

Crash

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consummate professionals," Rutland said. "It is with great relief that we had no loss of life in this incident."

The crew included 709th and 326th Airlift Squadron members from the 512th AW and personnel from the 436th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, from the 436th AW.

This particular aircraft recently underwent an avionics modernization program upgrade to convert the cockpit from 1960s instrument technology to one similar to that used by modern civilian airliners.

Only five C-5 aircraft have been lost since the plane's inception in 1969. Until now, no Dover planes have been destroyed. "The safety of the aircraft is paramount to our crews or they wouldn't have flown it that morning," Manske said. "It's a great aircraft. It sustained a massive force against its hull during the crash, yet it still protected our crews."

A board of Air Force officers has convened and is investigating the cause of the accident. In order to protect the integrity of the investigation process, none of the crewmembers will be able to discuss the crash, officials said. The unclassified findings will be released to the public as soon as the board results are released. Officials noted such accident and safety investigations typically take about four months to complete.

"Our thoughts and prayers are with the survivors, family members and coworkers impacted by the crash," Manske said. "We wish all of them a speedy recovery."

(Air Force Tech. Sgt. Melissa Phillips is assigned to the 436th Airlift Wing.)

Commercial body armor banned

ARMY NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON – Soldiers may no longer wear body armor other than Army-issued Interceptor Body Armor, Army officials announced last week.

In a safety message sent to all commanders March 17, the Army warned that commercial body armor may cause "death or serious injury to Soldiers."

"I think the mothers and fathers that are currently having Soldiers deployed, whether they're female or male, ought to feel comfortable with the fact that we have provided the best body armor that is available anywhere in the world," said Maj. Gen. Jeffrey Sorenson, the Army secretary's deputy assistant for acquisition and systems management, at a Pentagon news conference March 31.

Of main concern with officials is "Dragon Skin," produced by Pinnacle Armor. While the manufacturer has received close to a million dollars from the Army to produce lighter-weight armor, Dragon Skin's capabilities do not yet meet Army requirements, and is not certified by the Army to protect against several small arms threats currently being encountered in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Advertising for Dragon Skin implies that it is superior to IBA, but Army officials say there have been no tests to validate the claim.

"They have not been tested. They have not passed the rigor that we put into standards determining whether something is safe, effective and suitable," Sorenson said. "And until they



PATRICIA RYAN

Col. Ed Donnelly, chief of the Dominant Maneuver Division, G8, points out the Deltoid Axillary Protector on the Interceptor Body Armor worn by Maj. David Delmonte, systems synchronization officer for Soldier equipment.

can do that, we will not give them, if you will, the 'good housekeeping seal of approval.'"

Many Soldiers interviewed by Stars and Stripes last week said they were fine with the Army's move to ban privately purchased body armor.

"It's been proven to work, so why should I go out and have to buy my own?" Sgt. Davaras Bronson of the 3rd Corps Support Command told a reporter.

Body armor currently being issued to Soldiers serving in Iraq and Afghanistan has gone through seven improvements since the beginning of the war, according to Sorenson. More than 200,000 sets of the latest iteration

are now in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Commanders have 30 days to ensure their Soldiers are in compliance with the directive. Additionally, commanders may tailor the IBA configuration to meet threat and mission requirements. Components include the outer tactical vest and ballistic plates, throat protector, collar, groin protector, Deltoid and Axillary Protector, side plates and side plate carriers.

Soldiers may dispose of unauthorized body armor through their local Central Issue Facility, who will ship the items to Program Executive Office Soldier, Fort Belvoir, Va.

DoD celebrates 'Month of the Military Child'

STEVEN DONALD SMITH

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – The Defense Department has long understood the value of caring for and celebrating children of servicemembers.

April is designated as the Month of the Military Child, underscoring the important role military children play in the armed forces community. The Month of the Military Child is a time to applaud military families and their children for the daily sacrifices they make and challenges they overcome.

Military children face many obstacles unique to their situation, such as having a parent deployed for extended periods of time and frequently being uprooted from school.

"Military children endure a great deal of change as a result of a parents military career," Douglas Ide, a public affairs officer with the Army's Community and Family Support Center, said. "The military family averages nine moves through a 20-year career. And in doing so, their children must say goodbye to friends, change schools, and start all over again."

Throughout the month, numerous military commands will plan special events to honor military children. These events will stress the importance of providing children with quality services and support to help them succeed in the mobile military lifestyle, defense personnel and readi-

ness officials said.

"Installations are honoring military children by providing the month packed with special activities that include arts and crafts shows, picnics, carnivals, fairs, parades, block parties and other special activities, focusing on military children that highlight the unique contributions they make," according to a Defense Department fact sheet.

The Defense Department will also launch a new toolkit series called "Military Students on the Move." The toolkit includes material designed to promote more efficient and effective methods of moving military children from school to school. The toolkit includes material for parents, children, installation commanders and school officials, Defense Department officials said.

In addition, the U.S. Air Force recently launched its "Stay Connected" deployment program kits in conjunction with the Month of the Military Child. The kits include items like teddy bears, writing pens and disposable cameras.

"The purpose of the Stay Connected kit is to provide young people and parents an avenue to keep a connection during the deployed members' time away from home," Eliza Nesmith, an Air Force family member programs specialist said. "The items in the kit come in pairs, so that the young person and parent can have an item that will help them

remember each other."

Air Force bases will choose the best distribution method to correspond with an existing event or develop a new event to best serve their families. For example, Andrews Air Force Base, Md., will give out Stay Connected kits to deploying servicemembers during its basewide Month of the Military Child celebration, planned for April 8, Nesmith said.

Throughout the month of April, the U.S. Navy child and youth programs will also be hosting special programs and events to salute military children. These events will include, carnivals, health screening for children, youth talent shows, and more, Navy officials said.

"Events that celebrate the Month of the Military Child stress the importance of providing children with quality services and support to help them succeed in the mobile military lifestyle," Larrie Jarvis, a Navy child and youth programs analyst said.

Army posts will plan their own events such as fun runs, bicycle safety courses, carnivals, fishing derbies, community service projects, and other events geared specifically toward children and youth, Army officials said.

The Month of the Military Child is part of the legacy left by former Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger, who died March 28. He established the Defense Department commemoration in 1986.

Beware of fake bank Web site

EL PASO POLICE DEPT.

Special to The Monitor

The El Paso Police Department's Financial Crimes Unit has issued a warning of a false Web site identical to the Chase Bank Web site and aimed at fraudulently obtaining account information.

Soldiers and civilians in the El Paso area have reported receiving e-mails instructing them to log onto a Web site through a link provided in the e-mail. The link takes the user to a site that looks almost identical to Chase Bank's Web site.

After the user logs onto the false Web site, he or she is redirected to a form that requires the user to provide their credit-card information. If the user provides the information, persons running the Web site will have all the information they need to take the user's money or make purchases with the user's credit card.

The Financial Crimes Unit warns consumers to never log onto a bank Web site through a link provided in an e-mail. Instead, access the bank's Web site by typing in the bank URL directly into the address bar on your web browser.

The Financial Crimes Unit researched the Web site and found that it was located outside the U.S.