



## MEC Alert

Hawaiian Airlines Master Executive Council

August 31, 2021

**Re: CRAF Flights, notification**

Dear Fellow Flight Attendants,

As the United States continues its mission to assist allies who relocated from Afghanistan, our company was activated to assist weeks ago. Although the CRAF flights have been ongoing for other carriers, the Department of Defense (DOD) did not need us until today. The company has advised us that with little time to prepare, our first flight will go out tonight.

While many of you wanted to help with this special flying, the nature of this mission is one of little time and planning. Being that things are fluid, tonight's flight will be staffed with Reserve Flight Attendants due to the timeliness of the DOD's request. After this initial flight, our understanding is that the company will have more time for the next mission rotations.

The AFA has been advocating for enhanced personal protective equipment and cleaning supplies as the COVID exposures and cases have escalated world-wide and here at home. The company has assured us that they are prepared and have the supplies that we need for these missions. Here is some information from AFA INTL regarding CRAF flying: [CRAF Flights](#)

We understand that you have questions about more specifics. Right now, we do not have that information. However, once it is established, we will continue to work with the company to the extent allowable with the time constraints that we have. Please know that your safety and protecting our hard-fought provisions in the Collective Bargaining Agreement are priorities.

Do NOT post any pictures, comments or content on social media or discuss the flights/assignments regarding these sensitive missions. We understand the hope to share information, but due to the delicate nature of this flying, it is imperative that we adhere to the DOD and company policy regarding information dissemination.

Thank you for all of your support and enthusiasm in supporting our troops and these relocation missions for Afghan refugees. As more information becomes available, we will relay it to the group. Please continue to be vigilant with your health and well-being.

In Unity,  
The MEC Leadership

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*The Association of Flight Attendants' Employee Assistance Program (EAP) Committee provides support to affected Flight Attendants and their families. The Committee also provides referral services for members and their families experiencing personal problems. All work is*

For more information: [Hawaiian AFA's EAP](#)  
**CRAF and Evacuation Flights**  
From the [AFACWA.org](#) website

August 26, 2021 — On Sunday, the U.S. Department of Defense activated the Civil Reserve Air Fleet (CRAF) program to utilize U.S. airlines to help ferry U.S. military, American citizens, and Afghan evacuees from military bases and other staging areas in the Middle East and Europe to the U.S.

This is the third time CRAF has been activated since its creation, giving the U.S. military quick aircraft to supplement its hauling capacity. It was first activated during the Persian Gulf War to bring passenger jets, cargo transports and crews to aid the deployment of U.S. troops and supplies to the region from August 1990 to May 1991, and their eventual return. The second was for “Operation Iraqi Freedom,” from February 2002 to June 2003.

Our efforts over the last year to fight for the Payroll Support Program (PSP) were not just about our jobs, it was about preserving a key industry for our economy and remaining ready to serve our country as necessary. If PSP had not been enacted, airlines would likely not have been able respond quickly to support the U.S. military.

Flight Attendants raise our hands to help immediately and every time. This time is no different. Already, AFA Flight Attendants at several airlines are working flights—safely ushering thousands of evacuees to the U.S.

Evacuation flight conditions can be quite difficult, but also extremely rewarding. When working these flights, Flight Attendants should prepare for long duty days, intense conditions onboard, and unanticipated operational delays upon arrival. [AFA EAP has provided a helpful guide for this type of flying](#). Flight Attendants should also plan to pack supplies for personal use including water, sanitation wipes, gloves, extra masks, and normal supplies.

We are engaged with airline management and the government related to evacuation flying in order to address issues for Flight Attendants. Each AFA Master Executive Council (MEC) - the locally elected Flight Attendants at your airline - at airlines involved in evacuation flights are engaged with airline management directly on any needed negotiations, implementation, and real time support during operations.

AFA EAP is always available at 844-232-2228, Ext. 1.

## **Considerations for CRAF Evacuation Flights from Our AFA EAP Committee**

If you are considering working an evacuation flight or if you have been scheduled for this important work, please consider the following stress prevention and management tips:

### **Expect a Range of Emotions**

Expect a range of emotions from those you are evacuating. In the wake of an international crisis, feelings are far too strong and complex to be predictable and organized. Confusion, fear, agitation, grief, disbelief and anger are but a few of the expressions you may hear or see. If you are not familiar with the cultural nuances of how these feelings may be expressed, you too may feel confused and uncertain about how to respond.

### **Bridge the Emotional and Cultural Divide with Your Interpersonal Skills**

Human connections are a main ingredient of the recovery process. A calming presence and expressions of genuine concern by you will offer a safe and respectful atmosphere that supports providing as much control as possible for one whose life has just been shattered.

### **Be Especially “Teaming”**

Your flying partners are your most immediate source of support and assistance. A briefing before the flight that includes brainstorming concerns and needs and creating a buddy system to monitor each other’s stress reactions may prove especially helpful and supportive.

### **Be Intentional in Your Own Self-Care**

Exposure to those who have been traumatized can be especially impactful. Self-care activities are more important than ever. Before and after your flights, be mindful to engage in activities that have proven to be healthy and healing to you in the past whether it's exercising, praying, talking to others or just sticking to routines that make you feel balanced and grounded.

Remember, the AFA EAP is also available to you for peer support and assistance. You can find your local EAP Committee Representatives at [afacwa.org](http://afacwa.org) or through the AFA EAP Helpline at 844-232-2228, Ext. 1.