

C-17 engine fire causes minimal damage

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio – A 445th Airlift Wing C-17 Globemaster III experienced an engine malfunction causing a rare tail pipe fire Jan. 7.

The damage to the aircraft was approximately \$180,000. Repairs to the engine and adjacent wing area were made by Airmen from the 445th Maintenance Group. The aircraft was out of service for approximately two weeks for repairs. During this time a thorough investigation and damage assessment were completed. The aircraft was back in the air flying missions Jan. 27.

The C-17 engine fire occurred at 5:30 p.m. during engine start. Crew members were alerted of the fire within seconds of it starting and followed proper procedures for tail pipe fires, extinguishing it within 20-seconds, minimizing the damage.

Col. Michael Major, 445th Airlift Wing commander commended the aircrew and maintenance personnel for their quick response.

“Our aircrew and ground personnel did an awesome job in making sure the fire was extinguished in seconds. They are trained on engine fire procedures and knew exactly what to do as soon as the fire was discovered.”

The investigation was completed, pinpointing the cause and accurately assessing damage. Before the investigation concluded, a dedicated repair team was formed within the 445th Maintenance Group comprised of technicians from various aircraft maintenance specialties. Repair efforts proceeded rapidly with support from Boeing, the aircraft manufacturer, and the 445th Logistics Readiness Squadron’s maintenance supply liaison section.



Capt. Elizabeth Caraway

Bob Garlock, Cox Media Group videographer, films WHIO-TV news anchor Cheryl McHenry aboard a 445th Airlift Wing C-17. McHenry and Garlock traveled to Afghanistan from Wright-Patterson Air Force Base via Joint Base Andrews and Ramstein Air Base Dec. 31-Jan 4.

445 AW showcases C-17, aeromedical evac mission

*By Capt. Elizabeth Caraway
445th Airlift Wing Public Affairs*

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio — A crew of eight had the opportunity to share an ongoing 445 Airlift Wing mission with members of local media here recently. Four 89th Airlift Squadron pilots, three loadmasters, and one crew chief teamed up to complete the Dec 31-Jan 4 trip across the globe, showcasing the versatility of the C-17 Globemaster III by hauling cargo, transporting troops and space available passengers, and supporting the aeromedical evacuation of 11 wounded warriors.

Cheryl McHenry, WHIO-TV news anchor; Bob Garlock, Cox Media Group videographer; and Barrie Barber, Dayton Daily News reporter, joined the C-17 crew at Wright-Patterson AFB and traveled more than 12,000 miles during 35 hours of flight, transiting Joint Base Andrews,

Md., Ramstein AB, Germany, and Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan. After departing Wright-Patt, the crew and media landed at Joint Air Base Andrews, where they picked up cargo and dozens of space available passengers bound for Ramstein AB. At Ramstein AB, the cargo was swapped out and troops bound for Afghanistan boarded the aircraft. In Afghanistan, five Green Berets came aboard for transport.

One Soldier, Master Sgt. Scott Hickerson, 7th Special Forces Group, was on his 12th trip to Afghanistan. He’s also served three tours in Iraq. Headed home for the birth of his fifth child, Hickerson said the U.S. has a “great mission” in Afghanistan.

“I love coming here,” he said.

See MISSION, page 4

445th Reservist selected for promotion to colonel

BUCKLEY AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. - Air Reserve Personnel Center officials here recently announced results for the 2014 Air Force Reserve Line and Nonline Colonel Promotion Selection Boards.

The selection boards convened at the center Oct. 6, 2014 to determine those officers qualified to assume the next higher grade. Board members selected 183 of 1,678 officers considered for promotion to colonel.

Categories considered dur-



ing these promotion boards were: Air Force Reserve Line, Chaplain, Dental Corps, Line of the Air Force-Judge Advocate, Medical Corps, Nurses Corps, Medical

Service Corps and Biomedical Sciences Corps. One reservist from the 445th Airlift Wing was selected.

Congratulations to Joseph Savage, 445th Logistics Readiness Squadron commander, for being selected for promotion to colonel.

A complete list of individuals selected for promotion is available on myPers or the ARPC website.

For more info, call the Total Force Service Center - Denver at DSN 665-0102, 210-565-0102, or 800-525-0102.

Getting out of sticky situations using the 4 Fs

By Chaplain (Lt. Col.) David Leist
445th Airlift Wing Chaplain Corps

Have you ever felt like you are stuck in a situation that is beyond your capability or power to control? Winter is upon us and winters in Ohio, Indiana and parts of Kentucky are known to get icy. Roads can freeze over leaving drivers in circumstances struggling to achieve traction. They may wind up out of control in ditches, stuck, waiting for a tow truck.

In life we can have various reactions to the feelings of being helpless, powerless, or out of control. We tend to get frustrated and deepen the rut that we are stuck in. We can even get angry with our failed attempts to free ourselves. The wise think rationally of steps they can take to get unstuck. Getting stuck isn't always an option but staying stuck is.

Good news: no matter how long you've been stuck, the right attitude can get you back on track and moving in the right direction again. Below are some attitude changers that may help:

1. **Forgiveness.** Make amends with ourselves and others. The guilt that follows failure can immobilize you long-term but the freedom of forgiveness can be liberating. One confession discusses forgiveness for things done (betrayal,

angry words of hate, broken promises) and for things left undone (responsibility avoided, neglect, withholding truth or unexpressed love). Severing the chains of your past can restore hope and create options for the future.

2. **Faith.** When you have been stuck for a long time forward momentum can seem impossible. You may lack direction, energy or confidence for the future. What can you do? Getting traction can require a willingness to act in spite of your feelings. Trusting a force greater than you can free you up to put you back on the road toward harmony and freedom. Big doors swing on small hinges and taking small steps of faith will move you forward.

3. **Flexibility.** When your faith runs into obstacles, your flexibility keeps you on course and in the race. Resiliency involves rolling with the punches and bending without breaking. It involves an attitude of determination to adjust to life's challenges and stay on course. A positive mindset alone will not get you unstuck. You will have to do something! Taking action and putting a plan in place can make a welcomed difference.

4. **Firmness.** Resolve not to quit. You will undoubtedly encounter problems along the way that leave you no other option than to stand still. Stopping irrational, illogical, emotional driven behavior can aid in getting a firm handle on circumstances that appear out of control. Even in the tightest of spots stay firm and don't give in to fear. Don't talk yourself into defeat and continue to look for probable options and ways forward. Be ready to move forward when a way is open.

These are simple but powerful steps that you can take when you feel stuck and don't know what to do to get unstuck. The people of Israel appeared stuck in the Exodus as they faced the Red Sea ahead and the encroaching Egyptian army of Pharaoh behind. Amazingly a way was made for them. They prevailed in the midst of the most challenging circumstances.

Buckeye Flyer

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Around the wing...



(left) Reservists from the 445th Maintenance Group brave frigid temperatures below zero degrees as they run 1.5 miles across the Bass Lake area while participating in the maintenance group's first annual Polar Bear Run January 10, 2015. More than 20 Airmen participated in the run. Future Polar Bear runs will be held the first unit training assembly of each new year.



(left) Master Sgts. Kerrie Yeager, 445 MXG, orderly room, NCO in charge room and Dennis Ball, MXG maintenance management analysis, cross the finish line to complete the Polar Bear Run.

(below left) Senior Airman Matthew Shaw, 445th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron medical material technician, inventories an AES medical kit for missing or expired equipment in preparation for a future mission.

(below right) Tech. Sgt. Matthew Koessel instructs Senior Airman Sean Seminsky how to properly administer a blood pressure test during a training event January 11, 2015. Both Airmen are assigned to the 445th Aeromedical Squadron as AE technicians.



Photos by Senior Airman Joel McCullough



MISSION, from page 1



Photos by Capt. Elizabeth Caraway

1. Members of the 86th Contingency Aeromedical Staging Facility at Ramstein Air Base, Germany load wounded warriors aboard a Wright-Patterson Air Force Base C-17 bound for Joint Base Andrews, Md., Jan. 4, 2015. **2.** Capt. Daisy Martinez, 86th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron nurse, assists Maj. Stephen Ang, U.S. Army, during his Jan. 4 flight from Ramstein AB, to Joint Base Andrews. **3.** Master Sgt. Chuck Fritz (left) and Senior Master Sgt. Jason LeMaster, 89th Airlift Squadron loadmasters, unload cargo at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan Jan 2. **4.** Tech Sgt. Travis Egger, 89th Airlift Squadron loadmaster, directs a bus of wounded warriors from the 86th Contingency Aeromedical Staging Facility at Ramstein AB to a Wright-Patt C-17 bound for Joint Base Andrews, Jan 4.

“We are making good progress.”

Arriving back at Ramstein AB, seven members of the 86th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron loaded seven litter and four walking patients bound for Joint Air Base Andrews on the C-17. Capt. Paul Merrill, 86th AES medical crew director, oversaw the work of the three nurses and three aeromedical evacuation technicians.

“Taking care of our fellow service members—from all services—is extremely rewarding,” said Merrill. “Aeromedical evacuation has come a long, long way since its inception in the Vietnam War,” he said, adding that the system now has a 96 percent survival.

Capt. Daisy Martinez, a nurse with the 86th AES, said she enjoys her job because, “everyone has their own story and listening to them is the best.” She also stated that, of all the airframes they work in, the C-17 is the “most comfortable.”

To date, the 445th AW has transported more than 20,000 aeromedical patients out of the Middle East.

The New Year’s aeromedical evacuation mission was not unusual; the 89th AS does it twice a month. However, this particular mission had additional aircrew members since it was a checkride for both pilot Lt. Col. Jeff Ciesla and loadmaster Master Sgt. Chuck Fritz.

Ciesla, who also pilots for United Airlines, said he really enjoys his role within the 445th AW.

“There is a sense of service in flying these types of missions that you don’t get when you fly civilian aircraft,” said Ciesla. “It’s also rare to fly with the same people in the civilian airline industry, but here, we get to know the people and there is a real sense of camaraderie and family within the unit.”

Senior Master Sgt. Jason LeMaster, loadmaster, agreed.

“As Reservists, we’re all here because we want to be,” he said. “It shows in the crew performance and the way we care for our airplanes.”

Ciesla’s evaluator, Maj. Kris Herman, was once a student of Ciesla’s. Herman expressed enthusiasm for the ongoing C-17 mission, as well as the aircraft itself.

“It’s one of the most reliable cargo planes,” he said. “Its capabilities also make it a very flexible airframe.” As for flying into Afghanistan, Herman said it was “business as usual. We receive intel briefings and work with tacticians to mitigate risks.”

The success of missions like this one are the result of everyone within the wing, Ciesla emphasized.

“At the 89th Airlift Squadron, we’re so grateful for the support of the entire wing; it takes every squadron to make each of our missions a success.”



Security forces endure frigid temps, still maintain excellence

By Tech. Sgt. Patrick O'Reilly
445th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

The day begins early for members of the 445th Airlift Wing Security Forces. Airmen report for duty at 4:30 a.m., arming up, performing roll call, patrolling and completing administrative tasks that they won't be able to do while they are out on the job. Plummeting winter temperatures add additional challenges to an already demanding role.

Temperatures below freezing on Jan. 10 created many obstacles. The temperature high for the day was 20 degrees and the low was 4 below zero. In recent years, security forces braved temperatures as low as 22 below zero with high winds. Cold winds, slippery pavement, frozen toes, are all duty hazards.

"Sometimes we have issues with the gate lock freezing and we have to find ways to thaw out the lock," said Staff Sgt. Steve Fuentes, 445 SFS fire team member.

During the frigid temperatures, the shift was required to rotate every 15 minutes to prevent frostbite. Even during the harsh conditions, they must maintain awareness and remain alert.

"We are required to maintain vigilance under extreme conditions and it is essential to have the manning available for a rotation of defenders to go inside the guard house to warm up," said Tech. Sgt. Steven Wright, 445 SFS fire team leader.

Winter weather sometimes adds additional complications when dealing with personnel entering the gate. There are some actions that base personnel can take to help security forces process them through the gate.

"If your face is covered with a face mask or sunglasses please remove it so we can identify who you are," advises Senior Airman Justin Daley, 445 SFS fire team member.

"No matter who you are, do not

assume that we know," agreed Senior Airman Alex Stephens. "Have your identification ready upon arriving to the gate."

Other tips to make vehicle processing progress more swiftly at the gate include:

- Dim the vehicle lights when

pulling in

- Have windows de-iced
- Do not hold Common Access Card or ID card in mouth; have it ready in hand

If you have questions regarding gate procedures, contact base Pass and ID at 257-6506.



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Patrick O'Reilly

(top left) An 88th Security Forces Squadron Airman braves the winter elements to open Gate 26A during the January 11, 2015 unit training assembly. Complications in the winter include frozen gates and locks. (top right) Staff Sgt. Steve Fuentes, 445th SFS, checks a 445th Airlift Wing reservist's common access card at Gate 26A.

(bottom left) Senior Airman Robert Cole, 445 SFS, is dressed for the 4 below zero temperature while waiting for the next vehicle to come through Gate 26A.

(bottom right) Senior Airman Alex Stephens, 445 SFS, handles the flow of traffic entering Gate 26A.



SPOTLIGHT



Lt. Col. Denise Kerr

Rank/Name

Senior Airman Caleb Smith

Unit

445th Logistics Readiness Squadron

Duty Title

Logistics Planner

Hometown

Beavercreek, Ohio

Civilian Job

Full-time student

Education

Beavercreek high school graduate and currently attending Wright State University, majoring in management information systems

Hobbies

Basketball, intramural

sports, watching “Cops” and “Shark Week”

Career Goal

I would like to be accomplished in the business industry and to achieve success in the Air Force that I can be proud of.

What do you like about working at the 445th?

I like the great atmosphere it has, and I like being part of the squadron of the year.

Why did you join the Air Force?

To serve, jumpstart my career and take advantage of the educational benefits.

Free tax preparation, advice available to military families

By Nick Simeone
DoD News

WASHINGTON – With the new year comes the annual dread of tax-filing season and the confusion and stress that can go along with it, especially for military families whose tax returns can be further complicated by frequent relocations, involvement of rental properties and other aspects of military life.

To ease the burden, the Defense Department, through Military OneSource, is teaming again this year with H&R Block to offer no-cost tax preparation to the military community with a promise of guaranteed accuracy, a service that otherwise could cost military families hundreds of dollars or more.

No-cost Consultation, Tax Preparation

Military OneSource offers no-cost tax consultation and no-cost tax preparation and filing to service and family members, as well as to reservists regardless of activation status, survivors, and separated service members until 180 days after their retirement, discharge or end-of-tour date, Anthony Jackson, a Military OneSource program analyst, told DoD News.

Because it’s online, the service is available to eligible tax-filers regardless of where they are. “They can do one federal and up to three state tax returns

- again, at no cost to the service or family member,” Jackson said.

New Features This Year

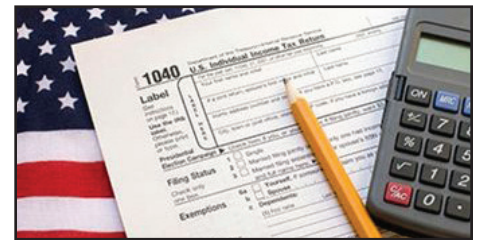
This year, he said, the service is adding features to accommodate those with special tax-filing needs. “If your tax situation includes rental property, charitable deductions or mortgage interest, this software can accommodate those particular situations,” he explained.

Tax experts also are available by phone at no cost for anyone who may have questions before they get down to using the online tax preparation software.

“You’re getting individuals when you’re talking - tax consultants who are thoroughly educated on the military situation, no matter what it is,” Jackson said, including knowledge of special tax exemptions for combat duty and other situations unique to the military.

The tax service being offered by Military OneSource is currently active.

Military OneSource (<http://www.militaryonesource.mil/>) was established by the Defense Department in 2002 to provide comprehensive information on military life free of charge.



News Briefs

Awards

Meritorious Service Medal

Lt Col Charles Destefani, MSG
 Lt Col Butler Granger, ASTS
 Lt Col Christopher Michals, 655 ISRG
 Lt Col Raymond Mick, ASTS
 Lt Col Todd Mulhorn, 87 APS
 Maj Karen Keller, ASTS
 Maj Thomas Menza, FSS
 Maj Sam Spiwak, 655 ISRG
 CMSgt Craig Davidson, MXS
 MSgt Robert Booth, MXS

Air Force Commendation Medal

MSgt Nathan Livingston, 87 APS
 TSgt Daniel Fitzgerald, 87 APS
 TSgt Kuiley Gertritsen, AES

TSgt Cazavia Henley, 87 APS

Air Force Achievement Medal

SrA Joseph Divish, 87 APS
 SrA Chelsea Eldridge, MXS
 SrA Abigail Lang, AES
 SrA Cole Milligan, 87 APS

Newcomers

1Lt Peter Moran, FSS
 Capt Leslie Craymer, AW
 Capt Sonny Hernandez, AW
 Capt Job Morales, AW
 MSgt Alberto Gonzalez, OSS
 MSgt Sharon Stanford, AES
 TSgt Matthew Millis, 655 ISRG
 TSgt Gregory Shepherd, SFS
 TSgt Brandon Sullivan, MXS

SSgt Hugo Petermann, MXS
 SSgt Ashley Roberts, MXS
 SSgt Andrew Schnell, 87 APS
 SSgt Peter Sittinger, 71 IS
 SSgt Shaun Turpen, 89 AS
 SrA Darrek Dortch, MXS
 SrA Kylee Knebel, AW
 SrA James Miller, FSS
 SrA Christopher Morris Jr., FSS
 SrA Justin Wallace, FSS
 A1C Sarrah Ashour, AMDS
 A1C Marissa Ayres, SFS
 A1C Akeeta Dalmida, 87 APS
 A1C Rianna Jones, FSS
 A1C Amanda Logsdon, 14 IS
 Amn Tyler Acevedo, SFS
 Amn Daniel DeWitt, FSS
 Amn Steven Dishong, MXS
 Amn John Hill-Spann, AMXS
 Amn Andrew Wolf, MXS

AB Jordan Dow, LRS
 AB Marsell Moody, AMXS

Promotions

Airman

Janah Berry, FSS
 Daniel DeWitt, FSS
 Steven Dishong, MXS
 John Hill-Spann, AMXS
 Samantha Johnson, MXG
 Brianna Jones, AMDS
 Aaliyah Lovett, AES
 Michael Smith, AMDS
 Andrew Wolf, MXS
 Erica Wyeth, AMDS

Airman First Class

Rianna Jones, FSS
 Sean Mendez, FSS
 Catherine Spirnak, FSS

Senior Airman

David Collings, AMDS

Master Sergeant

De'Juan Gaskins Sr., MXG
 Michael Haggitt, MXG

Commander's call

The 445th Airlift Wing will host a commander's call Sunday, Feb. 8 at 7 a.m. at the base theater. Airmen are asked to be in their seats by 6:45 a.m. Commander's call will also be held Sunday, Feb. 22 at 7 a.m. in Hangar 4026. For more information, contact the public affairs office at 257-5784.

Annual awards banquet

The 445th Airlift Wing Annual Awards Banquet will be held May 2 at the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force. The reception is slated to begin at 6 p.m. and the program at 7 p.m.

The awards banquet will recognize those selected for Airman, NCO, senior NCO, company grade officer, first sergeant, field grade officer, honor guard member, civilian, spouse, youth and squadron of the year. The winner of each category

will be announced during the banquet.

The costs of the event are \$30 for E-7 and above; \$25 for E-6 and below; \$13 for children 6-12; and children 5 and under are free.

All reservations must be received by April 12.

The dress for the evening is semi-formal or mess dress for enlisted Airmen, and mess dress for officers. Civilians may wear formal evening attire.

Any Airmen (E-1 through O-6) or civilian can nominate their spouse, youth or fellow Airmen, or those of a co-worker for field grade officer, civilian, honor guard member, squadron, spouse, youth and community partner of the year. Nominations should be submitted on an Air Force Form 1206 to Chief Master Sgt. James Felton at 445aw.ccc.res@us.af.mil no later than close of business Feb. 22.

For more information, contact the public affairs office at 257-5784.

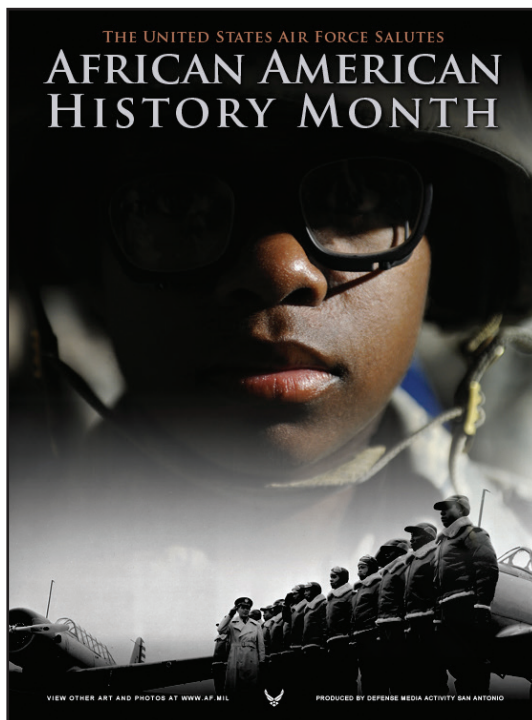


Air Force celebrates African American history

SAN ANTONIO (AFNS) Each February, the country recognizes African American History Month to highlight the struggles and triumphs of millions of American citizens during some of the most devastating obstacles in the nation's history. -- slavery, prejudice, poverty -- and looks at their contributions to the nation's cultural and political life.

This has particular interest for those in the American military as for the first time in history, the U.S. armed forces are led by an African-American commander in chief.

On June 1, 1949, Air Force officials published regulations ending U.S. segregation, thus becoming the first of all U.S.



military service branches to complete integration of African-American personnel into all-white units.

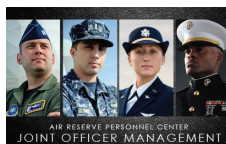
The first celebration to commemorate the contributions to the nation made by people of African descent occurred Feb. 12, 1926. For many years, the second week of February was set aside for this celebration to coincide with the birthdays of abolitionist and editor Frederick Douglas, as well as President Abraham Lincoln. In 1976, as part of the nation's bicentennial, the week was expanded into Black History Month. Since then,

U.S. presidents proclaim February as National African-American History Month.

On the Web



89 AS transports soldiers and cargo



Officers eligible for joint credit



President's Day, Feb. 16

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