

302 AIRLIFT WING



MISSION

The 302 Airlift Wing mission is to deliver troops, supplies and equipment to a forward battle area in direct support of combat forces. Secondary missions include the Modular Airborne Fire Fighting System (MAFFS) aerial firefighting mission and an aeromedical evacuation mission.

LINEAGE

302 Troop Carrier Wing, Medium established, 16 May 1949
Activated in the Reserve, 27 Jun 1949
Redesignated 302 Troop Carrier Wing, Heavy, 28 Jan 1950
Ordered to active service, 1 Jun 1951
Inactivated, 8 Jun 1951
Redesignated 302 Troop Carrier Wing, Medium, 26 May 1952
Activated in the Reserve, 14 Jun 1952
Ordered to active service, 28 Oct 1962
Relieved from active duty, 28 Nov 1962
Redesignated 302 Tactical Airlift Wing, 1 Jul 1967
Redesignated 302 Special Operations Wing, 1 Jul 1970
Redesignated 302 Tactical Airlift Wing, 2 Aug 1971
Inactivated, 1 Apr 1981
Activated in the Reserve, 1 Apr 1985
Redesignated 302 Airlift Wing, 1 Feb 1992

STATIONS

McChord AFB, WA, 27 Jun 1949-8 Jun 1951
Clinton County AFB, OH, 14 Jun 1952
Lockbourne (later Rickenbacker) AFB, OH, 2 Aug 1971-1 Apr 1981
Peterson AFB, CO, 1 Apr 1985

ASSIGNMENTS

Fourth Air Force, 27 Jun 1949
Western Air Defense Force, 1 Aug 1950-8 Jun 1951
First Air Force, 14 Jun 1952
Fourteenth Air Force, 25 Mar 1958
Second Air Force Reserve Region, 15 Aug 1960
Ninth Air Force, 28 Oct 1962
Second Air Force Reserve Region, 28 Nov 1962
First Air Force Reserve Region, 24 Jan 1966
Eastern Air Force Reserve Region, 31 Dec 1969
Fourteenth Air Force, 8 Oct 1976-1 Apr 1981
Fourth Air Force, 1 Apr 1985
Tenth Air Force, 1 Jul 1994
Twenty-Second Air Force, 1 Apr 1997

ATTACHMENTS

62 Troop Carrier Wing, 27 Jun 1949-5 May 1950
325 Fighter-All Weather Wing, 6 May 1950-8 Jun 1951

WEAPON SYSTEMS

C-82, 1949
C-54, 1949-1950
C-46, 1952-1957
C-119, 1956-1973
U-3, 1970, 1971-1972
C-130, 1970-1971
A-37, 1970
C-123, 1971-1981
C-7, 1972
UC-123, 1973-1981
C-130, 1985

COMMANDERS

Col Gibbons, 27 Jun 1949-unkn
Brig Gen Donald J. Campbell, 14 Jun 1952
Brig Gen Ben J. Mangina, 15 Jun 1970
Col Clarence E. Horton, Nov 1973
Brig Gen Justin L. Townsley, 12 Dec 1973
Lt Col Billy R. Henderson, 10 Sep 1976

Brig Gen Donald M. Jenkins, 27 Sep 1976
Col Jack P. Ferguson, 19 Mar 1979
Col James R. Milligan, 1 May 1979-1 Apr 1981
Col Joe L. Campbell, 1 Apr 1985
Col Michael J. Quarnaccio, 24 May 1989
Col Robert J. Winner, 4 Feb 1990
Col Joe L. Campbell, 1 Apr 1985
Col Michael J. Quarnaccio, 24 May 1989
Col Robert J. Winner, 4 Mar 1990
Brig Gen Walter T. Hatcher, III, 2 Aug 1992
Brig Gen Bernard J. Pieczynski, 9 Jun 1996
Brig Gen Richard R. Moss, 24 Oct 1999
Brig Gen William P. Kane, 11 Jul 2004
Col James J. Muscatell Jr., 31 Mar 2006
Col Jack H. Pittman Jr., 18 Jan 2009
Col Courtney J. Arnold

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

1 Jan-31 Dec 1970

1 Jan 1990-31 Dec 1991

1 Jan 1998-31 Aug 1999

1 Jan 1990-31 Dec 1991

1 Jan 1998-31 Aug 1999

1 Jan 2001-31 Aug 2002

1 Sep 2004-31 Aug 2006

1 Sep 2006-2 Sep 2008

Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm

14 Feb 1968-28 Jan 1973.

Bestowed Honors

Authorized to display honors earned by the 302 Operations Group prior to 15 Aug 1947

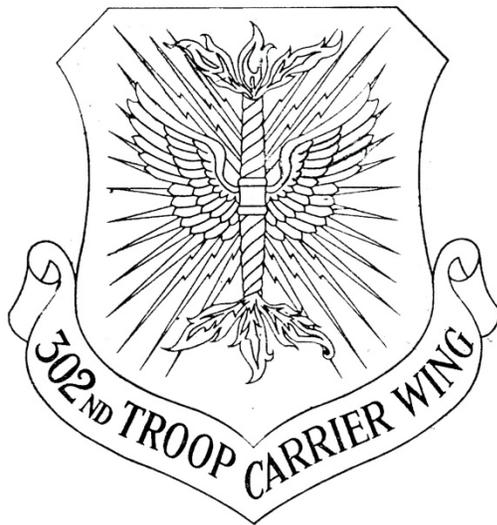
Service Streamers

World War II American Theater

Campaign Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM



302 Troop Carrier Wing emblem: Azure, a thunderbolt in pale irradiated or, inflamed proper, winged, gules. (Blue an heraldic representation of a thunderbolt golden yellow, with wings and flames red). **SIGNIFICANCE:** The Troop Carrier functions of the wing and its supporting groups is illustrated and allegorically implied by the flaming winged thunderbolt; heraldically representing "bolts from the blue"; the invading of enemy territory and successfully accomplishing the drop of troops, supplies and support mission of the wing. The red wings which color denotes martial prowess, boldness and hardness, together with the motto is expressive of the characteristics of the personnel in the performance of their duties.



The emblem symbolizes the relationship between the wing and its groups with a flaming winged thunderbolt. heraldically representing "bolts from the blue." the invading of enemy territory and successfully accomplishing the drop of troops. supplies and support mission of the wing. The red wings denote martial prowess. boldness. hardness of personnel of the unit.
(Approved, 23 Apr 1954)

MOTTO

JUSTUM ET TENACEM--Just and resolute

OPERATIONS

Reserve corollary unit of 62d Troop Carrier Wing, Jun 1949-May 1950, and of 325th Fighter-All Weather (later, 325th Fighter-Interceptor) Wing, May 1950-Jun 1951. Trained as a Reserve troop carrier wing from Jun 1952. Began flying airlift operations in the mid-1950s. Placed on active duty during Cuban missile crisis of 1962. By the mid-1960s, wing aircraft and crews performed worldwide airlift missions and participated in numerous tactical exercises. From Apr 1968 to Mar 1973, provided C-119 gunship training for pilots, navigators, flight engineers, and mechanics of USAF active units and personnel from Jordan, Morocco, Ethiopia, and South Vietnam. The wing assumed a rotational airlift task in support of USAF Southern Command from Apr 1973 through Jan 1976. Also in Apr 1973, the wing assumed a UC-123 aerial spraying mission, which frequently took wing crews to Central America, the Caribbean, the Azores, North Africa, islands of the Pacific, and to many U.S. points for insect-spraying missions. Beginning in Apr 1985, trained to airlift and airdrop troops, equipment, and supplies in a tactical theater. Took part in training and mobility exercises within the United States and to Britain and Panama. Practiced for aeromedical evacuation missions. During the late 1980s and 1990s, the wing transported fire fighters and their equipment and supplies to fight forest fires in western states, delivered relief supplies to hurricane victims, and participated in other humanitarian airlifts and various global contingency operations.

Established as the 302 Troop Carrier Wing May 16, 1949, the 302 Tactical Airlift Wing was first activated by the Air Force Reserve. In the mid-50s, the wing flew airlift operations in the United States and overseas.

The 302 served on active duty during the Cuban Missile Crisis and trained friendly aircrews during the Vietnam War.

16 October 1980 A Fairchild UC-123K Provider, 57-6291 of the 302 Tactical Airlift Wing, Air Force Reserve, crashed at 0830 hrs. shortly after takeoff from Henry Post Army Airfield, en route home from Fort Sill, Oklahoma, to Columbus-Rickenbacker ANGB, Ohio. Four crew members died on impact, the fifth died later. KWF are Capt. George Freeland, Jr.; Maj. Thomas Brady; Lt. Col. Donald Griffith; T/Sgt. Michael Snodgrass; and Sr. Amn. Robert Hass. A commemorative marker is displayed in Denver Williams Memorial Park, Wilmington, Ohio.

The wing was officially reactivated at Peterson April 1, 1985. In addition to the Colorado unit, the wing encompasses the 943rd Tactical Airlift Group at March AFB, Calif.; the 96th Mobile Aerial Port Squadron at Little Rock AFB, Ark.; and the 929th Civil Engineering Squadron at Lowry AFB, Colo.

The 302nd Tactical Airlift Wing is an Air Force Reserve unit of more than 1,200 personnel located at Peterson Air Force Base in Colorado Springs, Colo. Equipped and organized to fight side by side with active duty forces as part of the total force, the wing's mission is to deliver troops, supplies and equipment in direct support of combat forces.

The unit is authorized 17 C-130B aircraft. These aircraft are flown by the wing's 731st Tactical Airlift Squadron, also located at Peterson AFB. Supporting the unit at Peterson are, the 302nd Combat Support Squadron, the 302nd Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, the 302nd Civil Engineering Squadron, the 39th Mobile Aerial Port Squadron, the 302nd Weapons Systems Security Flight, the 302nd Mobility Support Flight, and the 302nd Tactical Hospital.

Established as the 302nd Troop Carrier Wing on May 16, 1949, the 302nd Tactical Airlift Wing was first activated by the Reserve on June 27, 1949. In the mid-50's, the wing flew airlift operations in the U.S. and overseas.

The 302nd was called to active duty during the Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962. During the 1960's, wing aircraft and crews performed worldwide airlift missions and participated in numerous tactical exercises. From April 1968 to March 1973, the unit provided C-119 gunship training for pilots, navigators, flight engineers and mechanics of USAF active duty units and similar personnel from Jordan, Morocco, Ethiopia and South Vietnam. The unit was deactivated on April 1, 1981. In mid-1983, the unit then designated the 901st Tactical Airlift Group, moved into two newly-constructed facilities on Peterson Air Force Base. It was reactivated April 1, 1985. During Operation Just Cause in Panama, the wing flew airlift and resupply missions.

Within a month of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in August 1990, 302nd TAW personnel began deploying to various locations in support of Operation Desert Shield on a voluntary basis.

In December 1990 more than 600 302nd TAW members were activated in support of Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. Wing medical personnel deployed to an aeromedical staging facility at RAF Waddington, England. Air cargo specialists loaded aircraft in the Persian Gulf and other unit personnel were deployed stateside to assist active-duty units.

Members of the 731st Tactical Airlift Squadron and 302nd Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Squadron deployed to RAF Mildenhall, England, to fly and support resupply missions to the Persian Gulf. Wing aircrews were the first to fly aid supply missions to Kurdish refugees camped in the mountains along the Iraq-Turkey border under Operation Provide Comfort following the war. The 302nd Tactical Airlift Wing was the only Air Force Reserve unit to participate in this humanitarian relief effort.

The Wing received the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award for the period January 1977 through December 1978.

The 302nd Tactical Airlift Wing is headquarters for the 943rd Tactical Airlift Group at March AFB, Calif., the 929th Civil Engineering Squadron at Lowry AFB, Colo. and the 96th Mobile Aerial Port Squadron at Little Rock AFB, Ark.

The 302nd Tactical Airlift Wing is assigned to 4th Air Force, McClellan Air Force Base, Calif., and comes under the operational control of Headquarters Air Force Reserve, Robins Air Force Base, Ga.

In the event the unit is called to active duty through presidential order, the 302nd would be transferred to the 22nd Air Force at Travis Air Force Base, Calif and would become an active duty unit under the Military Airlift Command, headquartered at Scott Air Force Base, Ill.

The unit is fortunate to have several hundred prior active duty people, providing a wealth of experience in such fields as aviation, maintenance and combat support. Many 302nd people are residents of the Colorado Springs, Denver and Pueblo areas and devote considerable time to Reserve activities. All personnel assigned have completed extensive military training. This training allows them to perform the same functions as their active duty counterparts. Hands-on experience, provided by monthly weekend training, allows reservists to maintain job proficiency.

The 302nd Tactical Airlift Wing is the only Air Force Reserve flying unit in the state of Colorado, and is one of 20 other C-130 Reserve units located throughout the nation.

The 302nd Tactical Airlift Wing commander is Colonel Robert J. Winner.

2006 The new Consolidated 39th Aerial Port Squadron/302 Airlift Control Flight building is officially open for business. The day the aerial port and airlift control flight members have been waiting for finally became reality during a dedication ceremony held July 8. The facility, located next to the Federal Aviation Administration tower, came with a price tag of nearly \$7.9 million and provides a direct line of sight to aircraft taxiways. The 35,000-square-foot structure is 2.5 times larger than the vintage 1940s hangar which previously housed the 39th APS. The ALCF members previously conducted communications set-up and aerospace ground training out of a trailer inside one of the 302 Maintenance Squadron hangars. "The additional space in this building will allow us to do more and increase the capability to better perform our mission," said Lt. Col. Douglas Strawbridge, 302 ALCF commander. "We're no longer physically constrained as we've been in the past." More work space and the inclusion of a parachute drying tower will benefit mission requirements of the aerial port squadron. "I believe we have the most proficient, experienced and dedicated people I've ever worked with," said Lt. Col. James Gregory, 39th APS commander. "I'm extremely grateful to be in a new facility that reflects the quality and caliber of the 39th APS. This will only increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the unit as we strive to serve the nation and the people of Colorado." Many of those same people recently returned from spending a year supporting military operations overseas. "The irony of the move into this building is we've had aerial port personnel who've just spent a year supporting U.S. Central Command operations rotating between Baghdad International Airport in Iraq and Andrews Air Force Base, Md., said Command Chief Master Sgt. Kirby Scheueller, 302 Airlift Wing command chief and former 39th APS air terminal services superintendent. "They're back just in time to move into the new facility. "This would have never happened had it not been for the efforts of the previous four wing commanders," he added. "Retired Brig. Gen. Walter Hatchell, retired Brig. Gen. Ben Pieczynski; Brig. Gen. Richard R. Moss, 403rd AW commander (Keesler Air Force Base, Miss.); and retired Brig. Gen. William P. Kane had the foresight to see this through to its completion. I can't thank them enough. This is a state of the art facility, and something that serves as a benchmark for the Air Force Reserve Command." "It's great to be in this new facility," said Col. James J. Muscatell Jr., 302 AW commander. "Everywhere I go people ask me to tell them about the new aerial port building. No one wants to talk about sports, it's 'tell me about the new building.'" 2006

Members of the 302 Airlift Wing at Peterson Air Force Base, Colo., deployed to California in late June with three C-130 aircraft to help fight raging wildfires. The aircraft are equipped with the modular airborne firefighting system, which is capable of dropping up to 3,000 gallons of fire retardant per mission. As of July 9, the three Air Force Reserve aircraft, along with five other MAFFS-equipped C-130s from the Air National Guard, had flown more than 300 sorties, dropping nearly 850,000 gallons of retardant. Air tankers are part of a coordinated air-ground effort. Retardant is used to lower flames and fire intensity in support of ground firefighters. The aircraft, crews and support personnel are based at McClellan Airfield in Sacramento and form the 302 Air Expeditionary Group. McClellan is far enough away from the fires in the north so they don't get smoked in, said Air National Guard Lt. Col. Jerry Champlin, a director of operations with the 302 AEG. A reload base was later established farther south at Channel Islands ANG Station to increase mission efficiency, Colonel Champlin said. A continuing heat

wave and an ongoing need for aircraft will likely keep the Reserve C-130s very busy for the foreseeable future in support of the national wildland firefighting effort, said Col. Gary Stanley, U.S. Army officer in charge of coordinating that support. 2008

4/23/2010 - PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. — The Air Force Reserve's 302 Airlift Wing test fired the Modular Airborne Firefighting System II unit here on April 22, as part of its preparation for the upcoming 2010 wild land fire season. The test coincides with the U.S. Forest Service's MAFFS certification week April 25-May 1 at the South Carolina Technology and Aviation Center in Greenville, S.C. Approximately 115 aircrew and maintenance Airmen from the 302 AW will travel to South Carolina where they are expected to fly dozens of training missions, dropping pressurized water and fire retardant at training locations in an effort to hone their aerial firefighting skills. "It's a very challenging mission that makes you feel good, like you've really made a difference at the end of the day," said Maj. Michael Savage, 731st Airlift Squadron instructor pilot and a MAFFS flyer for seven years. "This is my favorite mission for many reasons. It gives us the opportunity to directly support our own people in our own backyard." Each year, the Air Force Reserve wing and the ANG's three airlift wings that support the MAFFS mission trade leadership roles of MAFFS activations as well as the certification week. By rotating the schedule, the wings have the flexibility to fly MAFFS missions while supporting deployments such as Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom. Aircrews and aircraft maintainers perform the certification annually at the request of the Forest Service.

Maintenance Airmen and civilians ensure the C-130s are in top-notch condition before a mission. When it comes to the MAFFS, the Forest Service retains ownership of the systems, servicing them continually, especially during the drier seasons. The military units ensure their people are ready to fly them. "The Forest Service and the Air Force have been doing this mission together for 39 years, and that's a fairly sizable time frame to be involved in something," said Lynn Ballard, a MAFFS training and certification fire information officer. The Air Force brings a "surge capability" when the civilian aerial firefighting fleet just isn't enough, said Mr. Ballard, who has 10 years' experience with the MAFFS mission.

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti The 302 Airlift Wing did their part to provide relief to earthquake-stricken Haiti during several missions in January and February delivering food, water and medical supplies, as well as airlifting medical evacuees out of the country and into Florida. During the San Juan, Puerto Rico-based missions supporting Air Expeditionary Force Coronet Oak, Colorado's "Mile High Gang," as the 731st Airlift Squadron is known, flew 26 sorties for a total of nine missions, flying more than 89 hours. During that time, more than 80 tons of cargo was moved from the East Coast of the U.S., while 19 passengers were airlifted from Haiti to medical facilities in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. During one of their final missions into Haiti's capital of Port-au-Prince, the deployed 302 AW members and their C-130 Hercules delivered dozens of cases of bottled water, printing supplies and equipment as well as additional parts for awaiting aircraft. The supplies were later passed on to aid distribution points throughout the city and beyond, while the printing equipment was handed off to military relief officials who needed it at Port-au-Prince's Toussaint Louverture International Airport. For that mission, the aircrew flew from their deployed location of Muniz Air Base, Puerto Rico, to Homestead Air Reserve

Base, Fla., where many of the relief airlift missions into Haiti for the U.S. Air Force have been based. The supplies were loaded onto the C-130 for the three hour flight to Port-au-Prince. After hearing of the millions of people world-wide donating tens of millions of dollars to earthquake relief, Staff Sgt. Daniel Osorio, an Active Duty C-130 crew chief assigned to the 52nd Airlift Squadron attached to the 302 AW, said "Being one of the few to actually help on the ground is a rewarding mark on my Air Force career so far." "It does feel pretty good to be able to, on a small level, fly into Haiti and support the contributions to help these people out," Sergeant Osorio said. "You enlist to fight a war, but sometimes you get a chance to help out with a humanitarian mission. That makes just as much difference in the world." 2010

Approximately 150 members of the 302 Airlift Wing's operations and maintenance groups and four C-130 Hercules aircraft, returned to awaiting family and friends January 18 at Peterson Air Force Base, Colo., after a four-month deployment to Southwest Asia. The first group of deployers returned during the early morning hours that day via a contract airline carrier. Then during the late afternoon the same day, the C-130 cargo aircraft and remaining deployed Reservists returned. The Air Force Reservists provided C-130 airlift in support of Operations New Dawn in Iraq and Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. While deployed, 302 Airlift Wing members flew more than 350 missions with nearly 1,000 sorties. The Reservists moved more than 12,000 troops, 300 wounded warriors, 100 high-ranking U.S. officials and 2,600 tons of wartime material with an excellent mission effectiveness rating. "I am extremely proud of the many contributions the members of our wing made while deployed to Southwest Asia. Their hard work and professionalism are evident in their nearly perfect mission effectiveness results and the sheer volume of airlift missions they flew," said Col. Jay Pittman, 302 Airlift Wing commander. "Lt. Col. (Steven) Foss and I set the tone from the start, and I can only attribute our success to his support. The maintenance and operations relationship was stellar from the start," said Capt. Collin "Bo" Shelton, 302 Aircraft Maintenance Squadron Commander. "Our maintenance operations were 24/7. The success we achieved can be attributed to the maintenance and operations relationship and our work ethic; we were proactive the entire time, instead of reactive. Our organization was recognized on numerous occasions by the wing commander and distinguished visitors for being above the rest. The other units could never figure out how we were maximizing our efficiency -- most of it was all attitude." Colonel Foss was the deployed commander of the expeditionary 302 AW Airmen. In addition to airlifting patients, pallets and people in Southwest Asia, 302 AW aircrews and aircraft were the last fixed-wing aircraft to provide humanitarian support to flood-ravaged Pakistan. "The forward deployment to Pakistan stands out in my mind as we were providing humanitarian relief to the country, as well as transporting passengers," said Captain Shelton. "We actually flew to some remote areas and saw the devastation, as well as some breathtaking mountains. Many of the people, young and old were thankful; I had small children grab my hand, and Pakistani military members give me unit patches or insignia as a sign of thanks." Excited family members and friends filled the wing's maintenance hangar as the arriving C-130s and Air Force Reservists were met with welcome home signs, American flags waving and an outpouring of emotion. Before reuniting with his wife and departing for his home for the first time in four months, Captain Shelton said one moment would stand out in his mind from the day's arrival. "I think the cart-wheels on the ramp [by Mrs. Marie Shelton] as we taxied in will always bring a smile to

my face." 2010

Groundbreaking at Peterson for C-130 Ops Facility: Airlift units at Peterson AFB, Colo., cut sod on a 12,500-foot C-130 operations center that will soon unite the active duty 52nd Airlift Squadron and Air Force Reserve Command's 731st Airlift Squadron under one roof. Forming the nexus of the active association's shared campus, the \$5.6 million building aims to enhance cooperation and operations efficiency, allowing greater integration. Constrained by the size of the host Reserve 302 Airlift Wing's current facilities, active duty personnel have been forced to operate from temporary facilities, sharing office and maintenance space as available. "We've seen a successful integration with our flying operations, aircraft maintenance, and in our aerial port. The only missing piece begins tomorrow with the start of construction," stated Col. Jay Pittman, 302 AW commander. The facility's construction is slated to conclude in early 2012. The groundbreaking took place Feb. 14. 2011

Aerial Firefight Goes On: Six C-130 aircraft carrying special firefighting equipment continue to help battle wildfires in Texas and northern Mexico from the air, as of Monday, announced US Northern Command officials. Since the first of these aircraft arrived on the scene on April 17, these C-130s have carried out 64 missions to release many thousands of gallons of fire retardant and suppressant on the fires in southern Texas and the Mexican state of Coahuila via the self-contained Modular Airborne Fire Fighting System that they carry. Two of the C-130s are from Air Force Reserve Command's 302 Airlift Wing at Peterson AFB, Colo. They are deployed to Laughlin AFB, Tex. The other four, staging from Dyess AFB, Tex., are Air National Guard assets from the 145th AW in North Carolina, 146th AW in California, and 153rd AW in Wyoming. 2011

Specially Modified C-130s Activated to Fight Wildfires: Four C-130s saddled up with the Modular Airborne Firefighting System to help battle wildfires in Colorado. Responding to a National Interagency Fire Center request on June 24, the Defense Department activated two aircraft each from the Wyoming Air National Guard's 153rd Airlift Wing in Cheyenne and from Air Force Reserve Command's 302 AW at Peterson AFB, Colo. The airplanes will stage from Peterson and are expected to be available no later than June 26, according to the US Forest Service. "We have been monitoring the fires and have had our aircrews, aircraft, and the MAFFS systems in a state of readiness anticipating a possible tasking," said 302 AW firefighting chief Lt. Col. Luke Thompson. The Forest Service, which owns the palletized MAFFS kits, wanted the firefighting C-130s "to ensure that we continue to have adequate air tanker capability as we experience very challenging wildfire conditions" in the Rocky Mountains region and southwestern United States, explained Forest Service chief Tom Tidwell in a June 24 agency release. These C-130s can discharge 3,000 gallons of water or fire retardant over a large area in less than five seconds. 2012

Four specially configured C-130s are still actively fighting fires, primarily snuffing out new flare-ups across Idaho, Nevada, and Oregon from a staging point at Boise Air Terminal, Idaho. "Our aircrews have been flying on a number of fires . . . accomplishing primarily initial attack operations on new starts," said Lt. Col. Luke Thompson, firefighting chief for Air Force Reserve Command's 302 Airlift Wing at Peterson AFB, Colo., in a July 25 release. The Reserve wing is one

of the Air Force's four Modular Airborne Firefighting System-equipped C-130 units. "It's been a busy start to this year's MAFFS season," admitted Thompson. As of early morning on July 26, C-130 MAFFS airplanes had dropped 799,585 gallons of retardant on wildfires in the northwestern United States in 327 sorties since June 24, SSgt. Jasmine Reif, 302 AW spokeswoman, told the Daily Report. The Forest Service on July 16 relieved two Wyoming Air National Guard C-130s, leaving four aircraft at Boise: two each from the 302 AW and the California Air Guard's 146th AW at Channel Islands ANG Station. 2012

Colorado Reservists Rejoin Aerial Firefighting Efforts Air Force Reserve Command's 302 Airlift Wing last week rejoined aerial firefighting activities in the northwestern United States by dispatching one of its specially configured C-130s to Boise, Idaho, according to a unit release. A second Modular Airborne Firefighting System-equipped C-130 from the wing is expected to deploy to Boise this week, states the Aug. 7 release. Already, a C-130 MAFFS airplane from the Wyoming Air National Guard is operating from Boise. The 302 AW's deployment is part of a normal rotation of the Air Force's C-130 MAFFS forces to support the US Forest Service in battling wildfires across the nation. "The four MAFFS wings typically follow a monthly rotation schedule. In August, the 302 is at the top of the list for MAFFS support," said Lt. Col. Luke Thompson, the wing's chief of aerial firefighting. In addition to the 302 AW, which is based at Peterson AFB, Colo., and the Wyoming ANG unit, there is one Air Guard MAFFS wing in California and one in North Carolina. In June, the Forest Service called on the MAFFS for help in fighting wildfires in Colorado 2013

USAF Unit Histories
Created: 4 Sep 2010
Updated: 14 Jan 2021

Sources
Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.