



California Military Department California National Guard



EMERGENCY RESPONSE HURRICANE IRENE

Information Alert

(8/29/2011 4:05 PM)

California National Guard Provides Hurricane Irene Support

Air National Guardsmen from the [129th Rescue Wing](#) will return to Moeffett Field after being deployed to support rescue efforts associated with Hurricane Irene.

Approximately 40 Guardsmen mobilized on August 27, 2011 to the east coast in a MC-130P Combat Shadow aerial refueling aircraft to conduct rescue missions. An additional group of approximately 60 Guardsmen were scheduled to depart on Sunday, however 129th Rescue Wing forces were released just prior to deployment as the storm weakened. The 129th Rescue Wing's past missions involved supporting state emergencies, including wildfires, earthquakes and floods in California and hurricanes in the Gulf Region.

The California National Guard dispatched one Incident Commander's Command, Control, and Communications Unit (IC4U) and its operators to Moffett Air Field on standby in the event the device is needed on the east coast. Each IC4U provides self-sustaining communication capability in areas where there is no power through satellite connectivity. "In 15 minutes or less, we can give the incident commander communication with anyone," says Staff Sergeant John Rapp, an IC4U operator.

The IC4U was first used in 2005 during Hurricane Katrina and was so effective, the Texas governor requested them shortly after during Hurricane Rita. It has subsequently been used during the 2007 and 2009 California wild fires, Hurricane Gustav in 2008, and on the Southwest Border mission.

If you have any questions regarding this support, or any other matter pertaining to the California National Guard, please contact Major (Retired) Darrin Bender at (916) 854-3705.