

# NIFC News

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## **MILITARY AERIAL FIREFIGHTING RESOURCES TO TRAIN IN GREENVILLE**

GREENVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA, April 25, 2005. The skies over northwestern South Carolina, western North Carolina and northeastern Georgia will be dotted with military C-130 aircraft from May 2 through May 7 as the National Forests in North Carolina and the 145<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing of the North Carolina Air National Guard host the training and recertification for military pilots flying firefighting missions with the Modular Airborne Fire Fighting System (MAFFS) equipment. Flight operations will be based at the Donaldson Center Industrial Air Park in Greenville, South Carolina.

Participating in the training are 400 air and ground personnel from the U.S. Forest Service, the South Carolina Forestry Commission, the North Carolina Division of Forest Resources, and the 145<sup>th</sup> Air Wing from Charlotte, North Carolina, the 146<sup>th</sup> Air Wing from Point Hueneme, California, the 153<sup>rd</sup> Air Wing from Cheyenne, Wyoming, and the 302<sup>nd</sup> Air Wing from Colorado Springs, Colorado. The week includes both classroom and flight training for military flight crews and civilian lead plane pilots.

The C-130s are equipped with a special slide-in unit called the Modular Airborne

Firefighting System allowing them to load and drop 2700 gallons of retardant on wildland fires.

There are eight MAFFs units currently in operation. The military aircraft are a supplemental aerial resource activated when the civilian fleet of airtankers is committed.

During the annual training and re-certification, the units will drop water on target sites located on the Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests in North Carolina, the Chattahoochee National Forest in Georgia and the Sumter National Forests in South Carolina. Specific drop sites include:

<b>National Forest</b>	<b>Drop Site</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Location</b>
<b>North Carolina</b>			
Nantahala NF	Rattlensnake Knob	Macon Co.	15 miles west of Franklin
Nantahala NF	Rocky Bald	Macon Co.	“ ”
Nantahala NF	Split Whiteoak	Macon Co.	“ ”
Nantahala NF	Terrapin Mountain	Jackson Co.	5 miles south of Cashiers
Nantahala NF	Round Mountain	Jackson Co.	“ ”
Pisgah NF	Bruce Ridge	Transylvania Co.	10 miles west of Brevard
Pisgah NF	Big Mountain Ridge	Transylvania Co.	“ ”
Pisgah NF	Kagle Mountain	Transylvania Co.	“ ”
<b>Georgia</b>			
Chattahoochee NF	Big Ridge	Rabun Co.	
Chattahoochee NF	Turkey Mountain	Rabun Co.	
<b>South Carolina</b>			
Sumter NF	Sispring Branch	Union Co.	
Sumter NF	Dodge Mountain	Oconee Co.	
Sumter NF	Longnose Creek	Oconee Co.	
Sumter NF	Wells Mountain	Oconee Co.	

**MEDIA ADVISORY: A media opportunity is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, May 4, 2005 at the Donaldson Center Industrial Air Park in Greenville. Reporters should be prepared to show photo identification.**

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