**MODULAR AIRBORNE FIREFIGHTING SYSTEM (MAFFS)**

**2012 Annual Recertification and Training, March 5-8**

**Talking Points**

**Annual training for a key wildland fire suppression program took place this year at Channel Islands Air National Guard Station in Port Hueneme, California**.

* MAFFS is a partnership between federal land management agencies and the military to provide supplemental air tankers to assist in fire suppression efforts nationwide during times of high fire activity.
* Up to 100 civilian and military personnel will gather this week, March 5-8, at Channel Islands Air National Guard Station for certification training in the Modular Airborne Firefighting System (MAFFS) program.
* Flight operations/military personnel will be conducted out of Channel Islands Air National Guard Station, and is hosted by the 146th Airlift Wing, ANG (Air National Guard) unit, Port Hueneme, California.
* In addition, employees from civilian land management agencies include:

USDA Forest Service

USDI Bureau of Land Management

CALFIRE, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

* Training includes both classroom and flight training for military flight crews, civilian lead plane pilots and various support personnel.
* Water drops will be accomplished in the nearby Angeles National Forest, and the Kern County.  Rural residents in those areas may see low flying C-130’s and U.S. Forest Service lead planes throughout the week.
* The California Air National Guard’s C-130J aircraft are equipped with the Modular Airborne Fire Fighting System II (MAFFS II) which is capable of dropping up to 3,000 gallons of water or retardant. The system slides into the back of the aircraft and water or retardant is released through a nozzle located on the rear left side paratroop door.
* MAFFS equipment and aircraft are activated to supplement the U.S. Forest Service and the civilian air tanker program during periods of high wildfire activity throughout the nation.
* MAFFS are a portable fire retardant delivery system that can be easily inserted into military C-130 aircraft to convert them to air tankers when the civilian air tanker fleet is fully committed.
* From March 5 to March 8, 2012 residents in the Los Angeles and Kern County areas of California will see numerous C-130 aircraft making training flights out of Channel Island.
* Military Liaison Officer (MLO) – John Richardson, CALFIRE

Assistant MLO (T) – Glenn Barley, CALFIRE

Assistant MLO (T) – Matt Mihalco, CALFIRE

MAFFS PIO – Cindy Wolfe, USFS, Cibola NF, New Mexico

Military PIO – Maj. Kimberly Holman – USAF-ANG, 146th Wing Staff/PA

National Interagency Fire Center PAO – Jennifer Jones – USFS NIFC

