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Fresno Air Guard will join exercise

A group of 65 members of the Fresno-based Air National Guard 144th Fighter-Interceptor Wing will participate May 28 to June 8 in the biggest deployment since the unit switched to F-4D Phantom jets last year.

Lt. Col. Robert Boehringer, operations officer, will lead a group of four Fresno-based Phantoms with maintenance and security troops to Goose Bay, Labrador, where they will participate in joint air defense exercises with Canadian, British and German air forces.

The war games, which will be under the auspices of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and the North American Aerospace Defense command, will emphasize low-level, high-speed air intercept procedures, Boehringer said. About 80 sorties per day are expected from the 70 participating planes and 500 support personnel.