

AES Airman lives dream thru football, service

By Stacy Vaughn
445th Airlift Wing Public Affairs



Master Sgt. Carie Brown

Senior Airman Ian Ramirez prepares for a 445th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron training mission on board a C-17 Globemaster III May 29, 2015.

When Senior Airman Ian Ramirez, 445th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, walked into his squadron in May, he noticed a banner on the wall with his jersey number, #24, and the words, “Welcome home” and “Congratulations.”

The AE technician, who joined the unit in 2013, had just returned from Costa Rica after playing football for USA Patriots, the All-American Football Events organization. The welcoming words made more of an impact on the Airman than his team winning the game.

“Seeing that banner when I walked in made me feel so proud to be a member of this unit. I’ve always loved football. This has been a dream come true so far. Having the support of my squadron made it even better.”

Before landing a spot on the AAFE team, Ramirez played football in college at Wright State University. He eventually played for the Dayton Sharks pro arena football team and now plays for the Ohio Crush semi-pro team.

“I’m very passionate about football, and every day I wake up and go train. I don’t believe in days off be-

cause they don’t get you any closer to your dreams.”

Ramirez said 29 athletes from around the nation were recruited to play on the All-American team. He was recruited in June 2014 by a coach he played against in arena football. Ramirez played his first game with the AAFE in Puebla, Mexico. Although the team lost, it was an experience he hopes to be able to participate in again.

“When I got to Mexico for the practices leading up to the game, we met each other for the first time. We seemed to click right away as if we’ve been playing as a team for a long time.”

Ramirez did so well that he got invited back to play against Costa Rica, May 2, 2015. His team won 72-0.

The Airman’s road to where he is now was an uphill climb. He grew up in a community with lots of negativity surrounding him.

“Growing up in Lorain, Ohio, I grew up with a lot of naysayers. I was told I would never amount to anything. I was told I wasn’t good enough to play football in college, but I did. That I would never play for an arena football team, but I did. Now I’m playing for AAFE and am setting my sights to go pro.”

Besides his passion for football, the Air Force also made a big impact on the road Ramirez’s life was headed.

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Courtesy photo

Senior Airman Ian Ramirez catches a pass during the USA Patriots v. Costa Rica Bulldogs game May 2, 2015.

My time, my mirror...your jet

By Col. Michael Major
445th Airlift Wing Vice Commander

On May 10th, 1986 in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, I raised my right hand and repeated after Lt. Col. John McDermott, swearing I would support and defend the Constitution of the United States. I remember it like it was yesterday, but it wasn't...it was more than 29 years ago. The greatest 29 years of my life! The U.S. Air Force and Air Force Reserve have given me opportunities and presented me challenges I could not even fathom back in May 1986!



Twenty-nine years of hard work, dedication, sacrifice, separation from home, and intense emotion ranging from pure joy and exuberance to grave concern, and even a couple moments of sheer terror! Twenty-nine years of serving for, and with incredible bosses, peers and subordinates all around the world in many different operational and peacetime environments. Twenty-nine years of learning to be a better

leader, better follower and a better example to those I serve with.

I am a better man because I served. I am a better man because I learned from the best, up and down the chain of command, what service and sacrifice really means. YOU taught me commitment to the team. YOU taught me pride of the uniform. YOU taught me how to take care of my Wingman. YOU taught me how to lead, follow, and sometimes how to get out of the way! YOU taught me patience, YOU taught me professionalism, and YOU taught me how to dig deep and demand the best from myself every day. YOU also taught me why all that mattered.

The best advice my dad ever gave me was to take stock of myself daily, at least once. Then I could determine if I had given my best, and promise myself I would give even more the next day. He said the only way to do that was to look myself in the mirror and

assess my impact on the recent past and the immediate future, because in many ways that's all you can control.

For 29+ years I have done that every day. My final look in the mirror for my U.S. Air Force career is fast approaching. Just like every other day I have served with and for you, I promise that when I wake up on Aug. 1, I will do everything I can to make the Air Force a better place for you, a more lethal force for the security of our nation, and a team we can continue to be incredibly proud to serve on!

When my ceremony is over and I am retired from the 445th Airlift Wing and the U.S. Air Force, I know YOU will carry on where I left off. I know YOU will serve with pride and remain professional, commit even more effort to care for your Wingman, and sacrifice even more of yourself and your energy to our great nation.

I promise you, retiring is going to be extremely difficult for me, but I leave with a full heart! I would not trade a day, a career move, an experience, a laugh or a tear. I also deeply value each of the friendships I have forged with all the professional Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines I've had the privilege of serving with. I would not change my 29 years for anything else in the world! For this I am lucky and for this I am grateful! I am also lucky to have a loving and supportive family at home that I'm looking forward to spending lots more time with...I owe them so very much and cannot even begin to communicate the sacrifices they have made all these years.

Thank you to all of you who have motivated me every day. I am indebted to you for allowing me to serve with, and for you these last 29+ years. My sincere hopes are that you will enjoy every day like I have, and be as proud as I have to wear the uniform and serve with the greatest people in the world for the greatest nation in the world.

I salute you all, and take great pride in knowing YOU will continue to carry the torch forward for all of us! Make it fun and when it gets tough, look to your Wingman on your left and right, then think of your family and loved ones....that is why WE serve!!

In the flying world, positive aircraft control is important. We always confirm who is flying the aircraft by verbally passing control of the airplane between pilots. For the final time I, I pass the airplane to YOU....YOUR JET, I'm off headset, out of the seat and heading to Disney World!

VR

Mike Major

Buckeye Flyer

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SPOTLIGHT



Senior Airman Joel McCullough

Rank/Name

Tech. Sgt. Jonathan Bellerive

Unit

445th Operations Sup-

port Squadron

Duty Title

Operations Intelligence Analyst

Hometown

Anchorage, Alaska

Civilian Job

Full-time student

Education

Junior pursuing Bachelor of Science in biological sciences at Wright State University

Hobbies

I have three dogs

that I like to take out to dog parks. I enjoy hiking, writing and traveling. I also volunteer on a regular basis with various organizations including Dayton Contemporary Dance Company, The Dakota Center and Dayton Metro Parks.

Career Goal

I want to complete my bachelor's degree and attend medical school. I am working to become certified as an evaluator to become qualified to train other personnel in tasks to contribute to mission accomplishment.

What do you like about working at the 445th?

I enjoy working with the people the most, and the fact that even from home station, we have the capability to conduct missions with global impact.

Why did you join the Air Force?

I joined the Air Force right out of high school to try to have an impact on something bigger than myself. I also wanted to help secure my future and an opportunity to pursue higher education.

Part of resiliency, dealing with difficulty prone people

By Chaplain (Capt.) Luke McKeeth
445th Airlift Wing Chaplain Corps

Most of us have heard that we are supposed to “love our neighbor.” But how do we continue to love the people in our lives that seem to function as a regular drain on our resources? How do we help people without creating dependence? How do we help what I call difficulty prone people?

By difficulty prone people I mean those people who seem to have chronic problems, and they always want you to bail them out. You may love these people very much, and want to help them if you can but at some point you realize they are stuck in a vicious cycle, and bailing them out does not seem to be helping.

Dealing with difficulty prone people is a part of life, and it is extra hard when that difficulty prone person is close to you. When it is a child, or a sibling, a

parent, a spouse or friend who is frequently getting themselves in trouble it is often an emotionally difficult challenge to figure out how you can help.

Most of us know that there is a limit to how much we can do, we only have so much time and money, and we have other responsibilities. So how do we balance our genuine desire to help, with our limited resources, and the difficulty prone person's own responsibility?

First off, evaluate whether this is your problem or not. An old proverb compares getting involved in someone else's fight with grabbing a dog by the ears. If the problem is not related to your personal responsibilities and is not something that you can significantly change by getting involved, take a step back, and rely on emotionally supportive interventions, rather than

financial or physical help. Most people don't need rescued as much as they need coached toward making the right decisions.

Second, know the difference between a dilemma and an emergency. A dilemma is a difficult choice with painful possibilities both ways. An emergency is an immediate threat to life and limb. Getting kicked out of your apartment if you don't pay the rent is a dilemma, getting your car repaired when money is tight is a dilemma, having no place to go in the middle of winter is an emergency. In the heat of the moment most of us do not know the difference, but as a concerned friend of a difficult person you should only get personally invested if it is an emergency, otherwise try to be emotionally supportive and help them figure

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Wing announces 2nd quarter FY15 award winners

Airman



Senior Airman Andrew E. Ferguson, 445th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron AES technician

Ferguson volunteered for a short-notice deployment where he participated in 50 sorties amounting to 124 hours. He trained 30 nurses and technician during an intravenous catheterization class, improving task proficiency. Ferguson improved his unit's medical supply inventory process and schedule. The Airman also directed Air Force Specialty Code upgrade training events involving 152 tasks for seven AE crew members, decreasing typical on the job training time. During his off-duty time, Ferguson organized an AE display for the Dayton Dragons Hometown Heroes event. He is working on a Bachelor of Science degree in exercise physiology.

NCO



Tech. Sgt. Ryan D. Lamarr, 445th Security Forces Squadron security forces craftsman

Lamarr led 13 members over a four-day period supporting the Youngstown Air Reserve Base air show. He developed and executed a TASER Operating Instruction, ensuring Airmen are qualified to use the full spectrum of Use of Force continuum. Lamarr designed an offsite training exercise for more than 90 Airmen to complete career field education and training plan requirements. During his off-duty time, he spoke to more than 760 children during a high school event about the dangers of distracted driving. Lamarr received a Bachelor of Science degree in organizational leadership and a CCAF degree in criminal justice.

SNCO



Master Sgt. Charlotte M. Branham, 445th Force Support Squadron career development chief

Branham conducted three MICT inspection cycles incorporating 45 line items that resulted in 100 percent compliant. She oversaw a DD Form 214 backlog project by updating 1,500 forms in under 10 months, reducing the backlog by 60 percent. Branham managed the Basic Military Training Outbound Program, readying 134 recruits. During her off-duty time, she dedicated 40 hours of care at a local nursing home, providing support for the 32 residents. The sergeant also collected 743 shoes for Wright State University's Sole 4 Souls event. Branham earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in social work.

CGO



1st Lt. Nathaniel D. Kirstein, 89th Airlift Squadron C-17 pilot

Kirstein flew two combat missions in support of Operations Freedom Centennial and Freedom Sentinel. He flew multiple air evacuation missions, transporting more than 70 wounded warriors out of the combat zone. During his off-duty time, Kirstein prepares and serves meals at the Ronald McDonald House of Cincinnati. He has briefed multiple civic and school groups on the mission of the 445th Airlift Wing and the capabilities of the C-17 Globemaster III. The lieutenant also volunteers five hours a month in his church's outreach program preparing and serving meals to the homeless in Northern Kentucky.

RESILIENCY, from page 3

out their own answers.

Third, be emotionally supportive. Here are some suggestions:

Empathize don't criticize. Regardless of whether the moment was brought on by the individual's choices or forces outside their control, when a person is in crisis don't make them the problem. At some point or another we will all do the wrong thing in a relationship, or a financial decision. The last thing we need is someone to criticize us in that moment and point out all our failures. Empathizing allows us to express genuine concern, and acknowledge the difficulty someone is going through, with-

out getting personally pulled into the drama.

Be a listener not a commentator. The trick to being a good listener beyond actually paying attention to what a person says is making forward facing questions. Ask them what they want to see happen, how they want to change, and what they are going to do, and then really listen to their answers. Help them figure out what they are going to do, by asking clarifying questions, but resist the urge to make comments about their plans, your goal is to encourage, but not fix this for them.

Your chaplains are here to help you sort through issues like this. Let us know how we can help.



445th AW joins in multi-unit training with 180th FW

By Maj. Demetrius Smith

445th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

For the second year in a row, the 445th Airlift Wing participated in a joint training exercise hosted by the 180th Fighter Wing of the Ohio Air National Guard in Swanton, Ohio.

The exercise which took place June 4-7, 2015 brought together: the Air National Guard, Air Force Reserve, Army Reserve, Navy Reserve, U.S. Special Operations Command, U.S. Customs and Border Patrol, the Toledo Police Department, and other local police and fire departments who observed the activities.

According to 2nd Lt. Jordyn Sadowski, 180th FW public affairs officer, the exercise was developed to enhance mission readiness and warfighting capabilities by providing hands-on-training for the proper handling and placement of deployable assets to Airmen of all ranks on the C-17 and C-130 aircrafts.

The training kicked off with hands-on training June 4 -6 including: aircraft familiarization, vehicle preparation, pallet building, air evacuation, aircraft configuration, winching, trailer uploads, heavy equipment uploads, and chain restraint procedures.



Robin Matejewski, Toledo Police Department and her dog, Hugo, rest after an exercise scenario in which Hugo searched the C-17 for illegal drugs.

The exercise provided a great opportunity for members of the 180th Logistics Readiness Squadron to get hands on experience of loading the C-17. Being a F-16 base doesn't afford the 180 LRS members who are responsible for loading aircraft the skills needed unless they coordinate training with other Air National Guard of Air Force Reserve assets that fly cargo planes, said Senior Master Sgt. Dave Martin, 180 LRS.

Master Sgt. Robert Garcia, 89th Airlift Squadron loadmaster stated the objective of the



Photos by Senior Airman Devin Long

Master Sgt. Steven Mauter, 445th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron AE technician, instructs members of the Disaster Medical Assistance Team and Navy Expeditionary Medical Facility on proper litter loading techniques on a C-130 June 7, 2015.

exercise was to maximize total force Air Force Reserve along with Air National Guard working together in cohesion with local first responder agencies and first responder federal agencies.

The main portion of the exercise took place Sunday, June 7 and it entailed several different scenarios beginning with a loaded C-17 catching on fire on the runway which caused a response from the Air National Guard's fire department along with other local fire departments. The C-17 was loaded with patients that had to be evacuated from the aircraft and triaged for further disposition.

After the fire was contained and the plane was cleared of patients, Master Sgt. Kevin Rawski of the



Firefighters assigned to the 180th Fire Department carry an 89th Airlift Squadron aircrew during a fire exercise June 7, 2015.

See TRAINING, page 8



Around the wing...



Tech. Sgt. Anthony Springer



Tech. Sgt. Anthony Springer



Tech. Sgt. Anthony Springer



Maj. Demetrius Smith



Maj. Demetrius Smith

1. Members of the 445th Airlift Wing spruce up common areas around the wing May 27, 2015 as part of a base-wide spring cleaning initiative.
2. The 89th Airlift Squadron won the battle of the squadrons volleyball tournament June 6, 2015.
3. Wing motorcycle riders attend motorcycle safety certification courses during both June unit training assemblies. Approximately 40 riders participated in this mandatory training.
4. Senior Airman Joshua Sagan, 445th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron technician, demonstrates the proper techniques for resuscitation to 445th Aerospace Medicine Squadron Airmen during a joint training exercise scenario on board a C-17 Globemaster III aircraft June 11, 2015.
5. Col. Jeffrey McGalliard, 445th Airlift Wing commander, serves food to veterans and their families during the annual Dayton Veterans Affairs Medical Center picnic June 13, 2015.



News Briefs

Newcomers

2Lt Stacey Blurton, AES
 Capt Dianne Dwyer, ASTS
 Capt Andrea Ismirle, AW
 TSgt Samuel Hogue, SFS
 SSgt John Hardisky, LRS
 SSgt Joshua Mason, SFS
 SSgt Ryan Roopnarine, CES
 SSgt Victor Salinas, MXG
 SSgt Douglas Shelton, CES
 SSgt Carl Shircliff, 89 AS
 SSgt Hilaree Straka, ASTS
 SrA Benjamin Booker, AMDS
 SrA Christopher Clark, FSS
 SrA Scott Denlinger, ASTS
 SrA Timothy Straka, SFS
 SrA Corey Welch, AMDS
 A1C Karl Banks Jr., LRS

A1C Christian Brown, MXG
 A1C William Justice, SFS
 A1C Aaliyah Lovett, AES
 A1C Logan Wild, AES
 AB Kambra Curry, FSS
 AB Eric Ledford, ASTS

Promotions

Airman First Class

Steven Dishong, MXS

Senior Airman

Benjamin Booker, AMDS
 Yakita Hunter, AW
 Dustin Swift, MXS

Staff Sergeant

Alexandra Klus, SFS

Technical Sergeant

Ibrahim Barry, LRS
 Diego Cancinco, OSS
 William Cary, LRS
 Anjanette Hairston, FSS

Master Sergeant

Andrew Conti, ASTS
 Robert Corn, AES
 Kevin Dawson, OSS
 Darrell Hornback, AW
 Ryan Lamarr, SFS
 David Starr, CES

Senior Master Sergeant

Chirron Hayslett, ASTS

Chief Master Sergeant

Dennis McJunkin, CES

Commander's call

Commander's call will be held Sunday, July 12 at 7 a.m. in the base theater. SAPR training will take place at commander's call. In addition, SAPR training will be held Sunday, July 19 at 8 a.m. in Hangar 4026. For more information, call the Public Affairs Office at 257-5784.

Airman's council

The 445th Airman's Council was established to give Airmen E-4 and below an open line of communication to leaders and allow their voices to be heard.

The council meets each Sunday of the Scarlet UTA at 11:30 a.m. in the Knox Conference Room, building 4012.

Lunch is provided for all participants.

Airmen interested in participating should contact SrA Jowanda Ayoub at Jowanda.ayoub@us.af.mil.



DREAM, from page 1

Ramirez remembers the day he decided to join the military.

"I joined the Air Force Reserve because I was heading down the wrong road in life. When I turned 21, my dad sat me down and told me I needed to change where I was heading. I understood what he was saying but I didn't want to give up on my dream of playing football but he made me realize I could do both. To this day, it was the best decision I could have made."

Lt. Col. Todd Mulhorn, 445 AES operations officer, recalls the day Ramirez and his father walked into the squadron for his interview.

"Ian has been a great addition to our squadron, he brings a solid understanding of team and how everybody has a job to do for successful mission outcome...and for all his talents he is a truly humble person," said Mulhorn.

Service is a tradition in the Ramirez family. His father retired from the Army and his mother served six years as a supply sergeant before leaving the military to start a family. His siblings currently serve. His brother is in the Army and his sister, a former 445 AES member is currently assigned to MacDill Air Force Base, Florida.

"My sister is the one who convinced me to join

AES. I idolize her and my brother because of the great adversity they went up against. They adapted and overcame. They both held down two to three jobs throughout college and still managed to get their nursing degrees, thus becoming very successful RNs," Ramirez proudly stated.

For Ramirez and his family, things weren't always easy, but they endured through it all.

"We were very broke growing up and had nothing. My parents may not have been rich financially back then but as far as love goes for me and my siblings, they are the two richest people I've ever known. My family members are heroes to me. If you ask anyone that knows me, I have a huge amount of respect for people who overcome adversity. It's the most impressive thing you could possible do."

Ramirez shares this quote;

"Adversity builds character, never give up on your dreams. If you want something bad enough you will make it happen, no matter what."

"I want to be an inspiration to military members and civilians both young and old. To encourage them to be great at whatever they want to do in life and to make all dreams become reality regardless of tough obstacles you may encounter in life," he concluded.



TRAINING, from page 5

180th Security Forces escorted local Toledo Police Department Officer Robin Matejewski and her police dog Hugo onto the plane to inspect for possible drugs.

A Customs and Border Protection Officer then inspected the C-17 for illegal vegetation. She stated that many people don't know it's illegal to bring in flowers and vegetables from other countries. There is a process that must be followed if you want to bring in foreign grown vegetation.

The next phase of the exercise required the triaged patients be loaded on the C-130 from the Mansfield ANG Base. The 445th AES helped direct the loading and unloading of patients. Members of the Navy Reserve from the Navy Operational Support Center, Perrys-



Senior Airman Devin Long

Master Sgt. Caroline Sussman, 89th Airlift Squadron loadmaster, backs a HUMVEE with attached trailer on a C-17 Globemaster III under the direction of Staff Sgt. Shaun Turpen, 89th AS loadmaster and instructor for the event, at Toledo Air National Guard Base, June 6, 2015.

burg, Ohio, the 180th Medical Group, and the Ohio Disaster Medical Assistance Team (OH-1/NDMS) served as patients and carried litters onto the C-130.

Chief Medical Officer Dr. Alisa Roberts of OH-1/NDMS's was excited to get the hands on training for her team. She said they encounter many types of aircraft when responding to national emergencies and this exer-

cise provided familiarity for their first responders.

Each participating organization gained a better understanding of how the air evacuation process works with the C-17 and the C-130.

The exercise concluded with all of the participants being able to observe how the 445th AES provides in-flight care on a C-17.

On the Web



Toledo joint training photo show



89 AS pilot shares love of flying with father



Battle of squads volleyball tourney photo show

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