

BUCKEYE FLYER

Wright-Patterson AFB, OH

Volume 58, No. 5

May 2019

445th Airmen train during Agile Combat Support exercise

By Master Sgt. Patrick O'Reilly
445th Airlift Wing Public Affairs



Master Sgt. Patrick O'Reilly

Staff Sgt. Cody Bone, 445th Security Forces Squadron, takes cover during the 445th Airlift Wing's annual Agile Combat Support exercise, April 6, 2019.

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio – Thunderous smoke bombs activated, simulated attacks commenced, and Airmen scrambled to action as more than 80 members of the 445th Airlift Wing participated in an annual Agile Combat Support exercise April 5-7, 2019, here.

Wing members deployed to a simulated bare-base location at the Wright-Patt Warfighter Training Center to hone their skills.

Col. Brian Runion, 445th Mission Support Group commander and the exercise's emergency operations center director provided an overview of the weekend's events.

The 445th Aeromedical Staging Squadron took care of patients by establishing a facility for medical support. The 445th Force Support Squadron provided personnel accountability, lodging and meals, while the 445th Civil Engineer Squadron maintained facilities. Emergency management personnel were on hand in

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Packing equipment nobody wants to have to use Aircrew flight equipment shop key to mission success

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

Some equipment is virtually invisible until an emergency occurs, but for the men and women of the aircrew flight equipment shop, their duty revolves around it.

Before hitting the runway, every Air Force aircraft is strategically stocked with inflatable rafts, night vision goggles, parachutes, oxygen systems, flotation devices and more. The AFE Airmen, part of the 445th Operations Support Squadron, maintain the safety and emergency equipment for aircrew and passengers departing from Wright-

Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio.

"Our squadron motto is, 'We're the last ones to let you down,' and that's true," says Staff Sgt. Addison Wyckoff, aircrew flight equipment technician. "We have systems and processes in place to check everything over and ensure the gear is going to work how and when it's supposed to."

For example, each of the nine assigned C-17 aircraft at the 445th Airlift Wing are equipped with three 46-person survival rafts, placed in specialized compartments in the

ceiling of the plane's cabin, where they deploy out the top of the aircraft in the event of an emergency water landing. These rafts are inspected at least once every four years for wear and tear, including a six-hour leak test.

"We spread the raft all the way out and do a number of inspections and tests before meticulously folding it back up into precise dimensions," says Tech. Sgt. Seth G. Ravert, air reserve technician. "The

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FM tip of the month - SGLI, TSP, taxes

The 445th Airlift Wing Financial Management Office provides support for your financial needs, however, some functions are no longer within their control.

The Reserve Pay Office is not able to change mailing addresses, Service Members Group Life Insurance and Thrift Saving Plan; or print W-2s.

Mailing address

To change your mailing address, you must go through Vred. It may take several weeks before the change flows from the personnel system into the finance system. This will flow into all systems and update your address.

Please note that if orders are drafted and approved in the AROWS system, you must have a modification to the orders to change the address. The RPO cannot pay Basic Allowance for Housing for any zip code other than the one on the orders, unless it is a Permanent Change of Station. Zip codes cannot be changed for the purpose of receiving a higher BAH rate.

Service Members Group Life Insurance (SGLI).

When a member is first gained, FM will start the member's Service Members Group Life Insurance. If the member provides a completed SGLV 8286, the RPO processes the transaction for the amount selected. If a SGLV 8286 is not provided, the RPO is required to process the transaction for the member at the maximum amount of \$400,000.

To access the SGLI Online Enrollment System:

- Go to the Air Force Portal and sign into milConnect
- Select the Benefits tab; then select Life Insurance (SOES-SGLI Online Enrollment System)
- Read the information, select continue
- Verify spouse information- if spouse info is incorrect, visit a DEERS station to update your information.
- Select Edit Coverage, chose the coverage, continue -

if decreasing or cancelling coverage, read the pop-up prompt and select OK.

- Select Edit Beneficiaries, enter your primary and secondary beneficiaries.
- Select Return to Your Coverage, confirm and certify
- Select Print/Save Certificate
- In the dropdown box, select certificate of coverage.

For questions about SGLI, contact the force support squadron customer support at 937-257-6981 or 445FSS.FSMPS.CustomerService@us.af.mil

Thrift Saving Plan

To change your Thrift Saving Plan, visit the TSP website at <https://www.tsp.gov/index.html>.

If you have tried the TSP website and are getting an error message or it is not working, print out the error message and bring it to the Reserve Pay Office, and we will initiate a case to DFAS through the Case Management System.



Tax documents

FM cannot print, view, or make corrective actions to W-2s. Members must go through myPay to access W-2s. FM can make changes to your W-4 for future deductions but cannot make past corrections. If you are a flyer and receive CTZE pay, you may have a W-2C which is handled by Defense Finance and Accounting Service. The RPO office can inquire on the status of your W-2C but is unable to take any further action. If you did not receive your W-2, contact DFAS at 1-888-332-7411.

For FM support: send military pay correspondence to 445AW.payhelp@us.af.mil and travel related correspondence to 445FM.dtshelpdesk@us.af.mil or call military pay at 937-257-4397 and travel Pay at 937-713-1607.

National Mental Health Awareness Month - #WhyCare?

May is National Mental Health Awareness Month. The National Alliance on Mental Illness provides support, education and advocates for individuals with mental illness and their families.

NAMI's theme for awareness is Why Care? Why care is a great question, and the answer is because 1 in 5 people are affected by mental illness in their lifetime NAMI.

Being diagnosed with a mental illness is no different than being diagnosed with a medical illness. To reduce stigma and encourage help seeking behaviors it is everyone's

responsibility to normalize treating the illness.

If someone breaks their arm, it is encouraged that they get medical treatment. If someone has dizziness and fainting, they would be encouraged to see a doctor to rule out diabetes or another medical condition.

If the same individual is diagnosed with a medical condition, it would be expected that they would manage the condition with medication or any doctor recommended treatment.

So the bigger question is why is

taking care of mental health unsupported while physical health is supported?

The big picture is there is overlap within the two. Physical pain can cause depression and anxiety can cause heart disease. See the links? It is important to take care of your overall health, both physical and mental.

For more information, resources and support please contact your DPH at 937-257-6267 or 937-701-1124.



AFE from page 1



Photos by 2nd Lt. Rachel Ingram

(left) Senior Airman Devin Litton, 445th Operations Support Squadron aircrew flight equipment technician, checks each component of the quick-don mask while installing it in the cockpit of a C-17 Globemaster III. Litton is one of about 20 Reserve Citizen Airmen in the 445th OSS who inspects and maintains emergency equipment like the quick-don mask, flotation devices, survival kits and parachutes in each of the wing's nine aircraft.

(center) Members of the 445th OSS aircrew flight equipment pose for a photo.

(right) Staff Sgt. Addison Wyckoff, 445th OSS aircrew flight equipment technician, rotates a packed parachute off a C-17 to be replaced by a newly-packed parachute, as part of a formal monthly inspection process.

entire inspection process involves about three Airmen and takes approximately two weeks to complete."

The survival rafts are tightly compressed into bins, strategically folded and peppered with talcum powder to inhibit friction-induced bald spots, excess moisture, or dry rot, then laboriously manipulated into a bin by two or three Airmen working as a team to cinch down cargo straps across the top to temporarily contain the raft within the confines of the bin until installation. These bins, designed with an open surface and no lid, must be affixed to the aircraft ceiling within an hour to ensure proper fit. Much longer than that, and the deflated raft will expand just slightly enough that it rises above the upper lip of its storage bin and requires complete repacking.

"Most people are used to having training gear, but for us, this isn't practice," says Tech. Sgt. Amy Stanfield, aircrew flight equipment technician. "This is someone's real world gear. It has to work."

Around the corner in the aircrew support shop, the focus is on equipment hand-carried by the pilots, loadmasters, and other crew members. Night vision goggles, armored vests, survival backpacks and laser-shielding glasses are examples of the equipment maintained by the Airmen in this shop.

Much like the teams who pack the parachutes and rafts, every inch of space is precious to the workers who maintain the aircrew support equipment. Backpack survival kits are organized into smaller pouches filled with drinking water, batteries, flares, lip balm, a satellite radio, signal mirror, compass,

knife and more.

"You don't really think about this stuff until you need it," said Master Sgt. Vincent L. Gibson, quality assurance manager. "One person can grab this bag and get out of there. It holds enough supplies for the entire crew."

Despite all the time that goes into inspecting and packing the equipment, the Airmen insist that the best part of the job is disassembling the untouched kits and replacing them with new gear during the next inspection cycle.

"Even though we are so tedious about neatly packaging and preparing the equipment, we hope nobody ever has to use it," said Master Sgt. Megan A. Pericht. "Taking unused equipment off the aircraft means that everyone went home to their families at the end of the mission, and that's always a good day."



EXERCISE from page 1



Master Sgt. Patrick O'Reilly

Staff Sergeant Jarrad Faulkner, 445th Civil Engineering Squadron, salvages parts of a reverse osmosis water purification unit during the annual Agile Combat Support exercise, April 7, 2019.

the event of a chemical situation. In addition, security forces provided support in case of a conventional attack, said Colonel Runion.

Staff from the mission support group served in the Emergency Operations Center, along with administrative personnel, and representatives from each wing organization.

The 445th Logistics Readiness Squadron developed a schedule of events for the deployment as well as coordinating transportation.



Master Sgt. Patrick O'Reilly

Staff Sgt. David Reed and Senior Master Sgt. Jonathon LeMaster, 445th Civil Engineer Squadron, gear up to build a shelter during the wing exercise, April 6, 2019.

“The purpose of this training is to see if we are ready to perform our wartime mission in a contingency type environment,” said Runion. “I think this a good opportunity. It gives people the chance to actually practice their skills in a wartime environment.”

Participants agree that the exercise was beneficial.

“We provided the same security here that we would provide in the real world all the time,” said Staff Sgt. Mitchiner Underhill, 445th Security Forces Squadron.

Security forces secured all perimeters of the installation ensuring that no individuals breach that perimeter through entry control points or by crossing any unfenced boundary.

During the exercise, security forces sprang into action. The entire training area filled with action as security forces covered their posts and confronted players acting as incoming insurgents. ASTS scrambled to get patients to safety and ultimately onto buses for transport to outgoing aircraft.

“When an attack started everyone sought shelter immediately and we had our teams responding as fast as possible repelling any enemy attacks,” said Underhill.

Members of the services team provided hot meals and lodging.

“The first day we came out, we set up our kitchen in a temper tent and made sure everything was running properly so we could sustain meals for all the Airmen here through the duration of the exercise,” said Staff Sgt. Michael Briggs, 445th FSS. “We also took care of lodging as well working hand in hand with PERSCO to keep accountability and to make sure people had a place to stay and sleep.”

Sergeant Briggs emphasized the importance of training at home station and abroad.

“Everybody needs training on



Master Sgt. Patrick O'Reilly

Members of the 445th Force Support Squadron serve breakfast during the exercise, April 7, 2019.

chem gear and what to do at deployed locations,” said Briggs. “Not everywhere we go overseas is going to have hardened facilities and we may be at bare-base location. We may be cooking out of a tent like we have here. Everyone is training on how to set it up and how to cook out of it, how the machines work, improvise, adapt and overcome when situations arise.”

“It’s nice to get hands on training rather than just read it in a book,” said Briggs. “It’s a good experience and I enjoyed partaking in it. It’s going very well and I learned new things that I didn’t necessarily know before and things I needed to brush up on. It is nice to have that refresher every now and again.”



Senior Airman Angela Shay

Aeromedical Staging Squadron Airmen prepare for patient transport during training at the warfighter training center, April 6, 2019.



445th medical personnel hone skills during exercise

By Senior Airman Ethan Spickler
445th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

WRIGHT PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio - In an operational environment, Air Force medical personnel must excel at delivering quality medical care and life-saving capabilities in any environment. The ability of these Airmen to achieve their objectives depends on the rigorous training and testing that they undergo to maintain their proficiency and boost their effectiveness.

The intensive and comprehensive skill set that 445th Airlift wing medical field Airmen possess was on full display April 6, 2019, during the Agile Combat Support exercise here. During the exercise, both the 445th Aeromedical Staging Squadron and the 445th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron conducted realistic medical staging and evacuation.

While they have different functional requirements, both squadrons are part of the same overall mission and both interact constantly during emergency scenarios to achieve their mutual objective: the medical care and subsequent safety of their fellow service members.

"This is more of a real world experience instead of a traditional training experience," said Capt. Brianne Koessel, a flight nurse with the 445th AES. "Having the interface between the squadrons and gaining experience together is extremely valuable, especially when



Master Sgt. Patrick O'Reilly

Members of the 445th Aeromedical Staging Squadron load a patient on a bus during the 445th Airlift Wing's annual Agile Combat Support exercise, April 6, 2019.

our job is to bring wounded warriors home."

During the exercise, Airmen from ASTS brought "patients" from a "warzone" and transferred them to a staging area where they linked up with AES and a C-17 Globemaster III for aerial transport. At that point, the patients were loaded onto the plane and evacuated. During the flight, members of the AES and ASTS provided care in the sky. Upon landing, the patients were again transferred to ASTS for staging and ground transport.

The loading and unloading of multiple patients took place in a matter of minutes. Medical personnel safely yet quickly moved the wounded to where they needed to go and gained valuable experience in the process.

"This kind of hands-on training is important," said Senior Airman Eric Ledford, a medical technician with the 445th ASTS. "Getting the opportunity to work alongside the other squadrons and seeing how the mission comes together from their end puts the entire mission in perspective."

This comprehensive training not only showcased the ability of all squadrons involved to work together as a unified element, but it simulated a more accurate working model of emergency situations in a deployed environment.



Senior Airman Ethan Spickler

Senior Airman Amanda McMillan, 445th Aeromedical Staging Squadron, and Capt. Mark Storre, 445th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, plan the transportation of patients during a training exercise, April 6, 2019.



SPOTLIGHT



Master Sgt. Patrick O'Reilly

Rank/Name: Staff Sgt. Patrick First

Unit: 445th Security Forces Squadron

Duty Title: Fire Team Member

Hometown: Perrinton, Michigan

Civilian Job: Security and Asset Protection

Education: Currently working on associate degree in fire science from Lansing Community College

Hobbies: Hunting, fishing

and working out

Career Goal: Become a first sergeant to support troops and assist in their career development

What you like about working at the 445th?: I really enjoy the variety of experience that the people at the 445th bring. There are paramedics, medical and Special Weapons And Tactics. I really like working with all of the different personalities.

Why did you join the Air Force?: I joined the Air Force to serve my country and to follow the legacy of service in my family history.

Air Force senior leaders update OCP uniform guidance

By Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

The Air Force announced April 23, 2019 new rules on Operational Camouflage Pattern uniforms that aim to better fit the needs of Airmen and the jobs they do while also holding fast to tradition.

The changes highlighted include authorization of the two-piece Flight Duty Uniform in garrison and updated patch guidance for the OCP uniform.

“During the initial rollout of the OCP, we originally matched our sister services regarding patch configurations as we sought to emphasize our role as a joint warfighting force,” said Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. David L. Goldfein.

“In response to overwhelming feedback received from Airmen, we will make an easy ‘sleeve swap’ of the patch configuration to further elevate our focus on honoring the heritage of squadrons as the warfighting units of the world’s greatest Air Force. We will now place the squadron patch on the right sleeve along with the U.S. flag and move the higher headquarters patch to the left sleeve of the OCP.”

Additionally, to provide commanders with expanded uniform options to fit myriad missions, on April 15, 2019 the two-piece flight suit, otherwise known as the 2PFDU, was authorized to be worn in both garrison and deployed locations. The 2PFDU continues an effort to provide Airmen with improved form, fit and

function to perform their duties in any environment.

The traditional flight duty uniform will also continue to be an option. Squadron commanders will now have the flexibility to make combat uniform decisions based on what is best for their Airmen to meet mission requirements.

“The new unit patch configuration of the OCP and 2PFDU also aligns with the traditional FDU, elevating the significance of squadron focus and identity, which supports CSAF’s intent to revitalize squadrons,” said Lt. Gen. Mark D. Kelly, Headquarters Air Force deputy chief of staff for Air Force operations.

In May 2018, Air Force leaders decided to transition to the OCP following feedback from Airmen that it is the best, battle-tested utility uniform available. It will also eliminate the need to maintain two separate uniforms – one for in-garrison and one for deployments.

The service expects to fully transition to OCPs by April 1, 2021.

For more information, Airmen should view Air Force Guidance Memorandum 2019-01 and check Air Force Instruction 36-2903 for updates, which are available on the public website of the Air Force’s Personnel Center at <https://www.afpc.af.mil/Career-Management/Dress-and-Appearance/>.



News Briefs

Retirements

April 2019

CMSgt Rebecca Spencer, LRS
SMSgt Paul Adducchio, AMXS
MSgt Jeffery Hurtt, MXS
MSgt Lorenzon Law, 89 AS
MSgt James Sparks, 655 ISRG
TSgt Tevis Williams, LRS

May 2019

Maj Jeremy Bell, 89 AS
SMSgt, Alicia Lavender, AW

Awards

Air Force Meritorious Service Medal

Lt Col James Stuber, 820 IS
Maj Miranda Laubie, FSS
SMSgt Paul Adducchio, AMXS
SMSgt Kori Conaway, 16 IS
SMSgt Marvin Pritchett, 820 IS
MSgt Percy Johnson, ASTS

Air Force Achievement Medal

Maj Alexiande Bingcang, ASTS

Air Force Commendation Medal

TSgt Joshua Anderson, 820 IS
SrA Andrew Hanson, 42 IS

Newcomers

Lt Col Scott Hunnemeyer, IS
SSgt Thomas Dalton, ISRG
SSgt Marella Itah, AS
SSgt Joel Ray, IS

SrA Shawn Green, CES
SrA Clarence Isaacs, AMXS
SrA James Pressey, AMDS
SrA Dalton Wagoner, APS
A1C Amelia Burnett, AW
A1C Shirneal Burnside, AES
A1C Dylan Evoniuk, AES
A1C Wally Jniyah, OSS
A1C Brant Washburn, SFS
Amn Erica Jozwiak, MXG
Amn Dennis Robbins, CES
Amn Aaron Ruehl, CES
AB Cameron Doss, AES
AB Alyssa Flynn, AW
AB Alexandra Frantz, CES
AB Benjamin Maxfield, CES
AB Austin Millay, CES
AB Brooke Russell, AES

Promotions

Airman

Andrew Baugham, 445 MXS
Brittney Chinn, 445 CES
Zuri Dockham, AES
Nicole Ellis, AMXS
Amaya Hagler, AES
Skylar Hettenbach, AES
Aaron Ruehl, CES
Brice Sherburne, MXS
Austin Yousey, MXS
Erin Zimpfer, AW

Senior Airman

Williams Amo Ampomah, FSS
John Claude Belk, MXS
Kina Bowling, 512 IS
Amelia Burnett, AW
Darnell Cage, MXS
Ashley Cissel, MXS
John Duhon, 23 IS
Christian Fox, 820 IS
Ryan Guenther, CES
Anthony Hamel, 718 IS
Jeremy Hammonds, 512 IS
Shavona Hird, 28 IS
Patrick McCann, 512 IS

Nathaniel McLaughlin, 63 IS
Ramello Rhodes, ASTS
Joseph Richer, CES
Nuren Subair, MXS

Staff Sergeant

Celia Arick, MXS
Sade Carlton, 63 IS
Sean Chapman, ASTS
Dakota Coniglio, 87 APS
Tyler Frisby, AES
Brandon Foster, MXS
Sage Gillard, 23 IS
Brandon Gilmore, CES
Andrew Glueck, 718 IS
Obarase Hudson, 718 IS
Kyle Hughes, 718 IS
Kasch Mcinnis, 87 APS
Jamie Reardon, MXS
Jeremy Scroggins, 42 IS
Ambria Thurmond, 71 IS
Elizabeth Warren, 655 ISRG

Technical Sergeant

Mickey Amaro, 718 IS
Kellie Blazsek, 64 IS
Ronrico Crosby, MXG
Anthony Farkas, LRS
Catherine Gamble, FSS
Shawn Haggerty, 89 AS
Kristina Matlock, AMXS
Steven Murphy, 89 AS
Alexa Pearson-Potts, 655 ISRG
Michael Sargent, 755 IS
Jesse Schnetz, 50 IS
Jeffry Stanforth, CES
Anjanette Turner, 755 IS

Master Sergeant

Lester Bautista, 38 IS
Patrick Harris, 38 IS
James Martin, MXS
Michael Pressler, MXS
Matthew Spuhler, MXS
Jessica Stephens, 23 IS

Senior Master Sergeant

Michael Blake, MXS
Michael Edwards, 820 IS

Chief Master Sergeant

Ashley Damm, 28 IS
Kylee Engel, LRS
Daniel Porta, MXS

445th AW App



To get the 445 Air-lift Wing app, scan the QR code above and select your respective app store. Download the Air Force Connect app and search for and select the 445th. Hitting next brings up the Air Force Connect page. Slide to the left and the 445 AW page will appear.

Buckeye Flyer

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U.S. Government
Printing Office
5-00001-445AW



445th Airman selected as AFRC 1st Sgt of the Year



Senior Master Sgt. Rhonda Gambill, 87th Aerial Port Squadron first sergeant, was selected as the 2018 Air Force Reserve Command First Sergeant of the Year. The announcement was made March 27, 2019.

Gambill led 848 joint forces Airmen deployed to 13 nations, representing 25 organizations and 100 Air Force career fields while deployed down range. She coordinated five key spouses, managed an on-line forum for the spouses and their families, and established 24 hours, seven days a week support for her deployed Airmen.

Gambill oversaw the Diamond Sharp program where she coordinated with 17 squadrons and pub-

lic affairs to ensure deserving Airmen were recognized. She guided the first AFRC Senior NCO leadership course in the Area of Responsibility, mentoring total force, joint and coalition members during the course. She managed the junior enlisted development re-organization and established the Rising 6, a program that provided 40 Airmen and NCOs with leadership tools and self-improvement.

As a wing mentor, Gambill crafted the Total Force 'Coalition Conversations' a program composed of five panels, 20 speakers for 120 joint service members from four nations.

Gambill served as a city commission for Bloomington, Indiana from February 2017 to February 2019. As a city commissioner, she resolved two human rights issues and designed a city arts and education contest.

Sergeant Gambill is currently serving as an active-duty first sergeant for Air Force Materiel Command.



Courtesy photo

Maj. Gen. Randall Ogden, 4th Air Force commander (far left) Col. Adam Willis, 445th Airlift Wing commander, and Chief Master Sgt. Paul Stewart, 445th AW command chief, pose for a photo with Master Sgt. Tara Woodard, 445th Force Support Squadron and Senior Master Sgt. Rhonda Gambill, 87th Aerial Port Squadron during the Air Force Reserve Command Annual Awards Ceremony, March 23, 2019. Woodard was selected as the 4th Air Force NCO of the Year and Gambill was selected as the 4th Air Force First Sergeant of the Year, March 4, 2019. Gambill was also selected as the Air Force Reserve Command First Sergeant of the Year.

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