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# Pope Squadron To Test

A Staff Report

The 317th Tactical Airlift Wing at Pope Air Force Base sometime this week will begin a major capability exercise to test the wing's ability to go to war.

The drone of C-130 Hercules aircraft taking off from Pope will linger in the skies as between 1,000 and 1,500 people will leave Pope for an unannounced location.

The squadron, including 15 to 17 airplanes and aircrews, will also take maintenance, administrative and security personnel to a forward operating base, Pope spokesman

Capt. Brian Irving said. The deployment will simulate landing overseas, probably in a hostile environment, Irving said.

The first phase of the wing's test is evaluating its ability to move men and material to the forward operating base in a certain amount of time.

Once there, the wing will be evaluated on its ability to billet, feed and secure the temporary base, and most important, ferrying Army personnel and war material where needed and on time.

The third phase will evaluate the wing's redeployment to Pope.

While that squadron is involved in the exercise, another squadron currently is serving as a MAC augmentation force in Europe. Therefore, Irving said, the local training schedule will be reduced.

"Our focus will pretty much be on the ORI. It is our major test. We have a lot of exercises during the year, but this is our big one," he said.

## Readiness This Week

The evaluation of the wing will be done by members of the MAC headquarters Inspector General's Office and experts from other MAC bases, Irving said.

Pope's tactical airlift wing is subjected to the operational readiness inspection about every two years, Irving said. Although the readiness test is a MAC exercise, Fort Bragg units, some of whom

will be transported in the wing's C-130s, will be involved, Irving said.

And while the exact date of the test is not certain, the wing does have a rough idea as to when it will commence.

"It's not a bolt out-of-the-blue exercise," Irving said, noting that during a real world crisis, the wing would have been alerted.

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### **Pope squadron to test ability in war exercise**

FAYETTEVILLE (AP) — A squadron of C-130 Hercules aircraft from the 317th Tactical Airlift Wing at Pope Air Force Base will take part in an exercise this week to test the wing's ability to go to war, a spokesman at the base said Monday.

The squadron, including 15 to 17 airplanes and aircrews, will take maintenance, administrative and security personnel to a forward operating base, said Capt. Brian Irving. The deployment will simulate landing overseas, probably in a hostile environment, Irving said.

The evaluation of the wing will be done by members of the Military Airlift Command Headquarters Inspector General's Office and by experts from other MAC bases, Irving said.

The destination of the squadron was not revealed.