

Resume of Heidi C. Dinkler

EXPERIENCE

Consultant for Incident Management Training Consortium 2011 to Present

- Instructor, Evaluator and Course Development expert for Operations and Air Operations related material. Including Division Supervisor courses and large scale exercise evaluation.
- Since January 2013, have been the lead Subject Matter Expert for the development of two new National Incident Management System courses. All-Hazards Introduction to Air Operations and All-Hazards Air Support Group Supervisor. These FEMA courses will be taught nationwide. In July 2014, I conducted the second pilot course presentation at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

Wildland Fire and Aviation Chief, July 2013 to April 2014 (retirement)

- Responsible for the Operation and Management of the Departments Wildland Fire and Aviation programs. This included the Type I Interagency Hotshot Crew, Fuels crews and helicopter operation.
- Assisted with the reorganization of the Aviation program to a 24 hour All-Hazard response format.
- Responded to Wildland fire, All-Hazard incidents (floods, rescues, etc), generally in the role of Incident Commander, Operations Section Chief or Helicopter Manager.
- Responsible for the budget and administration of the individual programs, including the crews, aviation operation and maintenance, fuels reduction program and fire planning.

Field Battalion Chief, Kern County Fire Department, May 2012 to July 2013

- Command of Battalion 1, directing and coordinating all phases of the Department's fire prevention and suppression programs. Assume command upon arrival at incidents and direct the personnel and equipment engaged. Battalion 1 consists of 7 fire stations, covering over 1600 square miles and 75,000 residents.
- Make inspections of fire stations to determine status of equipment, facilities, personnel, training in progress, and records and reports
- Train and supervise staff. Plan, direct and coordinate the work and shift schedules of assigned staff
- Responsible for the budget and purchase of department furnishings.
- **Chair of the FEMA Aviation Management Working Group. From Inception January 2010 to April 2014.** This working group is an advisory board of Aviation professionals formed to provide guidance to Department of Homeland Security and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) on issues related to aviation and the National Incident Management System (NIMS)

Deputy Chief (Command 3), Kern County Fire Department, June 2009 – May 2012

- Operational responsibility for one of the three shifts. Includes taking command of large incidents and operation of the Department Emergency Operations Center and the Emergency Operations Center for the County. Recent commands were the Bull, West, and Canyon Fires (Fire Season 2010) and the Winter Storm and Flooding Event of December 2010.

- Command of All the Wildland Fire and Aviation Programs. This includes a robust handcrew operation (including a Type 1 Interagency Hot Shot Crew), two UH-1H Helicopters, one Twin-Engine aircraft specially designed for Air Tactical assignments, Six Type One Dozers and a Fuels and Forestry program.
- Supervision of KCFD Support Services Division. This division is responsible for warehousing supplies and equipment, servicing and cleaning of emergency protective gear, maintenance and repair of Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus and fire equipment, and logistical support for large incidents.
- Supervision of KCFD Facilities and Maintenance Division. This division repairs and maintains 52 buildings and complexes.
- Responsible for Budget Development of the above programs and divisions. The requested budget for Fiscal Year 2011-2012 is \$125,988,823.00.
- Chair of KCFD Department Red Card Committee
- Liaison to the Bureau of Land Management and the United States Forest Service. Responsible for KCFD Contracts with the Sequoia National Forest, the Los Padres National Forest and the BLM.
- Responsible for KCFD Captains' Testing Process.
- Currently working with San Joaquin Hospital on building overnight family units for patients at their Grossman Burn Center
- Attend and speak at many media and public outreach events

Administrative Battalion Chief, Air Operations, Kern County Fire Department, November 2007 to June 2009

- Command of the Air Operations Unit. Directed and coordinated all phases of the department's Air Operations Program, including training, currency, and staffing. Supervised all of the personnel assigned to the unit.
- Oversaw the construction/retro-fit of 1 UH-1H helicopter and a Twin engine AeroCommander.
- Developed the Air Operations Battalion position and unit staffing. This Battalion Chief position is a new position in the department.
- In conjunction with the responsible Deputy Chief, helped develop the KCFD Air Operations Strategic Plan
- Developed and implemented the first KCFD Air Operations Policy Manual
- Developed and administered a \$3 million dollar budget
- Responded to fire and all-hazard incidents as field Battalion Chief or as Air Operations Branch Director
- Published the *Air Operations Newsletter*

Field Battalion Chief, Kern County Fire Department, April 2004 to November 2007

- Commanded an assigned Battalion, directing and coordinating all phases of the Department's fire prevention and suppression programs. Assumed command upon arrival at incidents and directed the personnel engaged
- Made inspections of fire stations to determine status of equipment, facilities, personnel, training in progress, and records and reports
- Trained and supervised staff. Planned, directed and coordinated the work and shift schedules of assigned staff
- Responsible for the budget and purchase of new turnout gear for department personnel. Approximately \$120,000.00 per year

Administrative Captain, Arson Investigator, Kern County Fire Department, April 2003 to April 2004

- Investigated fires of unknown or suspicious origin
- Interviewed witnesses and suspects. Made arrests as necessary
- Prepared investigation and arrest paperwork. Appeared in court as required

Administrative Captain, Director of Support Services, Kern County Fire Department, May 2001 to January 2003

- Supervised nine (safety/civilian) personnel
- Developed and administered a \$2 million dollar budget
- Responsible for budgeting, ordering, receiving, tracking & distributing all goods and supplies for the department
- Managed the Federal Excess Property Program.
- Managed all construction & maintenance for 50 fire department facilities

Field Captain, Kern County Fire Department, January 1999 to April 2004

- Responded to fire and other emergencies. Made decisions on strategy and tactics, directed crews in firefighting and related life and property protection; supervised the upkeep of all apparatus and equipment assigned to the stations. Also planned, trained and drilled engine and truck companies in all phases of firefighting and rescue. Conducted business inspections and participated in school education programs
- During Fire Season 2000, acted as the Crew Supervisor for Crew 81. Directed crew in Hazard Reduction work and on wildland fire suppression

Firefighter and Engineer, Kern County Fire Department, January 1988 to December 1999

- Responded to fire and other emergencies. During this time with Kern County Fire Department (KCFD) I worked at every fire station staffed. This opportunity has given me a large base of experience, including assisting with fire suppression, administering emergency medical care, performing rescue operations including auto extrication and river rescue and many assignments on watershed incidents from crew person to supervisor.
- Operated and maintained station apparatus and equipment, participated in training, inspection programs, and water supply program.
- Assisted in the planning and development of the first Kern County Helicopter Support Truck

Secretary of the FIRESCOPE Aviation Operations Specialist Group Member of this group since its inception, following Governor Schwarzenegger's Blue Ribbon Commission report regarding the Southern California Fires of 2003. Focus continues to be bringing together representatives from public service and military organizations to determine the potential for interagency operations and develop plans that can be utilized in Wildland and All-Risk incidents. Resigned when I began to Chair the Aviation Management Working Group.

Air Operations Branch Director, Type 1 National Interagency Incident Management Team April 2000 to present. Responsible for preparing the Air Operations portion of the Incident Action Plan. Also responsible for implementing the strategic plan, as well as providing logistical support to assigned aircraft. Respond to Fire and All-risk incidents across the United States and Puerto Rico. Responsible for cost containment measures on these incidents. Deployed to Space Shuttle Columbia recovery

mission, Katrina/Rita hurricanes, fires in Southeastern U.S. and the Pacific Northwest, among other assignments

Air Support Group Supervisor, Type 1 National Incident Management Team, April 1995 to 2000. Responsible for supporting and managing helibase and helispot operations and for maintaining liaison with fixed-wing air bases

Air Support Group Supervisor, Type II Los Padres National Forest Incident Management Team. May 1999 to 2005. Responsible for supporting and managing helibase and helispot operations and for maintaining liaison with fixed-wing air bases

Helicopter Manager, Bureau of Land Management Call When Needed (CWN) Helicopter Fire season 1992 to present. Responsible for helicopter contract administration and direct supervision of helitack crew during fire and non-fire assignments

Deputy Chief, Global Operations Fire Rescue Service, NGO of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. Two tours of duty of Central Bosnia from October 1993 through June 1994; one tour of duty of Haiti from January through February 1995.

- Provided firefighting relief and support from war zone in Sarajevo to civilian fire departments. Mission included support for three warring regional factions
- Provided fire protection for United Nations humanitarian and military operations
- Supervised emergency operations in conjunction with local fire authorities, including response to fires resulting from artillery attack. Also provided relief and transport for medical emergencies including sniper attack victims
- Fostered and maintained business relationships and contacts with United Nations personnel and civilian authorities

Crewman, Bureau of Land Management CWN helicopter, Fire season 1991. Responded to fires in Kern County, Sequoia and Inyo National Forests

Lead Crewman, U.S. Forest Service, Fire season 1987. Supervised crew on Kernville Engine, Sequoia National Forest. Responded to wildland and range fires throughout Region 5

Hot Shot Firefighter, U.S. Forest Service. Fire season 1984, 1985 and 1986.

- Stationed at Fulton Ranger Station, Sequoia National Forest.
- Responded to incidents in California, Arizona, Oregon, Nevada, Idaho, and Washington as part of a 20-person hand crew.

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, Finance. California State University, Long Beach

Certificate of Fire Technology. Bakersfield College

TRAINING/ADDITIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

United States Fire Administration – National Fire Academy

- Executive Development
- Strategies for Community Risk Reduction

California Fire Service Training and Education System Certifications

- Certified Fire Officer
- Certified Fire Investigator II
- Certified Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator 1A & 1B
- Currently taking classes to complete Chief Officer Certification
- Currently enrolled in the Kern County Leadership Development program

National Wildfire Coordinating Group (Red Card) Qualifications and FIRESCOPE

Completion of S-420 Command and General Staff

- Division Group Supervisor
- Crew and Engine Boss
- Strike Team Leader
- Helicopter Manager
- Helibase Manager, Type 1
- Air Support Group Supervisor
- Air Operations Branch Director
- Air Tactical Group Supervisor and Helicopter Coordinator Trainee

VARIOUS

- P.C. 832 Arrest Powers Course with Firearms
- Advanced officer survival training, attend every other year

OTHER DEPARTMENT RELATED ACTIVITIES

- **Advisor to FEMA's National Level Exercise 2011. May 2011.** The purpose of this Tier 1 National Level exercise was to prepare and coordinate a multiple-jurisdictional integrated response to a national catastrophic event. My role was to assist with evaluating the Incident Management Teams from FEMA Region V (Indiana and Illinois). This took place at the Muscatatuck Urban Training Center in Indiana.
- **Participation in L-580, May- June 2010.** This graduate level course studies the Battle of Gettysburg and Wildland Firefighting and the organizational response to dangerous environments.
- **Instructor for S-470, Air Operations Branch Director. Spring 2009 and January 2012.** Instruct Students on how to perform the tasks required of an Air Operations Branch Director (AOBD) to mobilize and transition into an incident aviation environment, and be able to prepare for, manage, and oversee an aviation operation in given simulations and exercises to support incident activities

- **Instructor and Advisor, California Fire Exploring Academy. April 1990, 1991 and 1993.** Duties included acting as a safety officer and instructor on live wildland and structure fire drills during the week-long academy for more than 125 explorer youths. Acting Public Information Officer, 1991 and 1993
- **Created an annual “Wildland fire safety for the media” class.** This class is intended to provide media personnel with a better understanding of wildland fire and safety. The class incorporates video material, handouts and lectures, and is given prior to fire season to all local media outlets, radio and television.
- **Participated in Arson Task Force July 4th, 1993 to 2010.** Assisted Arson Investigators in locating and seizing illegal fireworks
- **Member of turnout and uniform committees.** Participated in selection and purchase of turnout gear and help developed departmental policy related to uniforms

HONORS

Meritorious and Conspicuous Service. Military Order of the Purple Heart.

Outstanding young public safety officer. California Junior Chamber of Commerce.

Meritorious service. California State Senate, State Senator Phil Wyman.

Meritorious service. Kern County Board of Supervisors.

Meritorious service. Kern County Firefighters.

Recognition for assistance above and beyond the call of duty. Kern County Board of Supervisors.