



CAL FIRE Mission

Protect the people of California from fires

Respond to emergencies

**Protect and enhance forest, range,
and watershed values**

**Provide social, economic, and
environmental benefits to rural and
urban citizens**

Aviation Management Unit Mission

**Provide safe and effective
fire fighting aircraft and
flight crews in support of
the Department's wildland
fire suppression activities**

Aggressive Initial Attack

- Cal Fire's firefighting strategy is based on the concept of initial attack:
 - Contain 95% of all wildland fire starts within 10 acres
 - Respond to any fire in the state within 20 minutes



CAL FIRE AIR PROGRAM

2011 FIRE SEASON

- 23** S-2T Airtankers (1200 gallon)
- 14** OV-10A Air Attack
- 11** Super Huey Helicopters
- 2** Fire Support Airplanes
- 2** ATGS Training Aircraft



**In 1980s, CAL FIRE Was Faced With
The Tragedy of Fatal Airtanker
Accidents**

Need For A Safer Air Program Evident

Elements of A Safe Program



**Aircraft
Maintenance
Pilots
Management
Recruitment and Retention**

FIND THE BEST AIRCRAFT



PHOTO BY TED CARLSON COPYRIGHT 2000

The background image shows a large industrial hangar. In the upper center, a yellow crane is suspended from the ceiling, with the text "CRANE AMERICA SERVICES" visible on its side. In the foreground, two military helicopters are parked. The helicopter on the left is olive green with a red stripe and a crest on its side. The helicopter on the right is white with a red stripe and a name tag that reads "JUDY".

Centralized Major Maintenance Depot Which Provides:

- **Major Modification**
- **Depot Level Maintenance**
- **Component Overhaul**

Sophisticated Aircraft Mandate Specialized:



- **Equipment**
- **Tooling**
- **Procedures**
- **Well Trained and**
- **Experienced Personnel**

Licensed Repair Station

- FAA Certificate
- Rigid Q/A Requirements
- Airworthiness Releases

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION

Air Agency Certificate

Number CF0R047Z

This certificate is issued to
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
whose business address is

10201 Skymaster Way
Mather, California 95655

upon finding that its organization complies in all respects
with the requirements of the Federal Aviation Regulations
relating to the establishment of an Air Agency, and is
empowered to operate an approved Repair Station

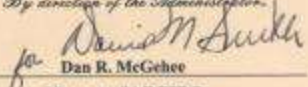
with the following ratings:
Limited Accessories

This certificate, unless canceled, suspended, or revoked,
shall continue in effect indefinitely.

Date issued:

January 18, 2009

By direction of the Administration,

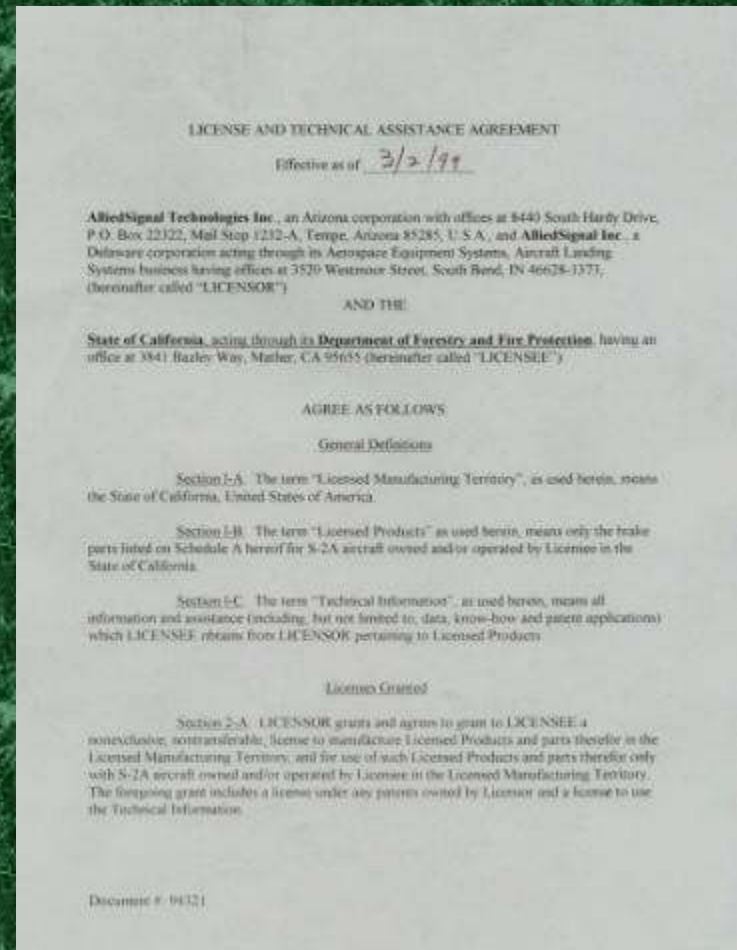
for 
Dan R. McGehee
Manager, SAC.FSDO

This Certificate is not Transferable, and any major change in the basic facilities, or in the location thereof, shall be immediately reported to the appropriate regional office of the Federal Aviation Administration.

Any alteration of this certificate is punishable by a fine of not exceeding \$1,000, or imprisonment not exceeding 3 years, or both.

Brake Shop Licensed By Honeywell

- **Manufacture S-2 Brakes**
- **Overhaul & Repair S-2 Brakes**
- **Perform Engineering/Quality Assurance Reviews of S-2 Brakes**



Pilot Staff

18 Forestry Fire Helicopter Pilots

2 per base

12 Month Coverage

54 Contract Pilots

Seasonal Coverage

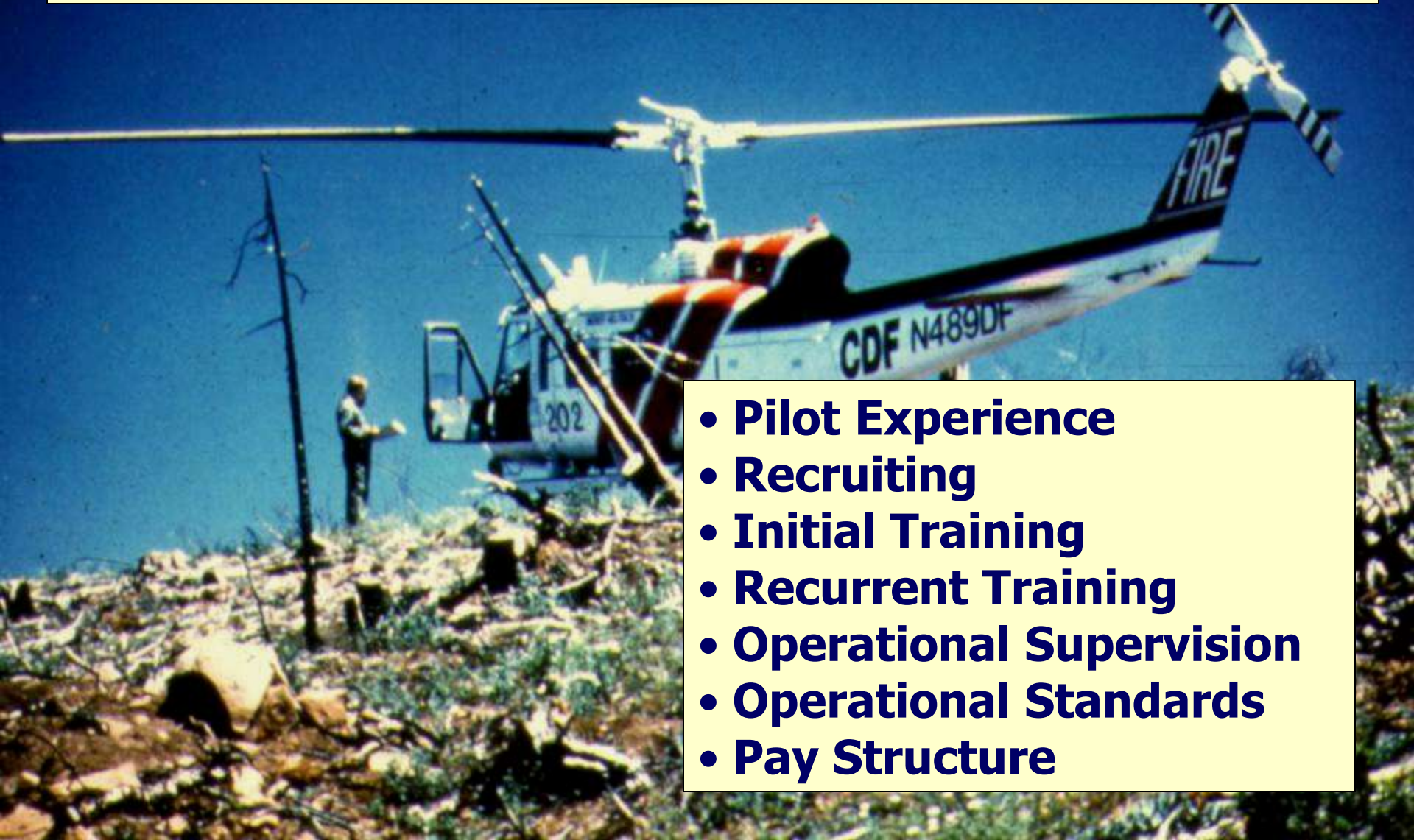
44 Assigned Pilots

7 Relief Pilots

2 Tanker Trainees



Pilot Standardization and Training Program



- Pilot Experience
- Recruiting
- Initial Training
- Recurrent Training
- Operational Supervision
- Operational Standards
- Pay Structure

Experienced and Educated Management

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- A photograph of two men working on the underside of a large aircraft wing in a hangar. The man on the left is wearing a light blue polo shirt, a black baseball cap, and glasses, and is sitting on a red stool. The man on the right is wearing a dark blue short-sleeved shirt with patches, dark pants, and brown work boots, and is standing. They are both focused on a task involving a yellow and black component of the wing. The background shows the interior of a hangar with various equipment and structural elements.
- **40+ Years Aviation Experience**
 - **Fire Fighting Experience**



Past Problems Retaining Experienced Maintenance and Pilot Personnel

- Low Bid Contracts = Low Quality:**
- Shop Damage to Aircraft**
 - Lack of In-Depth Maintenance**
 - Frequent Accidents**



Aircraft Requirements

New Helicopters

Replacement of lost Federal Tanker Assets

Very Large Tankers (VLATs)



