

Fact Sheet



Headquarters, 21st Theater Sustainment Command (TSC)

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Mihail Kogalniceanu Air Base Passenger Transit Center, Romania

Operated by 21st TSC

What is being said about MK:

(MK Air Base) demonstrates the United States' and Romania's broader defense cooperation, which is becoming even more important in the wake of Russia's actions in Ukraine. – U.S. Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel

Our Soldiers are building a passenger transit center for military troops redeploying from Afghanistan. Our Team 21 formations are clocking long hours, braving cold, wintry conditions, and beating tough deadlines to ensure this project is completed on time and on budget. – Maj. Gen. John R. O'Connor, 21st TSC Commanding General

Our stay here has been a lot better than at Manas. The facilities are awesome; they actually have buildings instead of tents. (The engineers) did a really great job building those facilities in such a short amount of time. - Spc. Stephen Mayville, 1st Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment, on using the MK Air Base Passenger Transit Center with his unit

FACTS:

- The MK Air Base transit center replaces the center at Manas, Kyrgyzstan that operated from 2001 to June 2014.
- The 21st TSC has about 360 personnel on the ground at MK Air Base providing services including construction, personnel processing, communications support and life support.
- The first transit flight from the Continental U.S., carrying Soldiers of the 101st Airborne Division, arrived Feb. 2, 2014.
- The 21st TSC is supporting 30,700 American service members deployed to Afghanistan (as of Aug. 4, 2014).
- The 21st TSC processed 563 missions departing for and arriving from Afghanistan from Jan. 1-Aug. 5, 2014.
- Since opening the MK passenger transit center in January 2014, 21st TSC Soldiers and partners have processed 85,231 Soldiers, helping direct essential personnel safely and efficiently into and out of the Operation Enduring Freedom theater of operations (as of Aug. 5, 2014).
- 246,305 meals were served at MK Air Base dining facilities from Feb. 11-June 30, 2014.
- More than 2,100 tons of baggage and individual gear were shipped into theater from Jan. 1-Aug 5, 2014.
- MK Air Base can handle 2,000 service members (1,000 moving into theater, 1,000 returning from theater) and about 3,000 tons of associated cargo and baggage per day.
- 60,332 body armor plates have been inspected and 8,986 have been exchanged at MK Air Base this year (as of Aug. 5, 2014).
- The 21st TSC's 18th Engineer Brigade (deactivated in May 2014) constructed four major new structures at MK Air Base, including a new transit center and customs facility. The facilities accommodate up to 300 personnel at a time, the number who arrive at the center on a full aircraft.
- The U.S. portion of MK Air Base spans 1.32 square miles or 850 acres. This is comparable to Clay Kaserne in Wiesbaden, Germany, which is 684 acres (including the airfield).
- MK Air Base contains a single runway 11,483 feet long.
- Average time to deploy into the OEF theater from MK Air Base is less than 36 hours, compared to 48 hours at Manas. Redeployment takes 40 hours at MK Air Base, compared to more than 72 hours at Manas.
- Startup construction costs for MK Air Base was \$25 million, compared to \$126 million at Manas.
- Annual operating costs for the transit center at MK Air Base (as of July 8, 2014) are \$18 million per year, compared to \$80 million at Manas.

As of August 11, 2014