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Pope AFB, North Carolina

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Pope People, Aircraft, Deploy to Gulfport, MS

Twenty-five Military Airlift Command C-130 Hercules aircraft began airlifting more than 700 people from Pope Air Force Base yesterday as the 317th Tactical Airlift Wing began a five-day deployment to Gulfport, Miss.

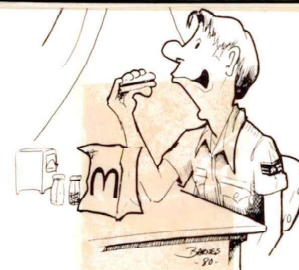
Simulating a wartime mobilization of troops and equipment, the deployment is part of an Operational Readiness Exercise designed to test the base's capability to respond to a crisis situation.

Nine of the four-engine, camouflaged transports were support aircraft ferrying advance elements of the force 600 miles from Pope to Gulfport's Air National Guard base. The remaining 16 also airlifted troops and equipment to the forward operating base, but are staying at Gulfport flying tactical airdrops of cargo and equipment. This simulated resupply of ground forces to drop zones in the vicinity of Eglin AFB, 150 miles east in the Florida Panhandle, will continue 24-hours-a-day. Five Combat Control Team members will be on the ground at the drop zones, guiding the C-130s to the airdrops.

Almost 45 maintenance and transportation personnel will work around the clock supporting the airdrop sorties. Additionally, about 250 pilots, navigators, flight engineers and loadmasters from the 39th, 40th and 11st Tactical Airlift Squadrons are involved. The 40th TAS, led by mission commander Lt. Col. Ronnie Peoples, is the primary flying unit operating out of Gulfport. The three squadrons of maintenance personnel are skilled in repair of all aircraft systems, including the sophisticated Adverse Weather Aerial Delivery System (AWADS) components.

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Seventy members of the 317th's PRIME BEEF (Base Emergency Engineering Force) also simulated deploying. The team would be used in a situation requiring the emergency repair of base facilities and utility systems. When fully manned, PRIME BEEF also has the capability to repair damaged airfields.

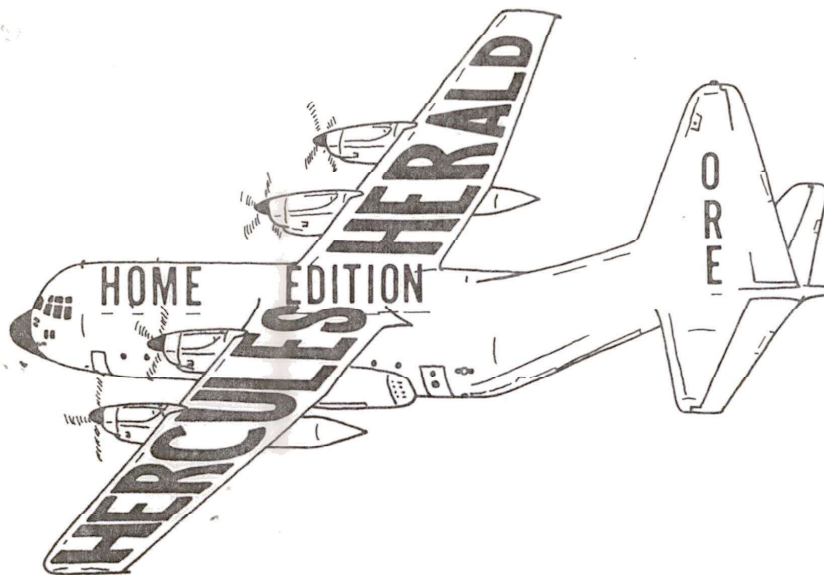


Chow halls sure are going out of their way to please!

Pope ORE People Receive Regular Meals During Deployment

Ten cooks and two bakers deployed with the C-130 Hercules aircraft crews to Gulfport, Miss., this morning to provide food service support during Pope's Operational Readiness Exercise.

(OVER)



The food service people deployed will serve three meals each day to an estimated 700 aircrew, maintenance and support people from Pope.

People remaining here for the exercise will also be served three meals each day at the Hercules Inn. Hours of operation are 5:30 to 8 a.m., for breakfast, 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., for lunch and 3 to 6 p.m., for supper.

The Airlifter Inn will close tomorrow, except for inflight kitchen and mid-night meals. There will not be any carry-out service at either dining facility during the exercise.

According to food service officials the dining facilities should be back on schedule Oct. 1.

Wx. Squadron Provides Support during ORE

Three forecasters, an observer and an inspector from Det. 21 Weather Squadron deployed to Gulfport, Miss., this morning with many other Pope professionals in support of the base's Operational Readiness Exercise.

While at Gulfport, the weather squadron's people will forecast the weather and give aircrews around the clock updates on weather conditions. They will also monitor the weather conditions in the Gulfport area and release weather warnings and advisories if they should occur.

The deployed people are using the Air National Guard's aircrews updates. They have installed all necessary equipment to perform their mission effectively.

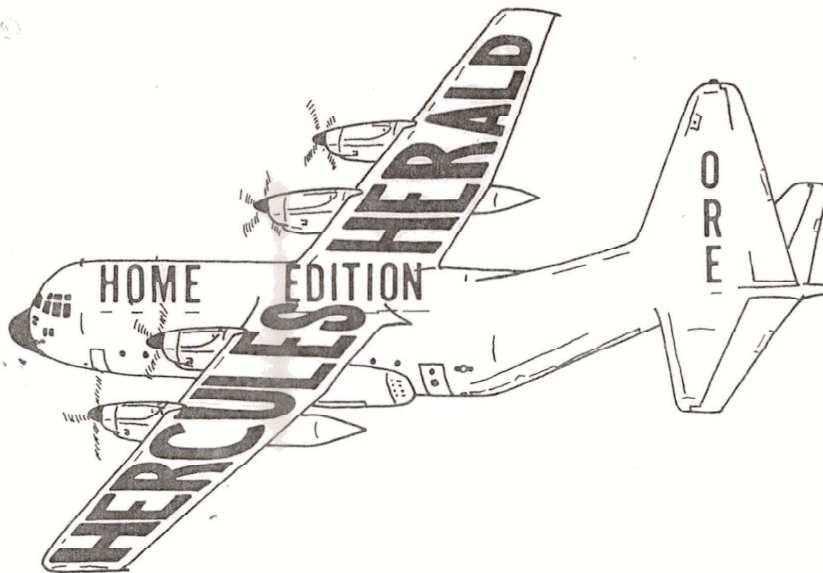
Weather people who remained here, will also give aircrews updates, and monitor weather conditions and release warnings and advisories as necessary.

39th Keeps Home Mission Support Going

When the 40th and 41st Tactical Airlift Squadrons are deeply involved in an ORE (Operational Readiness Exercise), that leaves the 39th TAS to pick up the slack and keep the flying missions already committed to Pope flying smoothly.

The primary squadron for the ORE is the 40th TAS and almost all of their people are deployed to Gulfport, Miss. The 41st TAS has 93 people deployed.

In the past two days alone the 39th pilots have flown 35 missions. They fly about 10 lines a day to support the ORE and 10 or more lines a day to



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39th (continued)

prepare for their upcoming "rotation," which starts with briefings Monday.

Some of the missions the crews have flown for the ORE include the Advanced team. Pathfinder insertion, the Civil Engineering PRIME BEEF team, who simulated a deployment to Gulfport and other general support missions.

In addition the 39th is supplying instructors, engineers, navigators and loadmasters for the Consolidated Training Flights in order to train the 37th TAS from Rhine Main AB, Germany. The 37th pilots must be upgraded in AWADS so they can rotate back overseas.

The 39th is also covering all the Special Assigned Airlift Missions (missions already committed to Pope).

"It's a tough assignment but we've got outstanding support from people attached to the squadron,"

a spokesman for the 39th said. We've had to pull pilots from all around the base and they have responded outstandingly."

Although the 39th people will be spending their last weekend here before they go on rotation next week to Europe, they still find the time to keep Pope's flying mission intact.



Pope begins ORE

By SrA. Glenn Gage
317th Public Affairs
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Gulfport, Miss...The first mainstream aircraft in Pope's Operational Readiness Exercise

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arrived here today at 5:21 a.m. kicking off the deployment phase of the Wing's test of its capability to deploy quickly to a combat area, and begin full operational support of ground forces.

Sixteen aircraft arrived later in the day bringing in some 650 airmen and tons of equipment and supplies needed to sustain a forward operating base for combat airlift operations.

The wing expects to fly twelve missions today over drop zones at Eglin AFB, Fla. the simulated hostile area. Many more missions are scheduled throughout the night requiring maintenance, operations and support people to work twelve-hour shifts around the clock, to successfully support this scenario.

Deployed Wing Commander, Col. Charles R. Skinner, stresses that everyone should make extra effort to maintain a safe and secure environment during the ORE.