

Specialty Container Improves C-17 Aeromedical Evacuations

By Ron Parks, Consultant, AAR Mobility Systems

Shortly after the Iraqi conflict began, HQ AMC looked for ways to support our war-fighting Expeditionary Forces in need of rapid efficient medical care. Aerospace medical professionals were eager to adopt a strategy to streamline the aeromedical evacuation mission assets needed to airlift the maximum number of patients on C-17 aircraft. Although the C-17 Globemaster III could carry a total of thirty-six litters, it only had on-board storage for nine. The Air Force soon found that carrying the additional litter resources as loose equipment became costly due to equipment losses, lack of control, and asset accountability thereby prompting a search for a cost effective solution. The C-17 Airlift Program Office at HQ AMC had an idea on how to consolidate these assets, contacted AAR Mobility Systems and the rest is history.

In March of 2005, working with Boeing's Macon, Georgia facility, AAR proudly rolled out the first Litter Stanchion Augmentation Set (LSAS) container. This mission-tailored Internal Airlift/Helicopter Slingable Container Unit (ISU[®]) met the U.S. Air Force aeromedical challenge head-on. Its door arrangement and interior configuration allows easy in-flight crewmember access to inspect and inventory the additional nine litter stations needed to maximize the full compliment of 36 non-ambulatory patients. One side of the LSAS houses the litter arms and stanchions while the other neatly organizes the diagonal/horizontal braces and utility panels. When an emergency arises and mission directives call for a full compliment of litters, the LSAS stands ready to face the challenge.



With its four-way forkliftable, 108 by 88-inch standard base and all aluminum extruded rail facing, the LSAS can be quickly loaded in the ADS rail system and secured on the ramp ready for immediate airfield departure. The doors, on the 88-inch end wall of the LSAS, can be fully opened to access litter equipment from the LSAS. This makes it very easy for the Loadmaster to gain entrance to the equipment and reconfigure the aircraft to an AE-2 configuration in-flight. It takes approximately one and a half hours



to fully set up the 12 stations needed to accommodate 36 litter patients. With more than 750 urgent and priority patients coming out of Iraq and Afghanistan per month, the LSAS has demonstrated its value as a vital part of the medevac mission.

“We are pleased with our involvement as a provider of the LSAS container. Not only are we broadening the capability of the C-17 aeromedical evacuation mission, we are contributing to saving brave American lives. This team bond enables us to build on our customer relationship as the leading manufacturer of mobility systems for the U.S. Military. We are proud to do our part in supporting the men and women of the armed forces with their ongoing efforts to improve operational mission readiness,” said Arthur L. Breithaupt, AAR Mobility Systems’ Vice President, Sales and Marketing.

AAR has proven once again why they have been at the forefront of innovative military applications for more than 40 years. They’ve demonstrated their ability to meet unique mission requirements while consistently providing quality, low-cost rapid deployment equipment.

AAR Mobility Systems, an operating division of AAR Corp., manufactures mobility containers, tactical shelters, air cargo pallets and palletized systems for military customers and prime contractors. AAR Corp. is a leading provider of products and services to the worldwide aerospace and defense industries. To learn more about AAR Mobility Systems’ rapid deployment equipment, including our recently certified 12-passenger C-17 Logistic Seat Pallet, please visit www.aarmobilitysystems.com.