

BUCKEYE FLYER

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Snow removal equipment makes way to Afghanistan

By Stacy Vaughn

445th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

The 445th Airlift Wing teamed with the Air Force Security Assistance Center and the 88th Air Base Wing Dec. 23 to transport two snow removal vehicles and associated equipment to Kabul, Afghanistan.

The plows will clear runways at Kabul International Airport for the Afghan National Army Air Corps.

The project started when AFSAC received a request from Air Force mentor personnel at the Combined Air Power Transition Force in Kabul that there was a need for snow removal equipment.

"It could have taken at least 10 months to receive the snow removal equipment and have it shipped to Afghanistan. However, we were able to get two snow removal vehicles with their appropriate equipment that were designated for the Niagara Falls Air National Guard Base diverted to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base from their starting point in Wisconsin so they could be sent to Kabul," Scott Clark, Command Country Manager, Afghanistan, AFSAC, said.

The equipment, which includes two snow removal



Stacy Vaughn

A snow plow is loaded into the cargo bay of a 445th Airlift Wing C-5 Galaxy. Two plows were loaded onto the aircraft for transport to Kabul, Afghanistan.

vehicles, two 20-foot plow blades and two 18-foot rotary brooms and spare parts, were purchased via foreign military sales for \$1.2 million.

Mr. Clark said the mentors were hoping the equipment could be delivered by November. He said

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Facebook: Search for the 445th Airlift Wing on Facebook for the latest news and information.

Wing Airmen return from deployments in Iraq

By Maj. Cynthia Harris

445th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

After traveling for more than 52 hours, 13 members of the 445th Airlift Wing Security Forces Squadron arrived at the Dayton International Airport. The Airmen returned Jan. 17, after serving a 197-day deployment in Kirkuk, Iraq.

Family, friends and co-workers applauded and cheered as the

Airmen made their way through the airport escorted by members of the Ohio Patriot Guard Riders.

While deployed the Airmen performed various security forces functions to include base security, vehicle searches, gate security, patrol, and tower duties.

"I'm glad to be home," said Staff Sgt. Jude Snell.

Snell described his time in Iraq as interesting. Even though he was in Iraq with 12 other people from his unit, he didn't see them except at the dining hall. The Airmen worked in different locations on the base and did not see each other during duty hours.

See HOMECOMING page 6

A prayer for Haiti

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

"If calamity comes upon us, whether the sword of judgment, or plague or famine, we will stand in your presence before this temple that bears your Name and will cry out to you in our distress, and you will hear us and save us." 2 Chronicles 20:9

I know many of us have aching hearts as we witness the suffering in Haiti.

For some we have been personally devastated by this tragedy. Therefore, please pray with me.

"Gracious God, we humbly ask for your sustaining miraculous presence to be upon our brothers and sisters in Haiti. Place your hand

upon all workers; who bring healing, who search for the missing and who rebuild. May all be led by your wisdom, and filled with your strength and advised by your discernment. For the multitudes of lives lost, we pray for your loving comfort to come to the family and friends of the deceased. Dear God, in moments like these help us not to take anything for granted, but to live life with purpose and self giving. At this moment fill our hearts with compassion and may we rededicate our service to you and those who are in need. In your holy name we pray. Amen."

Buckeye Flyer

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Thanks for being the wind beneath my wings

By Col. Anna Schulte
445th Maintenance Group Commander

Some of us here at the 445th Airlift Wing stood up 20 years ago as the 907th Airlift Wing when Desert Storm hit. During that time, the Reserve airlifted food, moved troops and proudly supported the movement to secure safety for the Shiites in Kuwait. With the C-141's (the wing's aircraft at the time), we brought home the injured warriors for treatment, and the honored fallen who made the ultimate sacrifice.

Since then, we've been involved in activations and deployments around the world, including Noble Eagle, Fundamental Justice, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. With the C-5s, we are now part of the total force, bringing needed supplies and materiel to our military in the areas of responsibility, and providing humanitarian support when the call comes from all parts of the world.

It reminds me a lot of the Bette Midler song, "Wind Beneath My Wings,"



made popular during the Desert Storm era. The lyrics include the lines, "Did you ever know that you're my hero and everything I would like to be? I can fly higher than an eagle because you are the wind beneath my wings."

Our men and women are the wind beneath the wings of our country and our community. Numerous members support important programs that benefit the community. Our people visit the Dayton Veterans Administration with needed items and an empathetic ear for the veteran's war stories.

They support the World War II honor flight, Toys-for-Tots, Thanksgiving baskets and Christmas presents for needy families.

Wing mentors are coaches, troop leaders, school volunteers and leaders in our communities. We've stood up when the call went out to support our own or other base personnel when unfortunate events have occurred.

Whether at home station performing our duties and training the next generation of leaders, or in our civilian lives supporting the community, we are all heroes.

From our deployed missions to helping others in need, we are the wind beneath their wings.

Wing leadership seeks spouse, youth nominations

Reservists are encouraged to nominate their spouse and youth for the 445th Airlift Wing Spouse and Youth of the Year. Period of service for both awards is Jan. 1 thru Dec. 31, 2009.

For the 445th Airlift Wing Spouse of the Year award, the nominee's spouse must be serving in the 445 AW. Military members are not eligible to be nominated for the award.

Nominations will include facts and specific accomplishments that clearly state the individual's contributions to the Air Force and the community. Nominations should include:

- Participation in base and community activities
- Articulate and influential spokesperson for their local community and/or the Air Force
- Voluntary service in community or Air Force-related organizations and activities
- Contributions to the States or to the Nation
- Contributions to the resolution of contemporary social problems
- Membership in professional, civic, or cultural organizations
- Self-improvement efforts

- Leadership and other accomplishments
(not all categories need to be included)

For the 445th Airlift Wing Youth of the Year award, the nominee's relative must be serving in the 445 AW. The nominee must be between the ages of 13-18. Nominations will include facts and specific accomplishments that clearly state the individual's service to their school, community and Air Force.

Write-ups should include:

- Outstanding grades for either the past year and/or trend of outstanding grades to include the past year
- Participation in base and community activities
- Contribution to school or church activities
- Demonstrated leadership/leadership potential
- Affiliation with community organizations such as Scouts, 4-H, FFA, etc.
- Self-improvement efforts
- Other accomplishments
(not all categories need to be included)

Nominations for both awards are to be submitted electronically or in hard-copy on an Air Force Form 1206 to the 445th Airlift Wing Command Chief, Chief Master Sgt. Peri Rogowski, no later than Feb. 21.



Senior Airman Matthew Cook

Have you received your H1N1 vaccination?

Maj. Amy Swets, 445th Aeromedical Staging Squadron, prepares a syringe with the H1N1 vaccine during the Jan. 9 unit training assembly. The wing began administering the vaccination in January. The H1N1 is a new requirement for all reservists assigned to the unit.

Wing to host awards banquet

Mark your calendars for the 445th Airlift Wing Annual Awards Banquet. The banquet is scheduled for May 1 at the National Museum of the United States Air Force. The reception is slated to begin at 6 p.m. and the program at 7 p.m.



This event will mark the first time 445th Airlift Wing Spouse and Youth awards are presented. Annual award winners and Community College of the Air Force Graduates will also be recognized.

Please see article above for details on nominating your spouse or youth.

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

Reservist flies flag to honor sick child

By Stacy Vaughn
445th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

A sick child now has a symbol of courage and bravery thanks to a reservist from the 445th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron.

Instead of the usual postcards and stuffed toys one may bring home to a child from a deployment, Maj. Dawn Rice, 445th AES flight nurse, returned home from a four-month deployment at Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan, on Christmas Eve with a special present for the Troy, Ohio infant.

That special gift was an American flag flown 25,000 feet over Afghanistan.

"Flying a flag is something that flyers do as a symbolic gesture to those who are important in their lives as a way to honor that person," she said. "The flag represents the strength and the heart of the American forces. I thought it would be the perfect gift for Griffin because he has suffered so much since he was born and is fighting hard to survive."

Six-month-old Griffin was born



Courtesy photo

Maj. Dawn Rice, 445th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, poses with a flag flown for a sick Ohio boy.

with the left side of his heart missing.

Doctors performed two surgeries to restructure his heart system, which saved his life. Major Rice is familiar with his condition because her friend, Phyllis "P.J." Profitt, is the child's aunt.

"Griffin was born July 16, which was a couple weeks before I deployed. His parents, Lisa and Kyle Bigelow, had set up a Web site that kept updates on his prognoses, so I was able to follow his progress while I was deployed", said Major Rice. "One day I was thinking about him and how brave this little guy is and got the idea of flying a flag for him on one of my missions."

Major Rice said she bought the flag at the base exchange and had it flown on one of her medical evacuation flights over Afghanistan in November. She presented the flag and framed certificate to Griffin Jan. 3.

"While deployed, I was attending to our brave American heroes," she said. "I thought about how thankful I am for my wonderful family and friends. I also would think about Griffin and his family and how he's had so many needles stuck in him and faces more surgeries in the future. The flag is a fitting tribute to him."

Reminder: Airmen in uniform must wear a reflective belt when outdoors during hours of darkness.

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they had two options to ship the equipment; by boat or by plane.

If by boat, the cargo would go to Karachi, Pakistan, then loaded on a truck to travel more than 600 miles to Kabul.

The customer requested that they be sent on a special assignment airlift mission to their destination, meeting the group's planned goal for the arrival of the equipment.

"We put in a request for a SAAM and found out a C-5 Galaxy from the 445th Airlift Wing was available. Flying the equipment by air will only take a couple days instead of weeks," Mr. Clark said.

Mike Campbell, 88th Air Base LGS, airfreight terminal manager, said this is the first time that any of this equipment has been air lifted.

"Our job is to make sure all the cargo is properly prepared, and that weights and balances are configured correctly before it is brought out to the plane and loaded. Cargo like this makes the job fun and challenging," he said.

Because of the size of the snow plows—26 feet long by 12 feet high, with a weight of approximately 97,000 pounds, the C-5 is the only aircraft available to handle such a load.

"The C-17 was considered but it was not big enough. The C-5 was our only option because of the type of cargo it can hold," Mr. Clark said. The snow plows and equipment arrived in time for use for major snow removal activities.



Snow removal

Master Sgt. Larry Stulz, 445th Airlift Wing Safety Office clears a path from snow in front of the wing's headquarters building Jan. 9. More than six inches of snow blanketed the local area during January's first unit training assembly weekend.

Tech. Sgt. Julie Weckerlein

5 Ways to Avoid a Winter Mishap

According to the Colorado comprehensive Spine Institute, follow these steps to avoid injuring yourself clearing away the white stuff:

—Remember that “no pain, no gain” doesn’t apply. If you feel pain, stop shoveling.

—Make sure you have the right shovel. Your shovel should have a curved handle, a small plastic blade, and a handle long enough to hold in your hands when you’re bent over 10 degrees and your knees are bent. Maintain a wide grip. Ensuring your hands are 12 inches apart gives you more leverage.

—Warm up before you begin shoveling. Just like playing sports, it’s a good idea to start slowly to loosen up your muscles before you begin the major snow moving.

—If you must lift the snow, lift with your legs not your back, lift only small amounts of snow at a time. Wet snow is heavy. Don’t try to move it all at once.

—Rest frequently.

For more winter safety information, contact the 445th Airlift Wing Safety Office.

Summer camp available for youth

Applications are being accepted for the 2010 Air Force Reserve/Air National Guard Teen Leadership Summits.

The AFR/ANG Teen Leadership Summits are open to all 14-18-year-old dependent teens of current Air Force Reserve or Air National Guard members. Interested teens will be required to complete the 2010 AFR/ANG Teen Leadership Summit application for the session they wish to attend; to include essay questions, Code of Conduct and transportation form.

Applications and instructions as well as applications for adult volunteers can be found at the following Web site: <http://www.georgia4h.org/AFRANGTeenSummit>. The appli-

cation deadline is April 16.

Three sessions are available: Classic Summit, Survival Summit, and Adventure Summit.

The Classic Summit will be held June 13-18 at the Wahsega 4-H Center, Dahlonega, Ga. Teens will focus on developing an awareness of programs and services available to AF Reserve and Air National Guard dependents. Activities include high/low ropes course, rock climbing, white water rafting, hiking, environmental education and leadership classes.

The Survival Summit will be held July 20-25 in Boulder, Colo. Teens attending must have attended a previous AFR/ANG Teen Leadership Summit to apply for this Camp. Attendance is limited to 36

teens. The Summit begins at base camp where teens will have a day to prepare for the expert-led three day, two night survival experience.

The Adventure Summit will be held Aug. 10-15 at the Cheley Camps, in Estes Park, Colo. Teens will have the opportunity to choose from daily activities such as Rocky Mountain hiking, horseback riding, colts (where campers learn what is involved in training horses), backpacking, mountain biking, technical climbing, archery and low ropes challenge course.

For more information, contact Stacey Young, Stacey.young@us.af.mil, (478)327-0971, DSN 497-0971, or Brandi Mullins, brandi.mullins.ctr@us.af.mil, (478)327-2090, DSN 497-2090.

News

HOMECOMING, from page 1

For Senior Airman Dawn Gettys, the only female who deployed with the group, this was her first deployment. She says she had a good experience there.

"This deployment taught me that all of us make a difference somehow and I'm just doing my part."

While in Iraq, her duties entailed tower guard (keeping watch over the city), patrolling, and securing the gates to include opening the gates for convoys.

Another security forces member who worked every sector of the base, echoed the great experience he had. "It was a good experience. This was a great crew. Most of them received awards for their service in Iraq," said Master Sgt. Greg Myers.

Shortly after the security forces team departed the airport for home, Senior Master Sgt David Ellis, 445th Logistics Readiness Squadron, arrived and received a similar welcome.

Sergeant Ellis served nearly five months at Ali Base in southern Iraq. Ellis was originally tasked to oversee refueling operations, but



Photos by Maj. Cynthia Harris

Members of the Ohio Patriot Guard Riders welcome home Senior Airman Tim Sexton and Master Sgt. Greg Myers, both of 445th Security Forces Squadron, at the Dayton International Airport as the Airmen return from a deployment in Iraq.

experienced a lot more than he expected. While there, he trained the Iraqi army on convoys and served as an exercise evaluation team chief. He even found time to serve as president of the base's Top 3 organization.

A memorable part of his deployment occurred when he bumped into an old friend. "The coolest thing was when I went over to the operations office to gripe about something." To his surprise the person in charge was a lieutenant commander he knew when they both served in the Navy as E-1s. "That was 20 years ago and now he's a lieutenant commander in the Navy flying P-3s," the sergeant said.

When describing his experience in Iraq, Sergeant Ellis concluded, "The whole thing capped everything I trained for."



Tech. Sgt. Ronald Lause, 445th Security Forces Squadron, greets his son Ronald and daughter Ella upon returning from a deployment in Iraq.



Senior Master Sgt. David Ellis, 445th Logistics Readiness Squadron, swoops up his daughter Trinity Diane as she welcomes him home at the Dayton International Airport.

News Briefs



Newcomers

1Lt Kevan Curran, AMDS
 TSgt Mary Jo Fisher, CES
 TSgt Gary Zimmerman, MXS
 SSgt Michael Foster, MXS
 SSgt Gregory McClincheay, MXS
 SSgt David Wilder, AMDS
 SrA Ryan Anthony, ASTS
 SrA Christine Freitag, ASTS
 SrA Sara Kopach, ASTS
 SrA Lori Plasky, 87 APS
 SrA Dan Richards, MXS
 A1C Rodney Bennett, AMXS
 A1C Roxanne Lewis, SVS FLT
 A1C Juste Mukiza, CES
 A1C Aaron Schaffer, CES
 AB Kerry Gastaldo, CES
 AB Erik Larrison, AMXS
 AB Travis McClain, CES

Promotions

Airman
 Cameron Barberi, ASTS
 Jacob Emberton, ASTS
 Brandon High, AMDS
 Chelsie Pechiney, AW
 Jessica Prestwich, ASTS
 Armande Richardson, ASTS
 Jamie Taylor, ASTS
 Daniel Williams, ASTS

Senior Airman

Christopher Bateson, 87 APS
 Donald Carelock, CES
 John Johnson Jr., MXS
 Ryan Jones, CES
 Jacob Kiessling, AMDS
 Katherine Pope, ASTS
 Nickolas Richards, AES
 Tyler Robbins, ASTS
 Christopher Spencer, 87 APS

Keith Taylor, ASTS
 Ryan Umstead, CES
 Michael Wagner, ASTS

Staff Sergeant

Emily Aldrich, OG
 Jason Bolenbaugh, 89 AS
 Robert Brock, SFS
 Jamar Brown, ASTS
 Jason Gardiner, SFS
 George Goff, MXS
 Theresa Grof, LRS
 Rachel Hardin, AES
 Christopher Judd, 89 AS
 Phillip Lemaster, 89 AS
 Ashley Pennington, CES
 Michael Pressler, MXS
 Chad Sommers, MSF
 Franklin Williams, AW

Technical Sergeant

Amber Church, AW
 Jermaine Coleman, MXS
 Benjamin Fryman, 89 AS
 Kiley Gerritsen, AES
 Candice Green, ASTS
 Angela Robertson, ASTS
 Craig Stevenson, ASTS

Master Sergeant

Molly Blackburn, ASTS
 Nicholas Davis, CES
 Mark Fellows, AMDS
 Patrick McCoy, AES
 Lonnie McGuire, AMXS
 Donald Meiners, CES
 Cleve Samuel III, 87 APS
 Stephanie Strickland, AES

Senior Master Sergeant

William Kaczmarczyk, ASTS
 Sheryl Olmstead, AMDS
 Brian Robinette, MXS
 Gerald Sandoval, MXS
 Rebecca Spencer, LRS

First Lieutenant

Shannon Simon, 445 AES

Lieutenant Colonel

Jacob Miller, 89 AS

Awards

Meritorious Service Medal

Lt Col Mark Gunzelman, MSG
 CMSgt Michael Bridewell, MXS
 SMSgt David Dillon II, 89 AS
 MSgt Jerry Gallaugher, MSF
 Maj Michael Pelger Jr., OG
 Maj Michael Vollmer, LRS

Air Force Commendation Medal

Maj Kimberly Simmons, ASTS
 Capt Michael Bennett, 89 AS
 Capt Adam Fink, 89 AS
 Capt Kyle Hayes, 89 AS
 Capt Charles Moore, SFS
 Capt Joshua Roberts, 89 AS
 MSgt Rebecca Spencer, LRS
 TSgt Angel Gonzalez, LRS
 TSgt Ryan Lamarr, SFS
 TSgt David Mashburn, LRS

Air Force Achievement Medal

Maj Charles Huff, ASTS
 TSgt Steven Durham, SFS
 TSgt Sherica Fuller, OSS
 SSgt Ashley Clark, 89 AS
 SSgt Michael Reagan, AMXS
 SrA Gustavo Medina, SFS

Aerial Achievement Medal

Capt Juan Sanchez, AES
 TSgt Larry Combs, ASTS
 TSgt Geof Weimerskirch, AES
 SrA Erika Algeo, AES

Air Medal

Maj Christopher Matlack, AES
 Capt Leesa Lowder, AES
 MSgt Chad Lifer, AES
 TSgt David Cherolis, AES
 TSgt Christopher Yacullo, AES
 SrA John Cranor, AES

President's Day

Feb. 15





Self-aid and buddy care

Senior Airman Matthew Cook

Tech. Sgt. Jeffrey Assini, 445th Aeromedical Staging Squadron, instructs Master Sgt. Leah Monhart, 445th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, on how to treat an abdominal wound during a self-aid and buddy care class on the Jan. 9 unit training assembly. Senior Airman Justin Sanderson, 445 AES, simulates an injured victim.

On the Web



A year in
pictures, 445th
Airlift Wing 2009



Reservists
support Haiti
relief efforts



Snow patches
surround C-5
Galaxy

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