



## **ATTACHMENT 42**

**AIRWORTHINESS GROUP CHAIRMAN'S FACTUAL REPORT**

**LAX-02-GA-201**



# United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
Washington, D.C. 20240

MAY 10 1993

## Memorandum

To: Director, Bureau of Land Management  
Director, Fish and Wildlife Service  
Director, National Park Service  
Assistant Commissioner, Indian Affairs

From: Director, Program Services 

Subject: Use of C-130A Airtankers

The Department of the Interior understands that the U.S. Forest Service has activated early a contract for a C-130A airtanker based at Hemmett Valley, California. That contract was due for activation on May 18.

The Department of the Interior and the U.S. Forest Service have cooperative agreements making airtankers under contract to one agency available to the other. The contract process provides for inspection of aircraft to ensure the vendor's ability to comply with the specifications of the contract. During a contract pre-award evaluation in 1991, Office of Aircraft Services inspectors concluded that essential inspection and maintenance services critical to sustaining the aircraft in an airworthiness condition under normal operating conditions were not being accomplished.

On May 6, 1993, representatives from the Office of Aircraft Services, the Department of the Interior fire program, and the Department's Solicitor's Office met with representatives of the Department of Justice to review the issues involved in this matter. As a result of that meeting, another meeting is scheduled for May 14, 1993, with the above parties and the Federal Aviation Administration and the U.S. Forest Service.

The Department of the Interior believes that the risks associated with the use of the current fleet of C-130A aircraft are too great to allow their use in association with Department of the Interior wildfire suppression activities, notwithstanding the Federal Aviation Administration's issuance of airworthiness certificates.

Thus, until further notice, use of C-130A airtankers on fires on Department of the Interior lands being managed by a Department of the Interior agency is prohibited. No employee of the Department of the Interior nor its bureaus shall dispatch any C-130A airtankers, regardless of the location of the fire or the agency managing the fire.

cc: Office of Aircraft Services  
Division of General Law  
Bureau Fire Directors  
National Interagency Coordination Center