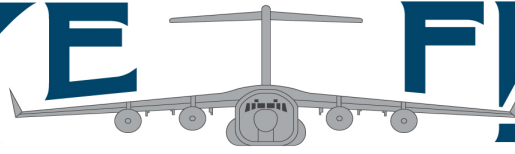


# BUCKEYE FLYER



Wright-Patterson AFB, OH | Volume 57, No. 2 | February 2018

## Air Force saves Airmen time, No longer requires first year evaluations

By Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

Air Force officials announced Jan. 4, 2018, Enlisted Performance Reports are no longer required for regular Air Force Airmen in the grade of airman first class and below with less than 36 months' Time-In-Service or Air Reserve Component Airmen below the grade of senior airman.

This policy change supports Air Force senior leaders' focus on revitalizing the squadron and saving Airmen time. It is intended to eliminate an unnecessary administrative requirement and empower frontline supervisors, raters and commanders to frequently engage with their Airmen face-to-face, said Lt. Gen. Gina Grosso, deputy chief of staff for Manpower, Personnel and Services.

"While the Air Force values the contributions of all enlisted personnel, the requirement to document performance in a formal evaluation prior to the grade of senior airman is not necessary," said Grosso.

Instead, the Air Force has additional means available to document an Airman's performance and to ensure he or she is meeting

the training, developmental and experiential skills required to perform as professional Airmen."

Performance feedback and Airmen Comprehensive Assessments will still be required. Initial feed-

motion to senior airman will allow Airmen more time to learn their primary skills and missions before their performance is documented on an EPR, Grosso said.

All active-duty enlisted Airmen will receive their initial evaluation upon reaching their first March 31 Static Close-out Date after either promotion to senior airman, or after completion of a minimum of 36 months' time-in-service, regardless of grade, whichever occurs first. All Air Force Reserve Component enlisted Airmen will receive initial evaluations upon the first March 31 SCOD as a senior airman.

Commanders still retain the option to complete a Directed By Commander evaluation to document substandard performance for those airmen first class and below any time after an Airman reaches 20 months' Time-In-Service. If a Directed By Commander evaluation is written, the Airman will receive a subsequent evaluation the following March 31 SCOD.

More information about the policy change is available at myPers.

back sessions will occur within 60 days of raters taking over as supervisors and then every 180 days until an EPR occurs.

The removal of EPRs prior to pro-

## Second half CY 17 captain promotions released

Air Reserve Personnel Center officials announced Jan. 18, 2017 captain promotions for the second half of calendar year 2017.

There were 390 officers selected for promotion to captain. The complete list is available on myPers and the ARPC website at <http://www.arpc.afrc.af.mil>.

Six Airmen from the 445th Airlift Wing were selected for promotion. Congratulations to the wing's newest captains:

Andrew Bowman, 89th Airlift Squadron

Brianne Koessell, 445th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron

Emily Perkins, 445 AES

Carol Read-Arce, 445th Maintenance Squadron

Michael Schibler, 445 AES

Brittney Snider, 445th Aeromedical Staging Squadron

For more information, call the Total Force Service Center at 800-525-0102 or DSN 665-0102.

# Experiencing an adventure of a lifetime

By Lt. Col. John Robinson  
445th Operations Group Commander

Everybody has their idea of what an “adventure of a lifetime” is for them. I got to realize one of those adventures in January 2016 when I was invited to attend the Army’s Basic Airborne Course at Fort Benning, Ga.



Many events led to an invitation by the battalion commander of the 507th Parachute Infantry Regiment. He even invited me to stay at his house so there were no TDY costs. All I could say at this point was, “you’ve taken away all my excuses, now I just have to pick a date.” I chose January so I could get it done as soon as possible.

As I drove to Fort Benning, I was a little nervous. I was “in the Army” for three weeks and what was in store for me? I had to pass the physical training test for an

Army soldier between the ages of 17-21.

I have a pretty good exercise routine and had been practicing for Army push-ups and sit-ups, which are somewhat different then Air Force. They actually expect 90 degree bends in the elbows and a full sit-up verses crunches. I was ready. What I wasn’t ready for was the test being at 4 o’clock in the morning with 28 degree temps.

I passed it without trouble and was ready to continue training. I was relieved too. Although I was confident in my ability to pass, I didn’t want to fail the test and be an embarrassment to the commander who had allowed me to be there in the first place.

Training consisted of 12-hour days beginning at 5: 45 a.m. and ending around 6 p.m., depending on training requirements. Days began with PT, followed by breakfast then we’d roll into training.

Parachute landing falls (PLFs), jumping out of the 34- foot tower, donning the equipment, swing landing trainers, hanging harness-- every detail needed to safely “exit an aircraft in flight” was covered.

The Army covers it with strict attention to detail and precision. They teach 400-500 soldiers per class, and it is an impressive thing to witness. It’s been done the same way for 75 years now.

As Sergeant Airborne says, “Its Airborne training, it aint gonna change cause you complain.”

The culmination of this training is, of course, exiting an aircraft while in flight.

Fortunately we had C-130s and C-17s for our jump week.

I’ve been flying the airborne course for 15 years and have dropped more than 20,000 first timers over Fryar Drop Zone [Fort Mitchell, Ala.] I was thrilled to finally get the opportunity to jump

out of a C-17.

The worst part of the whole course, I think, was sitting with 60 pounds of parachute equipment for more than three hours at a time waiting for the jumps. I completed the five required jumps, and graduated on Jan. 25 as part of Class 07-16, alpha roster number A402.

I don’t have room in this article to describe the entire experience. But I’d like to reflect on some conversations I had as I met so many young Americans eager to serve their country. The most asked question I got from them was, “How long have you been in the service sir?” I would answer, 25 years. “Wow, sir, I haven’t even been alive that long.” “Why are you here?” My response--for an adventure of a lifetime! I just did it later in life.

In the end, it was a routine of fitness that made it possible for me to accomplish this adventure. I always say, “stay active and fit so you’ll be able to enjoy your retirement years.”



Courtesy photo

Lt. Col. John Robinson prepares to jump from a C-17 Globemaster III.

## Buckeye Flyer

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# 445th announces 4th quarter CY 17 award winners

## Airman



**Senior Airman Benjamin Nkiko**, 445th Logistics Readiness Squadron fleet management and analysis journeyman, is the 445th Airlift Wing Airman of the Quarter, fourth quarter. Nkiko audited 250 wing vehicle records, identifying and correcting \$14,000 worth of maintenance discrepancies. While performing his annual tour, Nkiko supported Kadena Air Base's 2,300 vehicles, completing 134 work orders and 687 line items. Nkiko transitioned vehicle maintenance to the new Air Force tracking system, rebuilding 2,300 records that expired two years ago. During his off-duty time, Nkiko provided shelter for African war refugees when he landscaped and roofed a 3,500 square foot home. He volunteered 124 hours with a multi-lingual Rwandan choir and supported six cultural events. Nkiko has been selected for the Deserving Airman's Commissioning Program and will be the 445th Civil Engineer Squadron's next commissioned officer when the requirements are completed.

## NCO



**Tech. Sgt. Adam Naber**, 445th Maintenance Squadron aerospace repair craftsman, is the 445th Airlift Wing NCO of the Quarter, fourth quarter. Naber led the underfloor avionics duct mission when his team removed and replaced seven panels, a first-ever that was completed here, conquering an estimated time in commission by eight hours. He responded to a transient C-17 aircraft, assisting, troubleshooting and repairing a faulty anti-ice panel in just under two hours. Naber built \$10,000 worth of tools through an unfunded request for the Home Station Check section. The sergeant generated a study tool for the 5-level Career Development Course to aid his Airmen and to better prepare them for the test. In his off-duty time, Naber volunteered 10 hours of community service using his technical skills to refurbish items with the profits going to charity. He is currently pursuing his Community College of the Air Force Associates degree in Aircraft Maintenance Technology.

## SNCO



**Master Sgt. Sean Smith**, 445th Aero-medical Evacuation Squadron AE operations technician, is the 445th Airlift Wing Senior NCO of the Quarter, fourth quarter. Smith directed a multi in-unit AE initial qualification for Air Force Reserve Command. He scheduled more than 240 aeromedical readiness missions, more than 750 flight hours and five joint training missions. Smith managed 28 aeromedical evacuation public affairs events that included four airshows and more than 10 static displays, educating more than 100,000 community members. During his off-duty time, Smith volunteered as the wing's Combined Federal Campaign manager, collecting more than \$7,527 in donations which was a 33 percent increase from last year. Smith received his Community College of the Air Force degree in practical nursing and is currently working on a Bachelor of Arts degree in Business Administration from Park University.

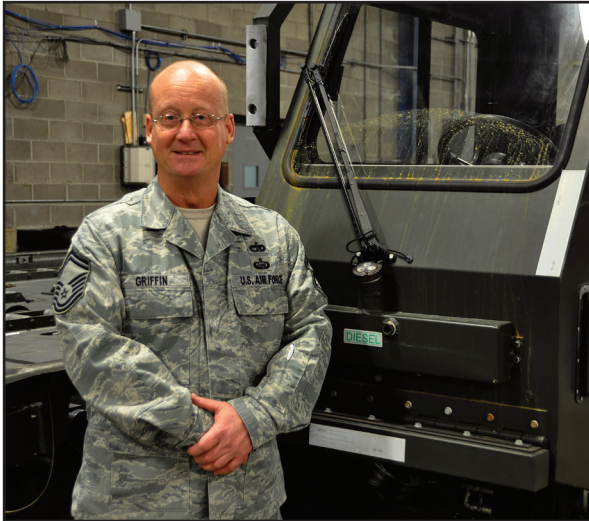
## CGO



**Capt. Tyler Overholt**, 445th Maintenance Group quality assurance officer in charge, is the 445th Airlift Wing Company Grade Officer of the Quarter, fourth quarter. Overholt ensured accountability and adherence to procedures and safety, key to more than 14,000 mishap-free mission actions. He was integral to the interactive electronic technical manual installation on 143 mobile workstations, ensuring more than 400 Airmen were trained. Overholt enabled eight missions, 60 sorties that moved 368 passengers and more than 1,500 tons of cargo in support of Hurricanes Harvey and Irma relief efforts. During his off-duty time, Overholt volunteered 24 weeks supporting 4 Paws for Ability as a service animal training foster. He currently serves as a life group leader at his church and orchestrated their festival attended by more than 20,000 people. The captain completed the requirements to be a fully certified FAA flight instructor.



# SPOTLIGHT



2nd Lt. Rachel N. Ingram

**Rank/Name**

Senior Master Sgt.  
Don Griffin

**Duty Title**

Unit Deployment  
Manager

**Unit**

87 Aerial Port  
Squadron

**Hometown**

Batavia, Ohio

**Civilian Job**

Chief Formal Train-  
ing 88th Force Support  
Squadron

**Education**

Community College of  
the Air Force associate  
degree, Aerospace Tech-  
nology and Education/  
Training Management;  
bachelor's degree, busi-  
ness management

**Hobbies**

Flipping houses

**What you like about  
working at the 445th?**

I like the countless op-  
portunities provided.  
The experiences I gained  
as a reservist and Air  
Reserve Technician  
positioned me for my  
current position. For  
anyone willing to step up  
and step out there are  
endless opportunities  
for personal and profes-

sional growth. There are  
great mentors and lead-  
ers throughout our wing  
who are always willing  
to support and reward  
initiative.

**Why did you join the  
Air Force?**

I joined the  
Air Force in 1988 and  
served for 8.5 years. I  
separated in 1995 as  
a Desert Storm vet. I  
served one year with the  
Springfield Air National  
Guard in 1996 and took  
a 10-year hiatus before  
coming to the 445th in  
1997. I returned to ser-  
vice to complete my 20  
years and support our  
great Air Force. Since  
joining the 445th I have  
served as base training  
manager, unit training  
manager (ART), chief of  
education and training  
(ART), 87 APS ramp ser-  
vices superintendent and  
my current job.

## Annual awards banquet scheduled for April 7 Nominations being accepted thru March 4

The 445th Airlift Wing Annual Awards Banquet is April 7, 2018 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.

The awards banquet will recognize those selected for Airman, NCO, senior NCO, company grade officer, first sergeant, field grade officer, recruiter, honor guard member, civilian, spouse, youth and squadron of the year. The winner of each category will be announced during the banquet.

Reservations can be made at: <https://invitations.afit.edu/inv/anim.cfm?i=378584&k=01664A0C7353> for those making payments with a debit or credit card. Reservations made using cash and check payments must be made in person in the public affairs office, building 4010, room 171.

The cost for this year's event is \$33 for techni-

cal sergeant and below; \$40 for master sergeant and above, and civilians; \$18 for children 6 to 10; and children 5 and under are free.

All reservations must be received by March 4, 2018.

The dress for the evening is semi-formal or mess dress for enlisted Airmen; mess dress for officers; and formal evening attire for civilians.

**Nominations needed**

Any Airmen or civilian can nominate someone for spouse, youth, field grade officer or civilian of the year. Nominations should be submitted on an Air Force Form 1206 to [445aw.pa2@us.af.mil](mailto:445aw.pa2@us.af.mil) and include a photograph. If a photograph is needed, please contact the public affairs. Submissions are due no later than close of business March 4, 2018.

For more information, contact the public affairs office at 937-257-5784.



# Wing legal office provides free services for Airmen

445th Airlift Wing Public Affairs  
By Capt. Wilson Wise

Did you know the average cost for a civilian attorney can range from \$100-400 an hour and that the average cost to have a will prepared is estimated at \$375?

As a military member, you have access to military lawyers and paralegals that provide legal assistance to include help with landlord/tenant issues, defense services, will preparation and draft power of attorney letters that authorize others to make decisions on your behalf.

The mission of the 445th Airlift Wing Judge Advocate General office is to provide quality legal support to service members to ensure readiness of personnel and resources. They perform their mission by advising commanders and first sergeants on military justice, administrative actions, and civil law issues. They also provide legal assistance to wing personnel.

With more members from the

445th set to deploy in 2018, the five-person legal office is busy ensuring members and their families are cared for while separated.

“Serving in the Reserve can place additional strain on civilian lives and careers. We offer legal as-

pecting Airmen in our wing” said Maj. Kyle Hern, deputy staff judge advocate.

Although the office can help with general legal issues for members of the 445th, their primary mission is to advise commanders and assist with unit readiness. Hern clarifies the scope of their services. “If a member has questions about responding to administrative/adverse actions or needs advice related to alleged criminal misconduct, the appropriate office for legal advice is the Area Defense Counsel.”

The ADC is located in the Kitty Hawk Center, 2202 Birch Street, Building 199. Their telephone number is 937-257-7841.

The 445th legal office is available on Saturday from 1 to 3 p.m. and Sunday from 9 to 11 a.m. on Scarlet UTA weekends and Saturday from 1 to 3 p.m.

on Gray UTA weekends. The office is located in building 4010. For legal assistance, call 937-257-3535.



Capt. Wilson Wise

**Master Sgt. Rebekkah Stammen, law office superintendent, reviews military legal guidance with Maj. Drew Markcity, adverse actions chief, (right) and Kyle Hern, deputy staff judge advocate, Jan. 7, 2018.**

assistance during each unit training assembly to provide counsel and, if possible, help resolve issues im-



Tech. Sgt. David Vaughn

**Around  
the  
wing ...**



Courtesy photo

**(left) Col. Bryan Runion, 445th Mission Support Group commander, passes the guidon to Maj. David Borden, incoming 87th Aerial Port Squadron commander, during the Jan. 6, 2018 change of command ceremony.**

**(right) Master Sgt. Ashley Byers, 14th Intelligence Squadron first sergeant, presents the October 2017 Diamond Sharp Award to Senior Airman Pamela Boyd, 445th Aerospace Medicine Squadron, Jan. 6, 2018. The award is for exemplary performance, adherence to the Air Force Core Values, attitude, appearance and ability.**



# 87th Port Dawgs keep mission moving in rain, sleet, snow

445th Airlift Wing Public Affairs  
 By 2nd Lt Rachel N. Ingram

Both in triple-digit weather and the dead of winter, Port Dawgs prepare, inspect, transport and load cargo and passengers bound for military airlift. At Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, the citizen Airmen of the 87th Aerial Port Squadron shoulder this responsibility alone, as no active-duty squadron exists on the installation.

In 2017, the 190 assigned Citizen Airmen moved 267 tons of cargo and more than 600 passengers during unit training assemblies alone.

“Our focus is training our Airmen, so we use the big-scale Air Force missions as an opportunity to do just that,” said Chief Master Sgt. Sean Storms, aerial port manager. “We’re also responsible for some missions that come in during the week, and we have a dedicated team of folks here every Tuesday for combat operations support.”

On an average UTA weekend, the squadron supports three to four real-world missions, in addition to participating in training exercises and completing other duties.

During last month’s UTA, a team of exclusively junior enlisted Airmen braved below-freezing temperatures to load a C-17 Globemaster III in direct support of fighter exercise, Sentry Aloha.

“This career field requires expertise in a number of areas,” said Senior Airman Dakota Coniglio, team chief for the Sentry Aloha upload. “Some days, you’re working closely with the flight crew to ensure prop-



Senior Airman Michael Thompson, left, part of the air transportation crew, secures an air transportable galley-lavatory on a 25K loader for Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii, in support of exercise Sentry Aloha. Senior Airman Ryan Hood, ramp operations specialist, maneuvers the interior cab controls of the vehicle to operate the mechanized rollers and align the pallet with the steel locking system.

er documentation, and other days, you’re behind the wheel of a vehicle carrying thousands of pounds of expensive equipment. We have to be flexible and ready.”

Individuals in the air transportation career field are eligible for a number of special certifications, like hazmat inspector and joint inspector.

“The special handling section of an aerial port squadron clears and certifies hazardous material for military airlift,” said Staff Sgt. Benjamin Potter, special handling journeyman and newcomer to the 445th Airlift Wing.

As an active-duty Port Dawg in late 2016, Potter deployed to Iraq.

“I was one of only two certified joint inspectors on day shift,” Potter said. “I worked 12-hour-shifts, seven days a week, for the duration of the six-month deployment.”

At times, the two-person team inspected more than a dozen vehicles in one day, he said, and the temperatures soared to 120 degrees.

“Anything that was going to be put on a military plane had to go through us first, regardless of the destination,” Potter said. “One day, I inspected the ammunition, baggage and gear for the Navy SEAL team that ended up infiltrating Mosul once we cleared them for departure.”

In preparation for the intense demands of deployment tempo, the 87th APS trains in a variety of locations across the globe each year.



Photos by 2nd Lt. Rachel N. Ingram

Senior Airman Ryan Hood, 25K Halvorsen Loader driver, looks on as Senior Airman Jacob Dietz, ramp operations journeyman, stands atop a 25K loader to direct the loading of an air transportable galley-lavatory in transit to a C-17 Globemaster III. The ATGL is used to increase the comfort of passengers by providing additional kitchen and restroom resources.

# News Briefs

## Retirements

### December 2017

TSgt Jermane Coleman, FSS

### January 2018

MSgt Joseph Seaman, 820 IS

### February 2018

SMSGT Cleve Samuel, 87 APS

MSgt John Kohut, MXG  
TSgt Michael Brown, AMXS

## Newcomers

Maj Ryan Findley, CES  
Capt Ryan Decosimo, 14 IS

Capt Dustin Honious, SFS

Capt Phillip Sobers, LRS  
1st Lt Samuel Steinbeck, ASTS

TSgt Kevin Tatum, FSS  
TSgt David Hinkel, CES

SSgt Misty Mayes, AW  
SSgt Jacob Miller, ASTS

SSgt Mark Hart, AMXS  
SSgt Mariaha

Washington, FSS

SSgt Tyler Williams, MXS  
SrA Sean Cole, AMXS

SrA Sarah Durham, AES  
SrA Christopher Hedrick, MXS

AB Colin Ballein, 64 IS  
AB Joel Hale, AMXS

AB Conner McCann, LRS

## Promotions

### Senior Airman

Kelly Buss, 42 IS

### Staff Sergeant

Nicholas Beatty, MXS  
Devon Booker, 63 IS

Joshua Buck, FSS  
Roselys Castro, FSS

Billie Dunigan, ASTS  
Donte Ford, AMXS

Ariel Owens, MXS

Derek Ramach, 718 IS  
Tiffany Reid, 42 IS  
Justin Worster, 512 IS

### Technical Sergeant

Suzanne Adams, 49 IS  
Kellen Clark, 820 IS  
Richard Hopkins, 512 IS  
Anthony Lauderdale, CES

Rodney McElfresh, AMXS  
Benjamin Rabe, AMXS  
Zachary Webb, 89 AS

### Master Sergeant

Robert Brock, 64 IS  
Christopher Knight, AMXS  
Bryan Ulloa Fardonk, FSS

### Senior Master Sergeant

Andrew Pluim, 718 IS

## Awards

### Meritorious Service Medal

Lt Col Christian Parrish, 42 IS

### Air Force

### Commendation Medal

Capt Jeffrey Owens, 42 IS

## Correction

An article in the January Buckeye Flyer incorrectly identified the 445th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron as recipients of the Chief of Staff Team Excellence Award. The maintenance squadron home station check (HSC) team received the award.

## Tax Prep

Tax time is just around the corner. Military One Source has its system up and running and is available to provide assistance

24 hours a day. Also, several free or discounted tax preparation offers for military members can be found at: <https://www.military.com/discounts/free-tax-preparation-formilitary.html>.

## Military Saves

Feb. 26 – March 3, 2018 is Military Saves Week. Service members and their spouses may receive their free FICO score and credit report (this is an additional report to the three free each year from <https://www.annualcreditreport.com/index.action>). Members must visit <https://militarysaves.org/> and use their military email when setting up their account. This verification is used to request the free score and report. Members will need access to their military email as it will send a code to verify the user. Members must take the savers pledge to receive this offer. This request is considered a soft hit and will not lower the credit score. More than 70 percent of credit reports contain errors so it is a good idea to make sure the report is accurate.

## Managing Debt

### Dump Your Debt

An average American family with typical debt: mortgage, car payment, student loan and one credit card, could be paying \$8,000 or more just in interest each year. This is \$8,000 or more going toward nothing but the privilege of using credit! What opportuni-

ties are you losing out on because of your interest payments? Learn techniques and free resources to help you dump your debt and build your future.

### Maximize Your Income

Is your money working as hard as you? Do you rob Peter to pay Paul each month? Do you find it challenging to save for future goals? Learn techniques and free resources to help you maximize your money to get to your financial goals, for example: buy a home, buy a car, go on vacation, get a degree, enjoy your life.

The 445th Airman and Family Readiness Office offers the following classes to assist with financial needs:

Sunday, Feb. 11 11 to 11:45 a.m. - Dump Your Debt, building 4014, room 163

Sunday, Feb. 11, 12 to 12:35 p.m. - Maximize Your Income, building 4014, room 163

Sunday, Feb. 25, 11 to 11:45 a.m. - Dump Your Debt, building 4014, room 170

Sunday, Feb. 25, 12 to 12:45 p.m. - Maximize Your Income, building 4014, room 170

Tuesday, Feb. 27, 11 to 11:45 a.m. - Dump Your Debt, building 4014, room 163

Tuesday, Feb. 27, 12 to 12:45 p.m. - Maximize Your Income, building 4014, room 163

For more information, please contact Kim Colpitts, Personal Financial Counselor, at 937-309-1531 or [PFC2.OH.NG@zeiders.com](mailto:PFC2.OH.NG@zeiders.com).





# SERVICE

## AIR FORCE RESERVE Get 1 Now Program

Every reservist is a recruiter because you know what it takes to serve! Talk to your co-workers, friends, family and neighbors. If they express interest in getting more information, download the app and submit their name, number or email. One of our dynamic recruiters will contact them and provide them with information on what it takes to become a member of the Air Force Reserve.

Get instructions at [Get1Now.us](http://Get1Now.us) and then start submitting referrals. Once your lead is verified as a qualified lead, you become eligible to win one of the awards below, plus more (maximum of 4 per year).

For more information...

Visit [GET 1 NOW.us](http://GET1NOW.us) or contact the 445th Airlift Wing Recruiting office at 937-257-6884



INTEGRITY

EXCELLENCE



Graphic by Senior Airman Darrell Sydnor

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