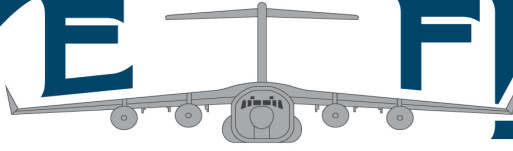


BUCKEYE FLYER



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Airman 1st Class Ethan Spickler



Master Sgt. Patrick O'Reilly



Airman 1st Class Ethan Spickler

1. Senior Airman Urowayinor Dore, 445th Civil Engineer Squadron heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) apprentice, removes his gas mask during Ability to Survive and Operate training conducted at the Wright-Patterson Air Force Base Warfighter Training Center Oct. 15, 2017. 2. Senior Master Sgt. Scott Bunch, 445th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, leads his team during an ATSO training exercise as they cover a simulated "critical asset" prior to a suspected chemical attack. 3. A 445th Airlift Wing Airman cleans his Mission Oriented Protective Posture gear during ATSO training Oct. 15, 2017.

ATSO training improves wing readiness

By Airman 1st Class Ethan G. Spickler
445th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Airmen from multiple 445th Airlift Wing squadrons participated in Ability to Survive and Operate training Oct. 14 - 15 at Wright Patterson Air Force Base United Service Organizations (USO) and War Fighter Training Center.

The Air Force created ATSO training to combat the uncertainty of a changing global climate in which a high level of importance is placed on the ability to respond to external threats in the most effective manner possible. ATSO training focuses on improving the ability of Airmen to perform their duties during less

than ideal circumstances and improving the unit's ability to respond to chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) threats.

"The purpose of ATSO is to increase the readiness of Airmen in CBRN situations," said Senior Master Sgt. David Filipkowski, 445th Inspector General for Inspections superintendent. "Readiness is key, considering the changing environments where we operate."

See ATSO, page 2

STEP program offers promotions to deserving Airmen

By Lt. Col. Todd Reeder

445th Maintenance Squadron Commander



The Stripes for Exceptional Performers (STEP) program offers the opportunity to nominate deserving Airmen for promotion

one grade above their unit manning document position.

With limited positions higher than the rank of staff or technical sergeant under current manning structures, STEP is a competitive process for organizations to submit promotion nomination packages for top performers who meet professional military education and time-in-grade/service requirements for the next higher grade.

To be promoted under the program, an individual is competitively evaluated in four primary areas against other nominees.

The areas are: leadership and job performance in primary duty; breadth of experience; significant self-improvement; and base/com-

munity involvement. The package submitted must effectively describe on the Air Force Form 1206 an individual's accomplishments in each of the categories. The packages from across Air Force Reserve Command are competitively reviewed by a board to select the best nominees for a small quota of stripes within each grade.

During the last two annual STEP cycles, the 445th Airlift Wing used a well-structured process to preview packages prior to final submission. A published calendar schedule provided milestones for units to meet in preparing nomination packages. The packages were submitted for editing to a wing review team and then returned to the submitting units for final corrections and changes.

The maintenance squadron can certainly confirm how well the wing process worked.

During the last two STEP cycles, of the six total packages the MXS submitted, five NCOs were selected for promotion by the board.

Although each of these candidates possessed highly competitive

accomplishments, the success rate of selection was in part influenced by the wing's review process.

While care was taken in a collaborative effort amongst the first sergeant, supervisors, and nominees to prepare a strong AF Form 1206, the review team's edits made the final packages more competitive.

As the next STEP cycle approaches for fiscal year 18, now is a good time to begin emphasizing the program within your units.

Encourage your people to strengthen their resumes through education and community service and to volunteer for additional duties within the unit. Urge Airmen during formations and office or shop meetings to meet privately to discuss their significant accomplishments and community involvement with supervisors.

Recent nominees submitted for a wing Airman, NCO, or senior NCO of the quarter board also make excellent candidates to consider for STEP. The bullets used on the form 1206 for these boards provide a good starting point for a STEP package.

ATSO, from page 1

Filipkowski, whose role during the training was to observe and assess the practical application of the training, emphasized the importance of the ability to survive and operate.

"Our Airmen are prepared for this training by taking computer based training focusing on Chemical Biological Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN), and today they will have the opportunity to apply their skills in a field environment," he said. "There are multiple levels to this training, and it's a whole lot more than just putting on protective gear. It is extremely important that we are prepared for whatever situation the mission places us in."

While there were many squadrons represented during the training event, the knowledge and skill gained by participants was universally applicable.

"This training is important for us when we operate in the real world," said Staff Sgt. Komi Detti, a medical technician with the 445th Aerospace Medi-

cine Squadron. "We need to be able to respond in the right way when faced with dangerous situations, and this training will help us adapt to our environment."

Many of the Airmen at the training spoke positively about the impact ATSO had on their professional development. Effective training not only increases the skill level of the trainees, it also builds unit cohesion.

"This is excellent training," said Senior Airman Marissa Ayres, a security forces Airman with the 445th Security Forces Squadron. "We get to implement everything we have learned and use our equipment exactly how we would in a real world scenario. It also gives us the opportunity to interact with Airmen from a variety of different fields."

From AMDS to SFS and everywhere in between, the ATSO training elevates the wing's level of preparation and enhances the ability 445th Airmen have to successfully support the mission.



AMDS Airman helps restore homes of hurricane victims

By 2nd Lt. Rachel N. Ingram
445th Airlift Wing Public Affairs



Courtesy photos

Tech. Sgt. Cody Smeltzer, 445th Aerospace Medicine Squadron, demolishes the bathroom in the home of a disabled Vietnam veteran that was damaged during Hurricane Harvey.

While on vacation this past summer, Tech. Sgt. Cody Smeltzer, an Air Reserve Technician in the 445th Aerospace Medicine Squadron, had a chance encounter with an elderly man in Chicago Midway International Airport. The man, a United Services Organizations volunteer, told Smeltzer about Team Rubicon, a veteran-founded disaster relief organization.

“He told me that Team Rubicon consists of 70 percent veteran membership,” Smeltzer said. “I thought to myself, if this old guy can get out there and help people, so can I.”

Fast forward two months, and Smeltzer hopped on a plane bound for the flood waters of Houston, Texas. He helped stand up a forward operating base for the region

to host approximately 500 Team Rubicon volunteers who completed about 600 work orders in one month.

“I ran a demolition team of six people,” he said. “Our primary goal was to clean out the inside of damaged homes, in partnership with FEMA [Federal Emergency Management Agency].”

Smeltzer’s team consisted of one retired Army veteran, two active-duty Air Force members, a college student and an AmeriCorps volunteer.

Working up to 10 hours per day for eight days straight, Smeltzer’s team accomplished this task in three homes. The volunteers slept on cots in a Salvation Army chapel between shifts.

“It can cost a lot of money to hire a commercial company to clean out flooded houses, and regular homeowner’s insurance doesn’t typically cover flood damage,” Smeltzer explained. “Some houses had extensive damage, and mold remediation was a big priority, too. The people down there didn’t have basic necessities like food, water and shelter.”

The team spent four days cleaning out a home belonging to a wheelchair-bound Vietnam veteran with no local family.



Tech. Sgt. Cody Smeltzer walks with Bruce, a disabled Vietnam veteran, to assess his home that was damaged during Hurricane Harvey.



Tech. Sgt. Cody Smeltzer and Jennifer Bentley, fellow Team Rubicon volunteer, gut a room that once contained more than two feet of water as a result of Hurricane Harvey.

“We had to remove all the hardwood floors, drywall from floor to ceiling, and virtually all of his belongings,” Smeltzer recalled. “He had memorial flags inside his house from his brother’s funeral, and they were beginning to mold, so we removed them, cleaned and refolded the flags, then presented them to him. That was incredible.”

According to Team Rubicon’s website, the organization’s primary mission is providing disaster relief to those affected by natural disasters, be they domestic or international. By pairing the skills and experiences of military veterans with first responders, medical professionals, and technology solutions, Team Rubicon aims to provide the greatest service and impact possible.

For more information or to volunteer visit: www.teamrubiconusa.org.



Aircrew flight equipment Airman sews for a living

By Staff Sgt. Joel McCullough
445th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Airman First Class Devin Litton, with the 445th Operations Support Squadron Aircrew Flight Equipment, participated in his first unit training assemble during the month of October.

Even on his first weekend of drill, Litton stuck out as having a unique personal career that resembles his Air Force one. Litton runs his own handmade tactical gear business out of his home.

The name of his business is *Molle Monkey Tactical*. He makes magazine and grenade pouches, hard and soft plate carriers and has started working on his own prototype pull away body armor system. Litton has sold his gear to people all over the world, to include Japan, New Zealand, Australia and England.

When asked how he got into this specific career choice, it was obvious his Air Force profession had shaped this choice.

Before joining the active-duty Air Force in 2011, Litton went to a career technical center for multimedia production. "I wanted to go the graphics and design route," said Litton. "My parents led me toward the Air Force."

It was by pure luck that Litton ended up in the aircrew flight equipment career field.

Litton learned his sewing skills during his time as an active-duty Airman. While participating in airsoft competitions outside of work, it dawned on him that he could make some of the gear himself. "I've always



Staff Sgt. Joel McCullough

Airman First Class Devin Litton cuts a piece of material with a hot knife press, Oct. 15, 2017, his first unit training assemble weekend.

been a creative person and have needed that creative outlet," said Litton. After deploying in the summer of 2013 he returned with a little extra money and invested in his own business.

Litton said, "Our career field (AFE) teaches you that everything you do needs to be meticulous because it's for a purpose and that purpose is someone's life. Coming from that background and then making tactical gear, it's the same. It's all about someone's life."

"I get good reports on how my equipment holds up. People tell me it's just as good as the 'real' thing. It is very rewarding."

"Sewing is probably the least interesting and hardest part of our job to train on," said Tech. Sgt. Austin Schutte, flightline NCO in charge with the 445 OSS AFE. "It's nice that he's showed up with skill and interest in this area, and he does a phenomenal job."

Litton said that sewing outside of the Air Force and taking such an interest in it has made him a better member of the AFE community. He has learned about equipment and even recommend items to former units that he has worked with.

Litton was born and raised in Dayton and decided to end his active-duty career and return home. He wanted to shift his focus to his business while still serving in the Air Force. "It's nice to have a foot in both worlds. They both complement each other very well and I'm always learning something new."



Courtesy photo

Airman First Class Devin Litton, 445th Operations Support Squadron Aircrew Flight Equipment, poses in his home workshop Oct. 20, 2017. Litton runs his own tactical gear business out of his garage.



Wing announces 3rd quarter CY17 award winners

Airman



Senior Airman Michael Logan, 445th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron aircraft maintenance journeyman, is the 445th Airlift Wing Airman of the Quarter, third quarter. Logan was one of the crew chiefs assigned to the aircraft that took the U.S. Air Force Academy team to Washington, D.C., to accept the Commander in Chief's Trophy from President Trump. As the depot aircraft acceptance team member, Logan identified critical fixes, completing them in less than 24 hours, saving 34 man hours. He assisted with 10 home station check inspections, completing more than 250 task card inspections and raising HSC manning by 14 percent. During his off-duty time, Logan supported Dayton Hospice, volunteering 18 hours to set up new living spaces. He supports the Greenbucks Program. Logan is currently enrolled in Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University's Aircraft Maintenance Management Program.

NCO



Tech. Sgt. Jason Kretzschmar, 445th Maintenance Squadron munitions systems craftsman, is the 445th Airlift Wing NCO of the Quarter, third quarter. Kretzschmar monitored the wing's supply allocation, identifying a shortage and requested 25 percent fiscal year 2017 flare increase. He identified ancillary training discrepancies and pinpointed overdue training, increasing his shop's completion rate by 75 percent in four months. Kretzschmar quality checked 70 explosive containers for stockpile restore, decreasing the shipping inspection timeframe. During his off-duty time, Kretzschmar volunteered his time at Caesar Creek State Park, helping to build a footbridge, clearing debris and cleaning up the trail. He is currently enrolled in the Defense Acquisition University's Level III Engineering Acquisition Professional Development Program certification.

SNCO



Master Sgt. Lauren Harston, 445th Logistics Readiness Squadron first sergeant, is the 445th Airlift Wing Senior NCO of the Quarter, third quarter. Harston coordinated with two major commands and scheduled four flights for a member in the area of responsibility to attend a funeral with less than 24 hours-notice. She garnered \$3,000 in Air Force grants to help Airmen in need by working with four wing support agencies; the grants helped six families. Harston developed fitness and re-schedule policies for her squadron running remedial physical training for the unit. During her off-duty time, Harston led eight Green Dot training program classes, training 200 personnel in 16 squadrons. She chaired an Airman Leadership School discussion panel, guiding the students on "What it means to be a first sergeant." Harston received her third Community College of the Air Force degree in human relations.

CGO



First Lt. Maria Duffy, 89th Airlift Squadron C-17 pilot, is the 445th Airlift Wing Company grade Officer of the Quarter, third quarter. Duffy safely recovered an aircraft after a dangerous bleed air manifold failure, preventing a fire. She supported the Secretary of Defense and his team on a high-priority, 10 day combat mission to the U.S. Central Command's area of responsibility. Duffy flew more than 520 hours, 128 sorties and transported 2.7 million pounds of cargo for Air Force Reserve and Air Mobility Commands. She assisted with the safe recovery of her aircraft and crew after a bird strike damaged the aircraft during a flight. During her off-duty time, Duffy devotes more than two hours a week to assist the elderly in her community with crucial tasks at home, improving their living conditions. She coordinated her squadron's change of command ceremony.



SPOTLIGHT

Rank/Name

Staff Sgt. Taylor Anliker

Unit

445th Force Support Squadron

Duty Title

Personnel Technician

Hometown

Columbia, Missouri

Civilian Job

Full-time student

Education

Double major in accounting/finance, Bachelor of Business Administration, University of Cincinnati

Hobbies

Mountain biking and hiking with my Corgi!

Career Goal

To never settle, and always progress in every position I hold.

What do you like about working at the 445th?

When the going gets tough, we get going!

Why did you join the Air Force?

To be the first Anliker to ever serve my country.



Master Sgt. Patrick O'Reilly

Prepare for financial readiness, retirement

All service members who enter military service on or before December 31, 2017, are grandfathered under the current retirement system, but approximately 645,000 National Guard and Reserve members will have the option to opt in to the Blended Retirement System between January 1, 2018 and December 31, 2018.

Under the Blended Retirement System service members are vested after two years of service – the money in the TSP belongs to them, including all DOD automatic and matching contributions. If service members leave, the TSP goes with them. However, service members will have the option to leave those contributions in the TSP or to roll them into another company or government 401(k)-type retirement plan, upon separation.

Buckeye Flyer

445th Airlift Wing Editorial Staff

Col. Adam Willis

Commander

Lt. Col. Cynthia Harris

Chief, Public Affairs

Stacy Vaughn

Public Affairs Specialist

Shari Palmer

Public Affairs Assistant

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

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The new Blended Retirement System will now ensure nearly 85 percent of military members leave the service with retirement savings, as opposed to just 19 percent today. It is one of the most wide-reaching and significant changes to military pay and benefits of the last 70 years. For the first time, service members will receive automatic and matching Department of Defense contributions to their retirement and have control over their investments.

The BRS uses a 2.0 percent rather than 2.5-percent multiplier in calculating military retired pay for the defined benefit, plus a contribution component, which includes DOD automatic 1 percent and up to 4 percent additional DOD matching contributions to a member's Thrift Savings Plan account.

No service member needs to make a decision until Jan. 1, 2018. However all service members should take advantage of training and informational resources as they become available. It is incumbent that service members who are eligible to opt into the Blended Retirement System during 2018 be equipped with the knowledge necessary to make the best decision for their own individual circumstances.

The 445th is still conducting briefings to help Airmen learn more about the Blended Retirement System before they make a decision. Briefings will be offered on the dates, times and locations below by RSVPing with links indicated:

Nov. 5 – building 4010, Scarlet Room 10 to 11:30 a.m. <https://einvitations.afit.edu/inv/anim.cfm?i=351676&k=0164430F7C51>

Dec. 3 – building 4006, Witt Auditorium 10 to 11:30 a.m. <https://einvitations.afit.edu/inv/anim.cfm?i=351678&k=0164430F7C5F>

For more information on the Blended Retirement System, please contact the 445th Airman and Family Readiness Office at 937-522-4607.



News Briefs

Retirements

October 2017

CMSgt Mark Donahue, MXS
 TSgt Jeffrey Dillon, 87 APS
 TSgt Charles Everett, AMXS

Promotions

Airman First Class

Moriah Green, 63 IS

Senior Airman

Sarah Ali, 63 IS
 Elyssa Huertas, 63 IS
 Alexandar Lathers, 63 IS
 Alexandra Littleton, 63 IS

Staff Sergeant

Donald Bianchi, 14 IS
 Getho Cabading, 38 IS
 David Colling, AMDS
 Marina Dibiasse, 655 ISRG
 Caleb Fuchs, FSS
 Meaghan Holley, 655 ISRG
 Ciera Forrest, 50 IS
 Malcom Harris, 63 IS
 Ridge Hodges, 63 IS
 Maggie Jenkins, 718 IS
 Angela Leimeister, 14 IS
 Katherine Phibbs, AMDS
 Matthew Potter, 63 IS
 Kelsey Rayburn, AMDS
 Corey Richer, Det 1
 Arisack Souphanthavong, 42 IS
 Jared Thacker, AES
 Jeremy Tkach, 14 IS
 Christopher Thrower, CES

Technical Sergeant

John Allen, ASTS
 David Auer, AMDS
 Jason Benedict, 89 AS
 Christopher Decker, CES
 Christian Delacruz, AES
 Christine Haas, 71 IS
 Brandon Hakes, FSS
 Sukhneet Kaur, 63 IS
 Timothy Kisner, SFS
 Anthony Lauderdale,

CES
 Michael Mahaney, AMXS
 Joshua Mason, SFS
 Jeffrey Muldovan, CES
 Kristy Mummau, Det 2
 Adam Naber, MXS
 Michael Parshall, AMXS
 Dewayne TAO, 42 IS
 Bernadette Varnedoe, 16 IS
 Micah Voss, 14 IS

Master Sergeant

Mark Adams, MXS
 William Baez, 71 IS
 Michael Benzing, MXG
 Diego Cancino, OSS
 Jacob Crafton, MXS
 Christopher Marks, 718 IS
 Mia Rigillo, 655 ISRG
 Douglas Shelton, CES
 Gregory Shepherd, SFS
 Bjorn Solheim, SFS
 Joshua Stike, 718 IS
 Leo Swank, CES
 Jon Wilcox, Det 1

Senior Master Sergeant

Kori Conaway, 16 IS
 Herald Cremeens, OG

Newcomers

Lt Col Todd Everett, AMDS
 Col John Robinson, OG
 Capt Jeffrey Guillotte, 89 AS
 Capt William Harris, LRS
 Capt Michael Harrison, 87 APS
 Capt Daniel McFadden, 87 APS
 Capt Richard Wise, AES
 2LT Tyler Trease, ASTS
 MSgt Evelyn Roman-Amador, 64 IS
 TSgt Kenneth Lovelace, 87 APS
 TSgt Sean Sullivan, CES

TSgt Matthew Whaling, OSS
 SSgt Takela Callender, ASTS
 SSgt Patrick First, SFS
 SSgt Randall George, AMXS
 SSgt Jordan Helphrey, SFS
 SSgt Xavier Lanier, LRS
 SSgt Laura McArthur, MXS
 SSgt Adam Ozio, AMXS
 SSgt Ryan Stark, AMXS
 SSgt Dustin Wehrung, FSS
 SrA Latrice Blair, ASTS
 SrA Joshua Buck, FSS
 SrA Joshua Davis, 87 APS
 SrA Jacob Hernandez, 64 IS
 SrA Mariah Magtoto, MSG

SrA Angela Marie Shay, OSS
 SrA Corey Sweeney-Morehouse, AMXS
 SrA Darrell Sydnor, AW
 A1C Thomas Drouillard, CES
 A1C Cassandra Minigh, 14 IS
 AB Eric Lovingshimer, AES
 AB Brooke Thornton, MXS
 AB Michael Van Dyke, MXS

Awards

Meritorious Service Medal

Maj Casey Jackson, 16 IS
 TSgt Curtis Johnson, 16 IS

Diamond Sharp Award



Staff Sgt. Joel McCullough

Master Sgt. Ashley Byers, 64th Intelligence Squadron first sergeant, presents the August 2017 Diamond Sharp Award to Senior Airman Codee Arthur, 445th Aeromedical Staging Squadron, Oct. 14, 2017. The award is presented for exemplary performance, adherence to the Air Force Core Values, attitude, appearance and ability.



445 AW hosts Dayton schools outreach event



Lt. Col. Cynthia Harris



Stacy Vaughn



Lt. Col. Cynthia Harris



Stacy Vaughn

More than 70 students from Thurgood Marshall and Meadowdale High Schools visited the 445th Airlift Wing Oct. 20, 2017 as part of the Dayton public schools outreach initiative. The students participated in demonstrations by the 445th Security Forces, 445th Civil Engineer, 445th Aerospace Medicine and 445th Operations Support Squadrons. The students were treated to lunch by 445th AW recruiters and ended their visit by touring a C-17 Globemaster III with Airmen from the 445th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron and 89th Airlift Squadron.

445TH AIRLIFT WING/PA
BUILDING 4014, ROOM 113
5439 MCCORMICK AVE
WRIGHT-PATTERSON AFB OHIO 45433-5132

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