

NOW IS THE TIME TO FLY

MILITARY SPACE-A USA™

WITH YOUR FAMILY &  SAVE MONEY...really big bucks!

by L. Ann Crawford

Did you know that military Space-A air travel is now available stateside as well as overseas for military family members with valid U.S. military ID cards? These family members must travel with their military sponsor, active or retired. (Sorry, Active Guard & Reserve families have not yet been included in the regulation unless the sponsor is on active duty.)

LESS WAITING - Passengers taking a trip on military aircraft will not encounter the long lines found in civilian air terminals. Security rules are the same. Before reaching the air passenger terminal, you will have been screened by the military installation's front gate Security Forces.

There will be ample security screening in the air passenger terminal, as well, but IF you have followed the rules, it should be a very short time until you are seated or visiting the various services at major military air terminals such as the USO and snack bar.

Active duty personnel, retirees and their eligible family members may now fly on a space-available basis on the aircraft of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and Air Force. In my opinion, this is the biggest new morale booster for military and their families in many years.

THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW - The flight is FREE, but be prepared to have financial means to pay your way back if you run into difficulties returning home by Space-A. This is Space-A air travel and there are no reservations for a particular time and place.

This also means that the family's military sponsor must have applied for Space-A air travel and been placed on a roster. No one needs to apply for one individual flight. Those applying are on a roster for travel during a particular time frame. This may vary according to the sponsor's status, active duty or retired.

Finally, we know it has been a long time since we have published Military Living's® *Military Space-A Air Travel Guide*™. This delay was necessary because of the impact of 9-11 and subsequent wars against terrorists worldwide. This has resulted in numerous changes and uncertainty in the operation of military flight opportunities, especially schedules.

Our next guide will be slightly different from the past. We are working on Military Living's® *Military Space-A Air Travel Guide*™ now. We will post information on our websites when it becomes available. Go to www.militaryliving.com or www.spacea.info.

To help deal with this necessary delay before our popular large Space-A Air Travel Guide could be published, we published a new plastic map and pocket guide which details 125 of the most active military air terminals for Space-A travel. *Military Space-A Air Travel Map and Pocket Directory*™ is available at a discount at military exchanges and in the military catalog by phone or go to www.aafes.com.

For more information on Space A Travel and maps go to:

www.militaryliving.com/frm_maps_index.html

We have a great clearinghouse of specialized military travel info for all of our military ID card holders. Let's not forget our children's Space-A experiences. If you share info with your fellow military, they will be encouraged to share with YOU!

We are looking for Space-A trip reports written by military parents or their children who volunteer information about their experiences taking FREE hops around the USA or overseas. Just e-mail your story about trips and tips on traveling Space-A to militaryliving@gmail.com and share it with your fellow military. Please provide your home mailing address and phone number so that we may contact you.