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The Periodic Electronic Newsletter Publication of the
Household Goods Forwarders Association of America, Inc.
Focused on Governmental and Military Issues Impacting our Industry

September 10, 2008

[HHGFAA
Home Page](#)

[HHGFAA
Job Board](#)

[On-Line
Membership
Directory](#)

[- The PORTAL -
Magazine Archive](#)

[The YP-35
Alan F. Wohlstetter
Scholarship](#)

[New & Prospective
Members](#)

IN THIS WEEKS gov/mil ePORTAL:

- **Families First Delayed.....Again!**
- **McNabb Assumes Command at Transcom**
- **Remember to Register for the SDDC Pacific Workshop**
- **SDDC - "What's New"**
- **GSA News**
- **U. S. Confirms Gypsy Moth in Oakland Ship**
- **ePORTAL: SIGN UP HERE !**

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**2008 HHGFAA
Annual Meeting
Honolulu, HI
Oct. 4-7**

Families First Delayed.....Again!

Last Friday (September 5) the Association sent the following message to the Active Membership and the Standing Committees:

IMPORTANT MESSAGE

Re: Families First implementation to be postponed

The Association just hung up on a teleconference with JPMO HHGS, SDDC and Transcom and it was strongly indicated that a message would be forthcoming from JPMO HHGS that would signify the Families First/DPS implementation scheduled for September 10, 2008 will be postponed.

*It appears that the government is targeting a new implementation timeframe of on/about **October 22, 2008.***

What effect this will have on the entire Families First Timeline is unclear at this point. The General Officer Steering Committee (GOSC) meeting planned for Monday September 8 has also been postponed

As further details become available the Association will disseminate them.

An "official" notice was released by SDDC yesterday afternoon:

DPS roll-out for 10 Sep 08 has been postponed. Great progress has been made, but a small number of issues remain, and TRANSCOM/SDDC senior leadership felt it prudent to work these issues over the next couple of weeks to completion. We are projecting an October roll-out, and will update you with specific dates as they become solidified.

This message is approved for release by Lt Col Daniel J. Bradley, DCS, Passenger & Personal Property, HQ SDDC.

The Association will endeavor to keep the membership fully informed as a new timeline for Families First is formalized.

Source: HHGFAA & SDDC

McNabb Assumes Command at Transcom

Air Force Gen. Duncan J. McNabb assumed command of U.S. Transportation Command here in a ceremony today (9-5-08).

Secretary of Defense Dr. Robert M. Gates presided at the ceremony in which McNabb became the ninth USTRANSCOM commander.

Adm. Michael Mullen, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, was the first to speak at the ceremony and lauded the efforts of U.S. Transportation Command. "Combat operations cannot succeed without secure, mature lines of logistics. And, if you ask any TRANSCOM professional, they'll tell you that they'll make it work, they get it, they live it every single day."

He continued to say that missions over the last six years were accomplished only "because of the incredible support of this command and so many tens of thousands of people that make these operations possible."

In his remarks, Secretary Gates pointed out McNabb's transportation and mobility background made him a natural choice to be the ninth commander of USTRANSCOM.

"With all these moving parts, and with the critical importance of every single (USTRANSCOM) mission, there is little doubt that this command requires a special kind of leader - one who can maintain a focus on details within the context of massive and myriad operations. General McNabb is the right person for this job."

Upon assuming command McNabb said he was pleased to be able to rekindle relationships with the many friends and community leaders he met during his previous tour here as the former commander of Air Mobility Command.

"You all know how happy Linda and I are to be back and again privileged to be a part of this great community," noted McNabb.

In his remarks, McNabb emphasized the important role USTRANSCOM continues to play around the world, from emerging requirements in the Republic of Georgia, ongoing operations in Iraq and

Afghanistan, and support to FEMA and U.S. Northern Command for Hurricane Gustav and preparations for Hurricanes Hanna and Ike.

"It is clear our nation depends on us," the general said. "Born in war, grown to maturity in times of peace, and again sustaining our warfighters in war, the men and women of TRANSCOM will ensure that the promises made to our men and women in uniform, to the people of America, will always be promises kept."

McNabb's last assignment was as Vice Chief of Staff of the Air Force at the Pentagon, Washington, D.C. Prior to becoming Air Force vice chief of staff, McNabb served as commander of Air Mobility Command, one of the three service commands comprising USTRANSCOM. The others are the Army's Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Command, also headquartered at Scott AFB, and the Navy's Military Sealift Command, with headquarters at the Washington Navy Yard, Washington, D.C.

USTRANSCOM is one of the nine U.S. military combatant commands and has its headquarters here. USTRANSCOM provides air, land and sea transportation for the Department of Defense in peace and in war and is supported by Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine, and Coast Guard personnel. As the new commander of USTRANSCOM, McNabb is now the Department of Defense Distribution Process Owner managing the development of efficient and effective distribution solutions to enhance global strategic support to customers.

Source: U. S Transportation Command

Remember to Register for the SDDC Pacific Workshop

Don't forget to register for the SDDC-Pacific Workshop which is scheduled to be held October 7-10, 2008 at the Hilton Hawaiian Village Beach Resort & Spa. The theme for the workshop is "DPS - A New Era for Personal Property". HHGFAA has worked closely with the SDDC-Pacific staff to ensure that the workshop blends perfectly with this years Annual Meeting which is also being held at the Hilton.

The first day of the SDDC-Pacific Workshop, October 7, overlaps with the final day of our 2008 Annual Meeting but that day on the SDDC agenda is for military/government personnel only. The next two days (October 8 & 9) industry attendees are welcome and encouraged to attend the General Sessions. The final day (October 10) of the SDDC Workshop is, once again, for military/government attendees only.

The following is a link to the official website for the SDDC-Pacific Workshop. Attendees are strongly encouraged to register in advance.

<https://as10.pweb.sddc.army.mil/ppc/workshops/pacific/index.htm>

Source: HHGFAA & SDDC

SDDC - "What's New"

Interim Billing Solution for Item 100V & 508G- Posted 9/5/08

http://www.sddc.army.mil/sddc/Content/Pub/44407/100v_508g%20interim%20billing%20procedures.pdf

ICSS Server Message - Posted 9/5/08

<http://www.sddc.army.mil/sddc/Content/Pub/44406//icss%20server%20downtime.pdf>

Change 3 - DS08 - Posted 9/3/08

<http://www.sddc.army.mil/sddc/Content/Pub/44375//change%203%20-%20ds08.pdf>

****Editor's Note: Change 3 to the DS08 deals with a change in the government's philosophy regarding the handling of "Flat Screen TVs" (previously described as "Plasma" TVs). Crating will no longer be authorized for these items with smaller than 60" screens. The use of corrugated boxes for packing is mandated and the cost that the government will pay for the box is \$65.00 (Flat Rate). No labor for packing or unpacking is mentioned in the change. If the military member has the original packing box, the TSP/Agent is encouraged to use that for packing but no compensation for the labor to pack the box has been included in the item.**

The Association has been pressing SDDC to revisit this item. We feel the charge for the box is too low and that labor charges for at a minimum the packing and the unpacking of the box must be included in the new item. SDDC has agreed to review the possible inclusion of labor charges but as of yet has been reluctant to change the baseline charge for the container.

The item has been listed as a change to the Domestic Solicitation. No such "change" has surfaced thus far in the International Solicitation but it appears many transportation offices have made the change universal (International & Domestic shipments).

The Association will continue to dialog with SDDC with the hope of gaining a more equitable solution this serious issue.

Changes to DTR - Posted in August

A number of changes have been made to the Defense Transportation Regulations (DTR) Part IV which is the guiding document for the U.S. Military personal property policy. Most of the changes are not substantive but all should be reviewed by TSPs. The following link will take you to the DTR Part IV. A summary of the changes is available for review.

http://www.transcom.mil/j5/pt/dtr_part_iv.cfm

Source: SDDC

GSA News

1)

Each year GSA's Federal Acquisition Service hosts an annual 3 day customer-outreach event called the GSA Expo. We just finished another successful year and our 15th Expo will take place in San Antonio, Texas, June 9-11, 2009.

This event attracts approximately 6,000 Federal, Military and State & Local purchasers who can purchase off GSA Schedules. During this 3-day event, customers can attend up to 9 different training sessions and spend up to 1-1/2 days on the exhibit floor talking with companies about the products and/or services available they provide through their GSA contract(s).

Expo booth space will be available to companies that hold current contracts with GSA. Space is limited and not guaranteed. The online booth application will be accepted only from the Expo Web site (expo.gsa.gov) beginning September 15, 2008, at 1:00 p.m. EST.

As more information becomes available, the Expo Web site will be updated. Be sure to check back frequently for the information you will need to complete the online booth application. Note: The floor plan for the booths will be available on or about August 27th via the Expo Web site (expo.gsa.gov).

If you have questions regarding GSA Expo 2009, please call the show-management company, MC-2, at (800)343-2171, or e-mail your questions to expo@gsa.gov.

2)

GSA is requesting the submission of Emergency Response rate offers for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and other Federal civilian agencies that require transportation services for Federal disasters and emergencies.

Rate offers are due by 10:00 AM Central Standard Time (CST), September 23, 2008.

Questions may be directed to 703-605-5618 or transportation.programs@gsa.gov.

Source: GSA

U.S. Confirms Gypsy Moth in Oakland Ship

U.S. Dept. of Agriculture officials Aug. 20 confirmed that suspicious egg masses discovered on a vessel by U.S. Customs and Border Protection agriculture specialists in Oakland, Calif., are viable Asian Gypsy moth eggs.

“This is a remarkable find, especially since these egg masses were missed at its last port in Australia,” said David Talpas, from the CBP San Francisco field office.

CBP agriculture specialists discovered the two suspect Asian Gypsy moth egg masses on an overhead crossbeam in front of the gangway. They quickly sent the egg masses to a special USDA laboratory in Otis, Mass., for DNA molecular analysis.

Officials there tested eight eggs from the egg masses with nuclear and mitochondrial markers — all eggs tested positive for the Asian strain of Gypsy moth, according to CBP.

Although Asian Gypsy moths are not known to occur in the United States, they pose a potential threat to more than 500 different native trees and shrubs, especially oak, which is predominant in the San Francisco Bay Area, said the CBP.

****Editor's Note: This development is likely going to increase USDA "Agricultural Inspections" for shipments inbound to the United States. Please take extra care to ensure all shipments, including US Military shipments, have all of the proper documentation in order to decrease the likelihood of inspection.**

Source: Cargo Business

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