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Air Force provides additional support in Nepal

By Master Sgt. Lesley Waters
Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs Command Information

The Air Force continues its support of the disaster relief operations in Nepal with the arrival of a second C-17 Globemaster III in response to an earthquake that rocked the country April 25.

“One of the U.S. Air Force’s great strengths is our ability to provide rapid global mobility in support of humanitarian efforts around the world, and we are proud to be able to contribute our strengths to this recovery effort,” said Gen. Darren McDew, the Air Mobility Command commander.

The 7.9-magnitude earthquake has reportedly left more than 4,000 dead and thousands more still missing. In addition, thousands of people are currently reported to be without food, water or shelter.

“Whenever and wherever our Air Force is needed, Airmen are ready to answer the call,” said Secretary of the Air Force Deborah Lee James. “Our Airmen are proud to deliver critical humanitarian relief and comfort to others during a time of need.”

The first Air Force C-17 delivered 70 personnel, including a USAID Disaster Assistance Response Team, the Fairfax County Urban Search and Rescue team and several journalists, along with 45 square tons

of cargo. The second aircraft, carrying approximately 50 passengers, included a Los Angeles urban search and rescue team, working dogs and additional relief supplies.

“With humanitarian relief operations, there is always a tremendous spirit of cooperation and support,” said Chief of Staff of the Air Force Gen. Mark A. Welsh III. “The Air Force is able to use its global reach and partner with other agencies to deliver timely assistance. Our Airmen continue to make me proud.”

Prior to the earthquake, 26 DOD personnel and one U.S. C-130 Hercules were already in Nepal to conduct a previously scheduled training exercise. All DOD personnel in Nepal are accounted for. A DOD team is helping the Nepal Army at Ratna Park set up tents for those displaced by earthquake damage, as well as using their medical training and working with the Nepal Army to assess and treat the wounded.



Universal language breaks barriers

By Senior Airman Nicole Sikorski
86th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

With many languages around the world, communication can be a challenge between nations. One group of Airmen makes it easier with the use of an international language--music. The U.S. Air Forces in Europe Band Touch ‘n Go ensemble works to spread joy and raise morale for audiences across Europe, Africa and various deployed locations.

Responsibilities range from musical support at military functions to military and community entertainment with European neighbors.

“We get to use music to immediately

connect with people who may not [speak the same language],” said Senior Airman Carmen Emborski, USAFE Touch ‘n Go band vocalist

and transportation vehicle representative. “Through music we can make that connection with countries the United States wants to build a relationship with...we can send a message to anyone of any age or cultural background while we are up on stage.”

Upholding military tradition is one of the reasons for the band’s musical presence. Music has played a part on many occasions in history ranging from playing in formations to taps and ceremonies.



For more on “Universal language” see

Photo Perspective



Two F-16C Fighting Falcon pilots prepare to shut down their aircraft at Lajes Field, Azores, Portugal, on April 17, 2015. The F-16s from the 77th Fighter Squadron at Shaw AFB, S.C. were transiting to Lajes as part of a coronet mission. Lajes Field supports an average of 40 coronets per year. (U.S. Air Force photo by 1st Lt. Korey Fratini/released)



The 65th Civil Engineer Squadron and the 65th Logistics Readiness Squadron support the off-loading of approximately 200,000 gallons of diesel fuel and approximately 200,000 gallons of unleaded fuel from a refueling tanker on April 26, 2015. (Courtesy photo by Senior Airman Jayson Santoyo)

"Universal language" from page 1

The band delivers a wide variety of music including recent pop tunes to older classical music.

Touch 'n Go performs at many local events but are also tasked with bringing morale to service members and civilians down-range.

It is common that people will only see the combat readiness part of the picture, so it is especially important in foreign nations to go and interact with the community to give them a good impression, said Staff Sgt. Alex Nikiforoff, USAFE Touch 'n go band guitarist.

"A major initiative of the military is building partnerships and

enhancing international relationships with both military members and civilians," said Nikiforoff. "It is an honor to have the privilege to communicate our heritage across a wide variety of demographics and increase knowledge of the U.S. [presence.]"

Not only do band members give to the community, but they get a sense of fulfillment back through these humbling experiences, he continued.

"It can be emotional to see children with (very little), trying to do well with what they have."

The USAFE band plays a critical role in spreading a good impression of the U.S. and strengthening international relationships.

Base Announcements

Lajes Field Domestic Abuse Victim Advocate (DAVA) Services
2015 Total Force Climate Survey 13 March – 4 May 15
The Air Force Credentialing Opportunities Online (AF COOL) Program:
Base Honor Guard
Eagle Eyes
GTC Payment Options
Expanded Influenza Vaccine Available
New housing website
All members PCS'ing from Lajes Field with Privately Owned Vehicle (POV)
TMO Information

Civilian Personnel Newsletter

Non-command sponsored dependents memorandum

BAH Revalidation Required for All Airmen

65th Medical Group Closed for Training 2nd Tuesday of Each Month

MSP Career Development/Customer Service Closed Every Wednesday

TMO walk-in customer service hours: 0800-1400 M-Th, 0900-1400 F

JA Tax Center Opens

Protestant Service combined into one service at 1100

[Click to read for more Base Announcements](#)

Community Events

ALS Graduation May 7
Wing Training Day/Walk a Mile Ruck March May 12
Wing Promotion Ceremony 29 May

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Island Events

Bullfight Season Starts 1 May
Angra Chamber of Commerce Food Festival 24 April – 17 May
Movies:
Angra Theater (Located at Angra Cultural Center)
Praia Theater

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