



**JOINT READINESS TRAINING CENTER
AND FORT POLK
PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE
*News Release***



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Mock Fire Drill to be held at Limited Use Area (LUA):

Fort Polk, La. --- The third annual fire exercise for the Limited Use Area (LUA) of the Kisatchie National Forest, now used by Fort Polk for military training, will be held in the near future. The exercise is designed to give firefighters and other emergency response personnel a chance to practice a comprehensive fire protection plan and a variety of fire prevention controls.

The fire protection plan is the result of cooperative efforts between Fort Polk, US Forest Service, the Louisiana Forestry Department, local volunteer fire departments and local law enforcement officials.

Although there will be no actual fire as part of the exercise, participants will respond to the scene, setup a command post, and test communication capabilities and response procedures. Pyrotechnical devices such as smoke canisters or flares will be used unless there is a high risk of forest fire.

This exercise will incorporate the use of Fort Polk's latest addition to forest fire suppression. The JRTC Flight Detachment will participate in the exercise using 500 gallon water buckets also known as bambi buckets.

The date of the exercise will not be released to provide the realism of a no-notice event for exercise participants. The exercise is being used to identify strengths and weaknesses of the fire control plan; test procedures and communication; and enhance the coordination, cooperation and interoperability of the agencies involved.

Exercise participants include: Fort Polk Forestry, JRTC Flight Detachment, US Forest Service, forestry and law enforcement agencies; the Louisiana Forestry Department of Agriculture and Forestry; local volunteer fire departments, Vernon Parish Sheriff's Department; and Vernon Parish E-911 office.

Media Advisory (not for release): This exercise will be held in the very near future. If you want to cover the exercise, please call Major Ronald Elliott at (337) 531-1418 or Samantha Bingham at (337) 531-4630. We will transport you to the exercise site from the Fort Polk Public Affairs office. Please call and give us your name and phone and beeper numbers so that we can give you approximately 24 hours notice on when to be at Fort Polk.

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