

# Port Procedure—In a Suitcase

LEGHORN, Italy (Special) — Everything from top secret documents to lunches are carried in briefcases; however, a two-man team from SETAF's 8th Logistical Comd has managed to cram an entire Port Processing Center into a briefcase and carry it several times a month to service SETAF personnel.

The mobile team, operated by personnel from the Army's Leghorn Port of Embarkation, ensures that SETAF personnel arriving or departing aboard ships at the civilian port at Genoa are afforded the same processing assistance that is normally found in large military ports such as Leghorn and Bremerhaven.

For passengers sailing from the Port of Genoa, the briefcase proc-

essing center goes into operation the moment it receives notice of the port call.

Hotel reservations are made. From information previously furnished by the sponsor, customs documents are put in order, clearances of privately owned vehicles are procured by the mobile port team, and space aboard the ship is obtained through contact with the ship line agent in Genoa.

When the passengers arrive at their hotel in Genoa the "briefcase men" are there to greet them. In a 20-minute conference, 2nd Lt Michael Cornick and S Sgt Robert E. Becker explain details.

During this brief meeting the passengers are usually amazed to discover that there's little or no work left for them to do. Sponsors with privately owned vehicles are escorted to the dock and the team obtains final clearance from Italian authorities, conducting a pre-lodging inspection of the vehicle and obtains shipping documents from the line.

Operating in reverse, they start preparing forms and documents for incoming passengers. The team is permitted to board the ship as soon as the gangplank is down. The new arrivals are met at a predetermined spot aboard ship and are quickly processed through the maze of customs and immigration points, issued their preprepared authorizations to drive their cars in Italy and given gas coupons.

Within a few hours after the ship docks the passengers are on their way to their duty stations.

First Lt Victory Kim, arriving

aboard the Constitution for assignment with SETAF's 8th Logistical Comd at Camp Darby, said, "Prior to our docking my wife and I were seriously concerned with the prospect of endless hours of customs processing, the registering our pet cat at immigration, obtaining train tickets to Camp Darby; all while carrying eight pieces of luggage, and caring for our year-old baby.

"Our concern proved unnecessary, however. The manner in which the team guided us swiftly through the processing was a welcome conclusion to our ship crossing and a fine beginning of our stay in Italy. One hour and 10 minutes after the ship docked my family and I were settled on the train heading for Pisa and Camp Darby."

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