



ATTACHMENT 45

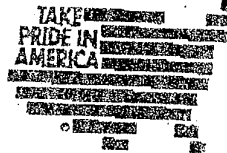
AIRWORTHINESS GROUP CHAIRMAN'S FACTUAL REPORT

LAX-02-GA-201



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, D.C. 20240



MAY 28 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 *B + All*
Subject: Use of C-130A Airtankers - REVISION TO POLICY

On May 10, 1993, I issued a memorandum prohibiting the use of C-130A airtankers on fires on Department of the Interior lands being managed by a Department of the Interior agency. In addition the memorandum prohibited employees of the Department of the Interior and its bureaus from dispatching any C-130A airtankers, regardless of the location of the fire or the agency managing the fire. The basis for those prohibitions was documented in the May 10 memorandum.

Since that time the Department has met with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), the U.S. Forest Service, and the Department of Justice to further explain its concerns and to obtain additional information regarding the process for evaluating aircraft safety and airworthiness.

On May 28, 1993, Mr. William J. White, Deputy Director, Flight Standards Services, FAA, wrote to me acknowledging the concerns that the Department of the Interior has raised regarding the inspection and maintenance program of the C-130A airtankers and setting forth an expedited process for evaluating those concerns. That process will include an evaluation of the military inspection and maintenance program for the C-130As, establishment of guidance for approving inspection programs, and formulation of recommendations to the Aircraft Certification Service regarding issuance of any necessary airworthiness directives, designation of life-limited parts, and revisions to the C-130A type certification data sheets. Additionally, the FAA will review existing approved inspection programs and recommend revisions that may be necessary.

The FAA reiterated that the C-130As are certificated in the restricted category, and that their airworthiness certification will remain in effect as long as

maintenance and alterations are properly performed by the operators as set forth in the Federal Aviation Regulations.

Thus, effective immediately, the prohibitions on the use and dispatch of C-130A aircraft issued May 10, 1993, are withdrawn.

Attachment

Letter dated May 28, 1993, from William J. White, Deputy Director, Flight Standards Service, Federal Aviation Administration

cc: Office of Aircraft Services
Bureau Fire Directors
National Interagency Coordination Center
Division of General Law
Acting Director, Fire and Aviation, U.S. Forest Service
William J. White, FAA
National Transportation Safety Board