



CRC, UDC Provide DCMA Employees

By Mark Woodbury, DCMA Public Affairs

An old adage reads, “You’re only as good as the tools you have to do the job with,” while another, more modern adage reads, “Knowing is half the battle.”

There are two sources Defense Contract Management Agency employees use to get the basic tools and knowledge needed before deploying overseas: the Continental United States Replacement Center — or CRC — at Fort Benning, Ga., and the Unit Deployment Center — UDC — in Winchester, Va.

CRC

The CRC is located in the Harmony Church area within Fort Benning. By design, the CRC is located several miles away from main post to allow deployees access to amenities without being in the middle of the hectic working environment often found around main post.

The CRC consists of one single-story building, a battalion headquarters building, five company buildings, a dining

facility, a gym, a dayroom and eight living facilities. Each living facility has two wings. Each wing has 11 rooms with a commonly shared latrine area. Nine of these rooms are four-person rooms. The other two rooms are two-person rooms generally reserved for high-ranking military and civilian members. Within each living facility wing, there are washers and dryers for personal use.

To help deployees pass any downtime, the dayroom has large-screen televisions and other entertainment avenues. The dayroom is also equipped with a telephone room and a computer room with Internet access.

For any last-minute personal items needed while at the CRC, a post bus runs from the facility to the Post Exchange. However, bringing and buying only what one truly needs

is one piece of advice CRC offers. “Pack as light as you can for the trip — you will be issued a lot to carry — bring a phone card to call home with and come prepared for a varied schedule,” says Les Berry, DCMA Space and Missile Systems Division quality assurance representative.

Schedule

With approximately 192,000 people going through the center yearly, the CRC’s leadership has made it a point to do everything they can to make sure deployees are able to accomplish pre-deployment requirements within their allowable schedule.

Although the schedule can — and does — change, a basic weekly schedule for a deployee at the CRC looks similar to the one at right:

(Right) A typical weekly schedule for a deployee at the Continental U.S. Replacement Center.

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“Come with the mindset of being a part of a team and come with the ability to follow basic instructions.” — Maj. Rufino Herrera

Deployment Tools, Knowledge

Schedule

Day

Saturday (day 1)

Event

In-processing
 Computer lab*
 Medical/dental screening

Sunday (day 2)

In-processing
 Clothing and equipment issue
 Isolated Personnel Report and Personal Emergency Response
 System recovery training video
 Command brief
 Computer lab*

Monday and Tuesday (days 3 and 4)

Medical processing
 Dental processing
 Computer lab*
 Isolated Personnel Report card issue
 Clothing and equipment issue

Wednesday (day 5)

Rules of engagement briefing
 Fraternization briefing
 Use-of-force briefing
 Law of land warfare briefing
 Unexploded ordnance training

Thursday (day 6)

Safety briefing
 M-16 rifle and 9 mm pistol familiarization
 Smallpox shots

Friday (day 7)

Smallpox shots
 Flight operations

* *Computer lab training consists of completing the following courses:*

- "Anti-terrorism — Force Protection Level 1"
- "Subversion and Espionage Directed Against the Army"
- Sexual harassment awareness
- Cultural awareness
- Combat stress and suicide prevention
- Military values and general orders
- Law of the land warfare and Geneva Convention
- Trafficking in persons
- Hot and cold weather injury prevention
- Code of Conduct and Uniform Code of Military Justice
- Operational security
- Fraternization policy
- Collection and reporting intelligence information
- Warrior ethos and the soldier's creed



Betty Cruz, DCMA Aircraft Integrated Maintenance Operations Kelly, tries on a pair of gloves while going through the issuing line at the Unit Deployment Center in Winchester, Va., Jan. 14.

There is a lot of information thrown at deployees in a short amount of time. “The water hose effect is definitely in play,” said Army Lt. Col. Quenton Rashid, DCMA Lockheed Martin Dallas commander and recent CRC deployee. “Even though it may be difficult, come prepared to absorb as much information as you can. Your life may depend on what you remember.”

According to Army Maj. Rufino Herrera, CRC operations officer, the best advice he could give someone going through the CRC is twofold: “Come with the mindset of being a part of a team and come with the ability to follow basic instructions.” He said if deployees come with these two traits, they will have an enjoyable CRC experience.

Coming to the CRC with the right frame of mind, according to Berry, who recently processed through the CRC, can impact a deployee’s entire deployment experience. “Your mindset as you begin your deployment at the CRC will set the

stage for your entire deployment,” said Berry. “Nothing is consistent with contingency contracting, and a person has to be prepared to accept redirection and change with the right attitude or else the deployment will serve as nothing more than a source of constant frustration.” Berry also suggests bringing a good book to read during the “hurry up to wait” downtimes joked about within any military process.

Detailed information about the CRC, process schedules and all required paperwork needed to process through the center can be accessed at <https://www.infantry.army.mil/CRC>.

UDC

When DCMA’s Contingency Contract Administration Services mission was expanded to oversee Army contracts, the agency needed an additional avenue to equip its people and place them into theater quickly. The agency found a solution to the situation in the UDC in Winchester, Va.

A much smaller operation in size than the CRC, processing approximately 650 deployees each year, the UDC’s primary role is to get Army Corps of Engineer deployees into theater quickly. Unlike the CRC, however, the UDC, with its smaller operating numbers, was able to process DCMA employees during the agency’s initial push of putting people in theater to support the CCAS contracts.

The UDC process and scheduling is similar to the CRC in most ways except that deployees going through the UDC are required to submit all paperwork before arriving. This shortens the time spent at the UDC and eliminates potential delays due to incorrect or insufficient medical/dental checks.

Detailed information about the UDC, process schedules and a list of required paperwork can be accessed at <http://www.tac.usace.army.mil/deploymentcenter/deploy.asp>. 

Tips for Success

Tips for a successful CRC or UDC experience from DCMA employees who have been there, done that:

- Pack light — the CRC and UDC will give you plenty of other things you will have to carry in addition to what deployees bring
- Follow directions
- Be flexible to change — like most things in life, change is the only constant
- Wear comfortable shoes
- Bring a phone card with you
- Have some cash on hand for necessary last-minute items
- Double-check that all paperwork is finished and completed before arriving — this may save you having to stay any longer at the CRC than planned
- Keep all important documents on your person — it’s easier to carry what you don’t need than it is to get what you don’t have.