



# Modular Airborne Firefighting System

## Highlights

- Eight MAFFS in three Air National Guard units and one Air Reserve unit
- Air National Guard Units:
  - 145th Airlift Wing  
Charlotte, N.C.
  - 146th Airlift Wing  
Channel Islands, Calif
  - 153rd Airlift Wing  
Cheyenne, Wyo
- Aircraft can be rapidly refilled with retardant or water, allowing operators to spend more time fighting fires in the air
- Each dispersal unit is a self-contained unit that discharges from the left side of the aircraft
- Self-pressurizing system that provides greater flexibility for the Forest Service to respond in amore effective and efficient way to the nation's wildland firefighting needs
- Carrying capacity of 3,200 gallons of retardant or water
- Ability to respond within 24 to 48 hours
- MAFFS aircrew receive specialized certification by the U.S. Forest Service and annual refresher certification
- In the next three to five years, the 145th will be phased out of MAFFS as that unit converts to C-17 aircraft and the 152nd AW (Reno, Nev.) completes certification and training for the mission



## Lessening the risk to firefighters and civilians while protecting critical infrastructure and personal property.

**Mission:** Provides the U.S. Forest Service with additional surge capability in aerial fire-fighting assets to assist after the capabilities of commercial and contract air tankers have been exhausted.

**Overview:** In the 1970s Congress established the MAFFS to assist in the wildfire suppression program.

Air National Guard (ANG) aircraft and crews to release retardant or water from special tanks in less than five seconds through a single dispensing tube from the left side of the aircraft. Today a total of eight MAFFS units are operated by the Air National Guard and the Air Force Reserve.

The MAFFS aircraft, loaded with retardants, are guided to fire-ravaged areas by U.S. Forestry Service piloted aircraft. These units do not require any aircraft modifications and can be loaded or unloaded using specially designed trailers located at each MAFFS operational unit.

**MAFFS II:** A new system implemented in 2011, MAFFS II has several improvements, including less reliance on ground equipment and personnel. Now a self-contained system, its onboard compressor decreases ground time and allows for multiple drops on each mission. This system provides better coverage and is cleaner and more environmentally friendly.

Air National Guard MAFFS crews have fought wildfires in the United States, Europe, Africa and Indonesia.