



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Pacific Southwest
Region Fire &
Aviation

3237 Peacekeeper Way
McClellan CA 95652-1000
916-640-1000

File Code: 5700

Date: January 28, 2008

Subject: Approval of USMC HMM-764, 4th MAW Helicopters and Designated Pilots-in-Command for Wildland Firefighting with USDA Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Region

Commanding General
Third Marine Aircraft Wing
PO Box 452038
San Diego CA 92145-2038

Commanding Officer
HMM-764
199 South Wolfe Ave
Edwards Air Force Base, California 93524-6395

This letter authorizes cooperative use of USMC HMM-764, 4th MAW, CH-46 Helicopter Aircraft Commanders and helicopters to perform wildland firefighting missions with the USDA Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Region.

Wildland firefighting missions that are approved include the following:

External & Internal Cargo Loads Fire Suppression Water/Retardant Dropping
Transport of firefighting personnel Mountain Flying

The below listed Helicopter Aircraft Commanders have completed the prerequisite wildland firefighting academic training requirements and are authorized to be the Pilots-in-Command (Helicopter Aircraft Commanders) for USDA Forest Service Wildland Firefighting missions:

	Rank	First name	Last name	Last 4 SSN	Squadron
1	LtCol	Karl	Jolly	8992	HMM-764
2	LtCol	Marcus	Malais	2409	HMM-764
3	LtCol	Jeffrey	McGinnis	5673	HMM-764
4	LtCol	Clark	Taylor	7489	HMM-764
5	Maj	Edmund	Keefe	8058	HMM-764
6	Maj	Gary	Ewers	0374	HMM-764
7	Maj	Luis	Gomez	8721	HMM-764
8	Capt	Jeffrey	Dansie	6111	HMM-764
9	Capt	John	Arnold	7964	HMM-764

USDA Forest Service military Pilot-In-Command (PIC)/Helicopter Aircraft Commander (HAC) minimum requirements are:

Military PIC/HAC qualification;



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A minimum of 500 hours 1st Pilot/PIC/HAC experience in helicopters;
Qualified for flying in mountainous geographic area environments in accordance with an appropriate military training course.

The PIC/HAC should be manipulating the flight controls whenever USFS passengers are on board unless safety considerations determined by the PIC/HAC dictate otherwise.

Additionally, whenever performing water/retardant dropping missions the helicopter crew must be supervised by a fire agency helicopter coordinator (HLCO) unless a fire agency helicopter manager is onboard participating as a helicopter crewmember.

The USMC unit and mission commanders must insure that the pilots assigned as PIC/HAC meet the minimum requirements of the USDA Forest Service, complete and have available Weight and Balance data and performance planning completed for each mission, and are trained and current in the mission(s) assigned.

Please ensure that a copy of this letter is carried onboard each approved helicopter in order that verification of approval can be presented to the USFS employee at the site. This letter is issued in place of individual pilot and helicopter approval cards.

Please direct any communications first to Greg Helsel, Helicopter Program Manager, at ghelsel@fs.fed.us or 916-640-1034.

Sincerely,

/s/ Dennis Hulbert
DENNIS HULBERT
Regional Aviation Officer

cc: Region 5 Forest Aviation Officers
Region 5 Geographic Area Command Centers