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Families participate in Yellow Ribbon event

By Airman 1st Class Santana Austin
445th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

When servicemembers deploy, government programs like the Yellow Ribbon event are reaching out to the families to offer resources and support, too.

“Every servicemember with a family worries about whether or not their families are taken care of while they’re gone,” said Maj. Todd Riddle, the master of ceremonies for the Yellow Ribbon event Feb. 25-27 in Virginia Beach, Va. “This Yellow Ribbon event is the government’s way of telling the servicemember that not only are they supported, but so are their families.”

Hundreds of people attended including military families, representatives from various organizations and companies, and different base offices. During the event, many topics were discussed, ranging from

military benefits to resiliency.

“In the past, we didn’t receive many benefits, and if we did have them, they never told us about them,” said John Sayre, a member of the Disabled American Veterans. “To anyone currently serving, I’d just like to say two things: first, find out what benefits both you and your family are entitled to and take advantage of them. Finally, remember that your family is the best support group you can have. They’ll be there for you no matter what.”

Each break-out session covered a different topic, to include child resiliency, balancing work and life, relationships and sessions for married couples, and

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445th teen council conducts first meeting

By Senior Airman Shen-Chia Chu
445th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

A group of military dependents held the first 445th Airlift Wing Teen Leadership Council meeting March 5 here.

The teenagers gathered in the wing conference room to discuss hosting fun and interesting events for military children.

“The purpose of this group is to help military dependents have a chance to reach out to one another as an Air Force Reserve family,” said Celestia Starner, daughter of Senior Master Sgt. Tommy Starner, Jr., 445th Civil Engineer Squadron.

Ms. Starner started the council to organize fun events and get-togethers for teens during unit training assembly weekends.

“I’m excited to create this support group and I know we can make things happen,” Ms. Starner said.

Ms. Starner said she understands how it feels having a parent that may not always be around due to military service.

“I believe having this council is a good way to help teenagers connect with one another who are going through the same experience to share how each person copes with adapting to the military way of life,” she said.

The teen leadership council has the support of the 445th Airlift Wing to organize and assist with future activities.



Senior Airman Matthew Cook

Wyatt Caldwell and Celestia Starner look on as Lyndsay Hodits shares her “me in a bag” (five items in a bag that describe you) during the first 445th Airlift Wing teen council meeting March 5.

“We want to make this a family-friendly environment for military dependents and I think this will be a good program,” said Col. Stephen Goeman, 445th AW commander. “Our wing can help provide them with opportunities, advice, and direction to make their events fun and interesting.”

Reserve Airmen from different squadrons attended the meeting to offer their experience and suggestions to

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When life seems out of control - He's there

By Chaplain (1st Lt.) Brian Honett
445th Airlift Wing

Sometimes it feels like life is spinning out of control: a lost job, money problems, trouble with the wife or kids. Maybe it's simpler than that: car trouble, that test you just can't pass, or a friend that is upset with you.

Life seems to get crazy in a hurry and stuff happens all the time that is beyond our control. No matter how hard we try something always comes up that throws us off our desired path.

Isn't it is good to know that

there is someone who is always in control? 1 Samuel 2:7, 9 says, "The Lord makes poor and makes rich; he brings low and he exalts. He will guard the feet of his faithful ones, but the wicked shall be cut off in darkness for not by might shall a man prevail."

No matter what is going on in your life, big or small, there is someone in control. He loves you and cares for you. It might not always be easy to see but He works out the best for those He loves.

We cannot do it on our own and we cannot prevail by our own strength.

You can always try harder to control your situation but some things are just beyond your control. Instead why don't you work harder on your relationship with the one who has nothing beyond His control.

When life gets tough, stop by the chaplain's office or call us, we would love to walk through it with you. Our job is to support you in yours.

Buckeye Flyer

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"I do solemnly swear..."

By Lt. Col. Donald Wren
445th Logistics Readiness Squadron Commander

"I do solemnly swear"...every American joining the noble work of defending our nation began their careers by doing one seemingly simple thing...solemnly swearing to an oath of office.



The military oath for officers and enlisted is more than a simple recitation of words. It is a commitment. Through understanding our history, we can better comprehend how the enlisted and the officer oaths bind us together as a unique and important national defense enterprise. It is our pledge to the nation, to those standing with us now, and to the many that preceded us.

Military oaths have evolved since the Continental Congress established them in 1775. Upon taking the first enlisted oath, early patriots swore allegiance to the United States and declared obedience to the "Continental Congress, generals and officers". The Constitution was 12 years away from being adopted; therefore, the object of

allegiance was the notion of the United States as manifested by the Congress.

Language in the officer's oath renounced and disavowed any allegiance to the British King. It declared "...I renounce, refuse and abjure any allegiance or obedience to him; and I do swear that I will, to the utmost of my power, support, maintain, and defend the said United States against the said king, George III, and his heirs and successors..." In simple terms, these patriots committed treason. While the enlisted oath did not contain such treasonous words, it bound them to the treasonous acts of the "Congress, generals, and officers" to whom they had sworn obedience.

In 1862, military oaths were changed to address circumstances presented by the Civil War. The Congress added "...I have never borne arms against the United States...that I have not yielded voluntary support to any pretended government, authority, power or constitution within the United States, hostile or inimical thereto." These words added clarity to the goal of Federalist to preserve the Union. President Lincoln and

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single parents.

“When I was in the active-duty Air Force, we never had these Yellow Ribbon events to tell us about the benefits or help us deal with transitioning back into civilian life,” said Master Sgt. Cynthia Jones, 445th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron. “It’s the first time my children have ever been able to travel with me in a military capacity, so they’re very excited.”

The children were separated into age groups and provided with breakfast, lunch and dinner.

“I love how they have the activity rooms for the kids,” said Sergeant Jones. “It gives the kids a chance to interact with other kids that have military parents and they also get the chance to make new friends.”

The event keynote speaker was Chaplain (Col.) Donald G. Smith of the Headquarters Air Force Reserve Command at Robins Air Force Base, Ga.

“In my experience, I’ve found that keeping the communication channel open was a crucial component of any relationship, be it between you and your spouse or between you and your child,” said Chaplain Smith. “Your family may never understand what you’ve undergone or what you’re currently experiencing unless you tell them about it. Don’t be afraid to tell your spouse or family member what you’re going through or what you’re thinking. They are your support group



Tech. Sgt. Jeremy Caskey

Master Sgt. Cynthia Jones, 445th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, enjoys spending time with her children, Lauren, Brian, Derrick and Cameron, during the Yellow Ribbon event held in Virginia Beach, Va., Feb. 26.

and the shoulder you can cry on.”

He also spoke of the bigger military network available to servicemembers.

“When a person joins the Armed Forces, they aren’t just part of a working group; they are part of a family, and we take care of our family.”

Airmen receive AFRC, wing recognition

Two members of the 445th Airlift Wing Public Affairs office were named winners of the 2010 Air Force Reserve Command Media Contest. The announcement was made March 10.

Staff Sgt. Robert Nelson, 445th Airlift Wing Public Affairs technician, won the 2010 AFRC Media Contest, Sports Photograph category.

Senior Airman Mikhail Berlin, 445th Airlift Wing Public Affairs



photographer, won the 2010 AFRC Media Contest, Outstanding New Photographer category.

Airmen and civilian employees from 22 organizations submitted 198 entries to the AFRC contest; a 21 percent increase in participation compared to the previous year and the largest contest to date. Sergeant Nelson and Airman Berlin will advance to the Air Force competition, representing the Air Force Reserve Command.



advance to the Air Force competition, representing the Air Force Reserve Command.

Capt. Stephanie Kennedy, executive officer for the 445th Mission Support Group, has been selected as the 445th Airlift Wing Company Grade Officer of the Quarter, first quarter.



Captain Kennedy worked alongside the 87th Aerial Port Squadron first sergeant to scrub 190 personnel records in order to initiate the appropriate decorations for deserving Airmen, allowing superior performers to be recognized for their efforts. She also stepped up to fill the position of the 445th Force Support Squadron fitness assessment cell augmentee, demonstrating the importance of physical fitness and advocating healthy living to fellow Airmen.

In her personal time, Captain Kennedy manned a booth for the St. Peter’s Church Oktoberfest, raising funds to improve church and school activities. She currently supervises neighborhood children on the weekends and during the evening, enabling parents to meet with teachers and spend time together.

First shirt tracks fraud as civilian investigator

By Tech. Sgt. Julie Weckerlein
445th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

He's a first shirt by weekend; a civilian fraud investigator by weekday.



Master Sgt. John Koehl, 445th Logistics Readiness Squadron first sergeant, works as a special agent for the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation. While the bureau investigates everything from crooked doctors to employers not paying benefits, Sergeant Koehl and his team focus on injured workers fraud.

"People typically associate injured workers' fraud as the news video of the guy roofing a house though he's claimed a back injury," said Sergeant Koehl, "but most of my cases don't make the news."

According to the Ohio BWC, under Ohio law, worker's compensation fraud occurs when a person receives workers' compensation benefits to which he or she is not entitled; makes false or misleading statements with the purpose of securing goods

or services under the Workers' Compensation Act; alters, falsifies, destroys, conceals or removes records or documents necessary to establish the validity of a claim, or necessary to establish the nature of goods and services for which reimbursement is requested in a claim; enters into an agreement for conspiracy to defraud BWC or a self-insuring employer by making false claims for disability benefits.

His career as an investigator started more than 20 years ago, when he enlisted in the Air Force Reserve here as part of the 906th Fighter Group security forces. He continued in security forces when the 906th FG became the 445th Airlift Wing in the mid-1990s. He also attended Ohio State University to get his degree in law enforcement.

"My military experience and education always correlated to my civilian employment and education," he said. Even when his family moved to Texas so his wife could attend graduate school, he continued his Reserve career at Kelly Air Force Base near San Antonio and worked on the police force at his wife's university. When they returned to Ohio, he rejoined his former unit as the first sergeant of the 445th Security Forces

Squadron and started working at the bureau.

"I no longer arrest or book people, but all that experience plays into my current job as we research and investigate those suspected of fraud," he said. "It's not uncommon for each investigator on my team to bring in \$1 million in savings for the state each year."

Sergeant Koehl, who was recently named 445th AW first sergeant of the year, transferred from the security forces squadron to the logistics side of the house. Though the unit's mission is different, his job as a first shirt has not changed.

"Being a first sergeant is much more multi-faceted than being a fraud investigator," he said. "As a first shirt, I'm working for what is best for the Air Force, the commander and the Airmen. As an investigator, it's pretty cut and dry: the law is the law. When it comes to dealing with Airmen, though, there is a lot more compassion involved. It helps that my training in law enforcement and investigation prepared me for handling different people from different backgrounds. I can pull from both my military and civilian experiences to better reach people as a first shirt."

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help make the council successful.

"We want to spread the word to other young adults to join by building the foundation using social networking and word-of-mouth to help recruit members to become aware and involved," said Staff Sgt. Ben Bratka, 445th AW chaplain assistant.

Sergeant Bratka said he wished this type of council existed during his days as a young military dependent.

"After the Sept. 11 tragedy, I had to learn how to live my life without my dad my senior year of high school," he said.

Sergeant Bratka's father once served as the 445th Security Forces commander, 445th Mission Support

Squadron commander, and the inspector general for the wing.

"My dad was gone from home a lot during deployments and that was very hard for me," he said.

The sergeant wants this program to succeed because he feels it is important for teenagers to be able to relate with one another and find a way to cope with their parents being away.

"I will do all that I can to help in whatever way to see this council succeed as we build this from the ground up," said Sergeant Bratka.

For information or to join the teen leadership council, e-mail Benjamin.Bratka@wpafb.af.mil.

445 OSS: one squadron, two buildings

By Airman 1st Class Santana Austin
445th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Airmen of the 445th Operations Support Squadron here take their job seriously because others' lives depend on them.

After all, they are responsible for testing, maintaining and issuing emergency kits and safety gear, which plays a vital role in the safety of wing personnel as they perform their missions.

The duties of the 445 OSS are carried out in two different buildings. One building deals with the parachutes, flotation devices, and uniform items. The second building handles emergency kits, safety gear for pilots, and the testing of the parachutes. They also create uniform items such as insignias and nametags.

"We can basically sew anything here; we have all the tools," said Staff Sgt. De'Juan Gaskins, aircrew flight equipment specialist. "All we need to know is what the person wants."

Another room of interest is the flotation room. The flotation room deals with the emergency inflatable items commonly found on planes. In this room, the life rafts and escape slides are tested and maintained to ensure full functionality.

"The escape slides are packed into these yellow cases," said Master Sgt. Gary Hanby, assistant NCO in charge of aircrew flight equipment. "The slides are tedious to pack into these cases. It can take a while to pack them. However, it doesn't take long for these to inflate; it's almost instant."

Another part of the squadron is dedicated to the checking and sanitizing of oxygen masks.

"The oxygen masks for the pilot helmets are checked every 30 days," said Tech Sgt. Maurice Upshaw, aircrew flight equipment specialist. "They're also thoroughly sanitized. We want to make sure each mask is both functional and clean."



Staff Sgt. Amanda Duncan

Tech. Sgt. Tim Leedy, 445th Operations Support Squadron, aircrew flight equipment section, tests the communication system on the 358 smoke mask with a DMH1 tester. The smoke mask is used for aircrew in the event of fire or smoke on the C-5 Galaxy flight deck.

In the Major LeRoy W. Homer Operations Building, the squadron tests all the items, ranging from the parachutes to the components in a pilot's helmet. This particular room is of high importance. Any and all of the pilots' safety gear must be completely functional and sufficient enough for use.

"We make sure there's nothing wrong with any of the gear we issue to the pilots," said Master Sgt. Edward Engel, assistant NCO in charge of aircrew flight equipment. "It's all part of the job. They come here for the gear and we make sure it's safe to use before it's issued."

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other Unionists did not recognize the Confederacy as a legitimate government, hence the phrase "pretend government." On the other hand, the Confederate Oath swore allegiance to the Confederate States without mention of allegiance to their constitution. Making this pledge, both sides understood the gravity of their commitment...thus, pitting father against son and brother against

brother.

The current military oath of office for officers was adopted in 1959 and the oath of enlistment in 1962. Both proclaim allegiance to the Constitution. In addition, the enlisted oath requires enlisted members to pledge obedience to the president, officers and Uniform Code of Military Justice.

The military oath begins with the word "solemnly." This one

word conveys the enormity of the total statement. It is the binding agent in the promise that we make to our nation, to our families, and to each other. It is the word that allows us, those making this promise, to know with absolute assurance that we share a common commitment. It is the catalyst for our Airman's Creed and our dedication to integrity, service and excellence.

Reservists attend WAI

By Stacy Vaughn
445th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Ten reservists from the 445th Airlift Wing joined more than 3,000 aviation enthusiasts from around the globe at the 22nd Annual Women in Aviation, International conference held in Reno, Nev. Feb 24-26.

Capt. Jackie Fleming, 89th Airlift Squadron C-5 Galaxy pilot and a pilot with United Airlines for the last six years, has been attending the conference for the last 10 years. She was a moderator for two of the panels—enlisted flying careers (featuring a panel discussion with Chief Master Sgt. Peri Rogowski, 445th Airlift Wing command chief; Chief Master Sgt. Patricia Thornton, Fourth Air Force command chief; and Chief Master Sgt. Tina Long, 507th Air Refueling Wing command chief) and aeromedical evacuation.

“I have a lot of friends and mentors here. I’ve been coming to the WAI conference for a long time now and what I’ve noticed over the last 10 years is the increase in the number of Air Force women in attendance. It’s wonderful,” Captain Fleming said.

Conference attendees had the opportunity to attend workshops, break-out sessions, seminars, panel discussions plus a luncheon and awards banquet. The exhibit hall alone featured 121 separate companies and organizations representing all aspects of the aviation community, to include Air Force Reserve career opportunities. Maj. Dawn Rice and Tech. Sgt. Chris Yacullo, both from the 445th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, represented the AES career field, speaking to those stopping by their booth. By the end of the conference, Major Rice recruited a young woman interested in joining the AES career field.

The conference also featured a panel about the Women’s Airforce Service Pilots of WWII. The 10 ladies in attendance told stories about what they encountered during their career as a WASP. Tech. Sgt. Charran Booker, 445th Aeromedical Staging Squadron, was the escort for WASP Millicent Young, Class 44-10.

“These women are so lively and what a joy they are,” Sergeant Booker said.

On the last day of the conference, Sergeant Booker was thrilled when Ms. Young gave her a WASP coin as they said their goodbyes. “It was a real pleasure and honor to be her escort. It’s something I’ll never forget,” Sergeant Booker said.

All the 445th attendees agree with Senior Airman Nastasskia Gerald, 445th Force Support Squadron, who summed up the experience with, “This was a great conference and recommend it to anyone interested in aviation. It’s not just about pilots or for pilots but for all career fields associated with aviation.”

SPOTLIGHT



Rank/Name

Staff Sgt. Genie M. Hinson

Unit

445th Airlift Wing

Duty Title

Commander support staff/unit training manager

Hometown

Swartz, Michigan

Civilian Job

Site Lead/Project Manager, Convergent Solutions, Inc for 88th MDG/SGSI

Education

One class away from a Community College of the Air Force degree in information management, and working on a bachelor’s degree in IT/project anagement.

Career Goal

I would like to be the 445th Headquarters first sergeant. As a civilian, I would like to

move to Oklahoma after I retire from the Reserve to be with my grandbabies and work as an IT/project manager.

Hobbies

Running, canoeing, studying for the next big thing and hanging out with my kids and my dogs

What do you like about working at the 445th?

By far, the very best part is, the people. When in need or celebration, we’re there for each other.

Why did you join the Air Force?

Originally, I needed a job. Now, I stay in for the career, the military mind set, the integrity and how we serve each other and those in need.

News Briefs

Awards

Meritorious Service Medal

Maj Lawrence Allen Jr, AES
 Capt Melissa Oakley, FSS
 MSgt Larry Adams, 87 APS
 MSgt Donald Ellars, 87 APS
 MSgt Evelyn Petrosky, 87 APS
 MSgt Clark Wierda, 87 APS

Air Force Commendation Medal

Capt Toby Evans, 87 APS
 1Lt Shannon Simon, AES
 TSgt Daniel Bridgman, LRS

Promotions

Airman First Class

Santana Austin, AW
 Andrew Bohringer, AMDS
 Jennifer Caldwell, ASTS
 Jonathan Hawkins, AMXS
 Joseph Heck, AMXS
 Andrew Rutkus, AMXS

Senior Airman

Michael Bernat, AMXS
 Drew Brenner, SFS
 Robert Cole, SFS
 Antonio Dillihay, 87 APS
 Jacob Emberton, ASTS
 Brandon High, AMDS
 Chelsie Pechiney, AW
 Stephen Persinger, AMXS
 Jessica Prestwich, ASTS
 Kevin Shaffer, 87 APS
 Jamie Taylor, ASTS
 Jeremy Whitlow, SFS

Staff Sergeant

Wendy Glover, AMXS
 Mallory Johnson, AMDS
 Jason Plummer, AMXS

Steven Sherman, 87 APS
 Brian Sparks Jr., CES

Technical Sergeant

Jannette Johnson, ASTS
 Matthew Keechle, 87 APS
 Thomas Masters, 87 APS

Master Sergeant

William Dolan, 87 APS

Newcomers

Capt Audric Bills, AW
 Capt Mark Grizzard, AW
 Capt Cynthia Querubin, ASTS
 Capt Karis Russell, ASTS
 TSgt Todd Cook, MSF
 SSgt David Carr, ASTS
 SSgt Jonathan Charles, ASTS
 SrA Nicholas Reynolds, SFS
 SrA Benjamin Singleton, AW
 A1C Stephen Persinger, AMXS
 Amn Joseph Benefiel, AES
 Amn Kenneth Oliver, MXS

Employers day

The 445th Airlift Wing 2011 Employers Day will be held Saturday, June 4.

Reservists are encouraged to invite their employers to this year's event as we showcase the wing's mission and our role in supporting the Air Force and the Department of Defense.

The day will begin with breakfast and a welcome briefing, followed by displays and hands on activities by various wing organizations. Employers will also have the opportunity to fly on a C-17 and observe the aeromedical

evacuation mission while in flight.

To register your employer for the event, please complete and return a registration form to the public affairs office no later than April 24. Registration forms are available on SharePoint or by calling the PA office at 257-5784.

CC call

The next 445th Airlift Wing commander's call is scheduled for 7:15 a.m., April 3 at the base theater.

Teen summit

Created in 2008, the Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard Teen Leadership Summits are for teen dependents (ages 14-18) of AFR and ANG members.

Each summer, week-long programs are held for first time and returning attendees. During the week long adventure, teens experience high adventure activities along with leadership classes and workshops, community service projects, military traditions, and nightly recreation. Camp dates and locations vary each summer.

Information and applications for 2011 are available on the website and are due to AFRC/A1SY April 8.

Complete details can be found at <http://georgia4h.org/AFRANGTeen-Summit>

4 AF winner



Master Sgt. Stephanie Strickland, an aeromedical

evacuation technician instructor assigned to the 445th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, was selected as the Fourth Air Force 2010 Outstanding Airman of the Year, Senior Noncommissioned Officer category.

Sergeant Strickland and 11 other Airmen will advance to compete in their applicable categories for the Air Force Reserve Command 12 Outstanding Airman of the Year and First Sergeant of the Year. The winners will be announced April 13.

Golf scramble

The 445th Airlift Wing annual golf scramble will be held June 17 at Sugar Isle Golf Course in New Carlisle, Ohio. The shotgun start begins at 9 a.m. The cost of the event is \$220 per team and includes food and beverages. For more information, please call Senior Master Sgt. Tim Emberton at 257-2625 or Master Sgt. Darrell Houston at 257-0389.





Staff Sgt. Robert Nelson

Ahhh!

Senior Airman Adam Miller, 445th Security Forces member, washes his face after being sprayed with pepper spray during March 5 unit training assembly. Airman Miller uses the water to decontaminate his face and eyes after the training.

On the Web



LRS member returns from deployment



Wing PAO trains Iraqis



AES trains on C-17

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