By DEEDEE AARRINGTON DOKE
Kaiserslautern bureau

RAMSTEIN AB, West Germany —

German authorities said 20 of 49 people killed in Sunday's air show had been identified by Tuesday night, but U.S. officials cited lower casualty and identification figures.

Rheinland-Pfalz state spokesman Jurgen Dietzen said 20 of 49 people killed in the crash were identified. The 15 who died in hospitals included six Germans, two children and an unborn baby. The 34 people killed instantly included the three Italian air force pilots, nine Germans, one Dutch and one French, Dietzen said.

He also said 282 people remained in 27 hospitals.

U.S. Air Force officials at Ramstein confirmed 42 deaths.

In Washington, however, chief Pentagon spokesman Dan Howard said the latest count put the number of confirmed fatalities at 40, including six Americans, four Germans, three Italians and 27 people of unknown nationality.

Of the six Americans, at least two were active-duty military personnel and three were family members, Howard said.

The Defense Department is trying to resolve conflicts in the casualty counts, he said. The latest Pentagon count showed 363 individuals injured, of whom 41 were American and 322 Germans.

The German Red Cross confirmed 41 Americans injured and 322 non-Americans, but not necessarily all Germans.

Attempting to identify the dead are U.S. Air Force personnel and German forensic specialists from state and federal police, along with criminal medicine professors, Dietzen said.

They had trouble identifying the victims because of the condition of the bodies and the lack of identification found near them at the scene of the catastrophe.

"I don't want to get too graphic. ... The parts are not all together," said Senior Master Sgt. Ed Worley, USAFE spokesman at Ramstein AB spokesman. "Some of the bodies were pretty badly charred."

According to the German Red Cross, 46 people were still missing.

The Air Force asked anyone who has located family members or friends that they originally reported missing to call ETS 480-2551 or civilian 06371-47-2551.

More than 1,000 people were reported missing Sunday evening.

The disaster, the world's worst air show accident, killed at least 49 people and injured more than 360.

The Air Force also reported two people were burned by rounds fired from an Abrams tank.

The accident occurred shortly before midnight on Range 301 in the Grafenwohr Training Area while a platoon of M1 Abrams tanks and a platoon of M3 Bradleys conducted simultaneous live-firing exercises.

500,000 spectators — armed with binoculars and cameras — crowded the area to watch.

The accident occurred at the end of a maneuver called the "pierced heart." In the maneuver, the 10-plane team split near the top of a high loop. Five planes descend in one direction while four planes descend in the opposite direction, trailing brightly colored smoke.

As the paths of the nine aircraft cross to complete the bottom of a heart, the 10th plane, piloted by the solo performer, cuts through and above the formation at a 90-degree angle, piercing the heart like an arrow. At the time of the crash, the solo plane flies directly toward the spectators.

Sunday, the solo pilot — whose wife was among the 300,000 spectators — arrived as the other nine planes were crossing.

Published reports Tuesday said the maneuver was not permitted when the team performed at the Cleveland (Ohio) National Air Show two years ago because...
Copter crew entered inferno to rescue victims

By DARYL E. GREEN
Kaiserslautern bureau

RAMSTEIN AB, West Germany — Second Lt. Daniel Hickey saw the collision and the explosion.

Airplane debris and flaming fuel rained down on the Ramstein flight line Sunday, killing up to 49 and injuring hundreds — and, Hickey noticed, destroying a medical evacuation helicopter standing by for just such an emergency at the base air show.

Now Hickey and fellow crewmembers on his Huey helicopter were responsible for the many wounded lying in and around the flames.

"There was no clear place to land except where the fire was," said Capt. Theodore E. Hartenstein, pilot of the helicopter, assigned to the 58th Military Airlift Sq at Ramstein. "I figured, if I landed on somebody in that fire, they're not alive anyway, so that's the only place I have to land right now."

The four-man crew had been stationed across the runway from the throng of spectators lining the flight line to watch Italy's Freccia Tricolore precision flying team. Close by the Huey was the medical helicopter from Landstuhl Army Regional Medical Center, a German police helicopter and another chopper from the 58th. Hartenstein's primary job was VIP security in case of terrorist attack.

"When the accident occurred, I looked up and saw the explosion right above (the medical evacuation helicopter)," said co-pilot Dickey. "I saw that (it) was just in flames."

Within three minutes, Hartenstein's copilot was up and saw the explosion right above (the medical evacuation helicopter)," said co-pilot Dickey. "I saw that (it) was just in flames."

"We didn't know the extent of the damage until we were in the air," he said. "I was able to see the explosion, and then theress of the medical evacuation helicopter."

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"Our first patient was the photographer for the Italian team," Hartenstein said.

In seven trips, the crew flew 10 seriously injured victims to Landstuhl, while the other Huey transported five.

"I just keep seeing this one patient we had that every strip of clothing that he had was burned off," Hartenstein said.

Flight engineer A.J.C. Jeffrey T. Franco was left with the sight of the children. "Seeing a big old cot with a little kid in there all burned up," he said.

Hickey's most vivid memory was of "the last person we hauled. Just to see them doing CPR and holding IV bags for him."

And, at the end, it was time to let their own healing processes begin.

"I took Airman Franco home with me," Hartenstein said. "And we administered some medicinal beer."

Catastrophe prompts criticism of other air shows

In other developments, wire services reported Tuesday:

• Sunday's crash came a week before Europe's biggest aviation event — England's Farnborough Air Show. Although Farnborough hasn't experienced an accident involving spectators since 1952, the Ramstein disaster immediately prompted thoughts about safety at the show.

In Britain, Ken Collins, a Labor Party member of the European Parliament, wrote to Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher on Monday urging that Farnborough be canceled because "we cannot afford to take any more needless risks with human life."

Organizers said the show would go on, but spokesman Duncan Simpson, a former test pilot, said, "No one would deny that, after an accident like that, we all have to think very hard."

However, he said the safety rules already were so strict that there was little scope for major change.

Pilots at Farnborough have to perform their display for a committee of experts before the show opens. They can fly over or toward the spectators, but must maintain a minimum altitude of 100 feet and must keep to the side of the runway farther from the grandstands.

• The hundreds of air shows held each year in the United States draw more spectators than professional football games, the organizers of the flying demonstrations said.

By the latest count, U.S. air shows draw around 18 million visitors a year, edging out the 16.7 million million football fans who pass through the gates, according to the International Council of Air Shows, a trade group based in Jackson, Mich.

Accidents have occurred at U.S. air shows in which pilots have been killed or injured. But none of the disasters has ever involved spectators, according to the trade group.

The National Transportation Safety Board said that, since 1983, it has investigated 25 accidents at civilian air shows in the United States involving 28 planes and 11 fatalities. The figures do not include accidents at military shows.

• In West Germany, the leftist Green Party had scheduled an evening prayer vigil and rally Tuesday in Ramstein to express shock over the tragedy. The Greens also said they would join with the leftist--leaning Social Democrats in another rally Wednesday in nearby Kaiserslautern.
Tragedy’s effect on children may take months to unfold

By DAVE WALCZAK

KAISERSLAUTERN, West Germany — A team of school psychologists said Tuesday it could take months to determine the impact on children who witnessed or read news reports of Sunday's fatal air disaster.

"We don't know how it's going to unfold," said Terry Arbuckle, a school psychologist working with Baumholder-area schools. "We've never dealt with this kind of situation before.

"The impact could go on for months," said Michael Hart, a psychologist with the Department of Defense Dependents Schools.

"We have to be prepared to deal not only with children who were directly involved, but also with those who have seen things on TV."

Arbuckle and Hart are part of a crisis intervention team assigned to the Kaiserslautern school district education resource center.

They knew of no DODDS students killed or injured Sunday when three planes performing with an Italian stunt flying team crashed at a Ramstein AB air show. One of the planes plummeted into a crowd of spectators and exploded, killing as many as 49 and injuring more than 360.

In the wake of the disaster, the psychologists advised teachers and parents to watch for radical changes of behavior, especially in young children.

"They can take many forms," Arbuckle said. "They might see an acting-out kind of behavior, but a more likely reaction would be symptoms of withdrawal."

Resource center director George Carpenter received a call from district officials Monday morning asking him to be ready to provide assistance to children having difficulty dealing with the air disaster. Carpenter said the team planned to use many of the same techniques developed to deal with the aftermath of the 1987 suicide of a Baumholder High School counselor.

In addition, Carpenter said school officials could ask for community assistance, such as chaplains, Army Community Service personnel and hospital psychiatrists. The center was trying to land the temporary services of a military psychiatrist experienced in dealing with disasters, resource center officials said.

So far, only Landstuhl Elementary-Middle School has asked for the center's help. Two students failed to show up for Monday's first day of school, prompting the call, but the students later were accounted for.

Landstuhl is the site of the the Army's regional medical center where many of the injured from Sunday's crash were taken. At other area schools, principals were adopting a wait-and-see attitude Tuesday.

"We haven't had any problems that I know of," said Ramstein High School principal Fred Drath. "But what we don't know is what problems might surface in time."

Drath said some Ramstein Junior ROTC students were told Monday to leave their refreshment stand about two hours before the crash. The stand's original location was in the crash-site area.

Kaiserslautern High School principal Bill LeClair said students "have been discussing the crash in the hallways, but you'd expect that with a disaster of this magnitude. But we haven't had any need so far" for the education resource center team.

Hundreds still hospitalized with severe burns

By JANET D'AGOSTINO

AND REGINA KIRKENDALL

RAMSTEIN AB, West Germany — Four severely burned victims of Sunday's fatal air show crash flew out of Ramstein AB Tuesday for specialized treatment at Brooke Army Medical Center in Texas, while hundreds of injured remained hospitalized in Europe.

A five-member team from the burn facility at Brooke arrived in West Germany late Monday to inspect patients at Landstuhl Army Regional Medical Center.

The team — two doctors, two nurses and a medical technician — left Tuesday aboard a C-141 aircraft at Landstuhl Army Regional Medical Center.

A severely burned GI is carried aboard a C-141 bound for Brooke Army Medical Center, San Antonio, Texas.

A severely burned GI is carried aboard a C-141 bound for Brooke Army Medical Center, San Antonio, Texas.

The team included the Burn Team from Landstuhl Army Regional Medical Center, the Burn Team from Rhein-Main AB and the Burn Team from Ramstein AB.

The four severely injured people were: Air Force Master Sgt. Stephen Hull, 32; Army 1st Lt. Kim Strader; 36; Army 1st Lt. Myron Riggs; 21; and Italian Andreea Delarosa.

Strader was accompanied by his wife, Virginia. Also accompanying the wounded were Carusoin Delarosa and Penna Esposito. Their relationship to the patients was not available.

As many as 49 people died and more than 360 were injured after an Italian plane crashed into a crowd of air show spectators at Ramstein AB.

The injured were in 27 hospitals, some as far away as Frankfurt, 60 miles northeast of Ramstein.

Many of those hospitalized, a majority of them German, were being transferred Tuesday to clinics across the country, said Jurgen Dietzen, spokesman for the Rheinland-Pfalz Interior Ministry.

At Landstuhl Army Regional Medical Center Tuesday, nine patients, all Americans, remained in good condition, hospital spokeswoman Marie Shaw said.

Other hospitals with severely injured or a large number of injured include:

Ludwigshafen City Hospital — Fifteen remained in intensive care with severe burns, condition unchanged. Doctors, however, were optimistic. Ten others were in stable condition, but will need extensive skin transplants. Three patients are expected to be hospitalized for at least six months.

Ludwigshafen Clinic — The condition of all nine patients remained unchanged, including four with severe or life-threatening injuries and the others with less severe injuries. It remained impossible to identify a severely burned GI in coma.

Homburg City Hospital — An unidentified man who suffered severe burns died Monday night. Eight of the original 41 patients remained in Homburg. Six were children, including one American. All were in fairly good condition. The final two were German men in very bad condition. The rest of the patients had been released or transferred to hospitals closer to their homes.

Kaiserslautern City Hospital — Eight of the original 46 patients were released Tuesday morning. Another 27 had been transferred to hospitals closer to their homes or to U.S. military hospitals. Some of the transferred patients were in critical condition, but were expected to live.

Trier City Hospital — Four of the five patients originally treated were sent to Aachen's special burn clinic Monday afternoon. The one remaining patient was in good condition.

Aachen Burn Clinic — Eight patients were transferred to Aachen from Trier, Kaiserslautern and Landshut Monday. All had suffered massive burns. One patient transferred from Trier, who had not been expected to survive Monday, had improved. Doctors were optimistic Tuesday that he would live.

Kusel City Hospital — Three patients remained in Kusel in fairly good condition.

Koblenz City Hospital — The hospital was unable to update the condition of three unidentified severely injured men and one woman with less severe injuries.

Landstuhl City Hospital — Eighteen of the original 37 patients had been released. Three others were transferred to a French burn center in nearby Merlebach. Of the remaining 14, one was moved to the intensive care unit. None of the patients suffered life-threatening injuries. All are expected to survive.
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show catastrophe involving spectators, occurred Sunday at Ramstein's annual Fliegtag air show when three Italian air force planes collided in midair. One plane crashed into the throng of spectators lining the front of a viewing area, killing many viewers instantly and injuring hundreds, many critically.

A memorial service for the victims will be at 11 a.m. Saturday at St. Nicholas Catholic Church in the village of Ramstein, said Senior Airman Rich Romero, a base spokesman.

"It's the only official one at this point," Romero said.

Investigators looking into the accident issued an appeal Tuesday to spectators who videotaped or photographed the midair collision to bring the material to the investigating board for examination.

The board is "looking at every source available" to help determine what went wrong, said U.S. Air Force Lt. Mike Laughton, investigation board recorder.

The photos and tapes are being gathered by Laughton in Building 571 on base. The telephone numbers for those with photographs or videotape are ETS 480-7976, 7997 and German civilian 06371-47-7979 or 7976.

Eastern can curtail service, but must negotiate layoffs

WASHINGTON (AP) — A federal judge said Tuesday that Eastern Airline's may curtail service, but must return to the bargaining table and negotiate over the proposed layoffs of 4,000 employees.

U.S. District Judge Barrington D. Parker said Eastern has shown through testimony that it has the right to help determine what went wrong, said U.S. Air Force Lt. Mike Laughton, investigation board recorder.

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it was thought to be potentially dangerous for spectators.

"I don't know about that particular request, but it wouldn't be that unique or unusual," Di Martino said.

"It happens occasionally that the team is asked not to perform a particular maneuver for reasons of visibility or safety and they always oblige." Di Martino said that last year seven Air Force pilots were killed during practice runs.

The team had planned to perform Saturday at an air show in Switzerland, but the organizers of the show in Ecuvillens said late Tuesday it had asked the Italians not to participate.

The committee said it made the request out of respect for the three pilots who died and because the accident was still under investigation.

Di Martino earlier had said the team wanted to fly "even if that means making a single pass. It'll be their way of paying homage to all who died at Ramstein."

Laughton said people should put their names and addresses on the photos or tapes. He said they would be returned, but no names will be used.


"The tragedy at Ramstein, West Germany, is the most recent example of the tremendous risks inherent in high performance aerial demonstrations, to bind the public involved and the spectators," Dicks said.

"While I understand the attraction of high performance demonstrations for both the services and spectators, I am concerned that the risks outweigh the benefits." Dicks said.

Dicks said that last year seven Air Force personnel died during practice flights. "It happened occasionally that the team is asked not to perform a particular maneuver for reasons of visibility or safety and they always oblige." Dicks said.

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Bush, Dukakis a"re in tune for face-to-face debates

WASHINGTON (AP) — The chairman of George Bush's campaign said his candidate is willing to have two debates with Michael Dukakis and a third between their running mates, but a meeting between leaders of the two campaigns ended with no agreement.

Top officials of the two presidential campaigns met for nearly two hours with James A. Baker III, chairman of the Bush campaign, saying that they were willing to hold two debates with the first coming as early as Sept. 22, subject to agreement on a format and other considerations.

Dukakis campaign chair Paul Brountas and Democratic National Chairman Paul Kirk charged the Bush campaign with "ducking" an opportunity to debate. The Dukakis campaign, which has already accepted a bipartisan commission's plan for four debates, said the next move was up to Bush. "There will be an opportunity to debate, and I just don't feel under any great rush, frankly," Bush said while campaigning in St. Louis. "We're comfortable going a little bit more body halfway, but I'm not about to be stampeded."

Democratic National Chairman Paul Kirk charged that Bush is "politicizing" an "transcontinental slur" while avoiding face-to-face debate. The Dukakis campaign, which has already accepted a bipartisan commission's plan for four debates, said the next move was up to Bush. "The Bush campaign has been ducking these debates, and it's up to them," said Leslie Dach, Dukakis communications director. "We've got a plan, and it's a plan's been agreed to by both parties. If they aren't willing to follow that plan, we've got to hear from them."

Janet Brown, executive director of the bipartisan Commission on Presidential Debates, said she has been asked by each campaign to meet with them separately after the Baker-Brountas session. The committee set up the debates with the participation of both party chairmen.