

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON, D.C.



REPLY TO
ATTN OF:

USAFMPC
RANDOLPH AFB TEXAS 78148

1 May 1968

Dear Air Force Next of Kin

In our last newsletter we promised you further information regarding travel in military aircraft. Here is the scoop:

Travel by military aircraft within the Continental United States for humanitarian reasons has been approved for wives of our missing or captured personnel. Children and parents are excluded and cannot travel by military aircraft.

Wives will enjoy the same priority as active duty military members for space available travel. The travel is free but may be inconvenient because of the following reasons:

- a. You can travel on transport type aircraft only.
- b. There are almost no scheduled flights, hence it will be difficult and, in many cases, impossible to plan on a particular flight.
- c. The aircraft destination may be changed with little or no warning.
- d. Many bases have limited or no facilities for females to remain overnight while awaiting flights.
- e. Although wives have the same priority as military personnel for space available, when military personnel are traveling on official business or emergency leave they have the highest priority of all.

Nevertheless, I am sure that some wives, particularly those who live near a base and can be ready on short notice, will be able to take advantage of this new privilege. Each flight must be authorized. To get this authorization, here is what you must do.

- a. Write a letter to:

HQ USAF
Directorate of Transportation (AFSTP)
Washington, D. C. 20333

b. State in your letter:

- (1) The approximate time you wish to travel.
- (2) Your intended destination.
- (3) The general purpose of the trip.

As mentioned above the travel must be for humanitarian reasons. It is obviously impossible to list all reasons which could be called humanitarian. However, some examples are:

- a. Visit friends or relatives.
- b. Visit to another wife of an Air Force missing or captured member.
- c. Travel from present residence to your home.
- d. Travel to visit or care for sick or injured people.
- e. Travel to obtain help on legal or spiritual problems.

Travel for financial gain or for business purposes will, of course, not be authorized.

When you receive your letter of approval from the Directorate of Transportation, present it plus a copy of the Report of Casualty (DD Form 1300) and your dependent Identification Card (DD Form 1173) at the Passenger Terminal or Base Operations of any Air Force Base with airfield facilities. In cities where there are several Air Force Bases you should check with them all. The people in these offices will do everything possible to assist you in reaching your destination. In many cases they may not be able to get you to your exact destination but will be able to get you a lot closer so that the bus or train ride will be reduced to a minimum.

NEW SUBJECT:

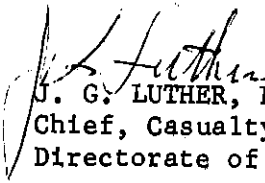
We encourage you to call your Casualty Assistance Representative any time that assistance is needed. He is a professional, he knows his job and in most cases can solve your problem on the spot. If he can't he will call us and we'll do our best. We ask you to beware of any information concerning casualty assistance, no matter how well intentioned, when that information comes from unofficial sources. Just pick up the phone and call your Casualty Assistance Officer. He will give you the straight story. We have had many instances where wives have received information which conflicted with that furnished them by this office or

by their Casualty Assistance Officer. When traced back to the source we usually find that the information was based on rumors, assumptions or incomplete knowledge.

Arrangements have been made to provide you with information concerning actions being taken by the Department of Defense Prisoner of War Policy Committee. Much of what the Committee does is classified, but as releasable information is received, we will include it in the newsletters.

Let me repeat, we will use the newsletter to pass on information of general interest to all next of kin of missing or captured Air Force members. Whenever we have specific information pertaining to one missing or captured member we will continue to use the fastest means available to get that information to the ones most concerned.

Sincerely


J. G. LUTHER, Lt Colonel, USAF
Chief, Casualty Division
Directorate of Personnel Services