

## EXERCISE!!! EXERCISE!!! EXERCISE!!!



### PHOTO CAPTION

Members of the 134 ARW train on the proper reading of M-8 paper when it is contaminated by chemical or biological weapons while deployed to the Air National Guard Combat Readiness Training Center in Gulfport, Miss. for an Operational Readiness Exercise. (National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Scott Hollis, 134 ARW Public Affairs)

More than 350 Airmen from the 134th Air Refueling Wing deployed to the Combat Readiness Training Center - Gulfport (Miss.) February 8-12.

The Airmen deployed as part of an Operational Readiness Exercise designed to evaluate the Wing's readiness to deploy to a war zone.

This exercise was specifically designed as a learning opportunity for the deployed Airmen to prepare them for the upcoming ORI (Operational Readiness Inspection) next year. A high percentage of those deployed had never been through an ORE prior to this one. Viewing the exercise as a learning opportunity, exercise evaluation team members or anyone involved could stop and ask questions to make sure they were doing things properly.

While deployed, Airmen practiced their reactions to attacks, both chemical and non-chemical. Attacks included aircraft, incoming missiles, and ground attacks. Airmen also had the opportunity to practice as part of a Post Attack Reconnaissance team (PAR) team looking for signs of a chemical attack and unexploded ordinance. Airmen practiced evacuating their work station and providing security for the personnel until they could relocate to an alternate facility. Multiple scenarios were practiced, some affecting the entire deployed location and some just affecting the individual work areas.

Although they were simulating a war zone, Airmen were treated to much nicer accommodations. Rather than staying in tents for the four days, Airmen were billeted two people per room in a dormitory, Hot meals were provided for the duration of their stay with the exception of two meals in which they were required to eat meals ready to eat (MRE's).

The Wing will deploy for a second much more realistic ORE in January 2013. This will be the final practice prior to the actual ORI next year. Even though there are many months of training, exercises, and inspections ahead, one thing's for sure, the 134 ARW is always up for the challenge.

## FRANKLIN TAKES COMMAND OF 119 CACS; EVANS RETIRES



The 119th Command and Control Squadron held an official change-of-command ceremony in Spruance Hall, here, on March 8.

Lt. Col. Vincent Franklin, assumed command of the squadron from Col. David Evans, who retired March 30.

Franklin, a traditional Guardsman, took command of the 119 CACS after being commander of the 228th Combat Communications Squadron. Lt. Col. Samuel Keener is the new senior technician of the 119th, in charge of day-to-day operations at the unit.

Evans retired after more than 28 years of service. During his tenure as commander, Evans was known for his sports analogies and references to sports teams that earned him the nickname, "Coach."

Describing Evans' accomplishments and the goals for the new commander, retired Tennessee Air National Guard Commander Maj. Gen. William "Russ" Cotney said, "The down side to setting the bar so high is continuing to jump over it."

134th Air Refueling Wing Commander Col. Thomas S. Cauthen had nothing but high praise for Evans and the unit he led.

"Being excellent has not been good enough; outstanding is what you and the organization do" said Cauthen.