

BUCKEYE FLYER

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Wing mobilizes to support Afghani surge

A total of 130 Airmen from the 445th Airlift Wing reported April 5 for a 6-month mobilization in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Most of the activated Airmen will remain here at the 445th Airlift Wing. Members of the 445th Operations Group and Maintenance Group expect to fly multiple missions in support of the surge in Afghanistan, and five transportation Airmen will be stationed at Charleston Air Force Base, S.C., and Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J., according to Col. Stephen D. Goeman, 445th Airlift Wing commander.

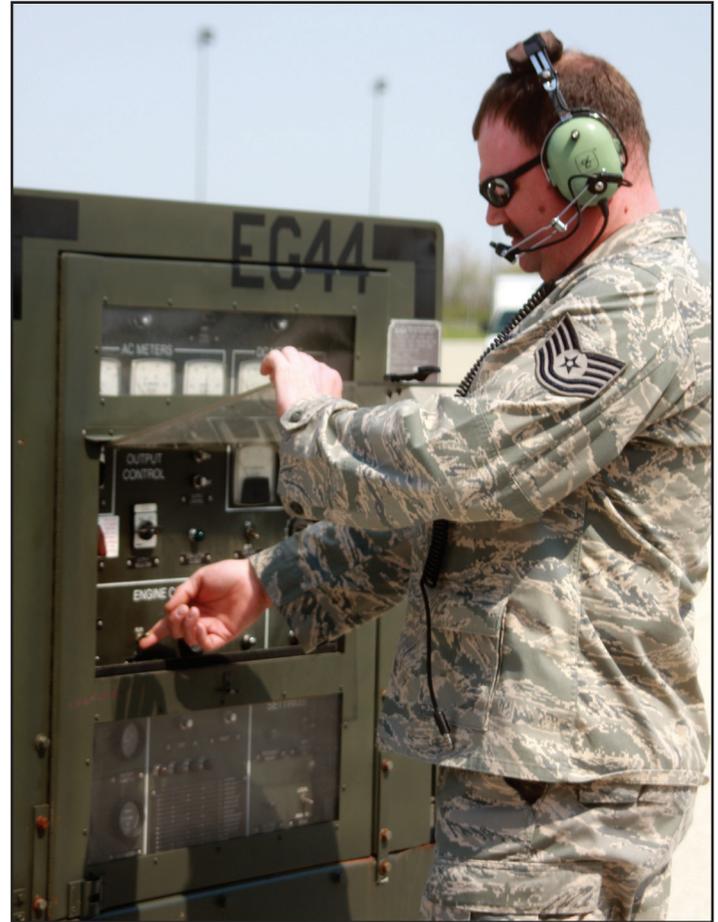
Although the missions the wing will fly as part of the mobilization won't differ greatly from the wing's normal flights, Colonel Goeman does expect the mobilization to enable the wing to fly double the number of missions it usually flies with volunteers.

The C-5A Galaxy aircraft are the most visible part of the wing's mobilization, but it isn't just aircrew that are mobilized. Airmen from across the wing were called to active duty to support the effort. Additionally, the wing's air reserve technicians and traditional reservists will continue to contribute.

For many of the wing's Airmen, current operations are a chance to put training into practice.

"It's nice to be able to say that you actually contributed, after all this training," said Capt. Scott Deboer, a pilot in the 89th Airlift Squadron who is a commercial airline pilot when not on duty.

The first mission of the mobilization left April 7 to deliver cargo and equipment to the Middle East.



Staff Sgt. Amanda Duncan

Tech. Sgt. Steven Johnson, 445th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, uses Aerospace Ground Equipment to prepare the C-5 Galaxy for missions in support of the surge.

Employers Day is June 5. Invite your employer to the 445th to see what you do during UTA weekends.

87 APS reservist completes BATAAN Death March

By Stacy Vaughn

445th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

A reservist assigned to the 87th Aerial Port Squadron used his physical fitness drive to not only satisfy his fitness needs but to honor those who served before him. In March, Master Sgt. Clark Wierda participated in the annual Bataan Memorial Death March, an

event that honors those survivors and their family members who were involved in the Bataan Death March during World War II.

The sergeant was inspired to lead a healthier lifestyle with help of the Air Force Fit to Fight fitness program. He chose the Bataan

Memorial Death March not only because it was another outlet for his physical fitness drive, but specifically it was a way to honor those who served in uniform before us.

See BATAAN page 5

Update: SATAF visit begins C-17 conversion prep

By Col. Stephen D. Goeman
445th Airlift Wing Commander

The first step in the transition to our new C-17 mission took place between April 13-15. The 445th Airlift Wing hosted representatives from



Air Force Reserve Command, Air Force Materiel Command, Air Mobility Command, 4th Air Force, the 88th Air Base Wing and the Boeing Company. Many of our wing personnel were directly involved in this initial Site Activation Task

Force and provided expert guidance to members of the team as we prepare for the conversion.

Nine separate working groups were in place to

gather a wide array of information about our wing and base that will be needed as we move forward in the conversion process. Tours of our facilities were completed and our existing and proposed manpower documents were reviewed.

A long list of observations and concerns were documented and provided to AFRC that will serve as a basis for what is to happen next in this 2-3 year process.

In the next few months, a new organization will stand up in the 445th AW to oversee our work in this transition period. This Program Integration Office will consist of a staff of approximately 10-12 individuals with expertise in operations, maintenance/logistics, facilities, and representation from Boeing. The office will work directly with AFRC, AMC and our 88th ABW host to smoothly transition our wing from the C-5 to the C-17 mission.

The conversion will be a lengthy process as we initially posture our personnel for training and work to modify our existing facilities to the new standards required. In the interim, our C-5 mission continues and we must all keep that in mind

and continue to operate in the same safe efficient way we have been previously.

Before any decisions are made regarding personnel, we must receive a new military and civilian Unit Manning Document (UMD) from AFRC. Changes to our full time civilian/Air Reserve Technician workforce are being reviewed and require further coordination through civilian personnel and union channels before those can be implemented. An initial review has been accomplished, but actual decisions cannot be completed until the new UMD is published.

The first four aircraft are tentatively scheduled to arrive in the Jan-Mar 2011 timeframe, and we expect that we will transfer five C-5s when we receive our first four C-17s. During this period, we will operate both aircraft from Wright-Patterson. This will be a challenge for all of us.

My request of all 445th Airmen is to remain focused on the current mission, get excited about the transition to the future mission and get ready for the effort needed to once again transition the 445th to a new and exciting mission.

Buckeye Flyer

445th Airlift Wing
Editorial Staff

Col. Stephen Goeman
Commander

Maj. Cynthia Harris
Chief, Public Affairs

Stacy Vaughn
Public Affairs Specialist

Laura Darden
Public Affairs Asst./Editor

Shamae Jones
Administrative Assistant

5439 McCormick Ave.
WPAFB OH 45433-5132
Building 4014, Room 113
937-257-5784

445AW.PA@wpafb.af.mil

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Reservists win base quarterly awards

Tech. Sgt. Greg Shepherd, 445th Security Forces Squadron, was selected as the 303rd Aeronautical Systems Wing quarterly award winner, reservist category. Sergeant Shepherd is currently on orders as a battlefield airmen management system technician with the 670th Aeronautical Systems Squadron, 823rd Aeronautical Systems Group. He runs the unit's self-help desk.



Master Sgt. Stephanie Strickland, an aeromedical evacuation instructor in the 445th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, was selected as the Air Force Materiel Command Chief of Staff Directorate Senior Non-Commissioned Officer of the Quarter. She is currently on orders as an assistant unit deployment manager for the AFMC Headquarters staff.



Stay on course in the face of challenges

By Chaplain (Lt. Col.) David Leist
445th Airlift Wing

While serving at the Cadet Chapel at the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colo., basic cadets would often come to the chaplain's office for counsel and advice. Many wanted to drop out during Basic Cadet Training, well before the academic year.

I would often remind them of the painstaking efforts undertaken to receive an appointment at the Academy. My role was to listen and offer support and encouragement, attempting to help them with the bigger Air Force and military picture.

The upper class cadet cadre would share words with the Basics saying, "What doesn't kill you will only serve to make you stronger."

Often times in the midst of struggle, expressions such as these do not appear to make sense. We are promised that staying the course, continuing the mission of well-doing, will eventually bear fruit.

We have so much to be thankful for as members of the 445th Airlift Wing at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base: a fantastic wing with tremendous leadership and support. Seeing the projected addition of the C-17 to the wing's mission says so much about every one of its member's commitment to duty.

Your call to the mission of the 445th may be tested at times. When conflicts arise with weekend drill or an impending activation, this may cause you to rethink your commitment to serve. Remain vigilant and faithful to the duty set before you and remember the bigger picture.

Each and every member is an integral piece in the overall fabric of the life of the 445th. You are cared for, prayed for and appreciated for all that you do. Continue to stay the course. So many new and wonderful venues are waiting on the horizon.

445th Golf Scramble is scheduled for June 18 at Sugar Isle Golf Course. Shotgun start is at 9 a.m.

445th 'funny man' starts stand-up comedy career

By Stacy Vaughn
445th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

An 89th Airlift Squadron flight engineer found a new calling: making people laugh.

Known as the "Biker Comic," Tech. Sgt. Tracy Cooper has a new career in stand-up comedy that has exploded over the past few months.

The reservist's new career all started after a day of motorcycle riding in September. He and friends were reminiscing about what they've been doing, which led to a further Facebook discussion.

"This girl I went to high school with asked me if I was still funny like I was in school. She put me in touch with Joanne Viskup who runs the open-mic night at Wiley's Comedy Club in Dayton. Joanne called me and had me come down, Sergeant Cooper said.

Biker Comic's first performance was Nov. 22 with 25 people coming to see him. His second performance was in front of a crowd of 100, 40

coming to see him. His third performance grew into an audience of 150, 50 people coming to see him. He has performed at more than 10 venues, selling out at each performance.

So far, Sergeant Cooper has performed at Wiley's, Jackass Flats, and a few other local venues.

"Terry Smith, owner of Jackass Flats, and Rob Haney, owner of Wiley's, are not only my sponsors but great supporters and great friends. Rob is a true mentor to me with an impressive resume. He's written for the Jay Leno show, been on HBO, Showtime, and Comedy Channel. He's currently writing for the Bob and Tom radio show," Sergeant Cooper said.

Having Wiley's on his resume was a must.

"I was looking at the Wall of Fame at Wiley's one night and saw images of Jay Leno, Drew Carey,

Ellen DeGeneres, Drew Hastings, and others when Rob told me, 'One day you will be up there.' And I laughed and said, 'What, cleaning the pictures?'" the sergeant said.

Biker Comic said he's having fun with his new career and getting used to people recognizing him on the street.

"I was at Wal-Mart one day and these people recognized me and asked my girlfriend if I was Tracy Cooper. When she said yes, they asked her if they could take my picture and get an autograph. The autograph signing thing is so weird to me," Sergeant Cooper said.

Sergeant Cooper's co-workers enjoy their co-worker's new career.

"I've had people from the both wings come up to me and say how cool it is to see one of my performances on You Tube." It's been an amazing ride so far," Sergeant Cooper said.

(No federal endorsement of businesses is intended.)

Mother Nature presents challenges during training

By Stacy Vaughn
445th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

More than 45 Airmen from the 89th Airlift Squadron and the 445th Operation Support Squadron traveled to Naval Air Station Key West, Fla., to participate in an intense, hands-on water survival refresher course March 11 and 12.

The course was offered for the first time last year. It proved to be so successful that the training was offered again in Florida.

"This year's training was very realistic for the aircrew and provided them with a very real-world situation. The winds were strong this time, causing the water to be very choppy, which presented a very good situation for what one could expect if they had to ditch in uncalm waters," said Tech. Sgt. Brian Knouse, 445th OSS, aircrew flight equipment technician.

Over the two-day period, four groups of students went through the training. Two groups trained the first day and two groups trained



Tech. Sgt. Paul Bower, 445th Operation Support Squadron, pulls an empty raft ashore during a water survival refresher course March 11 at Naval Air Station Key West, Fla.



Courtesy photos

Senior Airman Eric Ruth, 445th Operations Support Squadron, practices using a flare while training March 11 at Naval Air Station Key West, Fla.

the second day. Each day while the first group was in the water, the second group was going through land navigation training. Later in the day, the groups switched. The same sequence was repeated the second day for the other two groups.

During the water survival portion of the training, the group of students received a safety briefing before boarding the rafts. Some of the training the students learned while on the rafts included raft care and maintenance, food and water procurement, first aid, protecting oneself from the outside elements, and signaling for help.

The last part of the scenario in the raft involved a Navy helicopter using a hoist to pull up each member and return them safely to land.

While the one group was in the water, another group participated in land survival in the woods. They received a land safety briefing then practiced and reviewed signaling devices, such as using a whistle, strobe light and signal mirror. At the end of the lesson the group practiced flare firing.

One reservist participating in this year's training felt it was very realistic and feels what he learned from the class can help him in the future if he's put in such a situation.

"This training was very beneficial and unlike any training I've ever had before. I now feel confident in aiding others if I'm ever faced with this type of situation," Senior Airman Aaron Davenport, 445th OSS said.

BATAAN from page 1

“I wanted to participate in the march to honor those who came before us and to honor their legacy. I also feel that as a senior non-commissioned officer, I should be setting the example for others to follow,” Sergeant Wierda said.

The Bataan Memorial Death March honors a special group of World War II heroes who were responsible for the defense of the islands of Luzon, Corregidor, and the harbor defense forts of the Philippines. The conditions they encountered and the aftermath of the battle were unique.

The Army ROTC Department at New Mexico State University began sponsoring the memorial march in 1989 to mark a page in history that included so many native sons and affected many families in the state. In 1992, White Sands Missile Range and the New Mexico National Guard joined in the sponsorship and the event was moved to the missile range. The annual event offers a 15 mile march and a 26.2 mile march.

The sergeant, who completed the 26.2 mile course march carrying a 40-pound ruck sack in just less than 12 hours, said it was teamwork that got him through the march.

“I met up with two ROTC cadets during the race and we were able to encourage each other to finish it. Teamwork is what it’s all about and is one of the underlying themes of the event. We worked together and made it,” Sergeant Wierda said.

Sergeant Wierda’s next goal is to complete the full course at the Sept. 18 Air Force Marathon.



Courtesy photo

Master Sgt. Clark Wierda competed in the military heavy category of the BATAAN Death March.



Tech. Sgt. Jeremy Caskey

Wartime Readiness

Airmen from the 445th Airlift Wing process the mobility line April 10 during an exercise with the 88th Air Base Wing.

1st quarter wing-level award winners selected



Airman

Senior Airman Robert Brock, 445th Security Forces Squadron, is the 445th Airlift Wing Airmen of the Quarter. Airman Brock was recognized by unit

compliance inspectors as having the best SFS safety program. He developed OPSEC training and visual aids used by 96 unit OPSEC coordinators and wrote the operation instructions for destruction of sensitive information for all wing users. Senior Airman Brock also received the OPSEC Multimedia Achievement of the Year Award.



NCO

Tech. Sgt. Michael Carley, 445th Security Forces Squadron, is the wing's non-commissioned officer of the quarter. Sergeant Carley is noted for his

accomplishments during a recent deployment to Iraq. He directed more than 50 health and welfare inspections, providing a safe living environment for more than 6,000 troops. He's active in his church's community activities, including mentoring youth and teenagers plus coaching and refereeing girls basketball church teams.



Senior NCO

Master Sgt. Kemberlee Scott, 445th Civil Engineer Squadron, is the wing's senior non-commissioned officer of the quarter. She monitors more than 60 Air-

men in upgrade training and 20 Airmen completing professional military education. Sergeant Scott improved layout of the unit's testing area, increasing computers from six to 14. She is active in the community, spending the past 20 years as a volunteer working with adults with disabilities and singing in her church choir.

HRDC: Helping to make the wing a better place

*By Capt. Caroline Wellman
445th Airlift Wing Public Affairs*

If you have ideas about how to make the wing a better place to work, want to become more involved wing-wide events, or connect with the local community, the Human Resources Development Council might be the place for you.

According to the 445th Airlift Wing HRDC purpose statement, the organization is chartered "to advise and make recommendations on matters related to human resources" within the wing. In reality, it's much simpler than that.

"We're here building a better wing," said Col. Steve Johnson, 445th Airlift Wing Vice Commander and the wing's HRDC chairperson.

This year, the focus of the HRDC is retention, mentoring, and community outreach, said Lt. Col. Kathryn Staiger, 445th Airlift Wing Inspector General, who works with Colonel Johnson to facilitate the wing's HRDC programs.

To accomplish retention, mentoring and outreach goals, the HRDC acts as a focal point that can reach out to the other service organizations and groups in the wing – like the Chiefs Group – to help host events, improve existing programs and practices, or

create new ones where gaps are identified, Lieutenant Colonel Staiger said. In that capacity, the HRDC acts as an important feedback mechanism.

Beyond local activities, wing Airmen participate in multiple national conferences as part of the HRDC's outreach and improvement efforts. This year, the HRDC hopes to send representatives to:

--Tuskegee Airmen, July 28-Aug. 1 in San Antonio, Texas

--League of United Latin American Citizens, July 14-17 in Albuquerque, N.M.

--HRDC 101, 201 and 301 Courses, May 3-7 and Sept. 13-17 at Robins Air Force Base, Ga.

--Organization of Black Airline Pilots, Aug. 2 to 6 Memphis

The HRDC is involved in Wings of Women and Women in Aviation events. The council is also working with the first sergeants to improve the information provided to newcomers and the wing's sponsor program.

Anyone interested in the HRDC can come to the HRDC's meetings. They are at 1 p.m. Sunday on the Scarlet UTA in the Green Room in Bldg. 4010.

News Briefs

Newcomers

Capt Justin Thornsberry, AES
 1Lt Richard Wiseman, AES
 TSgt Autumn Barrett, SFS
 TSgt David Compton, ASTS
 SSgt Brett Lynott, CES
 SSgt Nicholas Schlehuber, SFS
 SrA John Doherty, ASTS
 SrA Joshua Hauser, AMXS
 SrA Mary Holden, AW
 SrA Carrie Leopold, AMDS
 SrA Holly Raymond, MSF
 SrA Gregory Taylor, CES
 A1C Ryan Thomas, ASTS
 AB Brandon High, AMDS
 AB Steven Ruyle, ASTS
 AB Jamie Taylor, ASTS

Promotions

Airman

Aimee Aberl, AES
 Jacob Kreuzer, AMXS
 Chanell Prater, OSS

Airman First Class

Erik Larrison, AMXS

Senior Airman

Corey Adams, AMXS
 Josiah Bourke, 87 APS
 Corey Brown, 87 APS
 Jason Cordle, 87 APS
 Adam Etter, 87 APS
 Michael Fetherolf, CES
 Lisa Groce, 89 AS
 Ianto Hill, LRS
 Robert Law, 87 APS
 Jacob McCubbin, 87 APS
 Michael Osborne, 87 APS
 Andrew Riley, 87 APS
 Tyler Sparks, AES
 Michael Young, 87 APS

Staff Sergeant

Andrew Conti, ASTS
 Chad Engman, CES
 Ariane Fisher, MXS
 Joey Frisco, SVF
 Jennifer Hawkins, AES
 John Hartzog, MXS
 Bronson Hibbs, 89 AS
 Maggie Kocher, ASTS
 Joshua McConnell, SFS
 Matthew Snyder, MOF

Technical Sergeant

David Alexander, MXS
 David Burt, CES
 Francis Gough, MXS
 Joseph Heitzenrater, CES
 Irvan Higgins, CES
 Quinton Johnson, MXS
 Adrian Jones, MXS
 James Kirklin, SFS
 Frank Oliver, AMDS
 James Shaw, CF
 Jude Snell, SFS

Master Sergeant

Robert Caskey, MXG
 Sean Collins, CES
 Larry Combs, ASTS
 Robert Norsworthy Jr., MSF
 Scott Todd, AMXS

Senior Master Sergeant

Ronald Dale, MSF
 Mark Lockhart, MXG

Chief Master Sergeant

Sean Storms, MSF
 Jodelle Waring, AES

Lieutenant Colonel

Todd Mulhorn, AES
 Matthew Smith, 89 AS

Awards

Meritorious Service Medal

Maj Stephen Simko, AMXS
 Maj Steven Theohares, AES
 CMSgt Michael Lyons, 87 APS
 CMSgt Wilbert McCutcheon Jr., CES
 CMSgt Joseph Smith, MXS
 MSgt Bryan Bohn, AW
 MSgt Robbie Combs, MSF
 MSgt David Filipkowski, AW
 MSgt Marc Gibson, 89 AS
 MSgt Larry Unger Jr., 89 AS
 TSgt Gale Righter Jr., CES

Air Force Commendation Medal

MSgt Jeffrey Hurtt, MOF
 TSgt Thomas Sexton, SFS
 TSgt Patrick Yarusso, SFS
 SSgt Michael Baker, AMXS
 SSgt Ryan Ward, SFS

Air Force Achievement Medal

TSgt Nathan Lowman, MOF
 SSgt Jerrod Campbell, MOF
 SSgt Jeremy First, MXS
 SrA Dawn Gettys, SFS
 SrA Joshua McConnell, SFS

Air Medal

MSgt Carie Brown, AES
 SSgt Robert Alexander, 89 AS
 SSgt Robert Corn, AES

Commander's call

The next 445th Airlift Wing Commander's Call is scheduled for June 6 and 13 at the base theater.

Golf scramble

The 445th Golf Scramble will be held Friday, June 18 at the Sugar Isle Golf Course in New Carlisle, Ohio. Shotgun start is 9 a.m. The cost of the event is \$220 per team and includes food and drink. To sign up or for more information, please call Senior Master Sgt. Tim Emberton at 257-2625 or Master Sgt. Darrell Houston at 257-0389.

Where's my Buckeye Flyer?

If you aren't receiving your Buckeye Flyers at home, it may be because the wing has an incorrect mailing address. Please update your address using the vMPF. If you have questions or need more information, call MPF at 257-6981.

Happenings

The public affairs office is looking for story ideas that highlight the hard work and interesting hobbies of the Airmen of the 445th Airlift Wing. If you think you have an idea, contact Capt. Caroline Wellman in Public Affairs at 257-5784. If you're full of ideas, ask her about becoming a Unit PA Representative.



Senior Airman Mikhail Berlin

In the event of a water landing

Senior Airman Aaron Davenport, a 445th Operations Support Squadron aircrew flight equipment apprentice, inspects life preserver units for leaks and tears during his seasoning training.

On the Web



Maintainers work hard during ISO inspection



C-5 'smiles' in warm Ohio sun



Wing practices during mobility exercise

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BUILDING 4014, ROOM 113
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