

9-11 prompts former Marine to serve in AMDS

By Capt. Wilson Wise

445th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

On the morning of Sept. 11, 2001, Jason Thomas dropped his daughter off at his mother's home in Hempstead, New York. The former Marine infantry sergeant was adjusting to civilian life after eight years in the Marine Corps when he heard the devastating news of an attack on the World Trade Center.

Sergeant Thomas immediately leapt into action. Donning his Marine uniform from the trunk of his car, he went to "ground zero" to see if there was any way he could help in the aftermath.

During the course of the day, Sergeant Thomas aided dozens of victims of the terrorist attack.

Fortunately, Thomas met a fellow Marine, Staff Sergeant David Karnes and together they looked for survivors in wreckage that was deemed unsafe for search and rescue.

The two Marines located two survivors in an elevator shaft. New York Port Authority Officers Will Jimeno and Sergeant John McLoughlin are alive today because of the bravery of the two Marines. The rescue has been documented in the media and in Oliver Stone's film, "World Trade Center."

Sergeant Thomas' valor did not end there. He selflessly returned to ground zero for 20 days following the attack to aid in search and rescue efforts.

Now an Air Force Reserve technical sergeant,

Thomas recounts how he felt that day.

"I did not want to feel that someone needed help and not help them."

The number of people who needed assistance that day planted a seed in Jason's mind that ultimately led him to the medical field.

After relocating his family to Columbus, Ohio, Thomas joined the 445th in 2012 as a medical technician.

In this position, he works in the family birthing center, gives immunizations, administers hearing tests, and performs other duties in the emergency room and intensive care unit.

The NCO is thrilled with his position in the wing. "I hope Wright-Patterson Air Force Base is where I will stay the remainder of my career. There's so much to learn here," Thomas said.

In addition to his primary duties, Thomas serves alongside Master Sgt. Jeffrey Vaughan as the self-aid and buddy care instructor for the wing and as the primary instructor for AMDS.

Lt. Col. Todd Everett, an administrator in the squadron, lauds Thomas' leadership.

"Sergeant Thomas instills a sense of calmness and security by his mere presence. His sense of duty and respect puts him in a category of superior performer and a role model for all Airmen to follow."

Thomas plans to attend nursing school in the future to expand his healthcare skills.

"There's nothing greater than serving. What we do really makes a difference." Thomas added.



Courtesy photo

Former Marine Sergeant Jason Thomas at ground zero in New York City days after the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks.



Capt. Wilson Wise

Tech. Sgt. Jason Thomas demonstrates checking vital signs on a newborn baby manikin.

Celebrating Women's History Month, Remembering Air Force women

By Kelly Perry

445th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

During the month of March, Women's History Month, we celebrate successful women in our nation. I'd like to recognize women in the U.S. Air Force.

Women like Staff Sgt. Esther Blake, the first female to enlist in the newly formed Air Force on July 8, 1948, on the first hour of the first day when women were authorized to join.

As a clerk, Sergeant Blake opened the door of opportunity for



women to be considered a part of the "mission" to end war and for a different perspective of women serving their country. Besides "holding down the fort" at the homestead, Blake busted through the limits and made the first step. In turn her first step became many women's first steps and those steps became leaps

in the progression of women in the Air Force.

Today, women who aspire to enlist in the Air Force are no longer limited to clerical work. Women can serve as pilots, security forces, civil engineers, medical technicians and more.

The sky is the limit for women now that in late 2015, former Defense Secretary Ashton Carter declared all combat roles in the military to be open.

It is so amazing to me that women in the Air Force can achieve the "impossible." They can serve in any job and obtain the highest rank as a commissioned officer or NCO.

This was proven on June 5, 2012 when retired Gen. Janet C. Wolfenbarger who started her career in 1980 as a graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy, climbed her way to the top to be the very first woman promoted to four star general in the United States Air Force.

As a former active-duty vocal-

ist, I was honored and privileged to witness and be a part of this moment in history at the National Museum of the United States Air Force.

The ceremony represented so much more to me than a star being put on her shoulder. It was a monumental moment that represented and marked a new era of time where in the Air Force no matter what obstacles a woman may face, it is "possible" to achieve the "impossible."

During many band performances while serving on active duty, I would say 'I wouldn't be standing here on this stage with the rights, opportunities and freedoms I have if it were not for those who paved the way and made it possible for me to do so. And for that I'm thankful and I dedicate this to you. That song was my way of paying back a debt and honor the women who served before me.

I was fortunate to have many opportunities during my 13 ½ years to give praise and celebrate accomplishments of so many influential women in the Air Force—from command chiefs and four star generals to the fearless women serving overseas.

Instead of a song, this time I dedicate this article to all women serving in the Air Force—past, present and future. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve in a different way and give that same message.

God Bless America's women of the Air Force!

Buckeye Flyer

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445th Airmen support Yellow Ribbon event

By Staff Sgt Darrell Sydnor
445th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

In 2008, the National Defense Authorization Act established the Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program, or YRRP, for National Guard and Reserve members.

The program is designed to assist Guard and Reserve members with transitioning between their military and civilian roles.

Reservists and Guardsman face the unique challenge of leaving behind a civilian job to carry out their military duties.

Each military service, Army, Marines, Navy, Air Force, uses this program to inform and equip their Guardsman and Reservists with resources to handle the unique challenges of deploying.

The Air Force Reserve takes special care to use the program to be as effective as possible.

"The main foundation of Yellow Ribbon is really built on the four pillars of resiliency... but we also focus on providing resources from education to finance, so we really try to cover everything," says Capt. Keisha Dobney-Boykin, Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program representative for the 445 Airlift Wing.

"What makes us unique in the Air Force Reserve is that we do regional events on the east and west coasts with as little as 300 people to more than 1000."

Once deployed, reservists are full time military and operate with the technical proficiency of their active duty counterparts. And just like active members, they leave behind loved ones to carry out daily life and anticipate the return home.

Capt. Dobney-Boykins encourages Airmen to bring their families to YRRP events and reminds them, "You went on that deployment and you were able to walk away from that deployment, your family is

here. You went on deployment, they went in deployment mode, but they don't get to leave that environment. This gives a gift to your family to get away from your home and be able to focus on you guys as a family".

These events bring together the families and Airmen who are about to deploy and who are returning home from a deployment, whether



that's mom and dad, or grandma and the children.

The support system for each Airman is important. They are provided information from various agencies at each event to include the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, Veteran Service Office, the chaplain corps, master resiliency trainers, directors of psychological health, legal teams, financial counselors, Psychological Health Advocacy Program, Military One Source, Military Family Life counselors, and the Airmen and Family Readiness Center.

Ms. Pamela Boyd, a North Region Outreach Specialist with the Psychological Health Advocacy Program wants Airmen and families to know she is there to help.

"We want families to know they

are not alone and we're a phone call away 24/7... We understand what they're going through, and we can help, or even just talk if they want someone to talk to."

One tough topic Ms. Boyd likes to bring out is being mentally okay.

"The stigma of mental health comes up and you know how people's fears of being military and seeking mental health. I've had leaders tell stories to talk about getting help and how even they had to talk to somebody about whatever, just to say that hey, we're human too and sometime we need help getting through certain issues in our life. Don't be afraid."

As a resource provider at YRRP events, Ms. Boyd seeks to equip Airmen and families with the tools they need to take on the deployment and continue life after.

New to the YRRP is 445th Airlift Wing Director of Psychological Health, Jennifer Marquez. As a resource provider, she also wants to make sure she's giving Airmen what they need.

"I wanted to see what it was that was offered to Airmen and their families when they attend these events so I can inform them and encourage it within our wing. It's a great opportunity to obtain resources and make connections that would be helpful to our Airmen and learn what it is that other agencies have to offer."

Armed with firsthand experience, Ms. Marquez is eager to attend another YRRP event.

"It was just quite an experience. It was good to see them with their families."

This article is part 1 of a 3 part series.



Mass enlistment sets bar high for future Airmen

By Senior Airman Ethan Spickler
445th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Recruiters from the 445th Airlift Wing held a mass enlistment ceremony Feb. 24, 2018, at the National Museum of the United States Air Force in Dayton, Ohio. This ceremony represents the pivotal first steps that all Airmen take and highlights the extensive work our recruiters do in order to secure candidates with potential. With solid leadership throughout their careers, these candidates will join the ranks of the world's most prestigious air power.

This concept was spiritually reinforced with the honors held at the National Museum of the United States Air Force, the world renowned historical archive of the Air Force's greatest triumphs and most difficult challenges.

"Having participated in this event in this setting was truly an honor," said trainee Brant J. Washburn, a participant in the festivities. "It really made this experience memorable and made me feel a sense of pride."

That sense of pride was certainly palpable as the enlistees raised their right hands and swore the Oath of Enlistment, carving into proverbial stone their commitment to duty, integrity and excellence. The Oath of Enlistment was given by Capt. Jarrod Begy of the 71st Intel Squadron.

Among the participants was trainee Grace E.

Stewart whose father, retired Chief Master Sergeant Michael V. Stewart, served in the Air Force for more than 20 years and was in attendance during the mass enlistment.

"To see my daughter join the Air Force Reserve is amazing," said Mr. Stewart. "Our family has a long tradition of serving our country, and I'm proud to see her carry on in our footsteps."

Trainee Stewart is likewise exuberant about the presence of her family, the future of her career and the steps she has taken to get here.

"I am looking forward to everything that is ahead of me in my life," she said. "It feels amazing to have all of the support of my family, and having my dad here to be a part of it means so much to me."

The enlistment ceremony is the first and one of the most important benchmarks in the career of every Airman. This occasion forms the foundation of pride and esprit de corps that makes each and every one of us who we are.

The recruiters of the 445th Airlift Wing have procured hundreds of enlistments, each one underlining the monumental commitment to serve made by dedicated men and women.

"Our job as recruiters is to prepare these young people to become Reserve Citizen Airmen," said Senior Master Sgt. Randi Cross, the senior recruiter at the 445th AW.

"We are the tip of the spear, and our mission is to man the Air Force Reserve with the most capable people that we can. This ceremony truly is a memorable occasion for all of these trainees. We are enlisting these young people into the Air Force Reserve, and this will be their first real exposure to the limitless opportunities that they will have."

As an iconic introduction to the historic culture of the United States military, there is no better way to usher in the future faces of the Air Force Reserve than for them to publicly and solemnly affirm their unwavering dedication amongst their families, their colleagues and the relics of an illustrious past.



Senior Airman Ethan Spickler

Capt. Jarrod Begy administers the Oath of Enlistment to 445th Airlift Wing recruits Feb. 24, 2018 at the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force.

Currents ops, center of flying missions

By Stacy Vaughn
445th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Behind the scenes of the 445th Airlift Wing flying mission is an office that is the glue between maintenance, operations and outside users. The 445th Current Operations office is a vital part of the 445th Operations Support Squadron.

Current ops manages all the flying missions that comes through the wing and the wing commander's flying program by balancing Air Force Reserve Command and active-duty needs.

"We plan three months out. I build a skeleton calendar based on training requirements for not only our aircrew but our aeromedical evacuation Airmen. We then plug in other requests that we can support, including air shows, static trainers, AFRC missions and missions that come up from the "barrel" (Tanker Airlift Control Center) to support active duty," said Lt. Col. Malcolm Quincy, chief of current operations.

The AFRC missions are acquired at the quarterly AFRC allocation conference. The conference gives current operations personnel from across AFRC the opportunity to "purchase" airlift for AFRC missions.

"We buy trips to fill the holes in our schedule. It's an opportunity for us to support a mission supporting another AFRC unit stateside or overseas. The conference I'm going to next month will allow me to purchase trips for April, May and June," Quincy said.

The 445th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron and other AES units benefit from the opportunity to fulfill their requirements on the wing's C-17 Globemaster III. Their training is plugged into the current ops cal-

endar.

"We keep our AE Airmen trained on their requirements in the C-17. But some AE units do not have a C-17 so those are some of the missions we purchase – AE missions. For example, we'll fly to Youngstown (Air Reserve Base) for their AE Airmen to train. Youngstown has C-130s and they'll bring in a C-130

to Wright-Patt for our AE Airmen to train on to get their requirements for that air frame," Quincy said.

Master Sgt. Todd Gnat, an 89th Airlift Squadron loadmaster currently assigned to current ops, said there's more to scheduling a mission than just flying it. Each mission is different and may have certain requirements that maintenance steps in to ensure the plane is good to go.

"There's a lot more that goes into scheduling a mission than just thinking about the flying hours we get. We work hand-in-hand with our maintainers to ensure the jet is mission ready and that

we have all that we need to support each mission. Besides working with maintenance, we coordinate tankers from other units to conduct air refueling. We work with the end user on landing permissions. We coordinate air show requests, static trainers and flyover requests. There's also humanitarian requests that we support," Gnat said.

Gnat said there are short notice requests that they scramble to accomplish, such as the hurricane relief efforts back in the fall.

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Graphic by Staff Sgt. Darrell Sydnor



SPOTLIGHT



2nd Lt. Rachel N. Ingram

Rank/Name: Airman First Class Jeffrey Veness

Unit: 445th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron

Duty Title: Medical Technician

Hometown: Fairborn, Ohio

Civilian Job: Volunteer Firefighter

Education: Currently working on completing a Community College of the Air Force degree. Educational goals include earning a bachelor's degree in aerospace engineering and completing my master's degree.

Hobbies: Sports

Career Goal: Honestly if you asked where I see myself in 10 years, I'm not sure but the beauty of the Air Force is the many opportunities that are presented to you. Taking little steps to complete my CCAF, go to Airman Leadership School and deploying.

What you like about working at the 445th?:

There are many things that make working at the 445th so special. Just in the short time that I've been involved with the 445th I have been presented with countless opportunities. Opportunities that have allowed me to travel places I have never been all while gain-

ing new skills. Among other things the biggest take away is the many mentors I have encountered here. The culture at the 445th is one of growth and development, if you show up willing to work they will provide you the tools to grow and succeed.

Why did you join the Air Force?: When I sat down to talk with someone I was able to narrow it down to three different driving factors: the ability to work and train in the medical field, the ability to achieve a higher education, and an outlet to be a part of something bigger than myself. Also, being around a lot of military families, something I started to notice was the immense work ethic. More people than not are high speed, go getters and willing to work to achieve their goals those are the kind of people I wanted to surround myself with.

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"AMC (Air Mobility Command) ran the hurricane relief efforts. We received our tasking from the barrel and we supplied the jets and the aircrew. We had aircrew on standby, ready to go as soon as the notice came down and maintenance had the planes ready for us," Gnat said.

During that time, the wing airlifted cargo and passengers around the globe to places including Texas, Florida, Georgia, New Jersey, Delaware, Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, St. Martin and Honduras. Cargo delivered consisted of meals ready to eat, water, power equipment, forklifts, sleeping cots and other supplies in support of Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria.

Master Sgt. Steve Palsgrove, operations planner, has worked in current ops for 23 years. He's coordinated various missions on different air frames during his career. He's had many memorable experiences

while in current ops but one mission stands out that he helped plan and that was a mission the wing flew to England.

"I planned a mission with routes to Eglin Air Force Base, Florida; Patrick AFB, Florida; Butte, Montana; then over to Royal Air Force Mildenhall, England then back home. We flew the 445th Civil Engineer Squadron to Eglin where we swapped jets with another crew from Wright-Patterson AFB and headed on to Patrick where we remained overnight. From there, we picked up Air Force para-rescue jumpers and flew them to Butte, Montana in which we quick turned and flew to RAF Mildenhall overnight. The trip home from RAF Mildenhall we picked up approximately 66 of our 445th Logistics Readiness Squadron Airmen on annual tour coming back home. This was a great experience to see how all the mission planning came together to move the mission," Palsgrove said.



News Briefs

Retirements

February 2018

TSgt Michael Shepherd, LRS

March 2018

Col Jeffrey Beery, ASTS
Maj Nathan Garcia, AW
TSgt John Metzger, 14 IS

Promotions

Airman

Jesse Irvin, 63 IS
Nautica Rendon, FSS

Airman 1st Class

Christian Fox, 820 IS
Mickela Harris, CES
Molly Hageman, MXS

Senior Airman

Lauren Howard, AMXS
Job Hunter, MXS
Santia Jackson, 16 IS
John Pappas, ASTS
Hunter Schmidt, 820 IS
Maia Smallwood, 63 IS

Staff Sergeant

Adam Bentley, OSS
Benjamin Booker, AMDS
James Dickerson, 718 IS
Joseph Egitto, 42 IS
Kevin Harris, 71 IS
Drew Howard, 49 IS
Derek Jones, CES
Alexander McKee, 28 IS
Jonathan Prather, SFS
Candra Ridenhower, AMXS
Richard Shively, 718 IS

Technical Sergeant

Nicholas Behr, CES
Mack Crabtree, SFS
Andrew Ferguson, AES
Thomas Mackenzie, OSS
Austin Overbaugh, MXG
Andrew Price, 71 IS
Zachary Reiffell, AMXS

William Rogers, 23 IS
Chase Sprunger, AMXS
Kimberly Wissner, AMDS

Master Sergeant

Douglas Fuller, FSS
Jamie Johnson, 14 IS
Richard McMillan, 38 IS
Matthew Millis, 71 IS
Jared Rucker, MXS
Dana Shoemaker, 49 IS
Marlicia Wilkins, 512 IS
Aaron Wright, CES

Awards

Meritorious Service Medal

Maj Nathan Garcia, AW
Maj Joseph De La Rosa, 28 IS
Capt Adam Decker, 28 IS
SMSgt Stanley Parks, LRS
SMSgt William Ryan, LRS
MSgt Chad Lorenz, MXS
MSgt Scott Ponchillia, LRS

Air Force Commendation Medal

TSgt Andrew Ferguson, AES
TSgt John Stewart, LRS
TSgt Gary Zimmerman, MXS
SSgt Brandon Croghan, AES
SSgt Jesse Baggen, 63 IS
SSgt Ashley Thompson, 718 IS

Air Force Achievement Medal

TSgt Laura Esquibel, 23 IS
SSgt Christian Terrill, AMDS
SSgt Jeremy Tkach, 14 IS
SrA Donald Elliott, 14 IS
SrA Ambria Thurmond,

71 IS

A1C Claire Newman, 71 IS

Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal

SSgt Jonathan Porter, LRS

445th Annual Awards Banquet

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://einvitations.afit.edu/inv/anim.cfm?i=378584&k=01664A0C7353> for those making payments with a 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 is \$33 for technical 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.

To ease the check-in process at this year's banquet, all attendees will have assigned tables. Unit tables will still be designated.

If you'd like to sit with someone who is not registered as your guest, please let us know via email at 445aw.pa2@us.af.mil no later than March 17 (Saturday of the Gray unit training assembly).

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

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



Sunday, March 11





Photos by Master Sgt. Patrick O'Reilly

1) Tech. Sgt. Joseph Klimaski, 445th Airlift Wing occupational safety specialist practices the head-tilt chin lift maneuver during self-aid and buddy care training Feb. 11, 2018. 2) Staff Sgt. Joey Frisco, 445th Force Support Squadron services specialist, applies a nasopharyngeal airway flange on a practice model. 3) Staff Sgt. Adam Stewart, 445th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron mechanic, demonstrates how to use quick clot gauze.

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