refresher training prior to employment.

For a federal request NIFC (closest servicing National Cache) will provide personal protective equipment and crew supervision, unless the State can provide them.

Funding for preseason National Guard training is the responsibility of the State Forester and/or National Guard. The lead federal agency at NIFC will provide funding for training and deployment in response to a federal request. No DoD or USNORTHERN COMMAND (NORTHCOM) funds will be involved, therefore command and control (C2) will remain with the State Adjutant General under State Active Duty Status providing direct support to the Incident Commander. The requesting State Forester and the supporting National Guard Headquarters/JOC are responsible to coordinate to ensure that all reimbursable State Active Duty costs for personnel, travel, equipment, fuel and commodities are captured and reimbursed to the State's USPFO.

A flowchart of the proposed employment process for State National Guard ground forces to Federal wildland fire incidents is attached on page two of this memo. Questions concerning this Memorandum, contact Ms. Kim Christensen, NIFC @ 208-387-5949.

/s/ Dan Smith
Chair, NMAC



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Employment Process for State National Guard Ground Crews for Federal Wildland Fire Incidents

