

## **MILITARY RESOURCES**

### **I. INTRODUCTION**

- A. The use of military resources in Incident Management is not really a new concept and their use in wildland fire suppression dates back to 1896 when the US Cavalry rode into Yellowstone National Park to fight fire. Up to and during World War II, the military was used quite extensively in a variety of fire suppression missions. There was a period of time when the use of the military began to decline as agencies grew, work programs such as the CCC's were introduced and private industry became more involved. Now as our agencies are getting smaller, work programs are being eliminated and private industry cannot meet incident demand, we are once again turning to using military resources.

There are, however, conditions on when and how we can use military resources. The first step in the process is that before military resources can be ordered, all civilian resources must be committed wither to active fires or to initial attack. It is a NICC responsibility to ensure that all civilian resources are committed before placing orders for military resources. Once that decision is made and mobilization of the military begins, Incident Management teams must be ready to deal with these resources. If a team is not prepared to receive military resources, they can be quickly brought to their knees and incident operations could be adversely effected.

Hopefully this lesson will help you avoid that form happening and help you realize what a valuable resource the military can be, if you are prepared and ready to use them.

- B. The objectives are for the student upon successful completion to be able to:
1. Identify the special needs and considerations that an Incident Management Team must address when military resources are assigned to an incident.
  2. Define the methods to fully integrate and utilize military resources within the Incident Command System.
  3. For the purpose of this lesson, we will be discussing the use of Regular Military Resources that are part of the Department of Defense. The ordering and use of National Guard Resources, including the Air Guard are handled through a different process as defined in local state agreements as these resources are under the jurisdiction of the State Governors. You will need to check local state agreements when these resources are needed and used.

### **II. MOBILIZATION**

- A. As the demand for fire resources increases and it is anticipated that the fire agencies and the private sector can no longer meet the demand, NICC makes the determination and begins the process for ordering military resources. It takes approximately five days from the time the order is placed until military resources actually arrive on the incident. In most cases, these military resources will

require two additional days of field training before their first operational assignment.

1. It is important to remember that Incident Management Teams do not order regular military resources direct. In most cases, IMT's will be contacted when military resources will be used.
  2. When Military Helicopter Resources are to be used, IMT's will be contacted and resource orders will have to be placed that indicate the types of missions that will be performed. The military will as well as the command and support personnel needed to support assigned missions.
- B. A great deal of what occurs during the ordering and mobilization of military resources is "invisible" to Incident Management Teams and Area Command Teams. For a detailed description of what occurs, refer to the Military Use Handbook (NFES 2175). It is extremely important to be familiar with this handbook and it is recommended that this be required reading prior to the fire season.
1. Request and Response Flow.
  2. Mobilization Process.
- C. While NIFC is responsible for the mobilization and training of military resources, it is still an Incident Management Team responsibility to review this training and ensure that the required field training does occur. In most cases, Military Resources will need two days to complete their training after they have arrived at an incident.
1. Mop-up and line construction on cold, contained fireline.
  2. Mop-up and line construction on uncontained fireline.

### **III. ASSIGNMENT**

- A. Just prior to the arrival of the military resources is when the work begins for an Incident Management Team. To get an understanding of just how the military resources will affect your incident, each team member needs to know just what 550 to 800 people arriving at the same time will do to an incident.
1. A battalion is:
    - a. One Battalion Commander who is normally a Lt. Colonel and his/her support staff. The number of people in the support staff varies, but you can anticipate at least 10.
    - b. Two to four Companies, which are normally led by a Captain and his/her support staff. Once again the number of support staff personnel will vary, but 10 per company would be a good estimate.
    - c. Eight to sixteen Platoons divided between the two Companies. Each platoon is led by a Lieutenant with a small support staff of one or two.

- d. Sixteen to thirty-two Squads (crews) with two squads assigned to each Platoon Leader. Each squad is led by a Sergeant.
  - e. If two Battalions are assigned, a full Colonel will be in charge and there will also be a support staff of 10 or more assigned with the Colonel.
  - f. The Battalions will arrive with headquarters Tentage, Battalion Aid Station, Medevac Helicopter, Command & Control Helicopter(s), six highly Mobil Multi-Wheeled Vehicles (HMMWV), Battalion Command Net, PX, Shelter Halves for each soldier.
2. NIFC and NICC will assign to each Battalion, the following:
- a. One Battalion Liaison (BNML) and one Deputy Liaison.
  - b. Two Military Strike Team Leaders (STLM), one per Company.
  - c. Ten Military Strike Team Leaders (STLM), one per Platoon.
  - d. Twenty Military Crew Advisors (MCAD), one per Squad.
3. The Agency or Area Command will assign the following:
- a. One Area Command Military Liaison (ACML) who will work for Area command or the Agency Administrator.
  - b. It is recommended that the ACML organize a small support staff consisting of:
    - (1) Logistics Coordinator
    - (2) Plans and Public Affairs Coordinator
    - (3) Liaison Officers for each Battalion (if needed)
    - (4) Air Operations Coordinator (if needed)
    - (5) Communications Unit Leader (if needed)
- B. Military Aviation Resources may be activated in a variety of ways and can arrive in Battalion (45 aircraft), Company (15 aircraft) or Platoon (5 aircraft) configurations. Once again, it is the designated missions that determine the number and types of aviation resources an incident would receive and final determination rests with the military.
1. Military Aviation Units are configured somewhat differently than infantry Units, but generally will consist of the following:
- a. Commanding Officer with support staff.
  - b. Military Aviation Liaison Officer.

- c. Operations Officer.
- d. Operations Specialist.
- e. Communications Officer.
- f. Air Mission commander.
- g. Aviation Safety Officer.
- h. Standardization Instructor Pilot.
- i. Instructor Pilot.
- j. Aircrews.

(1) The make-up of aircrews depends on the type of aircraft and missions that they perform. Normally, an aircrew is four to five persons per aircraft. The crew is made up of the Pilot in Command, a Co-Pilot, Flight Engineer and one or more Aircrew Personnel.

- k. Aircraft Security, Maintenance, Refueling and Support Crews.

(1) Once again this will vary depending on the number and types of aircraft being used. Normally these crews will consist of 20 or more personnel.

2. Agency positions required to manage military aviation resources on incidents are as follows: (Note: These positions may come with the military aviation resources or they may have to be ordered by the incident. The Incident Management Team needs to verify this.)
  - a. Military Aviation Operations Coordinator (MAOC). Reports to Agency Aviation Military Liaison (AAML) at NIFC on Area Command Assignments and to the Air Operations Branch Director (AOBD) when assigned to incidents.
  - b. Military Helicopter Manager Supervisor (MHMS). Only activated for Area Command Assignments. The ASGS normally fills this role on incidents.
  - c. Military Helicopter Manager (MHEM). Reports to the Helibase Manager on incidents and to the MHMS on Area Command Assignments. One per helicopter is needed.
  - d. Logistics Section Chief LSC2. Only activated when the resources are assigned to Area Command, or when needs exceed Incident Management Team Logistics Section capabilities.
  - e. Helicopter Coordinator (HLCO). Reports to the Air Operations Branch Director.

- f. Communications Unit Leader (COML). This position is needed and must be an Avionics Technical Specialist.
- g. Finance and Procurement Personnel as needed.
- h. Military Helicopter Crew Members (MHEC) as needed assigned to the Helicopter Managers on CH-47 Chinook Helicopters. Two per helicopter.

#### **IV. SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

- A. Now that the Incident Management Team has this mass of resources coming to the incident, they must begin to prepare for their arrival. This means providing the required support items as well as preparing to use them effectively.
  - 1. A Military Advance Party will normally arrive before the military resources. Their role is to assess the situations and provide advice or recommendations to the Incident Management Team on preparing for the military.
- B. Some of the major issues that need to be understood by every member of the Incident Management Team are:
  - 1. The Military units will have their own separate camp with their own caterers and shower units. NICC will order these units for the Team, but this needs to be verified.
  - 2. The Military has a higher grooming standard than most agency personnel and that will have to be addressed. Barbers and additional wash basins will have to be provided.
  - 3. In most cases, the Military will not come with crew transportation and that will have to be provided.
  - 4. The Military has a high demand for intelligence and will need to be kept informed of the situation with briefings and other information.
  - 5. The Military provides the incident with 20 crews. Providing meaningful work for this many crews on a continuing basis is very difficult. They cannot be downsized and have to be released as a complete unit.
  - 6. The Military will arrive with a minimal amount of training and time will be needed to complete this training. Increasing their knowledge levels needs to occur throughout the incident.
  - 7. The Military Units will come outfitted with the basic PPE, but they will need replacement nomex almost immediately in order to maintain their dress standards.
- C. Every member of the Incident Management Team will be involved as the military arrives. Refer to the Military Checklist Handout for each position.
  - 1. Incident Commander.
  - 2. Logistics Section Chief.

3. Planning Section Chief.
4. Operations Section Chief.
5. Finance Section Chief.
6. Safety Officer.
7. Information Officer.

**V. INTEGRATION AND UTILIZATION**

A. A key to Incident Management Team success, when using military resources has been integration of the military into almost all aspects of Incident Management. They are the specialists on what they do best and they know the proper ways of directing their forces. The keys to integration are:

1. Incident Commanders need to establish a link with the Battalion Military Liaison early on and maintain that link. IC's should personally meet with the Battalion Commander and make them feel like they are part of the team.
2. Sections Chiefs should identify their respective counterparts in the Battalion Commander's Support Staff and work closely with them. These officers are identified by their support function. The cross reference with ICS is as follows:

<u>ICS</u>	<u>MILITARY</u>
COMMAND.....	SAME
OPERATIONS.....	S-3, AVIATION, PLANNING & COORDINATION
PLANNING.....	S-2, INTELLIGENCE GATHERING & ANALYSIS
LOGISTICS.....	S-4, SUPPLY, TRANSPORTATION & FIELD SERVICES
FINANCE.....	S-1, PERSONNEL MGT, INJURIES & AWARDS

B. In order to fully utilize the military resources assigned, an Incident Management Team must assess the capabilities of each unit. As the Battalions gain experience, they are more willing to take on added tasks or new assignments. They also come with specialized skills that can be easily adapted to fit the needs of the incident.

**VI. CLOSING**

- A. Military Resources can be an extremely valuable resource if used correctly. They come with a strong command and control organizational structure. They have a great deal of pride and are highly motivated. The military is very big into awards and a lot can be gained by simple presentations and ceremonies.
- B. Military Resources come with a slight element of apprehension. They are probably one of the best trained armed forces in the world and they are trained for battle. They are somewhat out of their element when it comes to fighting fire,

but this can be easily overcome when Incident Management Teams work with them and explain what is happening.

- C. It is essential for every member of an Incident Management Team to know and understand how to use military resources and what the impacts of receiving Military Resources are for an Incident. It is urged that each member of an Incident Management Team reads the Military Resource Handbook prior to each fire season. Do not wait to hear that the military is coming before you read the handbook. You will be behind the power curve from the start without this knowledge.
- D. Review lesson objectives.