



UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

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PACIFIC SOUTHWEST REGION
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MCIWEST
3710
G-3

CAL FIRE/USFS
3710
S-3

OPERATING PLAN
BETWEEN
COMMANDING GENERAL
MARINE CORPS INSTALLATIONS WEST (MCIWEST)
AND
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION (CAL FIRE)
AND
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FOREST SERVICE
PACIFIC SOUTHWEST REGION (USFS REGION 5)

Subj: UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS (USMC) SUPPORT FOR SOUTHERN
CALIFORNIA (SOCAL) WILDFIRE FIREFIGHTING OPERATIONS

Ref: (a) DoD 3025.dd-M DoD Manual Defense Support of Civil
Authorities
(b) DOD 4515.13R/YMD: 19961118
(c) NORTHCOM CONPLAN 2505-05
(d) OPNAVINST 3710.7T
(e) MARADMIN 589-05
(f) MSG/CMC/DTG 051323ZJAN07
(g) MCIWEST Order 3090.1
(h) MCIWEST Order 3440.1
(i) California Interagency Military Helicopter Fire
Fighting Program Operating Plan
(j) Military Use Handbook (NFES 2175)
(k) Section 4125 Public Resources Code
(l) 3D MAW Firefighting SOP
(m) HelSeaCombatRon Eight Five Instruction 3710.5a

Encl: (1) CH-46/CH-53 Limitations and Requirements
(2) SEI Industries Bambi Bucket Model xxxx data
(3) CH-46/CH-53 Dimensions
(4) Glossary of Terms
(5) Contact Phone numbers

1. **PURPOSE.** To establish a Operating Plan between Marine Corps Installations West (MCIWEST), California Department

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Of Forestry and Fire Protection(CAL FIRE) and USDA Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Region (USFS), that defines the terms and establishes the procedures and conditions under which USMC personnel and equipment will be requested and integrated by CAL FIRE/USFS in response to Defense Support to Civil Authorities (DSCA) for the containment, control and extinguishment of 1 civilian wildfires in the local SOCAL area.

2. **DISCUSSION.** In response to the recent San Diego Firestorm 2007, an initial meeting was held in Sacramento between the Marine Corps and CAL FIRE officials to begin discussions and recommendations for solutions to better integrate military assets (air and ground) into local firefighting agencies. As a follow on to that initial meeting, a conference was held at MCAS Miramar with representatives from MCIWEST, First Marine Expeditionary Force (I MEF), Third Marine Aircraft Wing (3D MAW), Navy Region Southwest, CAL FIRE and USFS in order to begin coordination of training requirements, request for support process, identification of Navy and Marine Corps capabilities and other way ahead items identified in the initial meeting in Sacramento in order to better coordinate Defense Support of Civilian Authority (DSCA) with regards to Wildfire Firefighting (WFF) Operations and other possible crises in the local SOCAL Area of Operations (AOR). Discussions focused on establishing practices, protocols and procedures to efficiently and effectively request and integrate Marine Corps assets, air and ground, into the local SOCAL firefighting efforts that are responding to a wild land fire crisis. The near term solution was to develop a common operating plan that would outline the procedures from which U.S. Marine Corps assets would be trained, requested and integrated into local fire fighting efforts. For the long term, a Plan of Actions and Milestones (POA&M) would also be developed in order to develop training requirements, research equipment alternatives and fine tune the operational plan.

3. 1 April to 30 November defines the anticipated period of the fire season for the SOCAL area. During this period, I MEF assigns First Marine Division (1st MarDiv) and 3D MAW the mission to be prepared to support fire fighting efforts on Marine Corps Bases within the SOCAL AOR and also to be prepared to provide support to CAL FIRE/USFS. Per the 3D MAW Letter of Instruction (LOI), during the high risk period from 1 June to 31 October, 3D MAW maintains two

fire bucket equipped aircraft, CH-46 or CH-53 and associated trained aircrew, on standby to support WFF operations. If requested by a CAL FIRE/USFS authorized authority, additional aircraft, trained aircrews, NIFC trained ground personnel and equipment can be made available to augment civilian firefighting efforts in the local SOCAL area, if the assets are available. The primary mission responsibility for Marine Corps operational forces remains the ability to execute military operations, as directed, worldwide in defense of the nation.

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4. **ACTION**. Reference (a) details general guidelines concerning Defense Support of Civilian Authorities (DSCA). References (b) and (c) provide policy, guidance and direction for the employment of USMC resources during domestic emergencies to support civil authorities. MCIWEST, IMEF and CAL FIRE/USFS have satisfied initial and recurrent certification requirements in accordance with references (d) and (j) that allow CAL FIRE personnel to fly in 3D MAW aircraft to perform the emergency firefighting mission. MCIWEST ground personnel have satisfied NIFC initial certification requirements. Upon signing, MCIWEST and CAL FIRE/USFS do hereby agree and shall comply with the following:

a. Initial contact from CAL FIRE/USFS to MCIWEST will be via phone to the I Marine Expeditionary Forces (I MEF) Senior Watch Officer (SWO) at (760) 725-3047, primary and (760) 725-9114, secondary. This call will be to determine how many assets are available and the time frames for their availability.

CAL FIRE/USFS/County LNOs, and at least one LNO from each military service participant. The function of the HCC is to provide coordination of all helicopter firefighting operations and has no command authority. The HCC will be located on the nearest military installation which can provide the necessary communication equipment, office space and support facilities.

d. Airborne firefighting operation will be in accordance with reference (l) and (m) with the following exceptions:

(1) Section 100 reference (m) does not apply. Initial contact procedures will be in accordance with this agreement.

(2) Section 101 reference (m) does not apply. Enclosure (1) will be used in its place.

(3) Section 102 reference (m) does not apply. Enclosure (2) will be used in its place.

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(4) Section 103 reference (m) does not apply. A blanket waiver for flight of CAL FIRE/USFS personnel will be requested by MCIWEST and conducted in accordance with references (j) and (k).

(5) Section 104.c reference (m) does not apply. Qualification and currency for aircrews will be in accordance with reference (i).

(6) Section 108.b reference (m) does not apply.

(7) Enclosure (1). Enclosure (3) of this agreement will be used in its place.

e. This Operating Plan shall be reviewed every three years, or as required.

5. **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This Operating Plan is effective upon signatures of MCIWEST and CAL FIRE/USFS authorized authorities. Once in effect, this agreement shall continue until superseded or cancelled.

MICHAEL R. LEHNERT

RANDY MOORE
Regional Forester

K. MCLEAN
Deputy Director, Fire Protection Programs