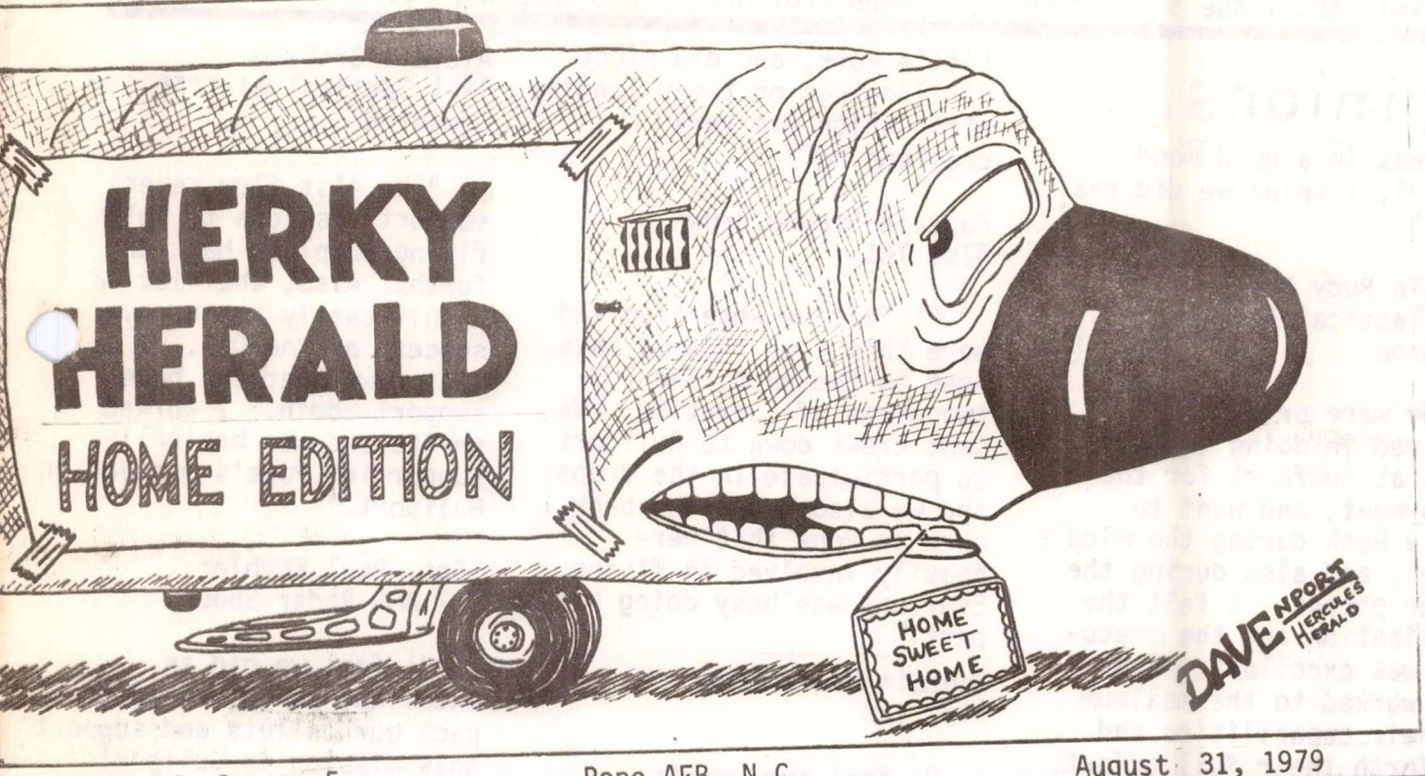

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Base voices opinion on Pope ORI

By SrA. Bob E. Tobias

A random sampling of Pope people throughout the base provided the following responses to the question, "How did you as an individual become involved in the ORI?"

After almost a week of intense activity in one of the most unusual scenarios ever staged by the Military Airlift Command, Pope successfully passed its Operational Readiness Inspection.

The wing combined outstanding efforts from support and operations personnel throughout the deployment and re-deployment to Gulfport, Miss., and Little Rock AFB, Ark. Virtually every available man and woman put in workdays stretching at least 12, and often 18, hours.

The 54-person MAC Inspector General team arrived here Friday at about 4 p.m. Part of the team deployed with Pope crews and aircraft to Gulfport, Miss. and Little Rock AFB, while others remained on base to evaluate performance the home station performance.

A1C Josephine Echols
317 FMS Propulsion Branch

"They had it thought out pretty good. They had nice processing lines and made sure everything was intact. There was a good follow-up system. I went out and helped on the flight line. When there was a job out there to be done, we all got out there and did it. We did our best to try and help."

TSgt. Alexander Thomson,Jr.
317 FMS Engine Dispatch

"It looked like everybody had everything together. We all put in a lot of man hours. Our responsibility was to make sure we got the aircraft launched in time, to recover the aircraft, and to get them back out again. Everybody really put in a lot of hard work and effort."

Sgt. Irving E. Navaro
317 OMS

"OMS was heavily involved due to the mission that we are responsible for, maintaining these airplanes. I felt our involvement was more than heavy. I believe the people worked about 12 hours a day putting out a lot of hard work. They deserve to be recognized for all the good work they did. I felt we put out a great part of it, and our supervisors put out a great part of it, and if we make this inspection, we are ready to go any where, any time. That is the whole objective of our tactical airlift mission."

SSgt. Steve Bender
317 Security Police

"I thought we did an outstanding job manning-wise. We came to work with good spirits and the morale was very high. Most of us put in about 21 hours the first day. Even after work, eve-

(continued on page 2)

"This ORI was one of the finest demonstrations of teamwork I have ever witnessed. The cooperative spirit and "can-do" attitude ranged from the admin clerk to the air crew. The tasking was the severest that has ever been accomplished during an ORI and the 317th showed it could be done. This should prove without a doubt that we are the best wing in MAC. Tactical airlifters are the greatest".

Col. Duane H. Erickson
Commander

Opinions...

body was in a good mood. Overall, I think we did real well."

Captain Rudy Nudo
41st Tactical Airlift Squadron

"We were primarily involved in doing the airlands at Gulfport for the deployment, and went to Little Rock during the middle phases, and also during the latter phases. I felt the organization and the execution was excellent. Everybody worked to the maximum of their capabilities and put forth their full effort. The job was well done."

I was primarily involved with going to Gulfport, taking down some of the members of the IG team, and some of the support people. After the deployment phase, our squadron was tasked mainly with support functions. We took needed equipment to Little Rock, and did night air landings on their landing strip which was very challenging."

Captain Steven Brown
41st TAS

"I felt we were involved more this time than we have been in the past. We had two areas of operation. We sent crews down to Gulfport to participate in the drops and we also had crews back here at Pope that were heavily involved in flying. Everyone was busy doing his part."

Captain David Schantz
41st TAS

"I feel our unit's involvement in the ORI contributed to the overall success of the ORI, and that it was quite favorable and positive. We were very important in the airlift support. We had crews that were deployed to Gulfport, which again, is very vital and important."

A1C Eve Grabato
41st Tactical Airlift Squadron

"The 41st flew severa support missions to Gulf flying supplies back and forth. Also, the 41st a significantly to the ove success of the ORI. I wa sent down there as base support admin. I worked shifts and was basically supporting Pope's missior in Gulfport."

SSgt. Paul Koehler
317 AMS Radar Shop

"I feel we did an excellent job. We had to pack our pallets and support this mission in Gulfport. We took 13 people with us to Gulfport. Overall, I think we did a good job. I was tasked to be the supervisor of the radar shop night shift. My speciality is working the AWADS, and this is what I was doing in Gulfport, keeping them all flying."

Ft. Bragg deploys also

At the same time Pope was undergoing its Operational Readiness Inspection this week, Fort Bragg was involved in a no-notice Emergency Deployment Readiness Exercise (EDRE), dubbed Dragon Team X.

Close to 1,200 troops from the XVIII Airborne Corps and supporting units exercised engineering and medical operations at Camp Robinson, Ark.

More than 220 paratroopers were involved in personnel drops at Camp Robinson and airland operations at Little Rock AFB. Additional troops and equipment were held at Gulfport, Miss., before deploying at the Arkansas exercise area.

"The equipment involved ranged from ambulances to dump trucks," remarked Maj. Duane Williams, an EDRE branch chief for G-3, XVIII Airborne Corps, "These are non-periodic, no-notice exercises. There could be another one, frankly, two weeks from now."

AFA dinner set

Mr. Vic Powell, special assistant to the Executive Director of the Air Force Association, will be the guest speaker when the Pope Chapter of the AFA holds its quarterly dinner Sept. 5 at the Officers' Club.

The cost is $6.50 per person, and military of all ranks and civilians are invited. Recommended dress is coat and tie. Cocktails are at 6:30 p.m., dinner at 7:30 p.m. Reservations should be phoned into wing protocol (4739) by noon Tuesday, Sept. 4.

HERKY HERALD HOME EDITION

POPE AFB, N.C.

"Home of Tactical Airlift"

The HERKY HERALD HOME EDITION is an official newsletter published daily (during ORI) for the people of Pope AFB, Military Airlift Command, at Fayetteville and Spring Lake, N.C. Opinions expressed herein do not necess ily represent those of the U.S. Air Force.

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