

Did you know?

Relief flight: A C-17 loaded with humanitarian supplies recently flew to Maputo, Mozambique, in response to flooding that has left thousands homeless.

Airlift DISPATCH

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Charleston AFB, SC

Charleston facts

The 437th Civil Engineer Squadron estimates that needed runway repairs to North Auxiliary Airfield would cost \$9.8 million.



Unsuitable: Suspect chemical gear to be pulled from use

By Lt. Col. Ed Memi
437 AW Public Affairs

About 34 deployed Charleston members have chemical protective suits that may be defective and may have to swap them out in the near future, according to base supply officials.

The Defense Logistics Agency, the agency responsible for procuring the suits, notified Air Mobility Command that certain suits with specific numbers needed to be identified and designated for training use only.

Base supply officials are expected to mark 86 suits for training use only because of a possible defect. The base has about 3,300 suits.

"We were given the lot numbers by AMC and can go into our computer system and identify people by name who have these suits under question," said Senior Master Sgt. Julieann Snodgrass, supply superintendent of the Material Storage and Distribution Flight.

As of Wednesday, base supply officials have not received specific instructions from the headquarters on whether they should contact the 34 deployed members about the suspect suits.

"AMC instructed me to hold off on any kind of notification to deployed members pending receipt of an Air Staff message with instructions," Snodgrass said. "This message should be here any time now, it is supposed to contain instructions about how notifications and swap outs will be made."

Defects could consist of sewing irregularities, but none were classified as safety of life critical defects, according to the DLA. "If you take a look at what those critical (defects) are, they are not holes, tears, those kinds of things. There are some threads that have separated and have now opened up a little bit. It could be age," said Lt. Gen. Tom Glisson, the director of the Defense Logistics Agency in a Pentagon press briefing on Monday.

The Army examined about 500 suits in 1999 and found seven with defects. "Out of the seven critical deficiencies that they noted, there was only one where the garment had what we could call a hole in it, where the fabric had become separated and one that we would really be concerned about."

see **Suits**, page 3



Fill 'er up

A C-141 from Charleston AFB participates in an aerial refueling over the hills of Kentucky. The KC-135R performing the refueling is from the 155th Air Refueling Wing, Nebraska Air National Guard.

Staff Sgt. Scott Reed, 1st Combat Camera Squadron

Gov't travel card use now mandatory

By Linda D. Kozaryn
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON -- Charleston personnel hoping to charge item on their personnel credit cards while traveling on official government business, time has run out and they now have to use the government credit card. Effective immediately, with some exceptions, DoD personnel must use the government travel card for expenses arising from official travel.

DoD issued new policies in mid-February to implement travel card requirements in an amendment to the Federal Travel Regulation published by the General Services Administration in the Jan. 19 Federal Register. The amendment implements requirements in the Travel and Transportation Reform Act of 1998.

The Defense Department began using travel cards in 1983 to pay for lodging, transportation, rental cars and other allowable expenses. The current contractor is Bank of America VISA.

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437th Comptroller Squadron

majority of the calls I receive are from the unit VISA representatives who brief their people on the card's use," said Tech. Sgt. Patrick D. Schultz, a deputy disbursing officer in the 437th Comptroller Squadron and the wing point of contact for the government travel card.

The new rules make the use of the travel card mandatory for most DoD military and civilian personnel. Governmentwide exemptions include employees who have an application pending for the travel charge card; people traveling on invitational travel orders; and new appointees. The law authorizes agency-specific exemptions as well, and Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller) William J. Lynn approved the following for DoD:

- Members of the ROTC and service

members undergoing basic training or initial skill training prior to reporting to their first permanent duty station.

- Military and DoD civilians denied travel cards or whose cards have been canceled or suspended for financial irresponsibility or other reasons.

- Prisoners.

- Exemptions approved by heads of DoD components for military and DoD civilians during war, a national emergency declared by the president or Congress, or mobilization, deployment or contingency operations.

- Military or DoD civilians traveling to or in a foreign country where the political, financial or communications infrastructure does not support the use of a travel card.

- Military or DoD civilians whose use of the travel card due to operational, security or other mission requirements, would pose a threat to national security, endanger the life or safety of themselves or others, or would compromise a law enforcement activity.

- Direct and indirect hire foreign nationals.

see **Travel Card**, page 2