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OVERVIEW

California Interagency Incident Management Team 1 (CIIMT1) was ordered on July 2, 2013 and arrived in Fairbanks, Alaska on the evening of July 3, 2013. On July 4, 2013 the team received an in-briefing at the BLM/Alaska Fire Service Headquarters. Following the in-briefing the team traveled to Firebird Spike to begin transitioning with the Type 2 Washington Incident Management Team 3. On July 5, 2013 CIIMT1 assumed command of the Stuart Creek #2 Incident @ 06:00 hours.

On July 4, 2013 the CIIMT1 Incident Commander received a copy of the 7/4/2013 published Wildland Fire Decision Support System (WFDSS) and signed the Delegation of Authority from the Bureau of Land Management – Alaska Fire Service – Military Zone dated July 4, 2013.

The delegation of authority outlined the following objectives:

- Provide for the safety of firefighters and the public.
- Develop and implement structure protection plans to protect residences, military infrastructure, and identified high value military assets and resources.
- Disseminate information to the media, public, and other agencies in coordination with the Alaska Fire Service Information Officer, Military, State and Borough.
- Utilize appropriate suppression methods to keep the fire to the smallest possible size.
  - Use of indirect line construction and burnout operations is allowed.
  - Only aviation resources will be used within the Impact Areas, except on hardened roads with coordination of military EOD/Range Control personnel.

The team implemented the following Incident Control and Management Objectives to achieve the above delegation of authority objectives and adhere to the two WFDSS decisions (7/4/13 & 7/11/13). Affected stakeholders were invited to daily cooperators meetings, planning meetings and briefings to provide input to the Incident Action Plans (IAPs). This participation led to successful stakeholder integration and support for the stated objectives listed below:

**Control Objectives**

**Keep Fire:**

- North of the Salcha River
- East of a line along the Transmitter Road, north to the Chena River and south along the Trans-Alaska Pipeline to the Salcha River,
- West of the south fork Chena River, south along eastern boundary of the Training Area, south to the Salcha River, and
- South of the Chena River.
Specific Management Objectives implemented for the Stuart Creek #2 Incident:

- Provide for firefighter and public safety utilizing LCES, 10/18, and risk management from IRPG and required UXO briefings.

Washington State Team 3 stayed in place to reverse shadow with California Team 1 to insure a safe and successful transition. CIIMT1 continued with the established UXO training for all responders new to the incident. Safety was continually emphasized in meeting, briefing and the Incident Action Plan.

- Protect military infrastructure, private residence, cabins, improvements and jurisdictional lands within and adjacent to the fire area.

Suppression priorities were set based on military infrastructure, private residence, cabins and jurisdictional lands. Public meetings, a Twitter account and an information trap line were set up to help keep the public informed. An evacuation plan was implemented in the Pleasant Valley and Two Rivers communities. The successful evacuation of these communities was due to the coordination and cooperation of the various agencies and informed citizens.

- Minimize or mitigate threats to known cultural resources by utilizing READs and/or archeologists.

READs where used to advise and guide suppression resources and assist in preparing the rehab plan. At this time no cultural sights have been brought to our attention, nor have we discovered any sights.

- Avoid application of retardant within 300 feet of streams channels and water ways.

Stream bed avoidance was accomplished with preplanning and daily briefings. The use of Bravo lead planes helped identify possible areas of concern and avoid streambed drift. Stream bed avoidance was a high priority for Air Operations.

- Coordinate, develop and implement fire suppression repair.
Crews and equipment have started water barring as necessary with guidance from the READ's. Equipment is ready to implement the plan and other equipment has been ordered to complete the fire suppression repair once the plan has been review and signed.

- **Support local unit initial attack as requested.**

Support for local initial attack was met by meeting with the Interior Fire Chief’s Association and local agencies during cooperator meetings to discuss the most effective way to respond and coordinate resources responding to a new incident throughout the sounding communities.

**INCIDENT COMMANDER**

**Summary**
The In-briefing for California Incident Management Team 1 (CIIMT1) was extremely helpful and successful. Working with multiple agencies and cooperators always has a few bumps along the way, as we all learn each other’s responsibilities and priorities. The complexity of the incident created a number of challenges due to terrain, weather and local concerns. The briefing helped set the foundation, getting the team on the right track with clear direction. Washington State Team 3’s willingness to stay until we were ready to take the incident was greatly appreciated. We were successful working with the various cooperators addressing community concerns, military assets and resource values. We helped coordinate the development of a plan that led to a successful evacuation of Pleasant Valley and Two River community. During the incident we were able to host four members of a Type III Incident Management Team from Indiana to “shadow” our Planning Section Chief, Logistic Section Chief and Liaison Officer. The agencies and cooperators involved with the incident were extremely helpful and played a large role in the overall success in managing the incident.

**Success:** The cooperation with both the US Air Force, through Lt Col David K. Sieve, and the US Army, through Col Ronald M. Johnson, along with the personnel they assigned to assist the team, established a good working relationship. This relationship helped the team assess the military values, risks and the overall safety of our firefighters on and around the military reservation.

**Success:** Representatives from the Alaska Fire Service, Alaska Fire Service- Military Zone, Alaska Department of Natural Resources and Fort Wainwright Range Control were a tremendous help with their knowledge, experience and sound advice assisting with the decision process, coordinating efforts and communicating their agency’s responsibilities and needs.
**Success:** Positive relationships were developed early on between the Buying Team, IBA, the various agencies and CIIMT1. This assisted in providing clear and positive communication regarding the procurement of necessary items.

**Challenge:** Resources responding to the incident from out of the area that were not familiar with wildlife, military concerns, environmental issues and fire behavior in Alaska.

**Resolution:** CIIMT1 worked closely with local agencies liaisons and integrated Alaskan smoke jumpers into line assignments, thus increasing communication and coordination to make the team and fire resources safe and successful.

**Challenge:** Working with various cooperators and agencies and not being aware of existing agreement(s) between the different government entities and their individual responsibilities.

**Resolution:** Agency Administrator(s) should develop a transition package that includes existing local agreements, identifies organizations and their respective responsibilities, and is accompanied by the video Alaska Fire Orientation. A video focused on educating an out of state team on the different organizations and their respective responsibilities would be beneficial.

**Challenge:** In Alaska an incident management team, not Law Enforcement is responsible for evacuation planning and the actual door to door evacuation.

**Resolution:** CIIMT1 coordinated with the State and local resources that were better prepared to implement an evacuation. The development of the plan and the coordination between the various agencies led to a very smooth and successful evacuation of Pleasant Valley and Two Rivers communities.

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**LIAISON OFFICER**

**Summary**

The incident saw a high level of public and political interest. The inter-relationship of the various land management agencies and unique mission of the military components led to a complex mix of stakeholders.

Agency Representatives from 12 cooperating and assisting agencies attended the Cooperator’s Meeting that was held at 11:00 AM each day, starting on Friday, July 5, 2013. These meetings provided for a good exchange of information between the CIIMT1, government agencies and private industry.

Assisting and Cooperating Agencies included:
- United States Air Force- Eielson Air Force Base
- United States Army- Ft. Wainwright
- Alaska State Troopers
- Alaska Department of Natural Resources
- Alaska State Parks
- Bureau of Land Management
- BLM- Alaska Fire Service
- Fairbanks North Star Borough
- City of North Pole
- North Star Volunteer Fire Department
- Alyeska Pipeline
- Golden Valley Electric Association (Two Rivers & Pleasant Valley)

Agency Representatives did an excellent job in representing their agencies and assisting the CIIMT1 in accomplishing its objectives.

**Success:** A daily Cooperator’s Meeting was vital in bringing the various cooperators and assisting agencies together for effective exchange of information, coordination and problem solving. Issues that were brought up at the meeting that needed further attention were identified for follow-up by IMT staff and many times were handled with specific group meetings immediately following the Cooperator’s Meeting.

**Challenge:** Rapidly learning the various stakeholders and their individual and unique roles and responsibilities.

**Resolution:** The Liaison Officers were coached and mentored on the inter-relationships and various roles and responsibilities of each cooperating agency by the Alaska Fire Service’s Liaison to the CIIMT1.

**Challenge:** Ensuring accurate and timely flow of information to local fire agencies, especially those impacted by smoke.

**Resolution:** A local fire chief suggested we extend an invitation to the fire chief’s throughout the Fairbanks North Star Borough to attend our cooperator meetings. An email group was developed and they received the IAP, Information Sheet and Incident Map on a daily basis starting July 6th.

**Challenge:** Unrequested donations (socks) arrived at ICP along with knowledge that local radio and social media sources were requesting further donations for firefighters.

**Resolution:** This information was shared with the IC and he ratified that no donations were needed or could be accepted. That information was shared with the local radio
stations and various community groups, suggesting that donations could be made to local charity organizations or the Wildland Firefighter Foundation.

**INFORMATION**

The objective of the Stuart Creek #2 Fire communication strategy was to disseminate information to the media, public, and other agencies in coordination with the Alaska Fire Service information Officer, Military, State and Borough.

**Success:** CIIMT1 developed and implemented a robust communication strategy that addressed the diverse audience with an interest in the Stuart Creek #2 Fire. Traditional methods of communication including an in-person trapline, community meetings, and JIC facilitated call center were used in conjunction with social media including InciWeb, Twitter, and links to other related information blogs that served as multipliers of key messages.

**Success:** The PIO conducted three community meetings to address concerns and issues of communities threatened by the Stuart Creek #2 Fire. Completed daily updates to InciWeb and disseminated links to updates via Twitter. Using Twitter, 137 tweets using hashtag “#StuartCreekFire” were disseminated. An estimated 1,326,658 Twitter followers received each tweet, and approximately 450 new twitter followers came from Alaska.

**Success:** The PIO established a Flickr Stuart Creek Fire photo stream to store photographs of the fire and firefighting effort. Disseminated links to the site using InciWeb, Twitter and incident updates to the Flickr account. The site received more than 3,025 visits between July 8th and July 14th.

**Success:** Public Information Officers (PIOs) conducted media interviews on a daily basis including KTUU, NPR, KUAC, Reuter, and the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner. PIOs provided escorted tours of fire lines and facilitate access to IMT staff and firefighters.

**Challenge:** Developing a display map that would work on InciWeb

**Resolution:** The PIO, working with the Situation Unit and JIC to produce a version of maps that worked with AICC to post to the AICC website. Links to the website URL were posted on InciWeb and via Twitter to direct the public to the map.
Challenge: Disseminating accurately and timely information to the diverse community and cooperators interested in the Stuart Creek #2.

Resolution: The Public Information Officer (PIO) established and supported traplines throughout the surrounding communities based on inputs from Borough, Alaska Fire Service, and Department of Defense. PIO’s attended Cooperators Meetings and follow-up meetings regarding community meeting planning, evacuation advisory, email of incident information and decisions regarding evacuation orders.

Unresolved Issues: The InciWeb KMZ Map file produced and posted by USGS is not posted on weekends and has not been updated since July 10, 2013. CIIMT1 does not have access to post this map to InciWeb.

SAFETY

Summary

The Stuart Creek #2 incident was large and complex with many unique safety issues that kept the Safety team busy. The incident was actively growing when CIIMT1 assumed control and it was burning on an active military training impact area. The Type 2 team that was managing the fire prior to our arrival had ordered sufficient number safety officers for the line and they all arrived and were assigned our first day. Throughout the incident, Safety Officers participated in two morning briefings at both spike camps. Safety Officers interfaced daily with Air Force, Army, Alaska Fire Service and various State and local stakeholders to coordinate safety issues. During our deployment the following injuries were logged:

- **Accidents/Injuries:**
  - 4 Reportable injuries due to fire line work
  - 1 illness

- **Medical Visits/ Statistical Summary:** There were two lost day injuries to federal personnel, local government and state resources had none, and two additional lost day injuries contractors assigned to the fire.

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Success

The speed at which the line safety officers were deployed and integrated into the various divisions was very effective. The number of safety officers that CIIMT1 brought coupled with what the out going team had ordered gave the Safety Officer the ability to flex rapidly to the changes and challenges that a growing presents. Line Safety Officers were able to quickly identify, resolve, and inform the team of safety issues occurring on the line and impacting the public and fire personnel.

Challenge: Fire burning in and around a military ordnance impact area.

Resolution: All firefighters, equipment and aviation operations were limited to hard packed roads in the impact area. In addition, all personnel were provided training in identifying Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) and the procedures for isolating suspected items and requesting EOD personnel to mitigate.

Challenge: Quickly orienting crews from the lower 48 states to the unique features and challenges to firefighting in Alaska.

Resolution: Crews were provided the opportunity to view AFS video on Alaska firefighting. Crews with Alaska experience were requested at morning briefings to further orient newly arriving crews working in their area to Alaska specific fire fighting methods.

Challenge: Fire burning on an active military base with both Air Force and Army assets and control points.

Resolution: The Safety Officer staff met daily with military representatives to coordinate safety efforts and concerns with all stake holders.

Challenge: Fire threatening the communities of Pleasant Valley and Two Rivers within days of CIIMT1 of taking the fire.

Resolution: The Safety Officer’s staff assisted with the creation and implementation of a community evacuation plan. Plan was triggered when fire crossed management objective points.

Human Resources

The Human Resources Officer (HRSP) arrived at the incident on Sunday July 7th, 2013. The HRSP had been ordered to the incident as there were a large number of personnel assigned (730). Daily HR messages were included in all the IAP’s and discussed at
most of the briefings at both spike camps. Normally the most prevalent HR issue is a lack of Mutual Respect, the nicest surprise was the absence of any contractor or camp crew issues. Strong contractor and crew trainings on inappropriate behavior and zero tolerance are keys to a quiet HR assignment. The message should be given early and periodically throughout the assignment by the Team, HR, and Supervisors to set the tone. CIIMT1 was very open and supportive of the role of an HRSP and extremely inclusive in meetings.

**Challenge:** There was one contact reported of harassment and one contact reported of inappropriate behavior during the assignment along with a few additional minor mutual respect issues.

**Resolution:** Both contacts were resolved on the incident with no referrals to the home unit. Overall the incident seemed to go extremely well from an HR perspective.

**LOGISTICS**

The Logistics Section functioned very well in meeting the team's objectives.

**Success:** The development and implementation of a recycle plan to take excess paper, cardboard, and plastic to NW recyclers.

**Success:** Communication coverage on the fire worked well throughout the incident. No unresolved issue at this time.

**Success:** The use of the North Pole elementary school was a success for the ICP. The School District was very accommodating. However, we would recommend that the North Pole Middle School be considered for the ICP due to the size of the facility and availability of showers on site. Both the Firebird airstrip and the Lions Park were good areas for small camps or spikes.

**Challenge:** The Facilities Unit was challenged by lack of shower facilities. There are no real viable shower facilities in the North Pole area without the use of the High School or Middle School.

**Resolution:** A contract was signed with the local hotel, where five (5) rooms were made available at a reduced price so ICP staff could use the showers in those rooms. These rooms were not used for sleeping purposes.

**Challenge:** Disposing of grey water was an issue. The truck ordered for grey water could only be used for black water and due to cross contamination issues had to be released. The kitchen had a small tank and needed to be pumped several times, along with long turnaround times made it difficult to keep up with the demand.
Resolution: We were able to sign an agreement for a truck capable of hauling grey water, for all day coverage and complete non-stop shuttles to Fairbanks.

Challenge: The Supply Unit, working with Expanded and the Buying Team found getting supplies and resources to be very slow in the beginning of the incident. There were issues with S numbers not being put with the supplies and it was hard to track who requested the items. Expanded issuing S numbers also contributed to the confusion, making it difficult for the Ordering Team to reconcile the orders. Orders were also being scrutinized by the home unit, slowing down the process and sometimes not communicating that back.

Resolution: A meeting with the IC, LOGS, and Finance was scheduled to help identify and resolve any issues around the ordering processes. After this meeting it seemed to get a little better, and in time supplies started arriving faster. Overall CIIMT 1, the Buying Team and Expanded worked well.

Challenge: When CIIMT1 took command of the incident the availability of rental pickups and pickups with line qualified drivers was a challenge for Ground Support.

Resolution: Contact was made with the State Department of Forestry for vehicles to use. Eventually, as the other incidents throughout the area were downsizing more vehicles came available.

Challenge: There are no private Ambulances available in the area to staff an incident of this size.

Resolution: The Army provided a dedicated ambulance and a hoist capable helicopter to cover the incident.

Unresolved: Rental vehicles coming from AFS did not have a complete inspection. Vehicles arrived with dents and damage not having been documented. IC advised the Line Officer of this situation. Undocumented dents and damage may result in possible future claims.
FINANCE

Cost Unit

CIIMT1 received the Incident I-Suite database created by Allbee’s Type 2 IMT and the initial estimation worksheets used during the early stages of the incident to provide a preliminary estimate for reporting purposes. Revised total incident cost was completed for standard component costs for individual resources on a daily, hourly, mileage, or other dollar value (per unit) basis. Actual costs were used as available, e.g., aircraft, land use agreements, purchases, cache invoices, etc.

Estimated cost through July 15, 2013, is $13.2 million. Current daily costs are estimated at $850,000. Adherence to the published $15 million WFDSS decision was accomplished throughout the incident by analyzing and implementing cost savings measures.

Complete cost documentation is filed in the final Finance Package. Daily cost spreadsheets and a summary of incident costs through July 16, 2013, are included in the narrative appendix.

Time Unit

I-Suite was utilized for cost, aircraft, overhead, crews, engines, and supplies module timekeeping.

Shifts exceeding 16 hours due to fire operations and in support of the incident did occur in the initial and extended operation periods through July 15, 2013. Excessive shifts occurred during mobilization, demobilization, evacuations, structure protection, extreme fire behavior, burning operations, travel/traffic issues, or logistical support. Excessive shifts were explained on the Crew Time Reports and Excess Hours Log and mitigated during the incident to meet the 2:1 work/rest ratio. A justification memo was signed by IC McGowan.

Procurement

Procurement support was provided by Contracting Officer Deborah Wesselius and the USDA, Forest Service, Region 1, Northern Rockies National Buying Team. A copy of the Warrant Authority Certificate for each individual is included in documentation.

An Incident Agreements Log was maintained documenting approximately 80 'Incident Only' Emergency Equipment Use Agreements (EERA) negotiated from July 4, 2013, through July 15, 2013. Additionally, approximately 25 Purchase Order Agreements were set up for supply resources and 47 rental car agreements were entered into.
Land Use Agreements (LUA) was completed. The North Pole Elementary School was signed up through the host agency and the document is with Aleshia Purcell and not in incident finance documentation. The Pleasant Valley Ball field land use agreement with Fairbanks North Star Borough will be paid in a lump sum payment. LUA EERA form and Temporary Use License application will be attached and applied to the agreement cost.

**Compensation for Injury and Claims**

The Medical Unit and Finance section maintained communication and coordinated appropriate medical treatment. Regular, recurring communication and coordination between Finance Section and BLM-AFS facilitated medical treatment, medical authorizations, and adherence to standard procedures. There were 5 minor reportable injuries on the incident. Injury summary information is filed in Finance Section documentation.

A Fire Damage Assessment Report was conducted by members of CIIMT1 for structure loss and filed with the Finance section documentation. As of this date no one has come forward to file a claim. Resources assigned to the incident have not reported any loss or destruction of personal property or possessions.


**Challenge:** The MID Stuart Creek #2 Fire is a BLM incident that burned onto other jurisdictions with resources from multiple agencies. The initial Cost Accounting Code is from BLM. Additional Cost Accounting Codes for agencies other than BLM were issued for agencies mobilizing resources to the incident. The Finance Section Chief (FSC) received differing direction regarding I-Suite Cost Accounting Data coding in for incident resources.

**Resolution:** On July 15, 2013, the Finance Section Chief received a final decision and confirmed with Incident Business Advisor Purcell and BLM Incident Business Barb Sylte that the CIIMT1 Finance had properly completed adjustments and correction of Cost Accounting data completed in I-Suite.

**Challenge:** A five day delay in receiving contract computers impeded I-Suite data entry that resulted in a backlog of Crew Time Reports and Equipment Use Shift Tickets.

**Resolution:** The Finance Section utilized a minimal number of personal and agency computers and peripheral equipment available to bridge the gap until the Smart Source contract computer equipment shipment was received.
Challenge: Resources "on loan" from Skinny Fire were utilized under the Skinny Incident Resource Order and Accounting Code. The resources were used "on loan" for six days from June 30, 2013, through July 5, 2013.

Resolution: CIIMT1 Plans, Finance, and Logistics recognized this inherent error. The identified resources "on loan" from Skinny Fire from were reassigned to MID Stuart Creek #2 that satisfied resource tracking and financial accountability.

Challenge: Incident Business Advisor Mike Taylor requested the CIIMT1 FSC to complete a Cost Comparison regarding State of Alaska per diem and subsistence specific to the use of MREs and food boxes versus restaurants and use of a caterer at spike camp.

Resolution: A Cost Comparison was completed showing that the restaurant usage in North Pole, AK was more cost effective than MREs and food boxes for the Team. A similar cost comparison justified the use of a caterer at Firebird spike camp.

Challenge: The proximity of the ICP to the two spike camps presented a challenge for demobilization of equipment resources.

Resolution: Through dialog Plans, Finance, and Logistics developed a two-part, two location demobilization process. This process was implemented on July 15, 2013, and succeeded thus ensuring resource tracking, property management, pre-use and post-use inspection, and financial accountability.

PLANS

Summary
The Planning Section functioned at a high level, meeting all deadlines and production of required products. Daily Planning meetings were held at 1800 with all cooperators in attendance. The operational period was 08:00 to 22:00 hours. Daily 0800 hour briefings were held at Lion Park and Firebird spike camps.

The Plans Section completed the evacuation plan for the Two Rivers and Pleasant Valley communities on July 7, 2013.

Success: The Plans Section utilized a Strategic Operational Planner (SOPL) and a Long Term Analyst (LTAN) for short and long term strategic planning and development of management action points for the incident. This served operations well with pre-identified potential management actions to contain or slow fire movement and decision points for point and community protection. Modeling near term and minimum travel time for fire spread was beneficial in determining probability of fire movement and potential threat to values at risk. It was also served well in communicating with the stakeholders the teams strategy to meet incident objectives.
**Success:** The Plans Section completed the damage assessment for the structures lost south of the Chena River. The report has been given to the jurisdictional agency, comp claims and incident documentation.

**Success:** The Plans Section had numerous trainees and was well staffed. This aided in the depth of the section and was beneficial when having to facilitate numerous briefings in several locations. Example, fire behavior, IMET, situation trainees made it possible to perform multiple tasks at once.

**Computer Services**

Internet service and network infrastructure provided by in-house school network. ICP network consists of both wired and wireless, with Isuite users being wired with the remainder of the ICP being on a secured wireless. Network and Isuite have performed trouble free.

**Success:** Having the ICP setup at North Pole Elementary School allowed for the use of the in-house network infrastructure, both wired and wireless, creating seamless connectivity to the internet and ICP network cohesiveness for Isuite functionality and data sharing. On the other hand, if CIIMT1 would have been located at Firebird, internet would have been non-existent, Isuite updates wouldn’t be possible and networking infrastructure would be problematic at best. Use of the school provided for the success of the incident and should be considered whenever possible.

**Challenge:** Computer shortage was problematic due to July 4th holiday and the weekend delaying shipment of rentals.

**Resolution:** CIIMT1 overcame this obstacle by modifying agency laptops and barrowing enough laptops till the rentals arrived.

**Challenge:** A number of other problems arose due to 5 shipping damaged printers, causing a shortage of printers.

**Resolution:** Networking 3 copiers along with renting 2 AIO printers resolved this shortage. The buying team, Finance, and Smart Source were notified of the damage and a replacement 11x17 printer for GIS was received July, 12th. All unusable printers were returned to Smart Source on July, 15th via Fedex. The 4 other printers were not replaced due to shipping time constraints.

**Unresolved Challenge:** Overcoming extended shipping times for computer equipment is problematic for any team coming from the lower 48. Pre-ordering computer equipment at the time the team is ordered is recommended.
Situation Unit

The Situation Unit was established on the Stuart Creek Fire in North Pole, Alaska, on July 3, 2013. The unit occupied two classrooms in the North Pole Elementary School with ample space, work stations, and utilities. Maps were created on laptop computers utilizing ARC GIS 9.0 software and uploaded to ftp.nifc.gov for storage and access. Situation Summary Reports (ICS 209) were created in FamWeb and uploaded daily at 22:00 via the internet. Infrared imagery was obtained from NIROPS and with Palm IR utilizing incident helicopters and operators. Field Observers were utilized throughout the incident to gather pertinent information for the incident maps.

Success: This Situation Unit was successful in gathering intelligence, creating maps and reports, and interfacing with other sections. Intelligence was gathered from Operations personnel, Field Observers, Fire Behavior Analysts, a Long Term Analyst, and field personnel.

Challenge: One of the main challenges for the Situation Unit was obtaining plotter paper and ink cartridges. The supply order was not filled and delivered until 5-7 days after the order was placed. Map production was reduced to a minimum due to low supplies.

The extremely low supply of plotter paper and ink cartridges was becoming a serious problem. It soon became apparent that map production would cease if supplies did not arrive soon. The Alaska Fire Service and the Air Force were contacted and local supplies were loaned to the unit.

Resolution: The Situation Unit recommends careful analysis of the supply chain for type 1 incident supplies in Alaska and increasing the payload allowance for Team members who travel by aircraft.

Weather

The Incident Meteorologist (IMET) and IMET Trainee utilized software programs to access key model data which enabled the forecasts to be timely and accurate.

Success: Weather forecasts were accurate largely due to the help of adequate model data and software program BUFKIT, which takes model data and presents it in a time cross-section profile of winds, humidity, temperatures, and stability through all layers of the atmosphere. Collaboration with Eielson Air Force Base meteorologists and with the Fairbanks WFO was adequate when it was deemed necessary to make sure that forecasts were in general agreement.
**Challenges:** Initially, there was some confusion as to why their **seemed** to be large discrepancies between the forecasts that forecasters on nearby Eielson Air Force Base were issuing with the incident forecasts. These were cleared up with increased dialogue between incident liaisons, the Eielson Air Force Base forecasters, and the IMETs. The main challenge was distinguishing the difference between eye-level winds, 20 ft. winds, and 10-meter winds. The IMETs forecast eye-level winds for the incident, while Eielson Air Force Base issues forecasts for winds at the 10-meter level for a five nautical mile radius surrounding the runway.

**Resolution:** The IMETs forecast eye-level winds for the incident, while Eielson Air Force Base issues forecasts for winds at the 10-meter level for a five nautical mile radius surrounding the runway. With increased dialogue came an increased level of understanding in jurisdictional differences between the two parties which remedied this particular challenge.

Unresolved Challenges: None.

**Fire Behavior**

**Summary**
The Fire Behavior Unit consisted of a Fully Qualified Fire Behavior Analyst (FBAN), a FBAN Trainee, an Incident Meteorologist (IMET), an IMET Trainee and a Long Term Fire Behavior Analyst (LTAN). Forecasts and model runs were completed to meet planning and operational needs.

**Success:** Fire behavior forecasts were accurate because of excellent weather data and assistance from The Alaska Interagency Coordination Center (AICC), specifically Robert Ziel. Many positive comments were received on the duff plug demonstration that was done for one planning meeting and one operational briefing. Having LTAN and FBAN capability allowed for Long term modeling needs to be met at the same time as meeting the operational safety and daily fire behavior needs of the Team.

**Challenge:** Working in the Alaska fuel types with many lower-48 resources and team members that were new to the area created a need for education as to the nuances of fires burning in deep organic layers.
Finding representative fuel models that cross-walked to the Canadian fuel types in order to use Near Term and FS PRO models was a challenge for LTAN work as well as FBAN calculations. Learning and explaining the Canadian Forest Fire Danger Rating System (CFFDRS) and Fire Behavior Prediction (FBP) System.

**Resolution:** Canadian Fire Weather Indices were explained at briefings, meetings, and in the written fire behavior forecasts. Trial and error computer runs were used to find fuel models representing Canadian Fuel Types, in some cases a different fuel model was used for spread rate than that used for flame length.
AICC and a local FBAN trainee helped to teach and explain the CFFDRS and FBP systems.

**Resource Unit**

**Summary**

CIIMT1 Resources Unit came with three Resource Unit Leaders. They brought two personal laptop computers which they used to produce the plan in Microsoft Word from July 4th to July 8th. After the I-Suite program became functional, it was used to generate the 204's for the plan. Resources attended the 0800 briefings at Firebird Spike. The Check-in Recorders arrived on July 9th and were supervised by the Demob Unit Leader. Resources interacted frequently with Planning Operations, Check-in and Demob to collect and share information. The Resource Unit functioned well with no major problems.

**Success:** Completed a plan and had copies available for briefings each day. We maintained accurate status for resources in I-Suite and shared information with other Units. We trained two check-in's and hosted a group of four from Indiana interested in our planning process.

There was the shortage of computers and the inability to utilize I-Suite to generate the 204's for the plan.

**Resolution:** The shortage of computers was solved short term by borrowing one from AFS for the third Resource Unit Leader. Contract computers with I-Suite arrived several days later to replace all computers and provide I-Suite capability.

**Challenge:** There was no copy service or copiers.

**Resolution:** This was solved by bringing in a copy machine from a vendor. That copier had problems, so the copier from Firebird Camp was brought down to supplement. In addition, another copy machine (a Sharp), was ordered and turned out to be the best. The Resource Unit ran the machines, called the vendor for service, and ordered paper and toner. Approximately 350 plans, with 28 pages each, were produced each night.

**Challenge:** Providing adequate rest for the unit while attending the morning briefing and copying the plan late at night.
Resolution: To solve this problem, one Resource Unit Leader attended the morning briefing and the other two stayed up late with the copying.

Demobilization Unit

Summary

CIIMT 1 Demobilization Unit arrived with one demobilization unit leader (DMOB). Following the in-briefing the DMOB and the Upper Yukon / Tanana Expanded Dispatch Supervisors met to discuss the current resource situation and standard operations. The DMOB unit was established and co-located with the resource unit at North Pole Elementary. The logistics of demobilization was coordinated between expanded, the Duty Office, and demob. The demob plan was written and approved with an emphasis on planning (72 hours). The support of the AFS staff proved critical to the smooth release of resources requiring air travel. AFS, UYT Expanded and DMOB held demob logistics planning meeting to develop an SOP for release of resources requiring air flights. This plan has worked very smoothly. Members of CIIMT 1 brought personal computers and used them until the rentals arrived. School printers and faxes were used for critical needs.

Success: Checked in and managed resource status data using Isuite. We demobilized resources in close coordination with expanded dispatch and AFS. In addition, we assisted other units with demob planning and scheduling. The team was able to train DMOB (t) and a SCKN (t).

Challenge: Two spike camp locations and limited transportation resources limited access to resources to collect and validate specific resource status information.

Resolution: Each briefing was attended by the resource unit. The RESL collected information and answered questions regarding demob dates and times.

Unresolved Challenge: The ICP did not have the logistic capability to support resources the night before travel. The spike camp was one hour away. Completing the demobilization check out on the demob day was not possible.
Documentation

Documentation Unit was managed by the Training Specialist under the guidance of the Planning Section Chief. Contact was made with each section on CIIMT 1 outlining documentation collection processes and expectations.

Success: The Northwest Type II Team ordered the Documentation box allowing CIIMT 1 the opportunity to implement immediately the documentation collection process.

Training Specialist

At the time of this report, the Stuart Creek #2 Incident facilitated training assignments for 68 trainees from 11 agencies at the federal, state and local levels. CIIMT 1 trainees are included in the total count.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agency</th>
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<th>OPERATIONS</th>
<th>PLANS</th>
<th>LOGISTICS</th>
<th>FINANCE</th>
<th>AIR OPS</th>
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</table>

Additional Information:

- Contact was established with local representatives to ensure field trainee opportunities for local agency employees was discussed.
- Trainees checked in with the Training Specialist upon arrival at the incident. Additional contact with trainees and evaluators has been made with announcements at briefings and from information provided within the IAP.
- The software used to document trainee assignments is TNSP Pro, Version 2013.
- It’s projected that upon demobilization of CIIMT 1 that 15-20 currently registered trainees (not assigned to CIIMT 1) will remain in support of the incoming IMT.

Below are the results of the trainees that have completed their assignment on the Stuart Creek 2 Fire.

06 1. The tasks initiated and dated by me on the Qualification Record have been performed under my supervision in a satisfactory manner. The trainee has successfully performed all tasks in the PTB for this position and the Final Evaluator section has been completed to recommend the trainee be considered for agency certification.

16 2. The tasks initiated and dated by me on the Qualification Record have been performed under my supervision in a satisfactory manner. However, opportunities were not available for all tasks (or all uncompleted tasks) to be performed or evaluated on this assignment. An additional assignment is needed to complete the evaluation.
3. The trainee did not complete certain tasks in the PTB in a satisfactory manner and additional training, guidance, or experience is recommended.

4. The individual is severely deficient in the performance of tasks in the PTB for the position and additional training, guidance, or experience is recommended prior to another training assignment.

**Success:** At least six individuals have received recommendations for qualification due to their training assignment on the Stuart Creek #2 Incident. Electronic requirements such as printers, copies, and computers were excellent. General work location and the Training Specialist area were superior.

**Challenge:** The ICP and work location for the Training Specialist was a different location than Firefighters.

**Resolution:** CIIMT1 resolved the issue of separation of the Training Specialist and Firefighters by:
   a) Attending every briefing and remaining on site well after the breakout meetings to meet with trainees.
   b) Included in the IAP was a data form for trainees to sign up.
   c) Implemented a DEMOB process that allows for trainees to close-out with the Training Specialist.

**Operations/Air Operations**

**Summary**

Over all Operation's was successful in keeping the fire out of Pleasant Valley, and Two Rivers communities north of the incident and out of The New Richardson Hwy corridor to the west of the incident. Operational tactics and priorities used throughout the incident were developed to meet the needs of the urban interface, military assets and political concerns. Most of all we emphasize safety and had only 5 minor accidents throughout the incident.

**Success:** Because of the availability of multiple air crafts allowed us to have multiple missions at the same time. This ability added to our success of supporting suppression effort; with water drops, crew shuttles, multiple line spike camps and recon missions. This included the use of military ship assisting with water drops.

**Success:** On July 7th along with local authorities and cooperators we carried out the successful evacuation of Pleasant Valley and Two Rivers communities. The hope is not
to activate an evacuation, but to be prepared for one. The community responded and the evacuation went extremely well.

**Success:** Coordinating with the military on the availability of some of their equipment and the appreciation of their willingness to support suppression efforts contributed to the overall success of the team.

**Challenge:** The timing difference between when aviation starts times and crews starts times was problematic. This created a lag time between crew needs and aviation support, which is complicated due the lack of roads and potential hiking distances.

**Resolution:** The use of multiple line spike camps helped reduce the need for as many crew shuttles and we were able to coordinate supplies, crew shuttles over multiple days, instead of every day.

**Challenge:** Working in and around the military impact zone, the inability to go in and out of the zone was difficult. Also, not knowing who needed to be involved with decisions concerning the zone and changing tactics in the buffer area around the zone.

**Resolution:** Working with the militarily and range people we develop a contingency plan identifying Management Action Points (MAP) of what we would do if or when the fire should spread beyond the zone buffer.

**Air Operations**

**Summary**
Stuart Creek #2 Air Operations utilized 12 rotorwing aircraft, 3 air attack platforms, 1 Bravo lead plane, 8 fixed wing scoopers, and 6 airtankers, at the high point of operations. Two main helibases were utilized with several helispots. Army and National Guard aircraft were also utilized in the air operation.

Stuart Creek Air Operations had two main bases of operation, Alaska Fire Service (AFS) Heliport and Fire Bird Helibase. The AFS Heliport at Fort Wainwright Army base was utilized as the overnight facility and base for daily morning pilot briefings. Briefings included the Air attacks and other essential support personnel. Use of the AFS heliport saved duty time for pilots and provided a secure place to overnight the helicopters. The Air Attack base was co-located with the AFS heliport, which served the incident by having all aviation staff in one central briefing point. Firebird Helibase is co-located with Firebird spike camp. This location provided logistical support for helibase staff without having to provide other logistical arrangements. Firebird helibase was utilized during the operational period of helicopter use. Firebird helibase had fuel tenders a helibase trailer and staffed with a full ICS complement of personnel.

Operations were largely tactical water dropping and fixed wing water/retardant delivery. Logistical missions ramped up as the ground troops advanced from defensive to direct
fireline production. Rappel missions were conducted to insert repeaters and for structure protection.

Success

- Briefings at a central point for all pilots and support staff were a success.
- Constant Air Attack coverage provided good communications and aerial supervision
- Utilizing aircraft on a loan basis from the Alaska Fire Service (AFS)
- Fuel tender availability at Firebird helibase
- Adequately staffed helibase
- Logistical support of helibase and pilots by having use of AFS heliport and Firebird spike camp
- Large amount of flight time without incident
- Rappell operations for logistical support and structure protection

Challenge: Air Operations short staffed at the air support position

Resolution- Used a helibase manager as a logistical support person.

Challenge: Firebird helibase drive time used an hour of duty time

Resolution: Aircraft were flown to AFS Heliport at the end of shift

Challenge: 24 hour daylight
Resolution: Shifts were staggered and started a duty at 1000am carrying the duty day and use to 2400am.

Challenge: ARMY aircraft radio packages were not compatible with the band used to contact ground forces

Resolution- ARMY aircraft were used in areas unstaffed by ground troops; Air Attack was a point of contact for the ARMY resources

Challenge: ARMY Helicopters used only on the military lands

Resolution: Additional Aircraft were ordered for coverage when the fire advanced off of the military lands into state protected areas

Unresolved Challenges

- Downsizing the rotor wing assets will have to be coordinated with the local units. With 10 helicopters currently on the assignment only 5 are actually assigned to the Stuart Creek #2 fire. Coordination with the local units to keep local helicopters on contract will be essential.
• There is a large amount of cargo flown into the divisions, particularly division P. A list of coordinates will be left to help locate and extract equipment.

• Helibase location will have to be discussed; downsizing may allow permanent operations at AFS Heliport. Logistical support for staff will have to be accommodated

**Chronology of Operational Significant Events**

• **July 5th**, CIITM1 assumed operational responsibly of the Stuart Creek #2 Incident at 06:00 hours. The Fire was approximately 33,577 acres. The Operational priorities were on the west and south side of the fire. We continued constructing direct and indirect fire line.

• **July 6th**, the fire had a steady rate of growth due to weather patterns. CIIMT1 continued to work our way around the south west corner of the fire by constructing direct line and burning out the Quarry Ridge road. All air craft was grounded do to the smoke.

• **July 7th**, the fire experienced extensive growth due to hotter and dryer conditions accompanied by a change in wind direction and speed. The fire grew to approximately 78,848 acres. An evacuation of Pleasant Valley and Two Rivers was activated, and all Division pulled back out to roads.

• **July 8th**, rain came into the fire area the night of the 7th and we were able to go direct in Divisions F, L and M the west side contingency line were completed The DET site 460 was unharmed from the previous day fire activity.

• **July 9th**, temperatures dropped and the fire received more rain. This lessoned the fire activity and allowed us to continue to construct direct line on the west side and on the north end of the fire along the Chena River.

• **July 10th**, wet windy overcast day, road condition hampered fire crews in the morning hours. Once on division the crews continued to construct direct fire line on Division L & P.
• July 11th, 12th and 13th, The was a favorable weather condition that allowed for good progress with direct fire line along the north and west side of the fire.

• July 14th, weather became hotter and dryer wind come out of the south west. Division A experience accelerated fire behavior pushing the fire to the South Fork of the Chena River. The fire spots over the river in two places. One spot was south of the Marten creek and the other spot was north of the Marten creek. Air craft were used to check the south spot fire until crews could be brought in.

• July 15th Crews continued to mop up north and west side of the fire. Inserted overhead and two crews into the spot fires and started cutting line and laying hose on the South spot fire. The north spot fire was checked by aviation resources using water and retardant.

• July 16th Crews made good head way with line construction on both spot fire on division A. continued to mop up and secure the line around the rest of the fire.

• July 17th Crews continued line construction on the north spot supported by air resources. Continued to mop up along the west and north end of the fire and transition with Alaska Green team at 2200.