

# Buckeye Flyer



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## Aerial Port team trades turkey for pineapples

By Tech. Sgt. Charles Miller  
445th Public Affairs

**A** team of 23 airmen from the 445th Airlift Wing's 87th Aerial Port celebrated Thanksgiving after their duty day was done at Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii. Of course, it can be said that if one is to be separated from family at Thanksgiving, Hawaii would be one of the top destinations on the list, but to have to work also!?! Truthfully, there were no real hardship issues.

"We had a C-5 come in on Thanksgiving Day and we went out and off loaded all the cargo," said Tech. Sgt. Tim Johnson of the 87th APS. "There were planes coming in everyday so Thanksgiving Day was another workday."

Master Sgt. Terry Scott, another member of the team said there was no time to watch football while digesting a huge turkey feast like most Americans did. There was work to do, but the load was lighter on the holiday.

Nearly all of the planes the aerial porters worked with while at Hickam had some cargo or troops being moved in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"We would build a mail pallet everyday," Sgt. Johnson said. "The pallets went out to the troops down



Senior Airman Adam Wyse, 87th Aerial Port Squadron, unloads incoming cargo at Hickam AFB, Hawaii. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Larry Adams)

range."

Hickam Air Force Base has a very busy aerial port as it serves as the gateway to many Far East U.S. Air Force bases. To help the active duty, many reserve aerial ports rotate in for annual training. Another group from the 87th leaves Jan. 7, 2006.

"We departed Hickam on a Friday and more reservists were arriving Saturday," said Senior Master Sgt. Bob Andrews. "There's a constant flow."

The E-7 and above team members spent more time in class than on the workroom floor or on the flightline. The active duty had a program designed

especially for aerial port reservists, Master Sgt. and above called the Air Terminal Operations Program. It gives senior reserve enlisted training on how to completely run an active duty aerial port if they activated.

The Buckeye Flyer would be remiss if we did not acknowledge the many 445th members away from family and loved ones and are currently serving in many parts of the world today. They have chosen to volunteer for duty during Thanksgiving, Christmas, Hanukkah, New Year's Day and beyond. We sincerely thank them for their service and pray for their safe return home.

## Being successful God's way

By Chaplain 1st Lt. Jonathan Kollmann  
445th Chaplain

Can you believe it is a New Year already? I like the New Year! First, you get a fresh start and second, you get another shot at carrying out a new year's resolution on self-improvement. Deep inside all of us we want to be successful in all we are and all we do. Whether it is carrying out your first shirt's or commander's order or finishing a project at work, hopefully you and I can agree, whatever we do, we want to do it well.

Our culture thrives on success, yet success at all cost. Sadly, too often people become successful, but burn bridges with people they love or work with or neglect integrity. All done in the name of "success." Have you ever thought about how God defines success? I believe true success is becoming the person God wants you to be and achieving the goals He has for you. The Bible is clear about how to become a successful person God's way. Let me give you a couple of success points to go by for 2006. God is clear about the first. Love God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with your entire mind & love your neighbor as yourself. (Mark 10:27). Second, don't expect to be served but serve in love. (Matthew 20:26-28).

It's still early in the year. Start now and I guarantee all areas of your life will see true success! Blessings and peace in 2006.

## A year in review

By Brig. Gen. Bruce E. Davis  
445th Airlift Wing Commander

Last January we had over 600 folks mobilized, we had been flying at a 15,000 hour per year pace hauling cargo into IRAQ and medical evacuations out. We were flying 6 missions per week for our nation.



In February, we began our demobilization of operations and maintenance. HQ AMC determined our mission was still essential to our nation and offered to keep a large number of individuals employed on a "volunteer" basis. We agreed to continue our pace at 11,000 hours per year (we normally fly between 4,000 – 5,000 hours per year) flying 4 missions into Iraq per week.

In March, we finished the demobilization of maintenance, but we continued to mobilize medical folks and throughout the year we've had volunteers for the critical jobs of our country. Sometimes those volunteers were in 1's and 2's. Sometimes we had an entire UTC go en-mass to help out in the AOR. Many thanks to the SF, CE and AP folks for their dedication to duty and standing up when asked to volunteer.

In April, I was promoted to Brigadier General, and this wing was magnanimous in allowing me to have a pin-on ceremony during the First Sergeant's sponsored military ball in May. What a great honor and what a great venue ... certainly the highlight of my career.

By this time, our transition to the C-5 was becoming more obvious. The C-141s were leaving the base for the bone yard, half of the ramp was being expanded, and plans were being made to tear down our front two C-141 hangars to make way for the C-5 hangars.

Over the summer, the Chiefs put

together a terrific picnic for the wing, probably the best I'd ever seen. I found, however, that I couldn't open my eyes after an hour in the dunking booth, then found out that when I asked for a cup of chlorine to be added to the water, some bright individual thought I said a gallon.

By the end of the summer, AMC had decided that our C-141 services were no longer required after the end of the fiscal year, yet we still had some C-141 hours on the books, so the operations guys found some missions stateside working for the Reserve Command.

On the 3rd of October, I was able to fly the first C-5 onto the field for our wing. A tremendous ceremony for the wing, a huge recruiting effort by the recruiters.

November found me trying to align AFRC desires to speed up the C-141 flights to the bone yard with HQ AMC desires to stop the flow of C-5s to the unit due to AMP conversion problems with the C-5. We negotiated two altitude limited airframes from Lackland and loaned them our unrestricted aircraft so they can haul cargo for the nation.

December finds me working milcon issues, trying to get a second tail-in hangar for our maintenance folks and saving money by utilizing existing fuel pits on our ramp. It is a time of pride, for our maintenance launched its first C-5 without assistance from one of the other bases. The operators have enough folks trained to man our first Wright-Patt aircrew. It is also a time of reflection realizing that this wing had 52 individuals that were not home for Christmas. It is a time of looking into the future and trying to align our ALCF mission with new AMC requirements, closing the CLSS, closing the C-141 FTD, closing the 356th and positioning ourselves to take on the C-5 mission.

It has been a wild ride this year – and I was able to spend it with the most incredible people I've met in my 37 years in the Air Force .... 445th, you are an awesome unit and I am so proud to wear your patch on my shoulder!

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# Uncle, niece serving in Iraq together

By Staff Sgt. Tammie Moore  
332nd AEW Public Affairs

**W**hen serving half a world away from home, many service members treasure the little tokens they brought with them to remind them why they are here.

For Senior Master Sgt. Michael Brimmer, 332nd Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron first sergeant, and his niece, Army Spc. Angela Fekken, 1436th Engineer Company, they have more than a small piece of home, they have each other.

Specialist Fekken, a truck driver, has been deployed to LAS Anaconda almost a year and that affected her uncle's decision to come here.

"I volunteered to deploy and was given a list of places I could go to," said Sergeant Brimmer. "I picked Balad because Angie was there already."

When Specialist Fekken came home for her mid-tour leave in July, Sergeant Brimmer met with her to learn about where he would be deploying to.

"She gave me a run down about what to expect," Sergeant Brimmer said. "She showed me photos of LSA Anaconda and really put me at ease about coming here. I thought it was going to be a barren desert, but the photos she had showed different."

When Sergeant Brimmer arrived here, he began his search to find his niece.

"It took more than a month to get in contact with Angie," Sergeant Brimmer said. "We tried to get in touch with each other over e-mail, but for some reason e-mails to one another's military accounts kept getting rejected. My wife ended up having to give my personal e-mail address to her sister who was able to



**BALAD AIR BASE, Iraq (AFPN) — Reserve Senior Master Sgt. Michael Brimmer and his niece, Army Spc. Angie Fekken, relax during some down time. Sergeant Brimmer is assigned to the 332nd Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron and Specialist Fekken is assigned to the 1436th Engineer Company. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Tammie Moore)**

pass it on to Angie."

"In the meantime I looked for her every time I went to the DFACs," Sergeant Brimmer said.

Specialist Fekken was also searching for her uncle.

"When I would run into Airmen, I would ask them if they knew my uncle," she said. "It was a good feeling to finally have met up with him. I'd been looking for him for weeks, so it was great to finally see him."

The sergeant and specialist come from a large, but close family.

"Most of our family lives within 15 minutes of each other back in Michigan," Specialist Fekken said. "We always get together."

Maintaining this sense of closeness was important to the uncle and niece.

"It's just a great comfort to know that we have family here we can talk to and are able to see a friendly smiling face of a family member," Specialist Fekken said.

Because of job requirements the two are not able to get together as often as they would like, but they take advantage of every opportunity that presents itself.

"We look forward to getting together and having a chance to catch up on what we've both been doing here as well as what's going on back home," Specialist Fekken said.

Family members in the states were also glad, that for part of their deployments, the two would be here together.

"They were pretty excited that we'd both be serving at the same time and at the same base, especially my mom and my aunt, his wife," Specialist Fekken said.

Having the opportunity to deploy with a family member has meant a lot to this sergeant and specialist.

"On deployments we make friends and form an adopted family," Sergeant Brimmer said. "But to have a real family member here makes a difference. It keeps us connected to home."

# Classic example of a late bloomer

By Tech. Sgt. Charles K. Miller  
445th Public Affairs

**F**light Nurse Capt. Judy Willets, from the 445th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, is a classic example of a late bloomer. The captain started her military career at an age when many are finishing theirs. Capt. Willets swore in for her first commission at age 43.

Certainly, there's no chance the captain will serve 20 years and then retire. There is no motivation for retirement pay and benefits there.

While swearing in was an important experience in the captain's life, deployments to Kandahar Air Base, Afghanistan and Iraq have overshadowed it. The captain immediately put her skills as a flight nurse in practice in less than ideal conditions.

The captain spent five months flying all over Iraq treating the wounded and ill in the air aboard a variety of aircraft in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The captain also spent time in Qatar and Kuwait.

But the three months in the spring of 2005 in Afghanistan left the indelible strongest, most lasting impression.

"The Afghan people would bring their

sick or injured children to us for treatment because they couldn't get good treatment on their own," Capt. Willets said. "So much is not being told in news media outlets; the appreciation of the Afghan people when we treat their children."

There was very little flying for the captain while in Afghanistan, the Kandahar clinic was home base. The mission of the AES in Afghanistan was primarily humanitarian duty. Hundreds, if not thousands, of Afghan people have been treated by U.S. military medical teams

"Here, we hope our children will go to college. In Afghanistan, the parents hope their children will make it to their eighteenth birthdays in a helpless environment. Even though it's a desolate place they still have hope for a better tomorrow. Their strength is amazing."

"Every time I go overseas I come back so appreciative of what we have here," Capt. Willets said. "Afghanistan is the most incredible place I've ever been to. Being in their country really makes you appreciate what you have back home."

"In Iraq the desert is alive, but in Afghanistan all they want is something to eat and a place to sleep," the captain said. "They have been in wars for so long, all



**Activated flight nurse Capt. Judy Willets, from the 445th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, works on patient's medical charts during a C-130 aeromedical flight in Iraq. (U.S. Air Force courtesy photo)**

they want is quiet. They want a chance to do simple things we take for granted like grow a vegetable garden."

The next stop for Capt. Willets is stateside. The captain will spend four months at Andrews Air Force Base, Md., continuing to treat wounded and ill military personnel returning from support in Iraqi Freedom.



## Aerial Photo

*The Hanoi Taxi, a C-141 aircraft, flew over the National Museum of the United States Air Force Dec. 13. The photo was taken from the back of the lead C-141 aircraft. Several passes over the museum were flown so a professional photographer and videographer could get an excellent photo to make into a lithograph. (Photo by Maj. Ted Theopolos)*

## Earns Bronze Star

# CE member keeps his cool under fire

By Tech. Sgt. Charles Miller  
445th Public Affairs

**A**ir Force Reservist Senior Master Sgt. Steve O'Meara does things up in a big way, whether here at Wright-Patt where he's part of the Civil Engineer Squadron or while deployed to Iraq.

The sergeants' actions while in Iraq have earned him the Bronze Star medal. 445th Airlift Wing Commander Brig. Gen. Bruce Davis presented Sgt. O'Meara the medal during a ceremony on Nov. 20.

"This deployment to Iraq was a great sacrifice to Steve and his family," said Gen. Davis. "It was also a sacrifice to his civilian employer. You are all volunteers. It's incredible."

While part of the 506th Air Expeditionary Group, 332d Air Expeditionary Wing, Kirkuk Regional Air Base, Iraq, from May 31, 2004 to Sept. 1, 2004, the sergeant was exposed to extreme danger from hostile bombings and mortar attacks. While Sgt. O'Meara was in charge of 30 firefighters at a 500 acre fire, 10

explosions occurred, the results of an enemy rocket attack.

The sergeant controlled the incident for over six hours at great personal risk while huge pieces of shrapnel and debris rained down around him and the firefighters.

During the attack, Sgt. O'Meara was able to protect the airfield lighting system, the aircraft arresting system and the 300,000 gallon fuel cell.

Sgt. O'Meara also served as on-site commander following 20 enemy rocket attacks and ensuing fires, including one that fatally injured an Air Force member and started a multi vehicle fire.

In Iraq, the sergeant was instrumental in creating the commands best fire prevention program initiating a combination of aggressive inspections and controlled burns. The program resulted in a 400 percent decrease in uncontrolled fires within just three months.

Sgt. O'Meara took great personal strides creating relationships with local Iraqi firefighters and creating the

command's only fire and first aid course for Iraqis. While doing this, the sergeant still had time to mentor young firefighters, providing them with combat

lifesaver and medical evaluation training.

"My military training and my civilian training helped me greatly to stay safe," said Sgt. O'Meara. After returning home I will not think "This will never happen to me" again.

We do table top exercises and training but once I got to Iraq and was in a combat situation it all came together. This is one of the proudest days in my life"



## Air Force releases new mission statement

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — The realities of the world have changed dramatically since the creation of the Air Force in 1947 and continue to change almost daily.

With these changes in mind, Air Force leaders released a new mission statement Dec. 7 that defines the current and future direction of the Air Force.

"Today, our world is fast paced, constantly shifting and filled with a wide range of challenges," Secretary of the Air Force Michael W. Wynne and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. T. Michael Moseley wrote in a joint Letter to Airmen. "Our mission is our guiding compass, and now more than ever we need it to be clear and precise."

The mission statement defines the "where and what" the Air Force accomplishes on a daily basis:

*The mission of the United States Air Force is to deliver sovereign options for the defense of the United States of America and its global interests — to fly and fight in Air, Space, and Cyberspace.*

The statement includes two new concepts, "sovereign options" and "cyberspace," which the secretary and chief defined.

They said having sovereign options is the essence of being a superpower.

"Our task is to provide the president, the combatant

commanders, and our nation with an array of options ... options that are not limited by the tyranny of distance, the urgency of time, or the strength of our enemy's defenses," they said. "With one hand the Air Force can deliver humanitarian assistance to the farthest reaches of the globe, while with the other hand we can destroy a target anywhere in the world."

The term cyberspace includes network security, data transmission and the sharing of information.

"We have quite a few of our Airmen dedicated to cyberspace ... from security awareness, making sure the networks can't be penetrated, as well as figuring out countermeasures," Secretary Wynne said. "The Air Force is a natural leader in the cyber world and we thought it would be best to recognize that talent."

Adversaries of the United States will use any method or venue necessary to contest America, and it is an Airman's calling to dominate air, space and cyberspace, the leaders said.

"If we can decisively and consistently control these commons, then we will deter countless conflicts," they said. "If our enemies underestimate our resolve, then we will fly, fight, and destroy them."

Using past air power pioneers as examples of understanding the mission, they said, "The Air Force's mission statement has evolved over time, but it does not change the nature of who we are or what we do."



# Reservists spread cheer at VA Holiday Party

By Maj. Ted Theopolos  
445th Public Affairs

**M**usic in the air, food on the table and good fellowship, created a fun and festive atmosphere at the annual VA holiday party Dec. 10.

The Air Force Sergeants Association, Kitty Hawk Chapter, sponsored the 11th annual party for the residents and patients at the VA center located at the Veterans Administration Nursing Home on Gettysburg Drive in Dayton. The AFSA has been hosting parties, such as this one, at the VA center for 26 years.

Approximately 25 AFSA active duty Air Force members from Wright-Patt, many with their families, along with Boy Scout Troop 72 from Fairborn and approximately 20 members from the 445th Airlift Wing helped with patients in the center.

The hall was decorated with holiday lights, hanging wreaths, bright flowers on the tables and a Christmas tree with an American Flag ribbon on top usually reserved for a star. But that wasn't all, a three piece combo from the Air Force Band of Flight filled the air by playing jazz and holiday music. Even young children wearing ho-ho hats passed out candy canes with a note attached to the residents.

This was the ninth year for the 445th Airlift Wing to take part. Reservists helped residents take their food trays to their table. If not doing that, they were busy building food trays to take to rooms for those who were unable to attend. Tech. Sgt. Steve Adams kept very busy giving free hair-cuts to the residents in the hallway. Those not busy with helping were socializing and thanking veterans for their service.

Senior airman through general visited the veterans. Brig. Gen. Bruce Davis, commander of the 445th Airlift Wing, went from table to table shaking hands with the veterans.

One such veteran he met was Mr. Wallace Thornton a World War II veteran.

"I've been through it!" said Thornton. The 83-year-old veteran served two and half years in the jungles of Southeast Asia.

"I was 17 years old when I joined," said Thornton. "I had to



**Tech. Sgt. Steven Adams, 445th Civil Engineering Squadron, cuts the hair of Mr. Dan Stamper at the VA party. (Photos by Master Sgt. Doug Moore)**



**Brig. Gen. Bruce Davis, 445th Airlift Wing commander, shakes hands with World War II veteran Mr. Wallace Thornton.**



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**Senior Master Sgt. William Spradlin, First Sergeant of 445th Security Forces, assists a resident at the VA center with her plate of cookies and candy at the VA holiday party. About 20 members from the wing volunteered their time for the event.**

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have my dad sign for me to go."

Another veteran was Mr. Wallace Hood. Mr. Hood served in the latter part of the Korean War and in Vietnam War.

"I first went to Vietnam in 1965," said Hood. "I was a paratrooper in the 1st Air Cavalry." Mr. Hood went on to serve 23 years in the military before retiring in 1974.

The veterans seemed to be please with the showing of support. Sometimes giving other than material gifts is more rewarding.

# Promotions

*Congratulations to the following personnel, recently promoted to the rank indicated.*



### Airman

- Timothy Flanery, 445 AW
- Alexander Hooper, 445 AMXS
- Nicholas Klepper, 445 MOF
- Levi McIntosh, 445 SVF
- Brandon Wright, 445 LRS
- Erin Conner, 445 LRS



### Airman First Class

- Justin Bittinger, 87 APS
- Joshua Ruckel, 87 APS



### Senior Airman

- Melissa Banks, 445 ASTS
- Jamar Brown, 445 ASTS
- Joshua Dotson, 445 ASTS
- Stacy Lee, 445 ASTS
- Tiffany Watkins, 445 CES



### Technical Sergeant

- James Gillespie, 445 LRS



### Master Sergeant

- Garry Merrill, 445 MOS (Correction)



### Captain

- Michele Suggs, 445 AES



### Major

- Craig Burch, 445 AMDS



### Colonel

- Richard Hyland, 445 OSS
- Steven Johnson, 356 AS
- Michael Licata, 445 ALCF

# Newcomers

*Welcome to the following reservists, recently assigned to the 445th AW:*

- TSgt Georgia Ricketts, 445 LRS
- SSgt Charles Glaser, 445 SVF
- SSgt Geof Weimerskirch, 445 AES
- SrA Robert Gorfi, 445 CES
- SrA Krystal Gray, 445 AES
- SrA Kevin Houser, 87 APS
- SrA Donshay Peoples, 87 APS
- A1C Josiah Adler, 445 ASTS
- A1C James Harris, 445 AMXS
- A1C Asia Jones, 445 MOS
- A1C Paul Mohny, 445 ASTS
- A1C Ryan Maloney, 445 LRS
- AB Erin Conner, 445 LRS
- AB Andrew Megimose, 89 AS

# Awards

*Congratulations to the following 445th AW members who recently earned awards.*

### Meritorious Service Medal

- CMSgt Timothy Bellamy, 89 AS
- CMSgt Richard Hayes, Jr., 356 AS
- SMSgt Robert Craig, 445 CLSS
- SMSgt Raymond Hillis, 445 CES
- SMSgt Franklin Laning, Jr., 445 OG
- SMSgt James Lohre, 445 CES
- MSgt Mary Hannon, 445 AES
- MSgt Beth Thompson, 445 MOS

### Air Force Commendation Medal

- Capt Paul Brenner, 445 CES
- Capt James Kern, 445 AES
- Capt Mary Lou Reed, 445 ASTS
- Capt Todd Reeder, 445 AMXS
- Capt Joan Salido, 445 AMDS
- MSgt Kathleen Tangherlini, 445 AMDS
- TSgt David Hayes, 445 LRS
- TSgt Hans Jagow, 445 AES

### Air Force Achievement Medal

- Capt Todd Baker, 445 ACLF

# Fire Fighter of the Year



*(Photo by Tech. Sgt. Charles Miller)*

**Col. Brian Dominguez, left, 445th vice commander, presented Staff Sgt. Barry Webster, 445th Civil Engineering Squadron, the famous Air Force Reserve Command's Firefighter Trophy for 2004 at commander's call Dec. 11.**

**The sergeant earned this award accomplishing many task over the last year. One such task was while deployed to Kirkuk AB, Iraq. He and his medical team helped a private that was trapped in a humvee as a result of an accident. Sgt. Webster kept the patient stable and administered first aid while the rescue team used "the jaws of life" to free the patient. The sergeant was also a critical component in the quick response Army helicopter rescue program there.**

**Sgt. Webster is in the top ten percent of his class for National Registry Paramedic Training and is the squadron's supply manager where he streamlined the ordering process and made sure equipment shortfalls were noted.**

**In his civilian job, Sgt. Webster is a firefighter with the city of Columbus, Ohio, and in 2004 he and two other firefighters were awarded the Firehouse Magazine National Heroism Award for saving lives of victims from a toxic environment.**

# Wing Briefs

## C-141 STARLIFTER FAREWELL & HANGAR PARTY

With more than 40 years of service and 10 million flying hours, it is time to say goodbye to our last C-141 Starlifter.

Please join the 445th Airlift Wing in a fitting hangar party for all to attend.

This is going to be a fun event with food, entertainment, and lots of 141 folks from around the country.

**When: May 5, 2006**  
**(‘Cinco de Mayo’)**

**Where: Bldg 206 (North hangar)**

**Time: 1800-2230**

**Cost: \$30/Person**  
**(\$20 E-6 and below)**

There will be tours through the aircraft from 1530-1730 for base personnel.

Dress is casual, or uniform of the day, or any uniform you wore during your time with the 141. The point here is not to wear jeans, but to dress nicely for a fun hangar party. Some folks are digging out their old ‘greens’ and some will wear the old orange flight suit.

To register, go to [www.starlifterfarewell.com](http://www.starlifterfarewell.com) and complete the registration form and bring or send your payment in.

For more information contact Maj. Steve Schnell at 257-6982.

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## Majors going cold for charity

*By Tech. Sgt. Charles Miller*  
*445th Public Affairs*

Isn't there something just wrong when you hear about 445th Safety Officers water skiing in 25 degree weather? Come on, lets face it; that's nuts.

Majors Bill Barton and Doug Sellars did just that. But to find other nuts doing the same thing they had to drive four hours north to Waterford, Mich., for the American Diabetes Association Annual Polar Bear Ski.

With the wind chill at seven degrees and the water temperature at 36 degrees, 60 crazed individuals braved the frigid elements to raise over \$2,000 for a worthwhile charity. A local water ski supply store served as the corporate sponsor.

Both majors wore dry suits but had no water proof protection for their hands, heads and feet while taking their turn water skiing. A dry suit keeps all parts covered dry.

"We used wet suit hoods and ended up with frozen foreheads and frozen hair," Maj. Sellars said. "It was instant skull freeze. My ski boot was frozen to my foot," Maj. Sellars said.

With the water and air temperatures being so low and over 120 total people watching and skiing, falling off the ski's would not be recommended at all.

"I took a major face plant a couple hundred yards from the finish," Maj. Barton said. "There was ice on the hull and the sides of the boat which they had to keep running or it would freeze all the way up."

Surprise! Not everyone skied. There were some opting for different avenues of fun, if one would want to call it that.

"There was one lunatic on a tube and another one or two skiing barefoot," Maj. Barton said.

The majors had to start their 15 minutes of "freeze fame" with a deep water or underwater take off.



*(Courtesy Photo)*

Majors Bill Barton, left, and Doug Sellars, 445th Safety Office, take part in the Polar Bear Ski in Michigan.

"We did not use the dock, we were fully underwater to start," Maj. Sellars said.

"And you couldn't breathe for the first 100 yards or so you were so cold," Maj. Barton said. "You're not breathing, it's just not happening."

The majors won the award for coming the furthest to the fundraiser. Some of the other contestants had come 10 miles. The majors drove four hours one-way from the Dayton area to the lake located between Detroit and Ann Arbor, Mich.

"We heard they had a corporate sponsor and were going to raise twice as much money this year so we went," Maj. Barton said.

After leaving the water the majors changed clothing and went into a semi-heated tent. It was in the 50 degree range inside, but it felt warm to the majors.

"I have never done anything like that before, but I'll do it again," Maj. Barton said. "It was a blast. The way I see it, frozen is frozen, after it's frozen you might as well go ski," Maj. Barton concluded.

