

Buckeye Flyer



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Master Sgt. Stan Evans, 445th Maintenance Squadron, uses all his muscle to get a strut, part of the main landing gear, aligned on a C-5 Galaxy. (Air Force photo/Senior Airman Ken LaRock)

Maintenance group masters mega training

By Capt. Caroline Wellman
445th Public Affairs

Approximately 500 members of the 445th Maintenance Group gathered during both February unit training assemblies for group-wide training in hangars 4015 and 4016.

The mega training event was scheduled to decrease the unit's roster of individuals still needing to complete ancillary and computer based training modules, and maximize time Airmen have

to work on aircraft, said Capt. Nathan Garcia, 445th Maintenance Group executive officer and organizer of the two-day training event.

Because maintainers are truly in a hands-on career field, with most time each drill weekend spent actually addressing maintenance issues on the wing's fleet of C-5 Galaxies, time for Airmen to complete computer based training and other ancillary training requirements is limited, Capt. Garcia explained.

Continued on page 4

Goodbye, and thank you for the good times

By Lt. Col. Eileen Kelly
445th Airlift Wing

As my 35 year career comes to a close, I've found myself engaged in numerous conversations about my time in uniform, all the changes I've seen and been part of, and was asked to share some of them with you.

I joined the Air Force in January, 1972. At that time, females were assigned to WAF (Women's Air Force) squadrons. We had separate and additional guidelines, and female chains of command. Our training was female only, and different from what new recruits experience now. We were housed in old World War II barracks, two or three to a room, attended academic classes on various subjects like rank structure,



history and tradition, customs and courtesies, how to make a bed several different ways, etiquette, even on how to apply make-up. We were expected to present ourselves as a lady at all times. Most of our uniforms were skirts, even our fatigues had a button down skirt. Our physical training uniform had a skirt and white sneakers. The workout consisted of exercises like jumping jacks, sit-ups and running. We didn't go through the obstacle course, gas chamber, or even touch a gun, but we practiced marching, a lot.

We could not leave the barracks without our hair and makeup done, were not allowed to travel alone, wore white gloves and carried our purse over our left arm - shoulder bags just weren't ladylike!

Once basic training was over, we all anxiously awaited our assignments. There were only eight career fields we could be assigned to at the time: administration, communications and medical. I was assigned to communications, and left for Sheppard Air Force Base. During tech school the WAF barracks were completely enclosed behind a six foot high privacy fence and we were bussed back and forth to school because of the harassment by the male troops. We were required to travel in groups. In school we learned how to operate teletype machines, punch and read the holes in teletype tape and IBM cards and transmit data with a computer that took up the entire room. We also learned how to encrypt data using little round cylinders and daily codes.

I volunteered for an overseas assignment and was surprised to learn that Anchorage, Alaska was considered an overseas assignment! Even back then I hated the cold, and couldn't imagine standing on corners or walking to work in Alaska. I managed to get additional travel

days authorized, and drove (with all my worldly possessions) in my Vega Hatchback from Philadelphia, PA, cross-country, up through Canada into the Yukon Territory and down the Alaskan Highway. It took me 12



days! Alaska was beautiful, but cold - and the day versus night took a little getting used to. I learned that 'Ice Fog' is a weather condition, not a musical group.

After Alaska I went to Japan on a joint spouse assignment, and spent two years at Fuchu Air Station just outside of Tokyo. Shortly after arriving there, I attended a Bob Hope USO Christmas Show at Yokota AB (it made a stop there on the way to Vietnam). While in Japan, the first females were assigned to the maintenance career field but they had to wear the men's fatigues because ours were polyester not cotton and caused electrical shocks. (To this day, 30 some years later, we are still

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wearing men's uniforms.) One of my highlights during this assignment was working "Operation Homecoming". I worked on the switchboard for the Pacific area, and was the first connection for the released POWs making their initial call home. We did whatever it took to patch their calls all the way through, and we got to talk to them while we waited/found the connections. What an honor!

From Japan I went to Andrews AFB, but ended up working at the Suitland Weather Relay Center, a naval operation with one small office of Air Force Communications people assigned. There were six of us working shifts. My job was to send weather maps out to the fleet. I know it's hard to believe, but back then FAX machines were about as big as your desk, and the data was sent over radio waves after we made the connections (like patching a phone call). The maps came out on huge rolls of paper and were made by the electrical signals burning into the surface. Some maps took about an hour to transmit. It worked fine, unless you lost the signal and had to start all over again.

When my enlistment was up, I took a short break but found the civilian world didn't suit me and I wanted my uniform back! I joined the Air Force Reserve and never left again - until now.

I was stationed at McGuire AFB in New Jersey for about seven years; the 89th Aerial Port Squadron, 514th Airlift Wing, Command Section and finally the 514th Civil Engineering Squadron. Note: No more WAF Squadrons - they went away about 1977. During this time, I worked on many special projects/conferences. One change that I

am proud of was a fact finding tour of seven bases/four countries to determine if the host base could use admin personnel if they came with their unit for annual tour. Up until now, they were always left at home to work the orderly room issues, file plans, etc. HQ AFRES tasked Chief Veres (one of only two female chiefs in the reserve at the time) to conduct this inquiry, and she chose me to accompany her. What a trip! As a result, and as you well know, admin personnel can now accompany their units wherever they go on annual tour.

But the absolute best part of McGuire was being selected to serve as the first sergeant for the brand new civil engineering



squadron. The commander was selected, he selected me, and then we not only built up the entire unit with people and equipment, but our building too! Start a squadron from scratch - now that's a once in a lifetime challenge! While we worked on those challenges during the next three years, I also went back to school at night, completed my Community College of the Air Force degree, my bachelor's degree, and applied for a commission. Giving up my diamond was one of the hardest things to do, but then again, it was for a gold bar.

My first seven years as an officer were spent at Willow Grove, Air Reserve Facility just outside of Philadelphia; the closest to home

I've ever been stationed. My time at the Grove was crowned by my selection (as a second lieutenant)



to be the commander of the communications squadron - and the first female commander ever on the base! Of course one good turn deserves another so about six months later I selected the first female first sergeant ever on the base, and just before Operation DESERT SHIELD/DESERT STORM, I had the privilege of taking her commissioning oath.

During my last year there, the Air Force began its journey down the road to quality improvement. I applied for an ART position in order to teach these principles full time and was selected by the new group commander at Rickenbacker ANGB, Ohio - Lt. Col. Robert E. Duignan.

So, there I was, on the road again. I moved to Ohio in October 1992 and spent the first five years as the quality officer. I've spent the last 12 years as the wing executive officer, working with five wing commanders, six vice wing commanders, 12 group commanders and countless unit commanders! And now it's time to go home again...

It's been an incredible ride. Some days like a roller coaster and some like a walk in the park. And I wouldn't trade it for the world.

As you can see, I've had a lot of interesting experiences - and this only touches the tip of the iceberg - but what I remember most is the people I've met along the way. They have enriched my journey and my life. I only ask one more thing of you before I go: Take care of your people! My time has passed, and yours may be around the corner, but they are the present, and our future. Train them, teach them, encourage them and recognize them for their incredible worth. Our generation may have broken that old glass ceiling, but they will take us into a world beyond our dreams!

Goodbye! ... And thanks for the good times!

Passion and devotion

By Chaplain (Capt.) Jonathan Kollmann
445th Airlift Wing

"You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might." -Matthew 22:37

Passion and devotion: these are very descriptive words, especially together (especially in OPRs and EPRs). What we are passionate about and devoted to, say a lot about who we are. I recently began a Bible/book study with several of our unit members using Mike Slaughter's book "Momentum for Life." This reading helps individuals to gain or regain momentum in personal integrity, practicing biblical principles and faith based values, physical health and strategic focus.

In the second chapter, I was challenged by Mike's discussion of the two words in this title and how other people and our children can find out right away what our devotions and passions truly are.

Mike writes, "Our children pick up on our passion far more than they hear our words. Their views and values are more influenced by the objects of our devotion than by our stated beliefs. Is it any wonder that they readily adopt our zeal for music, money, movies, or athletics while struggling to articulate our beliefs and tuning out our religious traditions after they leave home?"

WOW! This quote made me introspectively ask myself, "Are those around me and especially my kids, seeing a healthy God directed devotion and passion?" Two questions: What are you passionate about? What are you devoted to?

My prayer is that God would be your devotion and you would be passionate about pursuing his dream for your life. Amen.

Maintenance mega training

Continued from page 1

Access to a computer can also sometimes be a problem. Each section, made up of anywhere from six to 50 people and split over the two drill weekends, generally has access to only one to four computers per section, said Chief Master Sgt. Mark Bales, the 445th Maintenance Squadron superintendent.

The limitations placed on the group by the time and computer access constraints are not unique to the 445th's maintenance personnel. Neither is the importance of job proficiency, gained by time working on actual aircraft. Perhaps no one understands how to balance these requirements better than Col. Anna Schulte, 445th Maintenance Group commander, who instituted a similar "mass training weekend" while at Youngstown Air Reserve Station.

She decided to try a similar approach to ancillary training for her unit's Airmen here.

"This is a proactive effort. By not scheduling flying for the February (Unit Training Assemblies), we're able to use these UTAs to bring the group together to knock out the big courses," she said. In addition to limiting flying for the weekends, the group also limited drill reschedules and other potential interruptions.

The group training concept also has other benefits, said Maj. Paula Fiepke, 445th Maintenance Squadron executive officer. The mass gathering also facilitates interaction between unit personnel, which helps with mentorship, morale and unit cohesion.

The idea of an entire day of training is not appealing, the major admits, but most people are happy that most training requirements will be completed by the end of the weekend.

It hasn't been all bad, though, if you talk to the group's members, especially for the self aid and buddy care training.

"I've learned some things (from the different instructions) today that I didn't get from the computer," said Senior Master Sgt. William Phipps. "The hands-on training is a lot better than sitting in front of a computer."



Members of the 445th Maintenance Squadron are working on Senior Airman Jessica Hacker's simulated injuries during the self aid and buddy care portion of the weekend mega training event. From left to right: Staff Sgts. Stephen Billingsley and Spencer Fisher, and Tech Sgts. Scott Stein and Scott Todd. (Air Force photo/Capt. Caroline Wellman)



89th Airlift Squadron crew member takes Flat Stanley across the pond on a C-5 Galaxy

By Stacy Vaughn
445th Public Affairs

C-5 crew members from the 89th Airlift Squadron became part of a geography lesson in February when a little girl from Florida invited her friend, "Flat Stanley," to visit Ohio.

Brittney's second grade class from Equestrian Trails Elementary School in Wellington, Fla., incorporated Flat Stanley, an envelope character who travels the world learning about new places and geography, into personalized folders for each participating student. Flat Stanley does the traveling for the student and provides the connection to different places. Each student started Stanley on his journey by sending their folder to a friend or family member in another location. At the new location, information is recorded in the Flat Stanley folder indicating information about the community and local places of interest. A friend or family member then sends the folder to another location

and the process is repeated until Flat Stanley's due date to return to the school.

Recently, the Flat Stanley project from Brittney arrived at the front door of retired Chief Master Sgt. David Whorton.

"I retired here after my last assignment at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. I'm originally from Florida and that's how I first received this geography lesson from Brittney, through mutual friends."

Mr. Whorton took Stanley to visit the Wright Flyer statue. He was able to have his photo taken with Flat Stanley while standing in front of the statue. The photo was developed then taped to the Flat Stanley folder with a description of the location and statue. The 445th Airlift Wing was the next stop.

"I thought if I could take the Flat Stanley project to the 445th Airlift Wing, perhaps someone there would have an idea how to get it sent further outside the local area," Mr. Whorton said.

Capt. Michael Shampine, pilot, 89th Airlift Squadron, was up to the challenge and volunteered to take Stanley on their next flying mission, which turned out to be several miles away from Ohio and across the sea.

Captain Shampine was the key photographer and Stanley's "escort." The crew flew to McGuire Air Force Base, N.J., and on into Landstuhl, Germany. At both locations, Captain Shampine took Flat Stanley's picture with something referencing the area in the background. While at McGuire, Stanley was photographed with the background of cargo being loaded on the wing's C-5 Galaxy. In Germany, Stanley was photographed in front of a historical castle tower, with the German landscape in the background.

"I enjoy participating in school projects like this," Capt. Shampine said. In the past I've taken teddy bears, each wearing little backpacks with a camera and travel log inside, to locations such as Hawaii, Japan, and even Australia."

After a final photo taken of Stanley at the 445th Airlift Wing with a C-5 Galaxy in the background, Flat Stanley packed his bags and headed back to Florida to Brittney and her fellow classmates so they could read about his adventures in Ohio and across the pond.

AFSA Reserve Member of the Year



Tech. Sgt. Chad Kopf, 445th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, (center) is the Air Force Sergeants Association Reserve Member of the Year. Sergeant Kopf was presented his award at the AFSA annual awards banquet Jan. 24, 2009 for outstanding contributions both on and off duty. Also pictured from left to right are Col. Brad Spacy, 88th Air Base Wing commander, Col. Anna Schulte, 445th Maintenance Group commander; Chief Master Sgt. Robert Bowen, 445th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, and retired Chief Master Sgt. Ruben Garcia, President, AFSA Chapter 751. (Courtesy photo/Bill Richards)

Reservists broaden local workers' job opportunities

By Staff Sgt. Jason Lake
455th Air Expeditionary Wing

“Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime.”

Reservists assigned to the 755th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron live by this proverb every day while trying to improve the infrastructure here and provide a better living for local Afghan workers.

In the past eight weeks, more than 50 civil engineer specialists deployed from Wright-Patterson's 445th Civil Engineer Squadron have been putting together a training program to recruit and certify local workers for construction projects on base.

The Training Afghan Craftsmen program, or TAC, also aims to build up job résumés for local skilled workers with the goal of getting them higher paying jobs.

Staff Sgt. Mike Nelson, a readiness management specialist working as a structural craftsman who developed the training program, said the idea came a few months ago when a local worker providing unskilled labor told Nelson's unit that he was a skilled mason and could help on construction projects.

The unit let the contractor demonstrate his skills and was surprised to find an untapped resource.

“He did a great custom job that we could not have done,” Nelson said. “He knew how to incorporate some of the local natural resources into the project. [After that] we realized we could use workers with these hidden talents as force multipliers on various construction projects.”

Sergeant Nelson said his unit saw an opportunity to help workers they had come to know through various unskilled labor projects - while also providing certified labor continuity for the next rotation of Airmen who could use their skills sets.

Rather than start a training and certification system from scratch, Sergeant Nelson decided to use the Air Force enlisted Career Field Education and Training Plan as a template.

“The only thing that was missing was a verifiable system and training program,” he said. “Now we're taking workers through a series of verifiable and quantifiable training events with core tasks just like in the CFETP.”

Sergeant Nelson said the new TAC program has four major phases.

The application phase screens workers with at least some experience in a skill set from the pool of local workers who apply for work on Bagram.



Tech. Sgt. Jonathan Lemaster, 445th Civil Engineer Squadron, works with a local Afghan craftsman as part of a new training program to recruit and certify local workers for construction projects on base. (Air Force photo/Master Sgt. Tracy Clare)

After the screening process, Sergeant Nelson said the applicants are given a few days worth of safety and basic engineer skills training and taught basic English speaking for use in the workplace.

“We teach them things like how to work safely, or how to use a tape measure ... basic skills they'll need for any of the specialties we are training them in,” explained Sergeant Nelson. “We also teach them English words used at the workplace like hammer, safety or lunch.”

The workers then go on to the upgrade training phase, similar to enlisted upgrade training in the Air Force.

“We pair the workers up with one of our Airmen in the corresponding career field they're interested in for 12 to 18 months,” he said. “Like Air Force upgrade training, we'll document their training and certify them on tasks for upgrade training on several different skill levels.”

Sergeant Nelson said his unit then provides training certificates for the workers and also helps them write résumés in English and their native language, Dari, with the goal of fetching a higher paying contract job on- or off-base.

“The skills and training we give them will help them more in the long run than if we just built something for them,” Sergeant Nelson explained.

Tech. Sgt. Clay Bucy, a structural craftsman for the 755th ECES, is training three carpenter apprentices how to cut dry wall for the first time while building a new mortuary affairs facility here.

Continued on page 7

Continued from page 6

"We've been showing them a few tricks of the trade," he said. "Once they're trained, we give them their tools and let them go at it."

Tech. Sgt. Jonathan Lemaster, a structural craftsman for the 755th ECES, supervises six TAC workers working for a month to expand Entry Control Point One where local villagers wait in line each day for random job opportunities.

"They've helped us with a lot of the big projects we're working on here at Bagram," the Independence, Ky.-native said of his carpenter apprentices who have developed their own friendly handshakes when they greet each other. "We're doing our part to win the hearts and minds of the local population. We have developed great relationships with them."

While Sergeant Nelson said developing the program took a lot of effort - building up relationships with his workers and finding creative ways to make contacts and get the resources needed to implement the program - but it was all for a good cause.

"It's all about engaging the system for their sake and finding people who want to know how to make themselves better and taking the initiative to help them do it," Sergeant Nelson explained. "If TAC helps these workers find a contractor who will pay them what they deserve, then I'm more than willing to put forth the effort," he said. "We hope this program will have a long-lasting effect on the workers and their families."

Awards

Meritorious Service Medal

Maj Matthew Smith, 89 AS
MSgt Melissa Caylor, 445 AMDS
MSgt James Felton, Jr., 445 AES
MSgt Charles Hampton, 87 APS
TSgt Jason Lathem, 445 CES

Air Force Commendation Medal

Capt Clifford Erli, 445 OSS
Capt Todd Haifley, 89 AS
Capt Christina Jones, 445 AMDS
MSgt Karen Givens, 445 AMXS

Air Force Achievement Medal

TSgt Jeffrey Grice, 445 AMXS
SSgt Cassandra Casul, 445 ASTS
SSgt Stephanie Fullenkamp, 445 MOF

Newcomers

Maj Charles Miller, 445 ASTS
Maj Jason Shroyer, 445 CES
SSgt Jessica Boone, 445 AW
SSgt Jason Callon, 445 MXS
SSgt Kiley Gerritsen, 445 AES
SSgt Bryan Grimm, 445 CES
SSgt Shannon Osborne, 445 AES
SSgt Daniel Rodgers, 445 CF
SSgt Rhoda Salinas, 445 MSF
SSgt Aaron Skapik, 445 SFS
SrA Timothy Boris, 445 MXS
SrA Brian Corbin, 445 MXS
SrA Laketha Harris, 89 AS
SrA Sabrena Holmberg, 445 AMDS
SrA Chad Sommers, 445 MXS
A1C Ryan Holbrook, 445 ASTS

A1C Brian Horn, 445 SFS
A1C Ryan Mullaney, 445 MXS
A1C Anthony Pelino, 445 MXS
Amn Nickolas Richards, 445 AES
AB Kyle Altman, 445 SFS
AB Seth Inman, 445 SFS
AB Chelsea Merifield, 445 AW
AB Brandon Miller, 445 SFS

Promotions



Staff Sergeant

Vincent Gibson, 445 OSS
Kevin Houser, 87 APS
Michael Neri, 445 MOF
Joshua Oram, 87 APS
Joshua Quattrone, 445 MOF
Drew Ramsay, 445 MSF



Technical Sergeant

Dale Binkley, 445 LRS
Michael Dials, 445 ASTS
Radford Jones, Jr., 445 ASTS
Matthew Larsen, 445 AMXS
Carol Lewis, 445 LRS
Stephen Nelson, 445 OG
Scott Reed, 445 MXS
Michael Rosato, Jr., 445 AMXS
John Altevers, Jr., 445 CES



Master Sergeant

Matthew Gundrum, 445 MXS
Frankie Lowder, Jr., 445 SFS
Gerald Sandoval, 445 AMXS
Amy Zaenkert, 445 MOF

Mission support flight receives awards

The 445th Mission Support Flight was recently awarded the Nathan Altschuler Award for Excellence. The award recognizes the best education and training program.

The flight was recognized for processing 377 requests for tuition assistance of \$208,000.

They provided exceptional customer service to more than 275 reservists per month to include testing, skill level upgrades and educational counseling.

The unit was also lauded for its Community College of the Air Force efforts. They are currently ranked in the top five for Air Force Reserve Command CCAF graduates.

The mission support flight was also selected as the 4th Air Force Outstanding Family Readiness Office.

The unit provided continued support for deployed members and their families. They were recognized for their participation in Camp Wright-Patt in which 180 children of deployed members

participated in a week-long camp.

The flight made more than 500 calls to deployed family members to offer support and provide assistance.

The unit was also noted for being the focal point for the "Adopt a Family" holiday program that helped provide gifts for more than 60 445th Airlift Wing members during the holidays.

The 445th Mission Support Flight will represent 4th Air Force for the Air Force Reserve Command awards.



News Briefs

Deployed Airmen

Commander's Call

Commander's Call will be held 7:30 a.m. April 5 and April 19 at the base theater.

Employer Appreciation

Ask your civilian supervisor and/or employer to join us May 2, for Employer Appreciation Day. Your employer will gain knowledge about the important work you do as an Air Force Reservist and learn about the wing's mission. You can access a registration form on the Air Force Portal, 445th Airlift Wing page under events, or check your email. Send completed forms via email to 445AW.PA@wpafb.af.mil or bring to the Public Affairs office in Bldg. 4010, Room 171. For more information call 257-5784.

Deployment News

The 445th Airlift Wing will host a Yellow Ribbon pre-deployment town hall meeting March 12 and 13 from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at St. Luke United Methodist Church, 100 North Broad Street (SR 444) in Fairborn. This is a mandatory event for members deploying March through June. Families (spouse, parent, sibling, children and/or significant other) are strongly encouraged to attend. Free childcare and lunch will be provided.

Honor Guard

The 445th Honor Guard will conduct a week long training session June 8-12, for new and current members. New honor guard members are needed, and any airman or NCO may apply. Contact Master Sgt. Mark Lyle at 257-8964 for a commitment letter, fill it out and have it signed by your supervisor, first sergeant and unit commander. Submit your application to the honor guard office located in Bldg. 109. The training will be conducted at Bldg. 109 from 0730 to 1630 daily. Paperwork must be completed prior to training.



Top left: Tech Sgt. Michael Carley, deployed with the 445th Security Forces Squadron, performs a search as part of deployed security duties. (Courtesy photo)

Top right: Senior Airman Tepadol Bennett and Staff Sgt. Irvan Higgins, 445th Civil Engineer Squadron, work with local Afghan contractors at Bagram Air Field, Afghanistan. (Air Force photo/Chief Master Sgt. Ron Rearick)

Bottom: Tech Sgt. Michael Carley (far right), 445th Security Forces Squadron assists other deployed security forces members as they perform an identification check in Kirkuk, Iraq. (Courtesy photo)

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