

Info managers prepare for AEF deployments

As the Air Expeditionary Force concept becomes a reality, Air Force members may wonder how it will affect them and what can they do to prepare themselves for a deployment.

Information managers in the 437th Communications Squadron recently found the answers to these questions. Twelve members participated in a two-day mock deployment scheduled by Senior Master Sgt. Terrie Powell, Wing 3A0X1 Functional Manager.

"The reason we're training is to make sure resources and personnel are ready when the deployment window arrives in December," she said.

There was a good deal of preplanning and coordination that took place prior to the mock deployment to make the training as realistic as possible, Powell added.

"We decided to get as far away from the squadron as possible and determined the ATSO (Ability to Survive and Operate) area would be the perfect location," Powell said.

The next step in preparing for the training was establishing a source of power so that the information managers would be able to check their equipment, such as laptops, copier machines and shredders, in field conditions. A generator was provided, with the help of members of the 437th Component Repair Squadron, according to Powell.

After coordinating a location and access to power, members of the 437th Aerial Port Squadron helped



Senior Airman Corey Clements

Airman 1st Class Shervon Greenhow, an information manager with the 437th Communications Squadron, reviews a checklist after setting up equipment.

provide transportation for personnel and equipment by arranging a forklift for their use.

"When the first day training rolled around, everything fell into place like clockwork," Powell said.

The information managers kick-

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Wing Functional Manager

started the event with pallet build-up training, instructed by Airman 1st Class Richard Nedrow of the 437th APS. They conducted a complete inventory of the mini-C bags, performed an annual review of the mobility folders

and turned in all gas masks for the upcoming base-level "subject to deploy" fit test.

On the second day of training, personnel and equipment were transported to the ATSO area. Equipment was offloaded and set up to display its operability during a real-world deployment. Appropriate checklists were run, ensuring all IM troops were knowledgeable of their areas of responsibility. Real-world scenarios were conducted, allowing the information managers to respond with appropriate actions.

"The training will definitely help us," said Master Sgt. Kitty Walker, a comm squadron information manager. "We all need to experience this so no one is caught off guard. You should always practice what you're going to be tested on."

The training the information managers received was invaluable, according to Powell.

"I could not have hoped for a better outcome," she said. "The positive feedback from all of the personnel involved depicts the success of the training. The work they did together as a squadron helped establish esprit de corps and gave them an appreciation for all of the work needed to accomplish a successful deployment."

Powell said that the support they received from outside agencies "was nothing less than spectacular — truly a Team Charleston effort." (*Courtesy of the 437th Communications Squadron*)