

will also get to participate in Purple Dragon, which is a large joint exercise. Col. Glenn Mackey and Lt. Col. John Zazworsky lead our Purple Dragon exercise involvement.

The exercise will give us plenty of excellent training in airdrops of personnel/heavy equipment and airland movement of heavy equipment loads and tanks into an austere landing strip.

Charleston was the lead wing for this exercise and I've heard great feedback from everyone involved. The Army has been extremely pleased with our support and planning of this exercise. We are exercising the Army's new go-to-war concept of the Immediate Ready Company, which is part of the much larger Strategic Brigade Airdrop (see the article on page 1 for details).

A special thanks is due to Maj. Chris Birge of wing tactics who was the lead planner for the past nine months for this exercise. Major Birge is headed to McChord soon and we're going to miss his expertise in planning events of this scale. Purple Dragon is another first class performance from the men and women of the premier airlift wing on the face of this planet!