

Amendment Offered by Rep Zinke

H.R. 1735—National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016

SUBCOMMITTEE ON SEAPOWER AND PROJECTION FORCES

To be inserted in the appropriate place in the report:

Air National Guard Wildfire Assistance

The committee notes that the U.S. Global Change Research Program has determined that the frequency of large wildfires and the length of the fire season have increased substantially in recent decades. The committee acknowledges that the U.S. Geological Survey Federal Fire Occurrence Database indicates that the occurrences of catastrophic wildfires in the United States are more prevalent in the western half of the country. Air National Guard units flying C-130 aircraft equipped with Modular Airborne Firefighting System (MAFFS) have been an integral part of wildfire suppression, saving not only property but lives. The committee acknowledges that as catastrophic wildfires continue to grow in severity, it is important to provide the assistance of our Air National Guard. The committee believes that MAFFS should be located in positions that maximize the effectiveness of MAFFS units consistent with the highest probability of risk for the United States.

Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of the Air Force to prepare a brief to the House Committee on Armed Services by September 1, 2015 that assess the locations of C-130 MAFFS units. Such a report should provide a listing of the current United States Air Force units, their utilization rates, and a future force allocation determination that most efficiently utilizes the MAFFS units. This report shall specifically assess opportunities to expand coverage of MAFFS units in the western United States.