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**APPENDIX O**

**WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT PLAN  
OVERVIEW**



### **1.1. OVERVIEW.**

**1.1.1. Existing Conditions.** Wildfire poses a significant threat to the sensitive ecosystem found on Army lands in Hawaii. Special environmental and land use conditions exist which make wildfire management difficult. The use of various types of ammunition, weapon systems and pyrotechnics during military training activities increase the risk of wildfire ignition that can destroy native habitat. The prevalence of flammable wildfire fuel types and unique weather conditions also leads to high ignition rates. In the past, military activities on Army lands have burned areas of native vegetation and threatened the habitat of endangered species of plants and animals.

**1.1.2. Purpose.** This Wildland Fire Management Plan (WFMP) has been developed to establish specific guidance, procedures, and protocols in the prevention and suppression of wildfires on Army training lands. It describes how fire managers' plan standard practices for presuppression and suppression activities to protect natural and man-made resources. It is also designed to provide the U.S. Army, Hawaii (USARHAW) with the capability to maintain combat readiness, while meeting land stewardship responsibilities. It focuses on reducing conflicts between the threat posed by wildfires to natural and cultural resources and the requirement to continue military activities while complying with environmental laws.

**1.1.3. Scope.** This WFMP covers all lands administered or leased by the USARHAW in the State of Hawaii. USARHAW land is found on the islands of Oahu and Hawaii (the Big Island). USARHAW training areas on Oahu are Schofield Barracks Military Reservation (SBMR), Schofield Barracks East Range (SBER), Makua Military Reservation (MMR), Kahuku Training Area (KTA), Kawaihoa Training Area (KLOA) and Dillingham Military Reservation (DMR). The Pohakuloa Training Area (PTA) is on the island of Hawaii.

**1.1.4. Wildfire Management Program.** This WFMP is the fire managers' presuppression and suppression plan that fits within the larger framework of the 25th ID(L) & USARHAW Wildfire Management Program for all Army lands in Hawaii. (See Commanding General's Policy Memorandum).

### **1.2. PLAN POLICIES AND GOALS.**

**1.2.1. Policy.** The success of this fire management plan depends on fire managers' ensuring that these policies are actively implemented to make the USARHAW Wildfire Management Program work on the ground. Fuel modification, ignition control, and a quick wildfire response by appropriate resources will help to prevent key sensitive habitat from being destroyed by wildfire. The policies below were developed as part of the Wildfire Management Program and are incorporated into this plan.

a. **Safety.** Public and firefighter safety is the first priority in every fire management activity. Reducing the risk of human life is a primary consideration in fire management. Fire suppression is a risky activity and sound risk management is a foundation for all fire management activities.

b. **Planning.** Every Fire Management Area (FMA) has a descriptive section (see Annex A) which address protection priority areas, fire predictions, and land and resource management issues.

c. **Prevention.** All personnel, regardless of military service component, will work together to prevent the ignition of wildfires. Concerted efforts to minimize wildfire from all military activities must be implemented.

d. **Protection Priorities.** Besides the safety priority to human life, protection priorities will be established among all resources. Priority between property and natural/cultural resources must be based on values to be protected, commensurate with fire management costs.

e. **Preparedness.** Fire managers will ensure their capability of providing safe, cost effective fire management in support of this plan.

f. **Suppression.** Fires are suppressed at minimum cost, considering public and firefighter safety. All training areas will be protected consistent with resource objectives. Suppression will defend protection priority areas, contain fires within Army installation boundaries, while reducing wildfire impacts to the environment.

g. **Prescribed fire.** Prescribed fire will be considered as a viable tool to manage fuels and will be utilized under environmentally appropriate conditions, as defined by prescribed fire specifications provided in Annex D.

h. **Interagency Cooperation.** Planning, preparedness, suppression, monitoring, and research will be conducted on an interagency basis.

i. **Standardization.** Fire managers will use the planning processes and operational procedures as prescribed in this WFMP and the Incident Command System (ICS).

j. **Economic Efficiency.** Fire management activities will be based on economic analyses that incorporate resource and social values.

k. **Wildland/Urban Interface.** The role of wildland/urban fire protection is considered as part of fire suppression and management.

l. **Employee Roles.** Employees are required to be trained and certified and will participate in the wildfire program as the situation demands or as directed. (See Annex B)

**1.2.2. Fire Management Goals.** Consistent with the Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy and the USARHAW Wildfire Management Program, the WFMP will accomplish the policies identified above, through the following fire management goals:

a. **Safety**

(1) **Goal:** Every firefighter, fire supervisor, fire manager, and administrator takes positive action to ensure compliance with safe practices. The goal is no human losses or injuries due to wildfire.

(2) **Objective.** Establish fire management qualifications and ensure all personnel assigned to those positions are trained. Managers will ensure training tools are available and proper training is conducted. Personnel are the highest value to be protected.

### **b. Presuppression**

(1) Goal: Maintain preparedness planning and suppression programs to prevent unacceptable losses from fire.

(2) Objective. Define priorities that recognize the relative values of property and natural/cultural resources to be protected by working in cooperation with other managers to develop priorities. Reduce the environmental impact of fire. Reduce environmental impact of presuppression and suppression activities while also protecting vegetation so concealment cover is available for military training. Plan suppression based on confine, contain and control strategies for each of the fire management areas within wildfire management capabilities. Develop and implement presuppression prevention measures including education and fuels management.

### **c. Suppression**

(1) Goal: Protection Capability. Maintain sufficient fire suppression and support capability.

(2) Objective. Use protection priorities, as a criteria to assess overall suppression and support requirements, examine and identify resource requirement and availability at each organizational level, to provide needed suppression and support. This will include planning for both initial attack and extended attack. Establish suppression measures and determine the confine, contain and control strategies.

## **1.3. GENERAL.**

**1.3.1. Fire Management Areas.** The WFMP is based on a strategy linking all six (6) Oahu training areas and the Pohakuloa Training Area (PTA) on the Island of Hawaii, and are referred to as Fire Management Areas (FMA). In addition, Wildfire Standing Operating Procedures (SOP) have been developed specifically for each of the respective FMAs and are listed in Annex A of this plan. Each SOP provides specific guidance that delineate the responsibilities of the fire managers, range control staff, using training units, federal firefighters, and other agency cooperators in the prevention and suppression of fires in each FMA.

**1.3.2. WFMP Review Process.** This WFMP is a living document that allows flexibility to incorporate new data as it develops. This WFMP will be reviewed biannually from the date of signature to ensure compliance with the standards, policies, and management goals outlined in this plan. The G3/Director of Plans, Training & Mobilization (DPTM) Wildland Fire Program Manager will convene an ad hoc evaluation team to review fire activity during the two years. The review team will analyze the fire reports, evaluate the program and develop a report to determine what, if any, policy or operational changes should be initiated. This review will include an audit of expenditures and an analysis of how well the allocated funding resources meets program management needs. Until superseded the WFMP will remain in effect. If changes are made to this WFMP, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) shall review the amended WFMP for compliance with the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973, as amended.

**1.3.3. Wildland Fire Managers.** Wildland fire managers within USARHAW are:

- a. G-3/DPTM, Range Division-Hawaii, Wildland Fire Program Manager.

- b. Director of Installation Fire and Safety, as the Command Fire Marshal.
- c. Federal Fire Department, Fire Chief.
- d. Pohakuloa Training Area, Fire Chief.

### **1.4. ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP.**

**1.4.1. Environmental Issues.** USARHAW lands contain many federal and state listed threatened and endangered species of plants and animals. These lands also contain areas that are culturally significant. Federal and state of Hawaii environmental laws and regulations protect both natural and cultural resources. USARHAW is being proactive in protecting its land resources.

**1.4.2. Fire Threats to the Environment.** The Hawaiian ecosystem is not resistant to, nor dependent on fire. In addition to the statewide expansion of towns and suburban communities, military training poses a threat to natural habitats found on Army land. Military forces stationed in Hawaii are of the “light” force structure, meaning that the forces are made up of “light”, or dismounted infantry or tactical units. Since light forces only move by foot, light wheeled vehicle, or helicopter, impact to the environment by movement is minimal. Wildfire is the single largest impact made by military activities in the Hawaiian ecosystem. The use of Army lands must include fire avoidance efforts. By following the guidelines in this WFMP, Wildland Fire SOPs, Range and Training Area SOPs, USARHAW can reduce wildfires and preserve its training assets.