



News Release

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

437th AIRLIFT WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

102 East Hill Blvd., Rm. 223, Charleston AFB, S.C. 29404-5154
Phone: (843) 963-5608, 5588 or 5589 Fax (843) 963-5604

PAO email: edmund.memi@charleston.af.mil

After duty hours, call the base operator or command post (963-2531) & ask for a PA rep

Release No. 10-01

Oct. 03, 2002

EXERCISES, EVALUATIONS KEEPY CAFB READY FOR ANYTHING

CHARLESTON AIR FORCE BASE, S.C. –After working a war-time mission by deploying or taking up the slack for deployed members, hours for many workers seem to get longer and longer.

Then a crash phone goes off, and it's exercise time again.

Even though some people may think exercises are a hassle, exercises and evaluations ensure the wing is prepared for anything that comes its way.

According to Baker, exercises during high operations tempo are important to the wing because contingencies do not always test members on every accident or incident that could happen.

“Even in (an extreme) OPSTEMO, exercises give commanders that snapshot, the honest, objective look,” said Maj. Daren Baker, 437th Airlift Wing deputy inspector general. “Are we as good as we think we are?”

The wing annually conducts a mobility exercise, four major accident response exercises, a natural disaster response exercise and a force protection condition exercise.

“There are Air Force Instruction requirements to do these exercises,” said Baker. “AFI 32-4001 outlines (the MARE and NDRE) exercises we are required to perform. It also tells exactly what kind of exercises we have to perform, such as mass casualty, conventional munitions, hazardous materials and nuclear incidents.”

The NDRE has to be for a natural disaster that can occur here, Baker said, which is why Team Charleston usually conducts a hurricane exercise.

“The purpose of these five exercises ensures that our people are trained and our plans are adequate,” said Baker.

Wing mobility exercises are done for several different reasons, said Baker.

“Mobility exercises are done when there's an upcoming Air Mobility Command IG mobility inspection,” said Baker. “Another reason we perform internal mobility exercises is to ensure the wing and units are following requirements for deployments. It gives the wing commander, group commanders and squadron commanders an independent evaluation of our mobility readiness.”

Baker said the installation deployment plan dictates that CAFB performs the exercise annually.

“The main objective of mobility exercises are to evaluate the installation deployment plan and how well the wing is conducting deployments,” said Baker. “The second objective is to evaluate the mobility readiness of a small select group of unit type codes.”

It's important to do the exercises on an annual basis due to the high turnover of personnel, said Baker.

Baker, also the current chief of the wing's exercise and evaluation team, said it's important to have evaluators to give commanders an assessment of how the base does during exercises. EET members are appointed by squadron commanders to help the EET team chief plan, conduct and evaluate exercises. The EET team chief goes through formal training such as the on-scene commander's course, incident command and HAZMAT training.

Additionally, all EET members are trained by the Civil Engineer Readiness flight using AMC-approved lesson plans.

“The reason we have unit EET members is to provide scenarios and exercise objectives that the unit commanders want evaluated,” said Baker. “The EET members will help evaluate those objectives because they are the functional experts in those areas.”

Lt. Col. Brian Trout, 437 AW inspector general, said the EET members are vital to CAFB.

“The EET works extremely hard to formulate, prepare, execute and evaluate exercises that provide value to the wing,” said Trout. “The program is critical to prepare this wing for its peacetime and war-time mission.”

(This story is public domain. You may use any part of it for your publication or newscast. Interviews are available with key base personnel on this project. For more information, please call Lt. Col. Ed Memi at (843) 963-3888)