

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **MODULAR AIRBORNE FIRE FIGHTING SYSTEM (MAFFS) TO TRAIN IN COLORADO**

**COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo.:** The U.S. Forest Service and U.S. Military's annual air tanker Modular Airborne Fire Fighting System (MAFFS) training will be held April 20 through April 24, 2012 in Colorado. Flight operations will be based at Peterson Air Force Base and Pueblo Air Tanker Base.

The four-day long training, sponsored by the U.S. Forest Service, includes classroom sessions, flight training and recertification for military flight crews, civilian lead plane pilots and various support personnel. It also involves MAFFS support specialists and aviators from the military and federal agencies.

The military C-130's equipped with U.S. Forest Service slide-in MAFFS units can drop up to 3,000 gallons of retardant or water to aid in the suppression of wildfires. These trained military personnel along with the MAFFS equipment are activated to supplement the civilian air tanker program during periods of high wildfire activity throughout the nation. They were deployed to Texas, Idaho and New Mexico during the 2011 fire season.

During the annual training and re-certification, the MAFFS training aircrews will drop only potable water on remote target sites in the Pike-San Isabel National Forest and military ranges. Rural residents may see low flying C-130's during the day.

Military personnel involved in the training include air and ground personnel from the 302<sup>nd</sup> Airlift Wing of the Air Force Reserve from Peterson Air Force Base, Colo. The event is being hosted by the 302<sup>nd</sup> Airlift Wing.

The military authority for the MAFFS program was created in the early 1970's to support wild-land firefighting through an agreement with the U.S. Forest Service. The military aircraft are requested by the National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC) and activated through the U.S. Northern Command, based on an agreement with the Department of Defense.

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**A media opportunity has been scheduled for April 23, 2012 at 10 a.m. at Peterson AFB. Please contact Ann Skarban, 302<sup>nd</sup> Airlift Wing Public Affairs by close of business April 20, 2011 for base access requirements. The MAFFS-equipped C-130's are scheduled to perform a water drop in an area immediately off of Peterson AFB which will also require escorted access.**

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