



Development and Implementation of Targeted Training Resources for Wildland Fire Operations on Military Installations

Project # 18-850

Background:

Wildfires are a challenge for military installations and can directly impact mission success. Military training and testing ignite wildfires on installations; as a result, installations experience a disproportionate number of wildfires relative to their size. *Wildfires can directly reduce the ability to complete missions and pose a threat to vital national security resources.*

Furthermore, installation fire management programs face *unique challenges and complexities for both wildfire suppression and prescribed fire operations* in the planning and response phases, standardization of training and equipment, and integration with the greater fire management community and surrounding landowners.

Objective:

The objective is to provide a suite of shared solutions to common challenges faced by installation fire management programs through the development of tools to addressing planning complexity, providing targeted training and in-briefing materials, and improving communications and integration with the surrounding fire management community and landowners. Increasing preparedness and planning provides immediate opportunities for both new and existing installation fire management programs to build robust, integrated, and ultimately safer fire programs.

Summary of Approach:

A survey of installation fire management programs was conducted to further define common challenges faced by installation fire managers, uncover training needs and obstacles to training, and refine the material included in the deliverables. The information was compiled into a guidebook and checklist for fire managers and then distilled down to easily accessible tools for on-the-ground wildland fire fighters. Existing guidance, proven formats, and foundational risk management principles informed the process and deliverables.

Benefit:

Fire management programs implementing the suite of shared solutions will improve safety, effectiveness, and efficiency. Existing fire management programs can improve relationships with surrounding landowners and local fire resources, improve access to training and assignments, and enhance preparedness for large-scale

wildfires. Developing programs can navigate the complex planning process, develop targeted in-briefing materials, implement nationally recognized standards, and cultivate connections with the greater fire management community and local communities. There is immense possibility for installation fire management programs to make impacts at a large scale and be a leader in the fire management community.

Increased integration and preparedness of fire management programs directly benefits the military’s mission and the warfighter’s mission-readiness by maintaining testing and training tempo, protecting vital national security resources, and sustaining positive relationships with surrounding communities. Similarly, natural resources can meet their objectives of ensuring realistic habitat conditions, promoting long-term sustainability of biological resources, and minimizing undesired ecological impacts of wildfires. These tools are applicable and available to installations across the United States.

Accomplishments: The suite of shared solutions includes: (1) The Military Installation Fire Management In-briefing Development Guidebook (MIDG) provides a pathway for fire managers to navigate the complex planning process and increase preparedness for large-scale wildfire events and prescribed burns. The MIDG helps link installations to valuable resources for planned operations and access to training, and supports the process of developing targeted in-briefing documents. (2) The MIDG Matrix is a reference checklist for fire managers, including key points for preparing in-briefing materials for different types and levels of incidents as well as a cross-reference of existing forms, manuals, and guidance for developing in-briefing materials. (3) Two field-ready briefing pocket cards designed for both incoming resources and fire managers and four Wildland Fire Operations on Military Lands Refresher Videos address unique hazards and challenges on military installations.

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**CLEARED
For Open Publication**

Jan 22, 2021

Department of Defense
OFFICE OF PREPUBLICATION AND SECURITY REVIEW

