

CDF NEWS RELEASE

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection



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CDF Dedicates McClellan Aviation Facility

Sacramento - The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) will dedicate its new aviation facility at McClellan Park on Monday August 5, 2002 at 9 a.m. The event will feature presentations by CDF management, facility tours, static apparatus displays, and an aircraft fly-by.

The McClellan facility will serve as a year-round maintenance and program management site where Department aircraft will be repaired and serviced for fighting California's wildfires. CDF maintains a fleet of 47 aircraft including airtankers, helicopters and air attack planes. The officers in the air attack planes fly over the fire area, coordinating the operations of the airtankers and helicopters in support of ground units.

From 13 air attack bases and nine helitack bases located around California, CDF aircraft can reach any fire within 20 minutes. They are used in both initial and extended attack. The aircraft support the work of the firefighters and fire engines on the ground and are an integral part of the California fire service.

CDF Director Andrea Tuttle will dedicate the McClellan facility. "CDF has a superb fleet of aircraft and pilots who fly them. Time and time again they have kept wildfires small until the engines and hand crews can put them out. Every year they save lives, property, and taxpayer dollars. The same can be said of the technicians who will maintain the aircraft here at McClellan. It truly is a team effort." The CDF aviation contractor is DynCorp, the same company that maintains Air Force One. Logistical support is provided through a contract with Logistic Specialties Incorporated, a firm with over twenty-five years of aviation experience.

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