

# BUCKEYE FLYER

Wright-Patterson AFB, OH

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Photos by Senior Airman Joel McCullough

(left) Staff Sgt. Mario D. Hinton, a vehicle operator for the 445th Logistics Readiness Squadron at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, checks the oil in a vehicle July 19, 2016 at Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson, Alaska. (right) Senior Airman David K. Fink, 445th LRS fuels journeyman, carries a fuel hose after refueling an F-16 Fighting Falcon aircraft July 20, 2016, at Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson, Alaska. The 445 LRS augmented the 673rd LRS during their annual tour July 18 – Aug. 1, 2016.

## FSS...Years in the making

By Sonoyta Hopewell  
445th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

It's been six years since the 445th Mission Support and Services Flights unified, and three years since the communications flight joined the 445th Force Support Squadron.

Now, with years behind them as a complete FSS, the members report nothing but success.

Proper steps were taken to begin the process of the merge and various restructures within the organization's flights. Due to the teamwork, camaraderie, work ethic, and motivation of its members, the 445 FSS finds itself striving for continued success and to be the top FSS within the command.

"Life in force support squadron

is nowhere near typical. There are many functions that are covered in FSS. Being ready and willing to help when needed is the way to be when you are a part of the FSS team. We support, help and interact with everyone," said Chief Master Sergeant Kelly Kruger, 445 FSS superintendent.

The sections within the FSS have undergone many operational changes since the merge, but the changes have made the squadron more efficient for the wing members.

This has allowed Airmen to gain support in all areas, to include human resource programs; education and training; morale, welfare and recreation; information technology;

and airman and family support.

Although the missions differ between the five sections, one common goal is shared and remains the same, to provide exceptional support to the wing.

One element that services their fair share of customers is the military personnel section, customer support element.

Customer support provides services for all wing members and more. Anyone from Wright-Patterson, Air National Guard, Army Guard units and anyone affiliated with the Department of Defense can be helped in the customer support element.

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# Thanks for your service, commitment

By Col. Craig McPike  
445th Operations Group Commander

Great Americans, first allow me to thank you for your service and commitment to our great nation. As volunteers, Citizen Airmen, and combat veterans, you are among our country's most treasured assets.



Over the past 15 years, our Air Force Reserve has transformed from a strategic reserve to an operational reserve. Through this, you have built a unique capacity of experience, education, and corporate knowledge within the Rapid Global Mobility Core Function that you employ on a day to day basis.

This capacity empowers combatant commanders to wield an unmatched instrument of national power against state, non-state, and violent extreme organizations (VEOs) when diplomacy fails and the requirement for military coercion exists to leverage U.S. political influence.

Your direct contributions and voluntary actions over the past 15 years have enabled the United States to remain the sole global power and as a result, deter rival

state actors from contemplating disruptive actions, coerce errant non-state actors into submission, and eradicate VEOs within their element and domain.

As Air Force Reservists, you are part of a 69,000 member force of Citizen Airmen living

locally and serving globally. As members of the 445th Airlift Wing, you are responsible for enabling more than 1,900 combat-ready Airmen to provide forces in support of combatant commander's taskings, developing Total Force assets, and ensuring our airlift mission can reach combat warriors, wounded warriors, and combat cargo requirements.

Without fail, you routinely complete the task, the mission and the duties you are assigned. You support our nation, the active-duty Air Force, the Air Force Reserve, the wing, the squadron, your peers, as well as your subordinates.

So far this year, you have moved 13,000 tons of cargo, flown 16 aeromedical, 38 Air Mobility Command, 70 Air Force Reserve Command, four counter drug, five Denton cargo [humanitarian], and one multi-agency missions, while logging more than 3,600 flying hours.

All in all, your presence in the wing, voluntary service, and commitment to our nation, are the things that make me most proud.

Having a successful life is all about making good choices, and we are faced with tough choices every day. To be where you are today and to be as successful as you are, you have made many, many great choices.

Thank you for choosing to be great Americans; for leading productive service based lives; for being supportive of one another; for volunteering to serve your country when it needed it most, for being Citizen Airmen; and for taking care of yourselves and your families along the way.

I am so proud to serve alongside you as we serve our nation in an operational stance as Air Force Reservists in combat and in garrison, and I look forward to each day and the new opportunities we face together as Airmen. Off we go...

## Buckeye Flyer

### 445th Airlift Wing Editorial Staff

Col. Adam Willis  
Commander

Lt. Col. Cynthia Harris  
Chief, Public Affairs

Stacy Vaughn  
Public Affairs Specialist

Shamae Jones  
Public Affairs Assistant

5439 McCormick Ave.  
WPAFB, OH 45433-5132  
Building 4014, Room 113  
937-257-5784  
445AW.PA2@us.af.mil

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## When your hearts are troubled, we're here to listen

By Chaplain (Capt.) Job Morales  
445th Airlift Wing Chaplain Corps

"God, examine me and know my heart; test me and know my nervous thoughts. See if there is any bad thing in me. Lead me on the road to everlasting life."  
— David, King of Israel

During my daily devotional time, I came across a short story by Army Chaplain Stephen Roberts about an encounter with

a cheerful worker while visiting the dining facility.

On that particular day, the lady asked if she could talk to him. They sat down and looking sorrowful, she broke down and began to cry. To his surprise the lady was feeling miserable because she had hit a bird with her automobile on her way to work. He stated in these

words, "I tried to empathize with her, but have rarely known one to be so inconsolable over the accidental killing of a bird (especially at an Army facility!)."

Army Chaplain Roberts goes on to disclose that before he knew it, she began pouring out her heart about her broken and dysfunctional

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# 14th IS finds its 'pot of gold,' discovers WWII vet

By Senior Airman Joel McCullough  
445th Airlift Wing Public Affairs



Tucked away in Mercer County, Pennsylvania lives a 93-year-old World War II veteran who holds a unique piece of Air Force history.

John Johnson, known as Jerry back in Mercer, served in the 9th Photographic Technical Squadron during the time of the atomic strikes on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Johnson was discovered after two years of historical research by the 14th Intelligence Squadron at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base as the unit tried to uncover its lineage.

When the research began, the 14th IS was not given much information besides activation dates, higher headquarters names, and where the unit was stationed, said Lt. Col. Dianne T. Hickey, commander of the 14th IS.

For two years they were unsuccessful in gaining information. The 14th IS tried searching with the Air Force Historical Research Agency, Air Force libraries, numerous internet searches, and even with Will Rogers Field, Oklahoma City, the first duty station of the 9th PTS.

June 5, 2016, while looking through books and becoming frustrated, Hickey said she returned to the internet for help.

One specific search led her to a partial article in the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* dated Sept. 7, 1997. The article was about someone named Johnson, from Mercer County, Pa. The article stated Johnson was having a reunion with 9th PTS members and that he had photographs of the atomic blasts at Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

"I called the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette archives," said Hickey. "They pulled up the full article and provided Mr. Johnson's first name. They could not send me the full article, but they did instruct me how I could sign up a paid subscription and download the full article, which I did."

As recommended by the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, Hickey called the Mercer County Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion. The American Legion provided contact information for their state headquarters.

"I called the American Legion State Headquarters, who had 'too many' John Johnsons to be helpful," said Hickey. She then asked if they could narrow the search with keywords "WWII" and "Mercer County".

That's when they found the name John G. Johnson of Mercer County.

This Johnson was a 93-year-old WWII veteran and lifetime member of the American Legion. Lt. Col. Hickey was provided an address but no other details.

The internet provided a phone number that correlated with the address, said Hickey. She called the number and left a message. Later that evening Johnson returned her call.

The unit had finally found its "pot of gold."

"After jumping out of bed with excitement, I grabbed paper and pen and started taking notes as he confirmed he was a member of the 9th Photographic Technical Squadron, stationed at Will Rogers Field and Guam, and had 'hundreds' of photos, negatives and documents from the 9th PTS," she said.

Hickey traveled to Mercer County along with John Gephart, a National Air and Space Intelligence Center videographer, who offered support and recorded the interview.

Johnson started out his military career in photography as part of the 946th Reconnaissance Squadron, a photo group under 3rd Air Force Command. According to Johnson, the 946th RS did a lot of photography in the United States mostly from P-38 Lightning aircraft.

"Sometime between 1944 and 1945 we were in the 9th Photographic Technical Squadron," Johnson said. "Right after the peace in Europe, I think in April 1945, we embarked."

The 9th PTS embarked to Guam, he said. There they supported all the heavy bombers that flew out of Guam. They did a lot of photography work over the Pacific Ocean, up into Japan.

Most of the photo-



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# Around the wing...



Tech. Sgt. Patrick O'Reilly



Tech. Sgt. Patrick O'Reilly

(left) Col. Craig McPike, 445th Airlift Wing Operations Group commander, spikes the ball during a set against members of the 88th Air Base Wing in the 2016 Air Force Sergeants Association Annual Reserve versus Active-Duty Volleyball Challenge, July 16, 2016 at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. (right) The 445th AW volleyball team defeated the 88th ABW team 2 games to 0.



Tech. Sgt. Patrick O'Reilly



Staff Sgt. Devin Long

(left) Sharon Christy, center manager of the Wright-Patterson Air Force Base United Service Organizations (USO), gives a tour of the facility to the 445th Airlift Wing First Sergeants Council July 16, 2016. (right) Airman 1st Class Tyler Bennett, laboratory technician with the 88th Medical Group, prepares Tech. Sgt. Athena Yacoumakis, assistant non-commissioned officer in charge with the 445th Operations Support Squadron, to give blood during a blood drive event held at the 445th Aerospace Medicine Squadron auditorium July 16, 2016. Twelve Airmen donated blood which will go to a processing center in New Jersey to be sorted then sent overseas to aid American troops.



# Fetal protection program highlighted during UEI

By Staff Sgt. Rachel Ingram  
445th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Following last month's successful unit effectiveness inspection, locally-developed forms created as part of the 445th's Fetal Protection Program may be benchmarked for the Air Force Reserve Command-mandated program across other bases, according to program managers.

"This is the only tracking service we use for pregnant members in reserve units," says Master Sgt. Holly Siripavaket, NCO in charge of FPP at the 445th. "It's mandatory for reserve bases to have this, but a lot of people don't know about it."

Air Force Reserve Command Instruction 141-104 details the requirements of the reserve FPP. FPP is administered by the Aerospace Medicine Squadron and falls under the nursing services umbrella.

"We're inspected, just like any other program," explains Senior Airman Bonnie Newhall, program manager. "We just had our UEI in June, and we were spotless."

The inspectors coined Newhall as a result of her efforts to improve the program, under the guidance of Siripavaket.

"One of the things the inspectors told us was 'Keep it going because you've got a good thing going here. Don't lose it.' They said they've seen other programs fall apart after personnel changeover due to deployments, separations, retirements,

things like that," Newhall says.

Pregnant members are monitored throughout their pregnancy and for one year postpartum. At any given time, Siripavaket and Newhall may be responsible for 6 to 20 actively pregnant women and an additional 45 to 90 newly postpartum women, wingwide.

"We created our own documents to help us track all the required information for each member," says Newhall, who volunteered for this additional duty nearly five years ago. "The IG mentioned that our forms are really detailed and well done. They said, 'We want a copy of this.'"

At the inspection's conclusion, leadership mentioned they were considering using the forms Siripavaket created as a benchmark for all FPP in the AFRC, Siripavaket says.

For Newhall, though, it's about more than just paperwork. She says her goal is to be a welcoming, supportive figure for all women in the program.

"I make sure that they're briefed on everything and are aware of everything," says the former teacher and mother of two. "I answer all their questions and I give them informational handouts about things like unit training assembly childcare and local lactation consultants."

When Newhall traveled the East Coast with the psychological health advocacy program, she says, she was shocked to encounter numerous units with no functioning FPP.

"Who is taking care of these girls?" I asked. We need people to be more aware of what the protocol is and what their responsibilities are," she says. "We're here to take care of you, not just take your information and push you out the door."

## FPP Requirements

Pregnant Airmen are required to schedule an appointment with AMDS and enroll in the fetal protection program as soon as the pregnancy is confirmed. The appointments will last approximately one to 1 ½ hours and must be on a unit training assembly weekend. Since AMDS does not provide medical treatment, the member must bring documentation of the pregnancy. Members may drill until the 34th week of pregnancy. A waiver to drill until 40 weeks may be granted (signed by commander and obstetrics and gynecology physician), for members who live within 50 miles of base. Once enrolled, the member's work exposures and personal medical history are evaluated to ensure safety of mother and baby. In addition, a note must be faxed or dropped off each month stating that the expected mother is medically cleared to drill. For more information, please call 937-257-5200.

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family. Her situation had really torn her down to a new low point in her life, with no solution in sight. It wasn't about hitting the bird with her car after all.

From that point forward he could see that for many men and women in the armed forces he had counseled and helped, it was about much more than "the bird."

Behind our tears and weeping, there is a deep well of thoughts and sentiments that we barely understand. The omniscient God designed that deep well and understands it better than we do. We all have experienced apprehensive and nervous thoughts in our hearts and minds. No one is immune to the many pitfalls in life; whether it's coming from a broken family as the lady above, to encountering a marriage crisis,

the passing of a love one, deployment of a spouse or diagnosis of a life-threatening illness.

The 445th Airlift Wing chaplains and chaplain assistants are ready to sit down and listen to what you have to say. When you sit down with a chaplain or chaplain assistant know that we are paying close attention with confidentiality and ready to provide assistance. What we bring to the conversation is an empathizing and compassionate attitude with many resources at our disposal.

So next time a chaplain comes around, do not hesitate to ask if you have a minute. We are prepared to listen even if you hit a bird with your car. God bless you!



# SPOTLIGHT

**Rank/Name**

Tech. Sgt. Diego Cancino

**Unit**

445th Operations Support Squadron

**Duty Title**

Aircrew Flight Equipment Quality Assurance Craftsman

**Hometown**

Heath, Ohio

**Civilian Job**

Air Reserve Technician

**Education**

Pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree in Aeronautics at Embry

Riddle Aeronautical University

**Hobbies**

Automotive racing, kayaking and drums

**Career Goal**

Finish my degree and obtain a commission

**What do you like about working at the 445th?**

I love the unity. The 445th has become my extended family, although there are way too many crazy uncles.



Tech. Sgt. Patrick O'Reilly

**Why did you join the Air Force?**

I'm a first generation American citizen, I wanted

to give back to the country that blessed my family with the American dream.

Visit us on the 445th Airlift Wing Facebook page or website. We would love to hear from you!

FSS, from page 1

Services offered include the newcomers program, wing family care program, creating identification cards, benefits plans for retiree's, insurance entitlements, and family liaison officers who help the family and friends of Airmen by providing reliable resources. Nearly all needs can be met by customer support.

"Customer support is about the passion in helping others," said Master Sgt. Jamie Pope, chief of customer support.

Pope challenges her Airmen and pushes them to, "rise and fall as a team" daily. She reminds them to strive for the three Air Force Core Values and encourages her team to mentor Airmen of different ranks to learn.

"I love helping others and I am happy to oblige. Often customers come in with an expectation of letdown written all of their face. For me to be able to smile, hear them out, and say 'let me help you with that' sends them away with a better outlook on their FSS experience. It leaves me happy to know that I've done my job," Pope said.

FSS services both military members and civilians.

Since beginning her role as the wing's first civilian personnel liaison in January of 2015, Victoria Errett

is now in a position to help civilians. She specializes in areas such as promotions, civilian retirements, student hires and reassignments.

Errett is currently trying to work on a program to help civilians within five years of retiring prepare for their retirement. Her goal is to provide civilians with the correct answers to the questions asked and remove the need to search in unreliable sources.

"The primary goal of FSS has remained on target, and are still moving in the right direction," said Errett.

Kruger said FSS will become more efficient and helpful for all when the process is completed. Although there has been a change in command, the vision has remained the same.

"As separate flights and elements, and like squadrons as a whole, we have had our fair share of challenges and growing pains. There's always room for improvement, however I can say that for the first time since the merge, each flight is operating on all cylinders and as a superintendent, it is rewarding to witness their accomplishments, success and camaraderie," Kruger said.

*Editor's note: Chief Master Sgt. Kelly Kruger contributed to this story.*



# News Briefs

## Employer's Day

The 445th Airlift Wing will host its annual Employer Appreciation Day, Saturday, Nov. 5.

Nomination forms are located in the Blue Pages.

For more information please call the Public Affairs office at (937) 257-5784.

## Awards

### Meritorious Service Medal

SMSgt Craig Hunt, MXG

### Air Force Commendation Medal

TSgt Matthew Krauss, AW  
SSgt Justin Crites, SFS

### Air Force Achievement Medal

SrA Shawn Haggerty, 89 AS

### Air Medal

Capt Cassidy Helregel, 89 AS  
1Lt Paul Kolk, 89 AS  
SrA Ryan Garrett, 89 AS

### Aerial Achievement Medal

Capt Joshua Anno, AES  
Capt Nathaniel Kirstein, 89 AS  
SSgt Brandon Croghan, AES

## Promotions

### Staff Sergeant

Jonathan Capelle, CES  
Ryan Garrett, 89 AS  
Ian Hancock, MXS  
Oyekola Mustapha, 87 APS

Matthew Sigler, MXS  
Zachary Smith, 87 APS  
Kyle Weir, CES  
Michael Wilson, AMXS

### Technical Sergeant

Harvey Eubanks, 87 APS  
Sean Steele, CES

### Master Sergeant

Jeremy First, MXS  
John Harris, MXG

## Newcomers

Capt Tammie Canada, AES  
Capt Danielle Daley, FSS  
Capt Render Parkman, AMDS  
2Lt Devona Williams, AES  
MSgt Benjamin Kessler, MXS  
TSgt Leo Swank, CES  
SSgt Cole Anglemeyer, AMXS

SSgt Christopher Heckman, FSS  
SSgt Jhon Huerte, MXS  
SSgt Rachel Ingram, AW  
SSgt Christopher Kirby, CES  
SSgt James Preston, ASTS  
SSgt Michael Rodriguez, CES  
SSgt Shannon Tanksley, LRS  
SSgt Sheleada Wells, AW  
SrA Nicholas Massey, 87 APS  
SrA Justin Ortiz, OSS  
SrA Candra Stroschein, AMXS  
A1C Keith Christopher, 87 APS  
A1C Sierra Copley, 87 APS  
A1C Keith Emberton, LRS  
A1C Zachary Sutton, 87 APS

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graphs were taken on B-29 Superfortresses and the cameras had 30 inches of focal length and were all automatic, Johnson added. There was a smaller camera, the C-20, that was used as a handheld device.

"In those days, you flew at 10,000 feet, had a little magnifying device and you could identify a tiny little ship on a photograph not more than three quarters of an inch and determine what the ship was and what they were doing," said Johnson.

Inside a 30-inch focal length camera there was a large roll of film, around 100 feet long and 8 inches wide, said Johnson. Once the camera was used for photos, the film was brought back and put in a special device. In this device, the film was developed in a can, then put through processing. Then it was taken to the printers, and they would process the negative, said Johnson. The prints were then given to someone at 20th Air Force for analysis and planning.

He said the only time he recalls the 9th PTS working with secret and top secret photos was when they were working with Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

"The bomb was dropped in August of 1945," he said. "Prior to that time, of course, there was the reconnaissance on several cities in Japan. Hiroshima



was not the first choice."

Johnson could not remember the other cities they looked at.

"However, I have copies of leaflets that were dropped on seven or eight cities that were going to be bombed to tell the Japanese that this was going to happen."

Johnson was a photograph processor, and he recalled seeing the before and after strike photographs.

"I couldn't believe it -- no one could believe it. You couldn't imagine the force that thing had," he said.

The 9th PTS was in photo production until February 1946, said Johnson. Once the unit was released, they were sent home.

"I am proud to have served in the 9th Photo and done my little part," said Johnson. "I think it was very helpful in the war and in the Pacific. It was a good outfit with good men."

Johnson was honorably discharged as a technical sergeant in April of 1946.

Hickey plans to formally host Johnson in Dayton September 23-24. During the visit, Johnson will share his military history, tour the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force, and visit the 14th IS, where Hickey will recognize him as an honorary squadron member.



# Key Spouse Program: valuable resource for deployed Airmen

By Tech. Sgt. Anthony Springer  
445th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Deploying 445th Airlift Wing members have a resource available to their families to help them get through any challenges faced while their spouse is deployed. That resource is the Key Spouse Program.

The Key Spouse Program, owned by the wing commander and administered by the Airman and Family Readiness Center is a vital link between leadership and families. It provides a framework for stability and support for families by maintaining regular contact with family members and referring them to base agencies and squadron resources.

The program is a liaison that connects military member's families with leadership and the Airman and Family Readiness Center during deployments and times of crisis.

Tech. Sgt. Julia Slifko, a non-commissioned officer for the 445th Airlift Wing Airman and Family Readiness Center says the program's success is based on the participants.

"The spouse, commander, and first sergeant are all essential for the success of the program," Slifko said. "We are also in need of more spouse volunteers to keep up with the number of Airmen deploying."

Slifko said for families that aren't located near a base, the program can become even more important so they can have that network of support.

Key Spouses are a peer-to-peer support system. They connect the families with valuable resources located around the base and the surrounding com-

munities or wherever the military member and their families reside. The Uniformed Services Organizations (USO) has a facility where family members can go and partake in a wide variety of fun filled activities and services, including the use of an auditorium and several conference rooms. They also offer volunteer opportunities.

Melissa Fowle, spouse of Chief Master Sgt. Brian Fowle, 445th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron in-flight medical care superintendent, is a key spouse for the wing. Her entire immediate family serves in the 445th Airlift Wing.

"I like the fact that someone would be looking out for them and their families. I have the unique perspective as a retired Ohio Air National Guard member, spouse, parent and mother-in-law of seven military members, six of whom are serving in the 445th Airlift Wing," said Fowle.

Fowle hopes to promote programs available to military families and to provide information to help out with all of her past experiences with her family's deployments.

The 445th AW is actively looking for volunteers for the Key Spouse Program. Spouses interested in becoming a volunteer can contact Mrs. Elyse Willis at [elyseamarks@yahoo.com](mailto:elyseamarks@yahoo.com), the 445th AW Airman and Family Readiness Center at (937) 656-1502 or the spouse's unit first sergeant for details. Join today. It's easy, fun and supports our 445th family.

## On the Web



LRS/SFS perform AT in the "Last Frontier" slideshow



445th Airmen participate in Order of the Sword



445th volleyball game photo story

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