

U.S. lends transport plane for Rwanda operation

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BRUSSELS, April 9 (Reuter) - The U.S. air force has agreed to lend Belgium a C-5 "Galaxy" transport plane to help with the deployment of troops and equipment to Rwanda, Belgian military sources said on Saturday.

The four-engined plane, one of the world's biggest transport aircraft, can carry tanks, trucks, equipment or troops. The sources said it was expected to arrive at an airport near Brussels later on Saturday.

Belgium is sending crack paratroops to Kigali, the capital of the tiny central African state which has been torn by a civil war along ethnic lines, to protect and evacuate foreigners.

The "Galaxy" could also be used to evacuate U.S. citizens. There are some 230 in Rwanda and Washington has told them to leave.

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