

OV-10 AIR TACTICAL AIRCRAFT



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY & FIRE PROTECTION

AVIATION PROGRAM



OPERATIONS



MANUFACTURER

North American-Rockwell, Columbus, Ohio.

ORIGINAL OWNER

United States Navy/Marines, 1968-1993. The OV-10 was used as a counterinsurgency aircraft and close air-support to military ground forces.

ACQUIRED BY CAL FIRE

In 1993, CAL FIRE acquired 15 OV-10As from the Federal Excess Personal Property (FEPP) program. These have since been converted for use as air attack platforms replacing the original Cessna O-2As that CAL FIRE had been using. The OV-10As are newer, larger, faster, provide a larger field of vision for the pilot and air attack officer and are more maneuverable than the older O-2As. In 2009, CAL FIRE also acquired three OV-10Ds, of which one has been converted and is in use.

MISSION

CAL FIRE uses the OV-10s as the primary command and control platform on wildland incidents. The air attack officer, a highly trained and experienced fire officer, coordinates with the incident commander on the ground, providing an unique aerial perspective on fire conditions, anticipated resource needs and potential threats to life and property.

The Air Attack Officer is also responsible for the safe coordination of all aerial resources on an incident and where to make retardant and water drops based upon the Incident Commander's control objectives. The OV-10 can be utilized as a lead plane, for Very Large Air Tankers (VLAT) when not assigned as a command and control platform.

CREW

Pilot and observer (Chief Officer or Fire Captain).

SPECIFICATIONS

Gross Weight: 10,500 pounds

Max Operating Speed: A's - 258 mph / D's - 280 mph

Range: 1,000 miles

Endurance: A's - 5.5 hours / D's - 4 hours (maximum)

Wing Span: 40 feet

Engines: A Model - Two (2) Garrett T-76 turbines (715 horsepower each) D Model - Two (2) Honeywell T-76 G420/421 (1040 horsepower each)

