



STRATEGIC AIRLIFT CAPABILITY



29 April 2020

The Strategic Airlift Capability is continuously delivering COVID-19 protective medical equipment to its Member Nations

The Strategic Airlift Capability (SAC) has been continuously transporting medical equipment such as masks, gloves, PPEs, mobile ICUs, to help battle the COVID-19 pandemic since the end of March to its Member Nations who request these deliveries. As a result, since March 25 around 250 tons of equipment have landed in Romania, Bulgaria, the Dutch Caribbean, and in Hungary.

Transports related to COVID-19 are so-called Emergency Response Missions, which, as their name suggests, are not scheduled but missions to be flown immediately after a very short preparation period. These operations are not in the annual plan; therefore need to be approved by the commander of the operational arm of the Strategic Airlift Capability, the Heavy Airlift Wing. Ever since the programme's existence, no Emergency Response Mission requests have been denied.

The Strategic Airlift Capability is a multinational cooperation of 12 Nations, in which members jointly operate three Boeing Globemaster C-17 military aircraft. The total number of annual flight hours is divided between the members, in proportion with their contribution to the Programme. Therefore, countries that contribute the largest amount of money and the most military personnel can fly the most hours in a year.

Ultimately, *what* the Strategic Airlift Capability transports *where* upon *which* nation's request, solely depends on the requesting Member and the logistical feasibility of a successful completion. In case any Member Nation indicates that airlift capacity is required in an emergency, a relief mission will be completed outside of the annual plan, pending flight condition requirements and the Wing commander's approval.

Until today, Romania, Bulgaria, The Netherlands, and Hungary requested the SAC to transport medical supplies in relation to COVID-19.

The Strategic Airlift Capability is an independent and multinational program providing assured access to strategic military airlift capability for its 12 member nations, Bulgaria, Finland, Hungary, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Romania, Slovenia, Sweden, and the United States of America.

The Strategic Airlift Capability (SAC) is a multinational initiative that provides its participating nations assured access to military airlift capability to address the growing needs for strategic and tactical airlift.

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