

BUCKEYE FLYER

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Photos by Tech. Sgt. Patrick O'Reilly

(left) Senior Airman Tyler Frisby, 445th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron AE technician, cares for a “patient” while other AE Airmen watch and learn as part of their training. (right) Tech. Sgt. Justin Staten, 445 AES medical technician treats fellow AES medical technician Master Sgt. Kiley Gerritsen for a simulated wound. AES Airmen engaged in various patient emergency scenarios as part of their training during a flight onboard a 445th Airlift Wing C-17 Globemaster III June 20, 2017.

445th AES Airmen train to save lives Providing critical care to wounded warriors

An Airman gets injured in Afghanistan and needs to be transported. A Department of Defense civilian is suffering from a medical condition in Africa. Wounded service members and DOD civilians need emergency medical attention and equipment for their care.

What do all these people have in common? An aeromedical evacuation crew saving their lives.

In addition to strategic transport and operational readiness, one of the primary missions of the 445th Airlift Wing is aeromedical evacuation—using military transport aircraft that is turned into a flying ambulance to carry wounded personnel from military operations, providing humanitarian assistance or responding to disaster situations. It’s a mission carried out by more than 130 flight nurses, medical technicians, aeromedical evacuation operations officers, and logisticians in the Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron.

“AE Operations Teams support the mission to move sick and injured warriors. The primary mission is to train, so we are prepared to deploy anywhere, anytime to ensure patients that need care in the air are provided the best care possible,” said Lt.

Col. Todd Mulhorn, 445th AES operations officer.

The 445th AES is a blend of skill sets; all flight nurses are also civilian nurses, but medical technicians aren’t necessarily in civilian medical fields. They complete basic emergency medical technician training through the Air Force.

Many Airmen in the unit have different jobs that do not require them to fly; however, an AES Airman’s primary work center is thousands of feet in the air. In the cabin or cargo area of an airplane, Airmen closely tend to their patient’s urgent medical needs while flying to a U.S. military or interim hospital to receive full-time care.

Although 445th AES does not have physicians, a Critical Care Transport Team can be provided for patients. The 445th CCAT team includes: critical care physician, critical care nurse and cardiopulmonary technician. AES Airmen are also Medical Service Corps officers (administrators), flight nurses, administrative technicians, squadron aviation resource

See *CRITICAL*, page 6

Be ready: make readiness a top priority

By Col. Bryan Runion

445th Mission Support Group commander

I am excited to be here at the 445th Airlift Wing and glad to be back in the Midwest, which is like “home” for me.

When a new commander comes in, the troops want to know what his expectations are.

My number one expectation is for Airmen to “be ready.” I said that as I took command of my last group, and I will also say that as I take command here.

Readiness ties directly into our wing’s mission to “ensure combat ready capability to the combatant commander.” What does that mean? It means that the combatant commander (i.e. United States Central Command) needs a capability provided by the Air Force in his theater of operations which includes much of the Middle East. We will see this in the coming year as several members of our wing will be mobilized and tasked to deploy.

To “be ready” means basic things like having your fitness testing, medical readiness, and training current. It also means having your personal affairs in order. Is your recall info up to date and can your unit get a hold of you? If something should happen, is your virtual Record of Emergency Data (vRED) up to date with your beneficiaries?

There have been many horror stories about benefits going to the wrong person because a member’s vRED or SGLI was not updated.

Do you have a support system for your family? I have deployed twice, and my family had to handle five to six months of me being gone. This is espe-



cially important for single parents and military to military couples. Is your dependent care in order?

When I took command at my last base, I gave an example of where being ready came into play.

In 2005, shortly after Hurricane Katrina hit New Orleans, my wife and I were vacationing in Virginia Beach. At the time, I was the readiness officer for the 710th Combat Operations Squadron at Langley Air Force Base, Virginia. Our squadron had many capabilities including having an intelligence flight. During the vacation, I got a phone call from our director of operations. Our active duty counterparts needed assistance from one of our intelligence specialists to help with post-Katrina assessments. This was a tasking in support of Northern Command. By the way, the member needed to be there in 24 hours.

Needless to say, my vacation got cut short, and I started making phone calls. We were able to get the member on the ground in New Orleans in 24 hours. That is an extreme example. However, when the call came, that member was ready. We typically don’t have that short of a notice in the Reserve. However, whatever the timeline is, when you get that call, would you and your family be ready?

So, as I take command of the mission support group, readiness is my top priority. It’s the foundation of why we have an Air Force Reserve and why we train on unit training assembly weekends.

We are here to provide a trained Airman to meet a combatant commander requirement. Thank you, and I look forward to doing what I can to provide you with the resources and support you need to meet your mission. “Be ready.” It’s why we are here.

SGLI enrollment now available online

Beginning on or around Aug. 1, 2017, Air Force members can manage their Servicemembers’ Group Life Insurance coverage using the SGLI Online Enrollment System.

Air Force personnel will certify their SGLI/FSGLI with SOES during their birth month or more frequent as life chances occur (e.g., deployment, separation, retirement, marriage, divorce, etc.)

SGLI provides automatic life insurance coverage of \$400,000 to Servicemembers upon enlistment.

Members with SGLI also get automatic coverage for their dependent children and spouses (unless the child or spouse is insured under SGLI as a Servicemember) under the Family SGLI program and traumatic injury protection (TSGLI).

Servicemembers with full-time SGLI coverage will no longer have to complete a paper SGLV-8286 to make changes to their coverage or beneficiary elections. Instead, these Servicemembers can use the online system, SOES, to manage the

amount of their SGLI and spouse coverage and to designate or update beneficiaries.

To access SOES, go to www.dmdc.osd.mil/milconnect, sign in, and go to Benefits, Life Insurance SOES- SGLI Online Enrollment System. Servicemembers can log in with their CAC or with their DS Logon using Internet Explorer.


The graphic on page 3 illustrates the SGLI election process before and after SOES implementation.





SERVICEMEMBERS' GROUP LIFE INSURANCE (SGLI) Online Enrollment System (SOES)



SGLI ELECTION Process As Is

- 
- 1 Member goes to Personnel Office during business hours to change SGLI elections using SGLV 8286 or 8286A.
 - 2 Personnel clerk reviews member elections and coverage information.
 - 3 Personnel clerk counsels member on any unusual beneficiary elections.
 - 4 Member signs elections with CAC card or wet signature.
 - 5 Servicemember or Personnel staff provide SGLI/FSGLI premium changes to the Finance Office
 - 6 SGLI/FSGLI premium changes are effective the month following coverage approval
 - 7 If election change requires spouse notification, branch of service generates letter and mails to spouse at current address on record.

SOES New Process

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- 1 Member accesses SOES to change SGLI elections via the milConnect portal using DS Logon or CAC, 24 hours, 7 days a week where internet access is available.
 - 2 SOES guides member through the election process providing consistent guidance through customized counseling messages
 - 3 Member signs elections in SOES with a CAC or DS Logon and receives an immediate email confirmation of elections.
 - 4 SOES transfers changes in coverage to the military pay system for premium deductions to begin.
 - 5 If election change requires spouse notification, SOES produces letters that are mailed by DMDC within 3 to 4 days.

Graphic courtesy of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs



AMXS conducts fall protection training



(left) Staff Sgt. Michael Wilson operates a boom lift while participating in fall protection training alongside Tech. Sgt. Chris Knight and Senior Airman Cody Gaure, all crew chiefs for the 445th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, June 3, 2017 at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. The training ensures that maintainers take proper and timely steps to rescue an Airmen if they were to fall from an aircraft.

(bottom left) Staff Sgt. Michael Wilson, a 445th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron crew chief, unhooks a training manikin's harness during fall protection training, June 3, 2017 at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. Wilson uses a boom lift to retrieve the "Airman" and lower him to safety.

(bottom right) Tech. Sgt. Chris Knight kneels next to a training manikin, while Staff Sgt. Michael Wilson stands on a boom lift and Senior Airman Cody Gaure looks on during fall protection training, June 3, 2017 at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. The Airmen are crew chiefs for the 445th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron. The training conducted was no-notice and the Airmen were randomly selected to ensure they take proper and timely actions during a real world scenario.



Photos by Staff Sgt. Joel McCullough



AFRC command chief visits 445th AW



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Patrick O'Reilly

Chief Master Sgt. Ericka Kelly, Command Chief Master Sergeant, Air Force Reserve Command, visited the 445th Airlift June 2-4, 2017. During her visit, Chief Kelly spoke to newcomers, observed a C-17 Globemaster III engine change, had lunch with Airmen at the Pitsenbarger Dining Facility, met with the first sergeants, participated in a commander's call with Airmen and toured the facilities of the aerospace medicine squadron, aeromedical evacuation squadron Airmen and the mission support group.



Rank/Name

Master Sgt Amber Church

Unit

445th Airlift Wing
Command Post

Duty Title

NCO in charge, Reports

Hometown

Haydenville, Ohio

Civilian Job

Air Reserve Technician

Education

Working on Community College of the Air Force Degree in Information Systems

Hobbies

Anything outdoors, woodworking, painting, crafting, home remodeling

Career Goal

Further my career progression in the hopes of achieving chief master sergeant.

What do you like about working at the 445th?

The continuous opportunities for career progression and meeting so many great people. I also love my job.

Why did you join

SPOTLIGHT



Stacy Vaughn

the Air Force?

Initially, I joined the Air Force because I was young and unsure of what I

wanted to do and I also wanted to travel. I've stayed in because I love what I do.

Buckeye Flyer

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CRITICAL, from page 1

managers, flight medical technicians, logistics personnel and communications personnel.

To become an AES Airman, it can take up to 18 months to include: basic training, medical technical school, and phase training. They also need to complete survival, evasion, resistance and escape training, water survival, flight school, a ground school or formal training unit and qualify to fly. This training is usually accomplished during a progression tour and can take up to another year to complete.

After getting qualified, Airmen must maintain their currency by flying and completing other courses. Their competence is formally

assessed during a check ride, but they can be given a no-notice check ride or downgraded if their performance is below standards at any time.

A unique area of AE training is altitude physiology, studying how the human body responds at different altitudes. Several AE team members get to put the training into practice on real-world missions returning troops to their hometowns.

When flying, there are different hazards Airmen face and patients are depending on 445th AES to get them the proper medical care and attention. In an aircraft, setting up a hospital environment takes time. Some aircraft require the Airmen to bring their own oxygen and remember

to convert the electricity, bringing every piece of equipment they may or may not use with them.

Real-world training on cross-country missions can take up to 16 hours. The unit flies local, cross-country and operational missions. In a four-month rotation, Airmen fly approximately 25-100 missions.

According to an Air Force fact sheet, the majority of AE support is provided by the Air Force Reserve. The Air National Guard has nine AE squadrons and the Air Force Reserve Command has 18.

When combined with ground medical units, the Air National Guard and Reserve account for 70 percent of AE forces supporting the AE system.



News Briefs

Retirements

July 2017

MSgt Michael Flannery, AMXS
MSgt Eric Hobbs, MXS
MSgt Jude Soriano, AMXS
MSgt Jessica D Wilson, 87 APS
SSgt Tammie L Gorsuch, 87 APS

Promotions

Airman

Zehran Edwards, 16 IS

Airman 1st Class

Cedrick Jones, CES
Samantha Lefaive, CES

Senior Airman

Vincent Carter, 50 IS

Stephanie Getz, ASTS
Jerell Henderson, DET 2
Omoregie Inneh, FSS
Barrell McCarthy, MXS
Justus Stuck, SFS
Charles Swaim, MXS
Anna Weeks, 63 IS
Tucker White, 50 IS
Steven Terwilliger, 50 IS

Staff Sergeant

Desian Joseph, 42 IS
Benjamin Kirkelie, DET 3
Thomas McAllister, 31 IS
Jonathon Rickards, TSG

Technical Sergeant

Nathaniel Beverly, 49 IS
Darrell Drew, MXS
Tiffany Keith, DET 2
Jacob C Nelson, MXG
Tyler O'Neil, 49 IS
Hosanna Policarpio, 49

IS
Christopher Roberts, FSS
Sheleada Wells, AW
Jessica Yeadon, MSG

Master Sergeant

William A Bell, 16 IS
Julie Hernandez, 63 IS
Daryl A Isaac, 14 IS
John Kaufman, OSS
Michael Stugard, 42 IS
Kanitia Taponpanh, DET 2

Senior Master Sergeant

Darrell Hornback, AW

Newcomers

Col Bryan L Runion, MSG
Lt Col Scott Campbell, 655 ISRG
2Lt Olutola Banjoko, AES

2Lt Megan King, AES
MSgt Cheryl A Baird, ASTS
SSgt Taylor R Anliker, FSS
SSgt Clarence Montgomery, FSS
SSgt Michael Dressman, MXS
SSgt Michael S Lanter, CES
SSgt Amanda D Youngblood, AMDS
SrA Macedonio Paez, APS
SrA Phillip Webster, 64 IS
SrA Morgan E Stallard, 71 IS
Sra Amanda Smith, SFS A1C
AB Jeremiah M Gregorio, CES

Diamond Sharp Award



Tech. Sgt. Patrick O'Reilly

Master Sgt. Jay Swanson, 445th Force Support Squadron first sergeant, presents the May 2017 Diamond Sharp Award to Senior Airman Matthew Yeager, 445th FSS communications element client systems technician, June 3, 2017. The award is for exemplary performance, adherence to the Air Force Core Values, attitude, appearance and ability.

Blended retirement system briefings

The 89 Airlift Squadron is hosting a series of briefings on the new Blended Retirement System. Each briefing will be followed with an extended question and answer session. These briefings are not a substitute for the required BRS training. Members are encouraged to complete the training prior to attending a briefing.

Airmen with less than 4,320 points as of Dec. 31, 2017 will have to decide if they wish to remain in the current system or transfer to the new system.

Kim Colpitts, a Military and Family Life Counselor Program personal financial counselor and expert on the BRS, will conduct the briefings.

Briefing RSVP links and info are listed below:

Aug. 5, Bldg 4006, Witt Auditorium, 1 to 3 p.m.

<https://einvitations.afit.edu/inv/anim.cfm?i=351673&k=0164430F7C54>

Oct. 15, Bldg 4006, Witt Auditorium 10 to 11:30 a.m.

<https://einvitations.afit.edu/inv/anim.cfm?i=351675&k=0164430F7C52>

Nov. 5, Bldg 4010, Scarlet Room 10 to 11:30 a.m.

<https://einvitations.afit.edu/inv/anim.cfm?i=351676&k=0164430F7C51>

Dec. 3, Bldg 4006, Witt Auditorium 10 to 11:30 a.m.

<https://einvitations.afit.edu/inv/anim.cfm?i=351678&k=0164430F7C5F>

For more info, contact Senior Master Sgt. Glenda Marck at 937-257-6345 or 937-216-4103.



AFMC commander flies with 445th AW Airmen



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Patrick O'Reilly

1. Lt. Col. Shari Ellis, 445th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron flight nurse, shows Gen. Pawlikowski, Commander, Air Force Materiel Command, equipment AES Airmen use to communicate with each other during various missions. The general was shown the various equipment used by AES and saw the Airmen perform various medical emergency scenarios.
2. Gen. Pawlikowski looks out the window of a C-17 Globemaster III during a flight June 20, 2017.
3. Gen. Pawlikowski visits with AES Airmen during a flight onboard a 445th Airlift Wing C-17.
4. Capt. Stacey Blurton, 445th AES flight nurse, explains to Gen. Pawlikowski the various checklists AES Airmen must follow for each flying mission.

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