

FEATURE



Photo by Airman 1st Class Jason Bailey

Senior Airman Thyese Brewton, 437th Civil Engineering Squadron operation management apprentice, and Tech Sgt. Gaither Moore, 437th Aerial Port Squadron flight training monitor, tie tent walls together during the mobility exercise.



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Team Charleston members work together to set-up a tent during a mobility exercise Wednesday. The exercise involved establishing a bare base and helped train participants for the Air Mobility Command Expeditionary Operation Readiness Inspection in January 2004. Nearly 200 base personnel participated.



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Above: Tech Sgt. Joseph Grillo, 437th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron aerospace maintenance and patrol two team leader, awaits orders on a perimeter patrol during the mobility exercise.

Left: Senior Airman Joshua Maroney, 437th Civil Engineering Squadron Electrical Power Production technician, drives in a tent stake during the set-up of the bare base.

Team Charleston displays readiness

By 2nd Lt. Bryan Lewis
437AW Public Affairs

Team Charleston personnel participated in a mobility readiness exercise



Photo by Airman 1st Class Stephanie Hammer

Team Charleston personnel process through a deployment line Tuesday to prepare for a mock deployment for a mobility exercise.

this week to test their readiness for deployments and prepare for the Air Mobility Command Expeditionary Operational Readiness Inspection scheduled for January 2004.

"This exercise is designed to train our wing in preparation for the AMC Expeditionary Operation Readiness Inspection early next year," said Dave Hunt, 437th Airlift Wing Plans exercise and inspections manager and mobility exercise team chief. "However, it is more important to make sure our wing is ready to do its mission any time and any where."

During the mock deployment, nearly 200 Charleston members were recalled to deploy and establish a bare base in support of a humanitarian relief effort. Each member had to meet necessary requirements to process through the deployment line, which included prepar-

ing deployment bags and updating immunizations.

"A deployment processing line will not be conducted in the January AMC EORI," said Mr. Hunt. "We added the line in preparation for Team Charleston's scheduled initial response practice in January 2005."

The January 2004 inspection completes the inspection cycle that was started before and set aside during Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

The EORI in January 2005 starts the new cycle and will include a mock deployment of approximately 650 personnel and 400 tons of cargo. In that inspection, the deployment will involve flying away to a "hostile" environment.

Although the inspection in January 2004 will not include a deployment processing line, Team Charleston mem-

bers learned a lot from training.

"This process reminded me how important it is to have my will and power-of-attorney ready," said Staff Sgt. Octavia Dean, 437th Airlift Wing administrative assistant. "It also provides an opportunity for those of us who have not been deployed before to have an experience similar to an actual deployment."

Deploying is a large part of the Air Force's job today, which is why this exercise is so vital to performing our mission here, said Mr. Hunt.

"Deployment into a hostile area is part of the threat we face in today's environment," said Master Sgt. Randy Ellis, 437th Aerial Port Squadron unit program manager and exercise evaluation team chief. "Having this exercise provides our people with valuable preparation on how to survive and operate in today's high-threat environments."



Photo by Airman 1st Class Jason Bailey

Airman 1st Class Anthony Gallagher and Senior Airman Aaron Williams, 437th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron and patrol two members, search the perimeter for activity during the mobility exercise.