US Army - IMCOM Wildland Fire Briefing
National Military Fish & Wildlife Association Conference

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7 March 2019

Installation Management Command integrates and delivers base support to enable readiness for a globally-responsive Army

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AGENDA

• Army Wildland Fire Background and Identified Challenges
• Installation Management Command (IMCOM)
• Army Priorities and Initiatives
• IMCOM Wildland Program Structure
• IMCOM Goals and Objectives
• NWCG Training Transition Plan
• Questions/Feedback
Following series of damaging and costly wildfire events and with interest for increasing prescribed fire across Army to reduce risks, a Wildland Fire Working Group was established in 2013.

Of multiple issues and gaps identified by the IMCOM Wildland Fire Working Group, several priority challenges were identified and communicated:

- Army’s 13M acres support a mission that optimizes land use for warrior training (ranges, maneuver sites, etc.)
- Installations maintain significant level of conservation staffing to support the training mission through sustainable land/ecosystem management

**Challenge:**

Guiding regulations and policy unclear or open to interpretation

- NWCG training requirement not uniformly applied or tracked

Unclear funding guidance

- Lack of centralized program management/oversight

No mechanism to complete NWCG Position Task Books IAW existing policy.
Installation Management Command (IMCOM)

- Integrates and delivers base support to enable readiness for a globally responsive Army.
- Supports the US Army by handling the day-to-day operations of installations around the globe.
- Largest land-holding command

- 53 Installations
- Nearly 11M total acres
- 7.5M reported burnable acres
- 1,200 avg Rx fires on 735k avg acres
- 1,500 reported wildfires on 315k acres
- ~ 1,200 personnel involved with wildland
Establish Wildland Fire Mission and Reduce Risk:

- IMCOM - FY13 Wildland Working Group Established (increasing Rx fire primary focus)
- IMCOM - FY14 Collaboration with AFCEC on Wildland Training Academies
- IMCOM - FY15 Installation Risk Assessments
- HQDA - FY15 Wildland Fire Data Collection initiated (annual environmental reporting)
- HQDA - FY16 Wildland Fire Management DA Pamphlet Drafted
- IMCOM - FY17 Established Cooperative Agreement Support for Wildland Fire Program Strategy
  - Program Baselining and Strategy
  - Workforce Training Transition Plan and Transition Mechanism Development
- IMCOM - FY18 Interagency Partnerships Established with USFWS, USFS, BLM
  - Training Academy Management
  - Qualification Reviews and IQCS Records Management
  - IWFMP Support and Position Description Development
- HQDA - FY18 QMUN Prevention Funding POM for FY21
- HQDA - FY19 Wildland Fire Position established within the OACSIM-ISE
  - Policy Update and Reform
  - Stakeholder Working Group (Environmental, FES, Municipal Services, G3/5/7, Command POCs)
  - Program Resourcing & Reporting
  - Leadership Education and Awareness
  - Inter-Governmental Service Agreement Focus - augment installation capabilities
### US Army - IMCOM Wildland Fire Program

#### Army Priorities and Initiatives

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Challenge:</th>
<th>Resulting Action:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Guiding regulations and policy unclear or open to interpretation</td>
<td>Drafting of DA Pamphlet to clarify and guide Army wildland management.</td>
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<tr>
<td>NWCG training requirement not uniformly applied or tracked</td>
<td>IMCOM centrally-funded and managed NWCG academies and IQCS and other tracking mechanisms.</td>
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<td>Unclear funding guidance</td>
<td>OACSIM taking cross-directorate approach to appropriate MDEP for response, Rx burns for fuel reduction / facilities, and Rx burns for ecosystem.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lack of centralized program management/oversight</td>
<td>OACSIM/IMCOM program coordination, EQR data calls, WFMAP data management system, IMCOM cooperative agreement support.</td>
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<td>No mechanism to complete NWCG Position Task Books IAW existing policy</td>
<td>IMCOM G4 ENV established partnership and programs to enable PTB completion. Training Transition Plan created for NWCG requirements.</td>
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IMCOM Program Structure – FES vs ENV

- ENV and FES programs implement aspects of wildland management at installations
- High Site Variability in Program Involvement
- Variability in Program Roles/Responsibilities
- Lack of NWCG Qualifications Across Programs
- No Simple One-Size-Fits-All Approach
US Army - IMCOM Wildland Fire Program

**IMCOM Goals and Objectives**

**Goal** - Fully enable IMCOM Natural Resource programs in applying safe, resourced wildland fire management IAW existing Army Wildland Fire Regulation and Policy

**HOW:**

1. **Centralize Program Oversight/Ownership -**
   - Develop clear picture of current program scope and desired end state
   - Develop centralized program and personnel tracking mechanism
   - Develop clear chain of command with designated POCs
   - Initiate IMCOM partnerships with other federal wildland agencies

2. **Develop Transition Plan –** Workforce development direction, timeline and milestones for attaining NWCG standards

3. **Working Group / COP –** Provide installation-informed input to Army Policy and Regulatory updates and IMCOM wildland program decisions and guidance

4. **Mitigate Risk –**
   - Align existing programs with current policy and regulation
   - Proactively identify risks reduce fuel loading - increase prescribed fire
   - Emphasize IWFMPs

5. **Ensure staffing, equipment and resourcing align with wildland fire risk –** POM accordingly
US Army - IMCOM Wildland Fire Program

IMCOM Goals and Objectives

1. Centralize Program Oversight/Ownership:

• **Installation Data Calls & Reporting** – Establish baseline to evaluate program health, function, and needs

• **Qualification Tracking & Certification** – Manage NWCG qualifications for IMCOM personnel through IQCS

• **Wildland Fire Management Application (WFMAP)** – Enterprise solution geospatial database of wildland fire incidents, burn accomplishments, and resource utilization

• **Expense Tracking and Funding Alignments** – Track actual program expenses based on primary objective of activity (e.g., risk reduction vs. TES habitat management)
  - Establishes clear wildland funding mechanisms
  - Develops understanding of true wildland program resourcing requirement
  - Build cost-basis for future resourcing requests
US Army - IMCOM Wildland Fire Program Initiatives

Wildland Fire Program IMCOM and Partnership Support

- **US Fish and Wildlife Service – IA Signed and Funded**
  - Wildland Fire Training Academy Management
  - Experiential Training (Position Task Books)
  - IQCS Administration (Record Keeping)
  - Individual Qualification Reviews / Installation Program Reviews

- **US Forest Service – IA Signed and Funded**
  - Wildland Fire Program Strategic Planning Support
  - Position Description Review/Modifications
  - Firefighter Retirement options for Wildland/NR (White Paper Available)
  - Individual Qualification Reviews / Installation Program Reviews
  - Other Forestry Support

- **US Air Force**
  - Partnership on funding Academies
  - Cost-sharing approach for BLM’s IQCS database

- **Bureau of Land Management – Service Level Agreement Signed!**
  - Green light to put Army personnel into IQCS
FY19 - IMCOM initiating transition of personnel performing wildland duties to meet NWCG position qualifications standards IAW DoDI 6055.06, AR 420-1, and Army Policy Guidance.

Three-phase approach established:

1) Training and experience review conducted by interagency (USFWS, USFS, IMCOM) panel to determine individual qualification for where position qualification records will be initiated.

2) Progress through IMCOM-specific “Agency” position qualifications for work occurring on Army jurisdictional lands (temporary bridge from current status to full compliance) in IQS.

3) Progress through NWCG 310-1 position standard requirements, documented and reported through IQCS.
Primary Wildland Fire Program Training Transition Challenges

• Temp/Term Reimbursable Positions
  • Continual personnel turn-over, hiring actions, and training requirements
  • COA – Submit second appeal to Temp/Term requirement to IMCOM G8

• Position Task Books
  • Requires individuals to be observed by qualified personnel while performing wildland tasks
  • Requires participation on incident response for many positions
  • COA – Experiential training academies, on-site support with training module, installation training exchange

• Work Capacity Test (Pack Test, etc.)
  • Time on-clock to prep
  • PD language support
  • Fitness determination (e.g., medical exams)
  • COA – PD template development/transition, IMCOM HR engagement
Potential Collaborative Efforts within DoD Working Group:

- Uniform messaging regarding conservation benefits of fire
- Inter-branch resource sharing for Rx and Wildfire Response (or other fuel reductions projects)
- Cost-sharing efficiencies and opportunities
- Information and idea exchange (being able to leverage AF initiatives has been significant for Army)
- Evaluation of potential DoD participation in Wildland Master Agreements or other partnership/agreement expansions
Questions & Comments

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