

# Buckeye Flyer



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**FUEL FOR THE FIGHT:** A boom from a KC-135 from 452nd Air Mobility Wing, March AFB, Calif., aims for a 445th Airlift Wing C-5 to refuel the aircraft on the way to a deployment site. The C-5 was carrying supplies and war fighting Airman to Volk Field, Wis., for the ORE Aug. 25, 2007. (U.S. Air Force photo/Lt. Col. Steve Griffin).

## Wing members train at Volk Field

By Tech. Sgt. Charlie Miller  
445th Public Affairs

**I**t wasn't just the cadre throwing curveballs at 445th Airlift Wing members participating in Operation Readiness Safeguard, Volk Field, Wis. August 25-30, 2007; Mother Nature had a few tricks up her sleeve as well.

With temperatures in the mid 80s and nearly 100 percent humidity, Airmen baked one day while dangerous lightening storms and drenching rains

hampered the approx. 400 exercise players from Wright-Patterson another day.

However, 445th members, along with about 140 Airmen from Beale Air Force Base, Calif., and March Air Reserve Base, Calif., adapted and completed all scenarios delivered by the cadre.

The scenarios, well scripted and planned, touching virtually every part of the AFMAN 10-100, Airman's Manual. The manual was carried by all

**Continued on back page**

## Letting your light shine in this dark and flavorless world

By Chaplain (Maj.) Bill Dickens  
445th Wing Chaplain

One of the most revered passages of Scripture is the Sermon on the Mount, found in the Gospel of Matthew, Chapters 5-7. Gen. Omar Bradley, a World War II commander, on Armistice Day in 1948, said the following, "We have grasped the mystery of the atom and rejected the Sermon on the Mount." In this famous sermon, Jesus calls His followers to a higher standard of living. He also tells them to be salt and light in this world. Salt flavors everything it touches and light chases away the darkness. The context in which Jesus is speaking applies to His followers.

However, I think we can look at this concept from the larger perspective.

As Americans we have been blessed and in-turn, we should be a blessing to others. Having recently returned from a deployment to FOB Warrior, Kirkuk, Iraq, I've seen this blessing first-hand. Our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines are making a difference. As they serve, as WE serve, may God help us to be salt and light to a dark and flavorless world.

May God bless you and give you wisdom as you serve.

# Can-do attitude in action

By Col. Roger Gallet  
445th Operation Group Commander

This is my first opportunity to write the editorial for the Buckeye Flyer; it gives me a good chance to tell you just how much I



Colonel Gallet

have been impressed by this wing since I arrived five months ago. First of all, my wife Theresa and I were simply blown away by the warm welcome we received from everyone. I want to thank all of you for making us feel like part of the 445th family from the very first day! What a great first impression!

And it continued from there. Arriving at the 445th ten months out from our Operation Readiness Inspection, I found a wing already focused on preparing for the Big Event. With a couple of local exercises under your belt, it was apparent to me that you were driven to find a way to "tame the Beast" (the C-5). I know that this was quite a struggle; the C-5 did not enjoy the same reliability that you were used to with the C-141. Getting your arms around the "Beast" was a tremendous challenge, but you were stubborn; you were persistent; you weren't going to let the "Beast" win. That told me a lot about the character of the people in this wing and about the team I had the great fortune to join.

Then in August we had the chance to put ourselves to the test in our first large fly-away exercise with the C-5; of course I'm talking about the Volk Field exercise. As all of you know by now, our efforts paid off in a big way, as we successfully launched 38 out of 38 required C-5 missions, from the deployment phase, through employment, and finally on redeployment day. All I can say is "Wow!" It was indeed a high watermark for the Wing, as we proved that it CAN be done. I was very fortunate to accompany you as the senior ranking officer of the 445th "boots on the ground" contingent at Volk Field. To those of you who deployed to Volk, I was thoroughly impressed by your level of effort and outstanding attitude. As far as our ATSO/warfighting skills, I'm confident that we established a solid baseline from which to move forward.

And move forward we will; the Gulfport ORE is the next test; that exercise will be a golden opportunity to build upon our successes that we experienced at Volk. This will be our dress rehearsal. No matter what your role is: primary player, alternate, or home station support, each one of us has something to contribute to the wing's ORI effort. I've seen your spirit and can-do attitude in action, and I'm confident we'll continue to improve and peak at just the right time - around February 2008.

### **Buckeye Flyer** 445th Airlift Wing (Air Force Reserve Command)

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# Wing members run the USAF Marathon

By Tech. Sgt. Charlie Miller  
445th Public Affairs

The 11th United States Air Force Marathon is finished and it went over big. Really big. First, there were a record number of participants, 6,330 in all. Then, the weather conditions were perfect which helped power the median marathon time by an astonishing nine minutes. Also, the marathon continued to serve as a qualifier for the prestigious Boston Marathon. But the most important element to some was that the marathon celebrated the 60th anniversary of the USAF as a separate service.

There were many 445th Airlift Wing members, past and present, participating in a variety of the marathon's programs. Not all ran the 26.2 miles. Master Sgt. Cynthia Holland, executive assistant to Command Chief Master Sgt. Aaron Mouser, ran the half marathon, along with 2,328 others.

"It took me five minutes to get to the starting line, there were that many people in front of me," Sergeant Holland said. "My goal was to complete the half marathon. I wasn't doing it for time; I was doing it for me." The sergeant did not check to see what her time was at the finish line. Sergeant Holland anticipates running again next year and checking her time.

ASTS Commander Col. Oba Vincent is a veteran of five USAF marathons but not the 2007 edition. He did run a full marathon with his son earlier this year in Alaska. His wife was there but

not running.

"We plan vacations around races," the colonel said. "My son has been running since he was three."

Maj. Shelly Benson, Operations Group Executive Officer, ran the entire marathon for the first time this year. She said the 60th anniversary was a motivating factor in her decision to run. The major ran the half marathon last year and has run full marathons in Paris, Berlin and Cincinnati, the latter of which she did while eight months pregnant. She's run six marathons overall.

"Well, I ran six miles and walked the rest," Major Benson said about the Cincinnati marathon. "It was my best friend's first marathon and I had to support her. It was painful, actually. Cold, rainy, 43 degrees, wind chill at 38." Her friend, who was not with child, finished way ahead of her; two hours ahead.

Due to heavy traffic that caused her to arrive 12 minutes after the starting gun, Maj. Benson did not have problems like Sergeant Holland did. The major said there was no one left at the starting line when she got there. Maj. Benson, who runs with her husband, said she'll probably run the USAF marathon again or "at least a half marathon."

Also, there were a number of 445th members who volunteered to man the stations around the marathons path. Race officials estimated that nearly 2,000 people volunteered their time and talent to assist the runners and the 445th members among them are to be commended.



## POW/MIA Day

The flagpole is surrounded by names of Ohio military members who are still unaccounted for from the Vietnam War. The names are rubbings from the Vietnam War Memorial in Washington D.C. The color backing represents the service each member belongs to. Green for Army; red for Marine Corps; blue for Air Force and dark blue for the Navy. The desert boots and helmet are for Sgt. Matt Maupin from Ohio who is still missing from Iraqi Freedom. (U.S. Air Force photo/Maj. Ted Theopolos)



POW/MIA	
World War I	3,350
World War II	74,384
Korea	8,178
Vietnam	1,773
Iraqi Freedom	4

# National Parks provide challenging environments for wing EMTs

By Tech. Sgt. Charlie Miller  
445th Public Affairs



*Left, Master Sgt. James Foy, 445th Aeromedical Staging Squadron, trains with national park rangers to increase his rappelling skills. Right, Tech. Sgt. Jerry Coleman and Capt. Nancie Foster, from 445th ASTS, offer free blood pressure checks for visitors to Yellowstone National Park. (Courtesy photos)*

Spending two weeks at either Grand Teton, Yellowstone or Grand Canyon National Parks sounds like a wonderful chance to relax and experience some of the most beautiful areas of the United States. Well, maybe. Depends on why you are there.

Capt. Stacy Flint of the 445th Aeromedical Staging Squadron sends Emergency Medical Technicians from her squadron to the parks all summer long to work, not to vacation.

Captain Flint coordinates the ASTS's National Park Service EMT Training Program. It's a program designed for Air Force Reserve EMTs to get valuable hands-on training in dramatically different and often physically challenging environments.

It was a pilot program in 1999 but in 2001 ASTS was put in charge. Large maps posted on the wall of Captain Flint's cubical show the different park locations.

"This past summer 16 EMTs from ASTS worked in the national parks for training," the captain said. "EMTs respond to cardiac arrest, tons of vehicle and motorcycle accidents. People misjudge their fitness and EMTs deal with a lot of heat exhaustion."

Wing EMTs are divided into small groups and sent to different parks for training. When one group's tour finishes, another group arrives to take their place.

Millions of people from the United States and around the world visit the parks annually, mostly during the summer months. Park medical personnel welcome the extra help they get from qualified Air Force Reserve EMTs.

With altitudes at 7,000 feet above sea level in Yellowstone, 6,000 feet in Grand Teton and 4-5,000 feet at the Grand Canyon, many tourists are not used to the altitude or are not prepared for the often rugged environment.

"Our EMTs responded to 79 calls while at the Grand Teton and Yellowstone National Parks and 44 calls at the Grand Canyon," stated the captain. Unfortunately, there were four fatalities and ASTS members responded to three of them. At the end of the tours, 1,694 hours were worked and another 1,858 spent on-call by squadron members. ASTS members are supervised by National Park Services paramedics and rangers. Many of the rangers are EMT-qualified.

Tech. Sgts. Chad Smallwood and Jerry Coleman have both been to several of the parks for their annual training over the last few years. It was Grand Teton for Sergeant Smallwood and Yellowstone for Sergeant Coleman this year, but the duty they perform at the different parks is virtually the same.

As EMTs, they have to be ready for anything to happen at anytime of the night or day; the National Parks involved are open 24 hours. Working 12 hour shifts was normal, and then the reservists were on call after duty hours ended.

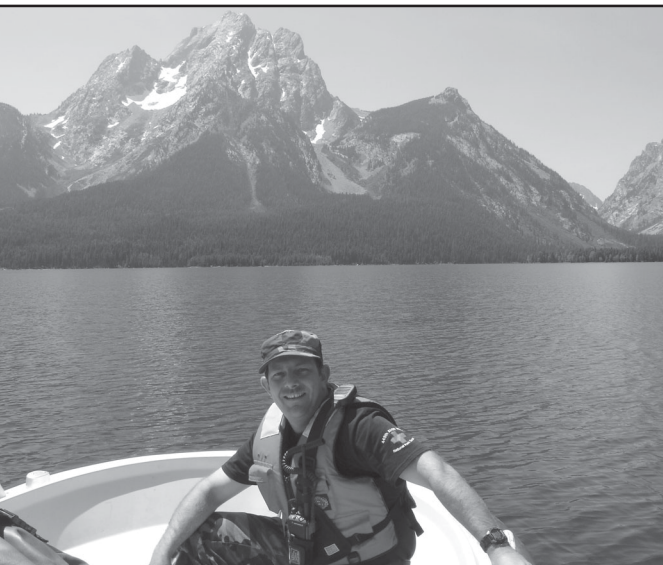
For Sergeant Coleman and Sergeant Smallwood, the right diagnosis has to be made and proper medical treatment rendered the first time because the closest hospital to either Grand Teton or Yellowstone is two hours away.

Sergeant Coleman said he responded to a call that had not only an immediate life threatening situation but one where the patient did not speak English.

"His heart rate was 212 beats per minute," Sergeant Coleman said. "That's considered to be extremely dangerous. The man spoke only Japanese, so we had a definite language barrier."

The sergeant was at the scene with a park ranger who started to draw pictures for the Japanese man in hope that he could help them treat him with the proper medicine. Luckily, the





*Left, Tech. Sgt. Chad Smallwood, 445th ASTS, is on lake patrol with a national park ranger. Right, Master Sgt. James Foy, front left, 445th ASTS, works with park EMTs to assist a victim of a car wreck in Grand Teton National Park.*

man's wife arrived within minutes and she spoke enough English to help Sergeant Coleman and the ranger determine their course of action to try and lower the man's heart rate.

Non-English speaking patients are an obstacle, but thanks to the park services having interpreters on staff, most patients are able to explain to the EMTs about their illness or injury. "It's kind of a common issue. There are a lot of non-English speaking people visiting the parks," Sergeant Smallwood said.

Then there's the wildlife challenge. Sergeant Coleman and fellow ASTS member Master Sgt. Jim Foy had a close encounter with grizzly bears on two separate occasions.

"We were face-to-face, about 25 yards away from a grizzly," Sergeant Coleman said. "We stood still and talked loudly like we'd been trained and within a few minutes that seemed like seven hours the bear left." The duo waited 10 minutes then went ahead and actually crossed the bears path. Thankfully, the bear was gone.

Another aspect of the training was preventive search and rescue missions. The EMTs would hike the trails and go to the campgrounds and interact with

the public making sure they were hydrating and looking for any medical signs that could spell danger.

"We hiked and walked 30 to 40 miles during the two weeks," Sergeant Coleman said. While out, the EMTs would talk to people, ask them how they were feeling and check for any medical issues. They also gave advice on how to deal with bears.

"We take all that we have learned throughout the year back at Wright-Patterson and go to these parks and actually perform our jobs," Sergeant Coleman said emphatically. The accidents and injuries are real world.

"This is the most realistic, hands-on experience we can get without deploying downrange," Sergeant Smallwood said.

The wing members don't start their annual tour at one of the National Parks; they actually spend four days at a local state park.

"It's called endorsement training and there are different scenarios we run through to prepare us for duty at the National Parks," Sergeant Coleman said.

An ongoing program the ASTS members implemented for the benefit of the parks' visitors a few years ago is a free blood pressure check station. More than 300

people had their blood pressure checked at Grand Teton last year and more than 350 were checked this year at Yellowstone. The checks are done in between calls the EMT receive.

"It's good P.R. and people love it," Sergeant Coleman said. "They can see what we do both as military and civilian." The park rangers were impressed with the interaction and involvement of the 445th members, Sergeant Coleman said.

Now retired ASTS Chief Master Sgt. Mike Matthews is credited with the birthing of the program. He was on vacation at Yellowstone in the late 1990s, saw an ambulance and started talking to the rangers and EMTs. After numerous meetings, mailings and phone calls, the program began to take shape. Captain Flint, then an NCO, was there from the beginning.

ASTS commander Col. Oba Vincent feels that the program is so unique and so valuable that it's time to promote and grow beyond the 445th. The colonel is hopeful that in a short time many different 4th Air Force wings will rotate into the parks.

"It's such a great program, such an opportunity, it needs to be expanded," Colonel Vincent said.

# Making a Difference Behind the Scenes

By Maj. Jose A. Cardenas  
445th Public Affairs

In every issue of the *Buckeye Flyer* there are stories and photos of events, people, and places. Stories that honor or pay tribute to individuals or deeds performed. For the stories told, there is a cut line paying tribute to the author and photographer this is the person behind the stories, and behind the camera. This year that person behind the stories and camera was Tech. Sgt. Charlie Miller, who was recognized as the 2006 Air Force Reserve Command Print Journalist of the Year.

Sergeant Miller says that writing stories and taking photographs is a passion he has long held ever since he attended high school. He enjoys the opportunity to go out and meet people and find out what they do. "I find it amazing how many AFSCs there are in the Air Force – this job allows me to see these and talk to people first hand."

The challenges he faces are similar for those who work on daily newspapers and television news with the added constraints associated with a drill weekend. But for Sergeant Miller these challenges allow him "the opportunity to tell the individual's story, to get a good interview, a good photograph to put it all together and see the end result."

The award given to Sergeant Miller was not for one story submitted this past year but rather a culmination of a year's work honoring his excellence in professional journalism. Covering stories that range from honoring the former POW's



445th Airlift Wing Commander Brig. Gen. Bruce Davis presents Tech. Sgt. Charlie Miller, 445th Public Affairs, the 2006 Air Force Reserve Command Media award Sept. 23, 2007. Sergeant Miller was selected as the 2006 Print Journalist of the Year. (U.S. Air Force photo/Maj. Jose Cardenas)

flying aboard the Hanoi Taxi, the retirement of the C-141 Starlifter, as well as Reservists volunteering to assist with the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, all to tell the Air Force Reserve story.

As far as the award itself, Sergeant Miller says he was totally surprised by the recognition, especially since this past year his personal goal was to concentrate on top notch photo journalism but he says, "Sometimes getting the right quotes and the right photos is just about being in the right place at the right time."



## Local Civic Leaders tour Patrick Air Force Base in Florida

Tech. Sgt. Wahlstedt informs the Civic Leader group from Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, about the weapons used by pararescuemen from the 308th Rescue Squadron. The 445th Airlift Wing and the 88th Air Base Wing hosted the Civic Leaders on a C-5 flight to Patrick AFB, Fla., Sept. 19, 2007. The trip is to enhance community awareness of the total force mission. (U.S. Air Force photo/Laura Darden)

## Promotions

*Congratulations to the following reservists recently promoted to the rank indicated.*



### Staff Sergeant

Michael Benzing, 445 AMXS  
Benjamin Bratka, 445 AW  
David Merlo, 445 CES  
Joshua Steward, 445 CES



### Technical Sergeant

David Frost, 445 MXS  
Rachel Reed, 445 AES  
Christian Woolford, 445 AW



### Master Sergeant

Wesley Best, 445 MOF  
John Koehl, 445 SFS  
Malinda Merrill, 445 MOF

Steven Palsgrove, 445 OSS  
Mark Reynolds, 445 AMXS  
James Smith, 445 AES  
Clark Wierda, 87 APS  
Robyn Wilson, 87 APS



### Lieutenant Colonel

Michael Cooper, 445 AMDS

## Newcomers

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

Capt Keith Larson, 445 AES  
2Lt Ernest Debrah, 445 CES  
SSgt William Stewart, 445 SFS  
SSgt Jon Webber, 87 APS  
SrA Brady Bennett, 445 AMXS  
SrA Paul Bennington, 445 ASTS  
SrA Donald Griffin, 445 AES  
SrA James Higginbotham, 445 CES  
SrA Alan Katafiasz, 445 MXS

SrA Kenneth LaRock, 445 AW  
SrA Keisha Leonard, 445 MSF  
SrA Joseph Miller, 445 AMXS  
Amn Christopher Booth, 445 SFS

## Awards

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

### Meritorious Service Medal

Lt Col James Crowe, 445 AES  
Lt Col Nancy Westbrook, 445 AES  
Maj Bruce Winhold, 445 MSF  
SMSgt Jane Johnson, 445 MSF  
MSgt Sandra Sherer, 445 ASTS  
MSgt Kenneth Yarber, 445 CES

### AF Commendation Medal

Capt James Fisher, Jr., 445 AW  
TSgt Nelson Scott, 445 MXS  
TSgt David Winslow, 445 SFS

## Reserve maintainers respond quickly to C-5 fuel spill

*By Derek Kaufman  
88th Air Base Wing Public Affairs*

**F**ast response by 445th maintenance crews during the off-loading of jet fuel from a C-5A Galaxy averted a major fuel spill here Aug. 23, 2007, officials said.

Wright-Patterson AFB firefighters responded to the 445th flightline about 1:10 p.m. when a malfunction during the off-loading of fuel into an adjacent fuel truck resulted in a spill of close to 50 gallons of fuel beneath the aircraft. An equal amount of fuel was contained inside the belly of the aircraft, which maintenance crews prepared to remove. There was no fire and no one was injured.

The 445th maintenance team had initiated the off-load of fuel to lighten the load of the massive C-5 to prepare it to be raised onto aircraft jacks to inspect the operation of landing gear. The jacking procedure limits total fuel load to about 60,000 pounds. All was functioning normally and an estimated 20,000 pounds of fuel had been off-loaded into an adjacent fuel truck when a problem was first identified.

"That's when the team heard two loud pops," said Chief Master Sgt. Frank Valensi, quality assurance superintendent for the 445th Maintenance Group.

"Immediately they ceased the defueling operation, observed a fuel leak and spill beneath the aircraft."

"It was a textbook response. The technicians reacted superbly. They executed their emergency procedures and shut everything down exactly the way they were trained," Valensi said. "The fire department was called immediately and the fuel truck was disengaged from the aircraft. When the fire department responded, we determined we had a Class 3 fuel spill and at that point the base firefighters took charge of the scene and the cleanup."

Aircraft maintenance crews are trained and equipped to handle small spills but immediately notify the fire department. Base firefighters contained the spill to the area beneath the aircraft with large HAZMET absorbent pads and specialized HAZMET pools, said Chief Jacob King, assistant chief of operations for the base fire department. A contractor for 88th Air Base Wing Environmental Management removed the fuel soaked pads for proper disposal.

Chief King acknowledged three neighboring fire companies dispatched equipment to the base, in response to the base fire department's mutual aid call. Fairborn, Huber Heights and Bethel Township assisted with a total of four vehicles. King called the mutual support agreements "invaluable."

"Often we're called to provide mutual support to other area fire departments," King said. "This time they were able to render aid to us."

The cause of the leak has not yet been determined and will be investigated by base officials.

# Training at Volk Field

**Continued from cover**

members at all times while in uniform and referred to perhaps dozens of times during the exercise.

"The exercise gives you a sense of what you have to prepare for in a real world environment," said Tech. Sgt. Phil Lazio, of the 445th Airlift Wing Safety Office. "It was excellent training and the cadre did a very good job of simulating a war environment." The sergeant said he wore several hats while at Volk Field, acting as a player in the exercise, inspecting buildings and, when possible, observing scenarios for real world safety violations.

Chaplain (Capt.) Jonathan Kollmann said that he felt there was a bonding, a deepening of relationships among participants.

"When you are laughing together, under pressure together, in MOPP 4 together, while serving together in those environments you really get to know each other," the Chaplain said.

Airmen from every squadron were represented at Volk Field.

The cadre along with an army of observers scrutinized the players constantly, quizzing airmen on-the-spot during scenarios and taking notes about their performance. Strengths and weaknesses were noted and all three wings will know exactly what areas they need to focus on for the Operation Readiness Inspection in February 2008 in Gulfport, Miss.



445th Airlift Wing Security Forces subdue an Airman in a scenario for Operation Readiness Safeguard at Volk Field, Wis. The wing participated in the exercise to prepare for their upcoming Operation Readiness Inspection. (U.S. Air Force photos/Tech. Sgt. Charlie Miller)



Air Force reservist Staff Sgt. Tiffany Watkins from the 445th Civil Engineer Squadron, takes cover in firefight during Operation Readiness Safeguard.



Air Force reservist Staff Sgt. Brock Felgenhauer from the 445th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, dons a gas mask during Operation Readiness Safeguard.

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