

Welcome to today's newsletter for families and friends of Australian and New Zealand fire personnel deployed to the USA.

Today the remainder of the First Contingent in the ANZ deployment arrive back in Australia. Most of the group arrived home yesterday, with some being held up due to flight delays.

Deployment Summary

ANZ members of the third deployment are currently located in Boise Idaho, and were due to go on the fireline on Thursday 14 September (US time). R+ R for the members of the second deployment is nearing the end, and they will be heading back to Idaho and or other hotspots in the SW USA. The first deployment returned to Australia yesterday and today.

Weather Forecast

Gusty, offshore winds are expected in southern California today. Showers are expected for portions of the Northwest and northern Idaho. California and the Great Basin area will have dry and windy conditions on Tuesday. Rain and snow in the mountains is expected through Thursday over the northern Great Basin, Montana, and Wyoming. A dry, offshore flow with gusty winds will return to California on Thursday and continue through the weekend. Northern Minnesota will have showers today and dry out through mid-week.

States currently reporting large fires (includes WFU fires)

California (8), Idaho (10), Minnesota (1), Missouri (1), Montana (3), Oregon (5), Washington (8), Wyoming (1).

Current report: 18 Sep 2006 (US evening) – 19 Sep (Melb morning)

Initial attack activity remains light nationally with 72 new fires reported. One new large fire was reported in California. One large fire was also contained in California.

US Summary

US Date	US Time	No. active, large fires	New large fires	Large fires not under control (Acres)	Large fires not under control (HA)	Total Acres burnt this season	Total Ha burnt this season
18-Sep-06	1630	33	1	1,091,729	441,807	8,849,418	3,581,232

Stories from the Fireline**Stewart Kreltszheim writes home**

Hi to all our CFA and sister fire agencies in Australia and NZ.

Today is day 6 of our second stint at the Columbia Fire - Washington. The fire is about 109,000 acres plus and nearly fully contained apart from a section in the wilderness.

Peter Cecil, Anthony Archer and myself are assigned to this area where access is very restricted. Yesterday Anthony hiked his patch for about 6 hours. However Peter and I were able to secure some quad bikes and



cover a large area of the fire perimeter and meet up with the hot shot crews spiked in the area. Today Anthony will be in a helicopter above his patch and Peter and I have secured a couple of Polaris ATVs to ferry some water for firefighting and fresh fruit into these crews in the wilderness.

The folks here are very appreciative of the firefighting efforts and it is very heartening to see a number of signs around the district reflecting this. It's been a hard slog but an extremely rewarding one for all and I look forward to catching up with the other members of our deployment who have been assigned to other fires and trading war stories.

North Ops Update posted by Dennis Ward 17/09/06 (US time)

The ANZ contingent are well established at the Barr Complex in North California. The weather remains warm and dry and the forecast is for this pattern to continue well into the week.

Alex Moylett, David McMillan, Darryl Dunbar, Alan McDonough and Geoff McGill established the 'ANZ Embassy Camp' at Junction City when they arrived from Boise. They are well settled and are now "old hands" among their US counterparts. They are all working around the south eastern section of the Pigeon fire and are in high spirits.

Phillip MacDonald, Bruce Janes and Shane Cross are managing helicopters from the Weaverville airport. Yesterday firebombing aircraft operating from the Redding airbase dropped just over 45,000 gallons of retardant on the fire from five P3 Orions, each with a payload of 2,500 gallons. A number of Californian Department of Forestry and Fire aircraft (each with a payload of 1,500 gallons) worked on a fire just north of Redding. Certainly a busy day for air operations and with Sunday looking the same with a number of P3 Orion loads already gone by early afternoon.

The guys redeployed from the Tripod Complex flew down to Redding in Northern California in a Smokejumper plane. They were saying that they were flying at 8,000 feet when the pilot brought their attention to the mountain they were flying past. Much to their surprise they had to look up to the summit of Mt Shasta which is 14,000 feet, yes 6,000 feet above the altitude they were flying at! Some experience.

The guys redeployed, along with Paul Kale and Matt Flynn (ANZ Contingent #2) from the Tripod Complex in Washington have strengthened the 'ANZ Embassy Camp' at Junction City. Paul, Matt, Ross Williamson, Peter McKechnie, Russell Gould all commenced their Divisional Supervisor roles this morning on the Pigeon fire along with Peter Cramer who has been deployed as an Assistant Branch Director.

Glenn Harrap, Paul Whiteley and David Stackhouse spent last night in the ANZ Embassy Camp at Junction City, but have been reassigned this morning to the Petersburg Camp to undertake Divisional Supervisor roles (and set up a new ANZ Embassy Camp. Petersburg is a new camp being established on the north side of the Barr Complex and is a 3 to 4 hour drive from Junction City



Where are ANZ crews?

Total Firefighters in USA

	VIC	WA	NSW	ACT	TAS	NZ	Total
2 nd Deployment	9	7	13	2	3	10	44
3 rd Deployment	6	3	5		2	8	24
							68

1st Deployment – return to Australia

The following officers from Victoria from the 1st Deployment have returned as follows:

Home on 18 September		Home on 19 September	
Steve de Voogd	DSE	Terry Auton	DPI
Dennis Matthews	PV	Darryl Burns	DSE
Mick Morley	DSE	Peter Driscoll	DSE
Barry Scott	DSE	Russell Manning	PV
David Vaskess	DSE	Paul McCoughtry	DSE
Phil Savage	DSE	Matt Potter	DSE
Andrew Morrow	DSE		
David Nugent	PV		

Crew Locations: Second Deployment (no new location information today)

Location	Fire fighters/liaison	Other information
Columbia Complex	Anthony Archer – VIC Peter Cecil – VIC Rob Chalwell – VIC Gerald Crawford – TAS Mark Cullen – TAS Barrie Curtis – NSW William Ellis – NZ Phillip Goldberg – NSW Robert Hagan – WA Phil Hamer – VIC Murray Harrison – NSW Vincent Hilder – WA Thomas Kenneally – WA Stewart Kreltszheim – VIC John McNamara – NSW Trevor Reeves – NSW David Robson – TAS Brian Smith – NSW Hilton Taylor – ACT	
Tripod Complex	Christopher Banffy – NSW Glenn Burns – NSW	
Pigeon (Bar Complex)	Mathew Flynn – NZ Paul Kale – NZ	
Pan Handle Zone	Greg Harry – VIC	Liaison
Red Mountain	David Ingram – ACT	



	Peter Kearney – NSW Bradley Lett – NZ Graeme McIntyre – NZ Allan Rankin – VIC Mark Read – WA Tim Sheppard – NZ Brian Taylor – NZ Rachael Thorp – NZ Trevor Tidey – NZ	
South Fork Complex	Peter Le Breton – NSW	
Rattlesnake	Grant Olsen – WA Russell Perry – NSW Brett Wagstaff – VIC Gavin Wornes – WA Julia Visser – NSW Garth Toner – NSW John Webster – NZ	
Coordination Centre Boise - NIFC	Andrew Graystone – VIC Roger Armstrong – WA	Liaison

Crew Locations: Third Deployment (no new location information today)

Deployment	Fire fighters/liaison	Other information
Northern Operations	Dennis Ward – VIC	Liaison
Pigeon (Bar Complex)	Bruce Jane – NZ Phillip MacDonald – NZ Shane Cross – NZ David Stackhouse – NZ Russell Gould – WA Ross Williamson – VIC Peter Cramer – VIC Peter McKechnie – NSW Paul Whiteley – NSW Geoffrey McGill – VIC Glenn Harrap – VIC Alexander Moylett – WA David McMillan – WA Alan McDonough – NSW Darryl Dunbar – NSW	
Columbia Complex	Mark Bang – NZ Timothy McNaught – NSW Steven Richardson – VIC Kenneth Borland – TAS Michael Phillips – TAS	
Polallie	Wayne Hamilton – NZ	
Tripod Complex	Douglas Ashford – NZ Raymond Gardiner – NZ	



USA Local News

The second deployment group featured in a news article on TV station KTVB in Idaho. View footage at the following website <http://www.ktvb.com/sharedcontent/VideoPlayer/showVideo.php?vidId=84112>

For up-to-the-minute local news on the US fire situation, including a special mention of the ANZ contingent, check out www.nuggetnews.com

Helpful contacts

- The facts and figures on this newsletter will be updated daily. Family and friends are also encouraged to check the US websites for latest updates
 - www.nifc.gov/fireinfo/nfn.html
 - <http://www.inciweb.org>
- Useful glossaries of USA firefighting terms:
 - <http://inciweb.org/terminology/>
 - <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/fire/glossary.html#fsto>
- For map of major fires in the US http://activefiresfiremaps.fs.fed.us/lq_fire2.php

We are no longer map of major fires in the US

TIME ZONES

- Time zones - Australia is approximately 16 hours ahead of the western USA. New Zealand is 18 hours ahead.
- View a map of world time zones at www.worldtimezone.com
- Calculate time in USA relative to your location at www.timeanddate.com/worldclock/converter.html

Western Australia	Eastern Australia Vic, NSW, Tasmania	New Zealand	USA western-most states including Oregon & Washington State	USA Mountain daylight time including Montana & Idaho
8am today	10am today	12pm today	5pm yesterday	6pm yesterday

We will update this newsletter daily with new information.

In the meantime, if you have any concerns or questions please contact:

US Coordination Group (Melbourne)

Phone: 1300 13 4444 (local call cost, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week)

Email: us.coordination@dse.vic.gov.au

