



# California Military Department California National Guard



## **EMERGENCY RESPONSE KERN COUNTY FIRES**

### **Information Alert**

(9/15/2011 3:30 PM)

## **California National Guard Completes Wildfire Suppression Support**

The California National Guard has completed its mission requirements in support of civilian firefighting efforts in Kern County, and all equipment and personnel have returned to home stations. California National Guard firefighting assets have supported CAL FIRE and CAL EMA since September 10, 2011 by providing three California Army National Guard CH-47 Chinook helicopters, two UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters and two Heavy Expanded Mobility Tactical Trucks (HEMTT). Additionally, the California Air National Guard provided one C-130J Modular Airborne Fire Fighting System (MAFFS) aircraft. California's helicopters conducted more than 170 bucket drops totalling over 175,000 gallons of water, and the C-130J dropped nearly 9,000 gallons of retardant on the fires.

The California Air National Guard's C-130J is equipped with the Modular Airborne Fire Fighting System (MAFFS), which is capable of dropping up to 3,000 gallons of water or retardant on the wild fires. Additionally, California Army National Guard's CH-47 Chinook and UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters are capable of dropping 660 to 2,200 gallons of water and providing personnel transport in and out of dangerous and hard-to-reach locations.

Currently, the Breckenridge Complex has burned 26,196 acres and is 76 percent contained, with full containment expected by September 17, 2011. The Comanche Complex has burned 29,338 acres and is 95 percent contained, with a low growth potential.

The California National Guard continues to stand ready to respond and deploy to this or any other state emergency.

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.