

112TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5965

To require the Chief of the Forest Service to make the Forest Service First and Second Generation Modular Airborne FireFighting System (MAFFS) units available to units of the Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve that have the aircraft capability and pilot and crew member training adequate for utilizing such firefighting systems to help alleviate the shortage of air tankers to fight wildfires.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 19, 2012

Mr. GALLEGLY introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Agriculture

A BILL

To require the Chief of the Forest Service to make the Forest Service First and Second Generation Modular Airborne FireFighting System (MAFFS) units available to units of the Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve that have the aircraft capability and pilot and crew member training adequate for utilizing such firefighting systems to help alleviate the shortage of air tankers to fight wildfires.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. AVAILABILITY OF FOREST SERVICE FIRST AND**
2 **SECOND GENERATION MODULAR AIRBORNE**
3 **FIREFIGHTING SYSTEMS (MAFFS) FOR AIR**
4 **NATIONAL GUARD AND AIR FORCE RESERVE.**

5 (a) FIRST GENERATION MAFFS UNITS.—In order
6 to help alleviate the shortage of air tankers to fight
7 wildfires, the Chief of the Forest Service shall make the
8 eight Forest Service First Generation Modular Airborne
9 FireFighting System (MAFFS I) units available, without
10 compensation, to units of the Air National Guard and Air
11 Force Reserve that have C-130H aircraft configured to
12 contain such a MAFFS unit and adequate pilot and crew
13 member training in the use of such a MAFFS unit.

14 (b) SECOND GENERATION MAFFS UNITS.—

15 (1) REQUIREMENT TO MAKE UNITS AVAIL-
16 ABLE.—In order to help alleviate the shortage of air
17 tankers to fight wildfires, the Chief of the Forest
18 Service shall make the nine Forest Service Second
19 Generation Modular Airborne FireFighting System
20 (MAFFS II) units immediately available, without
21 compensation, to units of the Air National Guard
22 and Air Force Reserve as follows:

23 (A) Up to two MAFFS II units will be lo-
24 cated at the Air National Guard unit in Chey-
25 enne, Wyoming.

1 (B) Up to two MAFFS II units will be lo-
2 cated at the Air National Guard unit in Char-
3 lotte, North Carolina.

4 (C) Up to two MAFFS II units will be lo-
5 cated at the Air Force Reserve unit in Colorado
6 Springs, Colorado.

7 (D) A minimum of three MAFFS II units
8 will be located at the Channel Islands Air Na-
9 tional Guard Base, California.

10 (2) CONFIGURATION.—The MAFFS II units to
11 be made available under subparagraphs (A), (B),
12 and (C) of paragraph (1) are intended for use in
13 MAFFS-configured C-130H aircraft. The MAFFS
14 II units to be made available under subparagraph
15 (D) of such paragraph are intended for use in
16 MAFFS-configured C-130J aircraft.

17 (c) PRIORITY FOR DOMESTIC SOURCES OF AIR
18 TANKER SUPPORT.—The Chief of the Forest Service may
19 not procure air tankers to fight wildfires from a foreign
20 government unless the Chief of the Forest Service certifies
21 to Congress that MAFFS air tanker support available
22 from units of the Air National Guard and Air Force Re-
23 serve—

24 (1) is being fully utilized; or

1 (2) is not sufficient to address wildfires on Na-
2 tional Forest System land.

3 (d) IMPLEMENTATION REPORT.—Not later than 30
4 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Chief
5 of the Forest Service shall submit to the Committees on
6 Agriculture and Natural Resources of the House of Rep-
7 resentatives and the Committees on Agriculture, Nutri-
8 tion, and Forestry, and Energy and Natural Resources of
9 the Senate a report describing—

10 (1) how the Forest Service intends to make the
11 MAFFS II units immediately available under sub-
12 section (b); and

13 (2) the process and proposed timeline to make
14 the MAFFS I units available under subsection (a).

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