



File Code: 5700

Date: August 21, 2007

Subject: Approval of USMC HMM-165, 3rd MAW Helicopters and Designated Pilots-in-Command for Wildland Firefighting with USDA Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Region

Commanding General
Third Marine Aircraft Wing
PO Box 452038
San Diego CA 92145-2038

Commanding Officer
HMM-165
PO Box 452118
San Diego CA 92145-2118

This letter authorizes cooperative use of USMC HMM-165, 3rd MAW CH-46 Helicopter Aircraft Commanders and helicopters to perform wildland firefighting missions with the USDA Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Region.

Wildland firefighting missions that are approved include the following:

- External & Internal Cargo Loads Fire Suppression Water/Retardant Dropping
- Transport of firefighting personnel Mountain Flying

The below listed Helicopter Aircraft Commanders have completed the prerequisite wildland firefighting academic training requirements and are authorized to be the Pilots-in-Command (Helicopter Aircraft Commanders) for USDA Forest Service Wildland Firefighting missions:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK</u>
Jones, P. W.	LtCol	Levasseur, D. J.	MAJ
Pool, R.	MAJ	Wright, S. C.	MAJ
Cooper, J.	CAPT	Fessler, B. G.	CAPT
Gonzalez, S. C.	CAPT	Hedman, A.	CAPT
Nical, D. C.	CAPT	Noelette, J.	CAPT
Smith, D. A.	CAPT	Stratton, J.	CAPT
Turk, D.	CAPT	Vogelgesang, B.	CAPT
Winslow, A.	CAPT	Begley, J. C.	1 st LT



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Ferrel, R.	1 st LT	Gongre, C. P.	1 st LT
Hathaway, N. A.	1 st LT	Metlen, C.	1 st LT
Ng, K.	1 st LT	Rogers, M. B.	1 st LT
Smith, J.	1 st LT	Stephens, W.	1 st LT
<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK</u>
Trombetti, C.	1 st LT		

USDA Forest Service military Pilot-In-Command (PIC)/Helicopter Aircraft Commander (HAC) minimum requirements are:

Military PIC/HAC qualification;

A minimum of 500 hours 1st Pilot/PIC/HAC experience in helicopters;

Qualified for flying in mountainous geographic area environments in accordance with an appropriate military training course.

The PIC/HAC should be manipulating the flight controls whenever USFS passengers are on board unless safety considerations determined by the PIC/HAC dictate otherwise.

Additionally, whenever performing water/retardant dropping missions the helicopter crew must be supervised by a fire agency helicopter coordinator (HLCO) unless a fire agency military helicopter manager is onboard participating as a helicopter crewmember.

The USMC unit and mission commanders must insure that the pilots assigned as PIC/HAC meet the minimum requirements of the USDA Forest Service, complete and have available Weight and Balance data and performance planning completed for each mission, and are trained and current in the mission(s) assigned.

Please ensure that a copy of this letter is carried onboard each approved helicopter in order that verification of approval can be presented to the USFS employee at the site. This letter is issued in place of individual pilot and helicopter approval cards.

Please direct any communications first to Greg Helsel, Helicopter Program Manager, at ghelsel@fs.fed.us or 916-640-1034.

Sincerely,

/s/ Dennis Hulbert

DENNIS HULBERT

Regional Aviation Officer

cc: Region 5 Forest Aviation Officers
Region 5 Geographic Area Command Centers