

## 445th Citizen Airmen perform in-person UTA Airmen adjust to new normal

*By 1st Lt. Rachel Ingram and  
Staff Sgt. Ethan Spickler  
445th Airlift Wing Public Affairs*

Despite the challenges associated with facing an unprecedented global pandemic, the men and women of the 445th Airlift Wing continue pressing forward in support of the Air Force mission.

"I think one of the big things about this pandemic is being capable of fulfilling mission requirements regardless of the situation," said Staff Sgt. Kenneth Oliver, electrical and environmental specialist, 445th Maintenance Squadron. "The wing has made sure that we are able to accomplish our goals and stay safe at the same time."

In the three months between the March and July unit training assemblies, leadership and supervisors scrambled to develop meaningful ways to continue training and mission readiness, tempered with a non-negotiable standard for ensuring the safety and well-being of the force. It was a delicate balance, tailored to the unique functions of each squadron.

The medical squadrons, which are equipped to provide world-class medical care on a moment's notice, did so. Other squadrons honed in on technical,

in-depth training which could be completed more effectively in a distraction-free environment, rather than in-squadron during a typical UTA.

"I found that I was able to truly focus on the content of the training I was lacking, because I wasn't worried about ringing phones, other meetings, or things like that," said Maj. Latoya Siples, executive officer, 445th Operations Group. "It ended up being a great opportunity to catch up on some computer-based tasks I needed to do."

The success of the virtual UTAs depended heavily on communication, organization and information technology (IT) support. The 445th Force Support Squadron's communications flight felt the pressure, and stepped up to the challenge.

"We had to figure out how to completely change our work environment very rapidly," said Senior Airman Randel Tomina, knowledge manager. "From the beginning, we knew that if we weren't able to effectively

—See *NEW NORMAL*, page 5



Staff Sgt. Ethan Spickler



1st Lt. Rachel Ingram

(left) Senior Airman Jordan Kletschka, an aircraft structural maintenance apprentice with the 445th Maintenance Squadron fabrication flight, uses a band saw to cut metal at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, July 12, 2020.

(right) Master Sgt. Kevin Kelly (far left), Staff Sgt. Mitchiner Underhill and other members of the 445th Security Forces Squadron work to complete required readiness training in the computer lab, despite new challenges associated with the COVID-19 pandemic.

## FM tip of the month - Long-term orders

Citizen Airmen who are on long-term orders, orders that are 30 days or more, may be unaware of various requirements that accompany the orders.

Reserve members are asked to follow the steps below to ensure they are properly paid, and the orders are processed correctly when the tour of duty is completed:

1. When the orders begin, certify the order by completing blocks 36a and 36b, 37-39, top two blanks in box 40, 41-44 and box 45 (if you are an Air Reserve Technician), and submit the order to the 445th Airlift Wing Financial Management Office (FM) to start pay.

2. While on orders, if there are any modifications, they should be turned in to FM because the mods do not automatically flow to the pay system. This will prevent creating a break in pay or possible over payment.

3. Leave requests should be processed through FM before the leave is taken to get your approval number. This will prevent the member from taking excess leave and creating a debt. The leave balance reflected on the member's Leave and Earning State-

ment (LES) may not reflect an accurate balance.

4. Once leave has been completed, return the Part III of Air Force Form 988, *Leave Request/Authorization*, to FM as soon as possible so the leave can be logged into the pay system.

5. Upon completion of the order, you must close-out the order by submitting the final certification to the FM military pay department, not through AROWS-R. You must print out a new order from AROWS and completely fill out boxes 36-44 (45 for ARTs) on the orders. You may not use the pre-certified copy turned in to start the orders. Additionally, for unused leave, members must complete Air Force Form 1089, *Leave Settlement Option*. Without these documents, the order cannot be closed out.

Currently, the pay office has more than 1,300 orders that have ended and have not been closed out due to missing items.

Thank you in advance for helping the FM office to better serve you.

Please contact the FM office at 937-257-4397 if you have questions or concerns.



## 445th Airlift Wing welcomes new historian

By Capt. Wilson Wise

445th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Recently, the 445th Airlift Wing welcomed a new historian, John Manning.

Prior to coming to the 445th, Mr. Manning worked in The National Archives and Records Administration. He retired as a military historian at McConnell Air Force Base, Kansas in 2018.

Manning holds a bachelor's degree in English and political science from the University of Kansas and has completed graduate work toward a master's degree. As a Reservist, Manning deployed to U.S. Central Command in 2017, where he taught military history to senior NCOs and produced U. S. Central Command (USCENTCOM) military reports.

He is excited to join the team. "I am very pleased to be at Wright-Patterson. This base is a top-rated historical site for the Air Force," Manning said. "Between the rich heritage of the Wright brothers

and the Air Force's supply, logistics, and material heritage over the last century, we're in a wonderful place with a rich history."



**John Manning**

The mission of the Air Force Office of History is to conduct research, evaluate information, and organize facts from various sources into a central theme that records the accomplishments of the wing. In addition, the wing historian performs research and answers queries, which relate to historical data, from military and civilian agencies and personnel.

Manning would like the men and women of the 445th to know that they can help write the history of the wing.

"When squadrons return from deployment, it is helpful to take notes. For example: What went well? What was the mission? How did you adapt to problems?" He continues, "In this way you are shaping the future of the wing by recording history and helping future missions."

Manning is not the only historian on base and is pleased to join the others. He has a keen interest in a broad spectrum of historical topics: military, aerospace history, United States, European, and philosophical to name a few.

He is available at the wing history office in building 4010, room 146 during the week, on Scarlet unit training assemblies or by email at [john.manning.19@us.af.mil](mailto:john.manning.19@us.af.mil).





## Around the wing...



Staff Sgt. Ethan Spickler



Senior Airman Angela Jackson

(left) Lt. Col. Thomas Fuhrman, assumes command of the 89th Airlift Squadron during an assumption of command ceremony officiated by Lt. Col. Michael Baker, 445th Operations Group commander, July 11, 2020. Due to social distancing requirements imposed by COVID-19, the traditional passing of the squadron flag was omitted.

(right) Lt. Col. Michael Bennett, assumes command of the 87th Aerial Port Squadron during a change of command ceremony July 11, 2020. Col. Donald Wren, 445th Mission Support Group commander, officiated the event.



1st Lt. Rachel Ingram



Staff Sgt. Darrell Sydnor

(left) Using remote technology, Tech. Sgt. Nathan Ellcessor, 445th Security Forces Squadron fire team leader, closely monitors the heart rate of a training participant during a 445th SFS use of force training, July 12, 2020. To simulate real-world situations, facilitators staged participants in a locker room and used electric shock vests to provide immediate feedback to participants. The training was designed to closely mirror real-world scenarios.

(right) Col. Hans Otto, 445th Aerospace Medicine Squadron commander, conducts commander's call outside to adhere to social distancing guidelines during the unit training assembly at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, July 12, 2020. The commander's call was used to bring the traditional reservists up to speed after being away for several months.





# CES conducts CBRN training

By Staff Sgt. Ethan Spickler  
445th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

The 445th Civil Engineer Squadron's emergency management flight conducted chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear training June 22 to June 25, 2020 at Wright Patterson AFB, Ohio.

During the annual tour, members reinforced their skills in navigation, radiological contamination prevention and hazmat spill response along with other activities including mobile threat response and dismounted chemical reconnaissance and surveillance.

The completion of these activities prepared the emergency management flight to supplement the base's emergency response infrastructure and provide education and support to the 445th Airlift Wing.

Master Sgt. Kathleen Wyatt, the senior NCO in charge of the CES readiness and emergency management flight, ensured that the flight emphasized preparedness.

"The necessity of our job is embedded in everything," said Wyatt. "You can't function when you aren't secure, and it's our job to think of these things ahead of time so that no one is at a loss when safety is critical. We are practicing all of our procedures so we can ensure the readiness of the wing because having the proper techniques to operate in a contaminated environment is extremely important for everyone to understand."

Few are in a better position to understand the impact that invisible threats can have on global opera-



**Senior Airmen Chelsea Castleberry and Megan Hartley, members of the 445th CES readiness and emergency management flight, apply personal threat indicators during training, June 25, 2020. During the training, Airmen planned routes and determined the best locations to place indicators of airborne threats while maintaining an alert and defensive posture which required them to wear mission-oriented protective posture (MOPP) gear.**

tions than the readiness and emergency management flight. Countless hours are spent by Airmen in preparation to counter chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear threats and to share that knowledge with 445th members.

While the ongoing global pandemic has seen a dramatic shift in how Airmen access tools to coordinate with each other and fulfill their objectives, the CES and other 445th squadrons have risen to the challenge, and continuing to support the mission at home and abroad.

"The training this week has been phenomenal," said Senior Airman Jeremiah Gregorio, a training participant and CBRN instructor. "It's nice to see that our Airmen can bring their knowledge together and contribute to the mission of our shop, squadron and wing."

As the wing continues to prepare for operations, the CES provides a glimpse into how all Airmen will be expected to continue the fight while overcoming uncommon obstacles. Despite currently adjusting to the invisible enemy of COVID-19, 445th Airmen have continued to prepare themselves and their wing to confront other potential invisible threats in the future.



Photos by Staff Sgt. Ethan Spickler

**Airmen with the 445th Civil Engineer Squadron's readiness and emergency management flight, remove their protective equipment after completing training at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, June 25, 2020.**





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transition to telework, the entire wing would suffer.”

Many squadrons are also experiencing the strain of decreased staff capacity, due to social distancing restrictions. The workloads are the same, if not increased, yet there are less qualified Airmen to bear the load, said Master Sgt. Timothy Back, superintendent, knowledge and information management office.

“In a telework setting, all the computer issues we routinely encounter still occur, but now with added challenges,” Back said.

The July UTA featured the return to a new normal for most of the wing’s Reserve Citizen Airmen. Across the base, masked Air-

men sanitized their work stations, completed morning temperature screenings, and kept their distance from one another, all while still fulfilling other pre-COVID obligations like Center for Disease Control and Prevention testing, hands-on training, and critical mission support functions.

“It’s a little hectic,” said Tech. Sgt. Cody Warner, aircraft structural maintenance craftsman, 445th MXS, fabrication flight. “There have been a lot of changes to how we interact, but we are used to wearing protective equipment and following safety procedures, so it’s almost second nature to us.”

Universally, each stage of this pandemic has brought new hurdles

to navigate, demanding adaptability and resilience.

“We quickly implemented procedures to ensure we could complete the necessary web-based training when it was safest to avoid congregating, and now we’re establishing new procedures so that we can fully transition back to working in the office again,” Siples said.

The future is still a bit hazy, but it’s clear that the Airmen who comprise this wing are determined to do whatever it takes to maintain mission readiness, regardless of the circumstances.

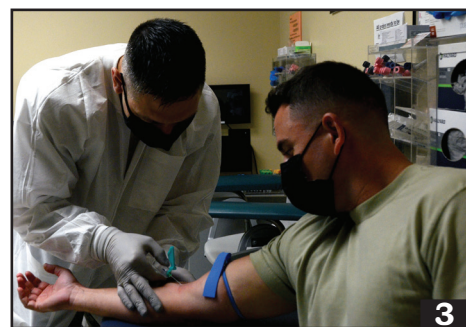
“You still have to get the job done,” said Senior Airman Jordan Kletschka, aircraft structural maintenance apprentice, 445th MXS.



Staff Sgt. Ethan Spickler



Senior Airman Angela Jackson



Staff Sgt. Darrell Sydnor

**1. Staff Sgt. Kenneth Oliver, an electrical and environmental specialist with the 445th Maintenance Squadron electrical and environmental back shop, tests the electrical output of a thermo-electrical refrigerator at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, July 12, 2020.**

**2. Tech. Sgt. Amanda Crider and Airman First Class Amber Self, both 445th Aerospace Medicine Squadron dental technicians, take their lunch to go from the Pitsenbarger Dining Facility during the Scarlet unit training assembly, July 11, 2020.**

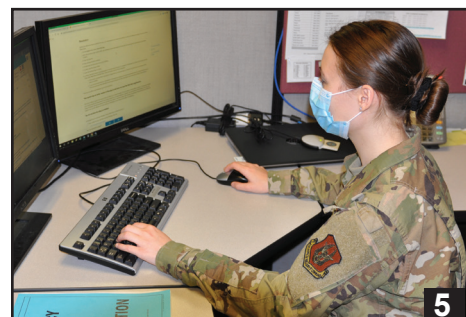
**3. Staff Sgt. Richard McEnhill, a lab technician with the 445th Aerospace Medicine Squadron, draws blood from a 445th patient completing his medical readiness at the Wright-Patterson Medical Center, July 11, 2020.**

**4. Chief Master Sgt. Chirron Hayslett, 445th Aerospace Medicine Squadron superintendent, checks in a patient at the WPMC, July 11, 2020. Members reported to complete in person physicals and other medical readiness tasks.**

**5. Senior Airman Britney Chinn, client systems technician, works full-time for the 445th Force Support Squadron communications flight. Airmen like Chinn and other COMM flight members were responsible for helping the entire 445th AW transition to telework during the COVID-19 pandemic.**



Staff Sgt. Darrell Sydnor



1st Lt. Rachel Ingram



# SPOTLIGHT



Senior Airman Angela Jackson

**Rank/Name:** Tech. Sgt. Ryan Garrett

**Unit:** 89th Airlift Squadron

**Duty Title:** C-17 Globemaster III, Loadmaster

**Hometown:** Lancaster, Ohio

**Civilian Job:** Air Reserve Technician

**Education:** Currently enrolled at Berklee College of Music, pursuing a Bachelor of Music degree in music business.

**Hobbies:** In my free time I like to make music and DJ.

**Career Goal:** My long term career goal is to progress in the military. Coming from a military family and now serving 12 years myself, I really belong here. I plan to keep

advancing, taking on additional duties and completing professional military education (PME).

**What do you like about working at the 445th?:** It's the people, the camaraderie. One family, serving a purpose greater than yourself.

**Why did you join the Air Force?:** When I got out of the Marine Corps, my uncle, Master Sgt. Dennis Lott told me I should talk to the 89th about becoming a loadmaster. It was probably the best decision I ever made. I have to give him most of the credit. I wouldn't be here if it wasn't for him.

## New Airmen attend orientation

*By Senior Airman Amelia Burnett  
445th Airlift Wing Public Affairs*

New Airmen arriving at the 445th Airlift Wing during the July 2020 unit training assembly received a different reception in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Newcomers reported to Wright Patterson Air Force Base's hospital auditorium, wearing both uniform and a mask, and had their temperatures taken before completing their in-processing brief.

"We chose the auditorium because it allowed us to ensure there would be enough space for proper social distancing," said Senior Airman Stevan Previte, who is currently transitioning from active duty into his position as a personnelist with the 445th Force Support Squadron. "Even in this space we had to reduce the number of people who could come at one time."

Postponing the newcomers briefings the last several months, resulted in a number of Airmen waiting to join the 445th.

"We are going to have a lot of newcomers here in the next few months," said Capt. Luke McKeeth, chaplain with the 445th AW. "We usually welcome around 20 new Airmen a month but because we had to hold off for a few months while we adapted to COVID-19 restrictions, we have some catching up to do."

To accommodate all the new Airmen, the newcomers briefings will be held a lot more frequently in the

coming months.

"We will be running the newcomers briefing all four days of UTA next month," said Previte. "Having more sessions and a bigger space means we can include a lot more people."

The additional sessions means a little extra preparation, especially in coordinating with the staff that usually brief, since they are not normally present at all four days of the UTA.

"We have also had to change the order we do things," said the senior airman. "We used to have newcomers report to customer service first to update their DEERS [Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System] information, but with these briefings being done at the auditorium, we get all the presentations out of the way first and then have them report to have their ID cards updated afterward."

Although it may be difficult to pick out the new faces among the masks, the 445th has always, and will continue to, welcome new Airmen into the family.

"We have something that a lot of active-duty bases don't," said McKeeth. "A lot of our Airmen have years of experience and industry knowledge, and the time to pass that knowledge on without the pressure of PCSing [Permanent Change of Station]. We have a lot to offer here."





# News Briefs

## Retirements

### July 2020

MSgt Scott Hoy, OG  
MSgt William Speakman, SFS

MSgt Michael Tungate, LRS

MSgt Michael Vencill, MXS

SSgt Brady Bennett, AMXS

## Promotions

### Airman

Clark Bell, AMXS  
Alyssa Smallwood, MXS

### Airman 1st Class

Andrew Blanton, CES  
Lilly Tendero, ASTS

### Senior Airman

Cameron Chaney, ASTS  
Kayla Cornett, 87 APS  
Nicole Ellis, AMDS  
Ben Ndiaye, 87 APS  
David Powell, MXS  
Aaron Ruehl, CES  
Dennis Thomas, AMXS  
Sidney White, MXG

### Staff Sergeant

Jason Allen, MXS  
Carlos Montilva, FSS  
Marsell Moody, AMXS  
Amy Snively, AMDS

### Technical Sergeant

Michael Briggs, FSS  
Sean Estell, LRS  
David Fink, LRS  
Bradley Fryman, AMXS

### Master Sergeant

Michael Blackthorn, LRS  
Nicole Karsten, AES  
Rodney McElfresh, AMXS

### Senior Master Sergeant

Brandi Powell, 87 APS

### Chief Master Sergeant

Chirron Hayslett, AMDS

## Newcomers

Maj Matthew Kettler, 89 AS

Maj Nathan Lowman, MXS

Capt Samuel Pelkey, AMDS

2 Lt Matt Legerski, AES

TSgt Daniel Johnson, AMDS

SSgt Justin Polk, 87 APS

SSgt Brian Teates, LRS

SSgt Cody Warner, MXS

SrA Kayla Cornett, 87 APS

SrA Nadene Giannous, MXG

SrA Keevin London, AMDS

SrA Jessica Price, 87 APS

SrA George Thomas, 87 APS

A1C Matthew Campbell, LRS

A1C Cameron Chaney, ASTS

A1C Stanley Fairchild, 89 AS

A1C Collin Kipp, AMXS

A1C Dennis Thomas, AMXS

A1C Peter Woodside, AES

Amn Kurt Jones, FSS

Amn Monaya Platt, AES

Amn Velarie Velasquez, FSS

AB Clark Bell, AMXS

AB Shaun Carson, AMXS

AB Matthew Dazen, AMXS

AB Thomas Lowe, 87 APS

AB Jermaine Richards, AMXS

AB Aalyssa Smallwood, MXS

## Awards

### Meritorious Service Medal

Lt Col Todd Baker, AW  
MSgt James Lide, AW

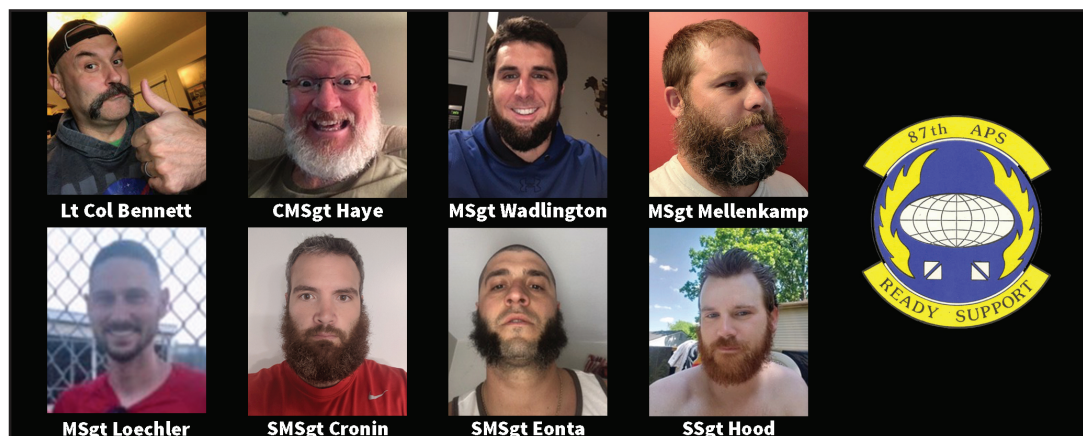
## A & FR

The 445th Airman and Family Readiness Office is available to assist the 445th Airmen.

The A & FR office can provide points of contact with local resources to assist with mortgage/rent payments, utility bills, food, employment and budgeting limited income over a long period of time.

Please call 937-204-0335 or email: alvin.dennis@us.af.mil for assistance.

## 87th APS members reveal COVID beards



Members of the 87th Aerial Port Squadron show off the COVID beards and mustaches they grew while quarantining during the COVID-19 pandemic.

## Buckeye Flyer

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# Facing unconscious bias head on, key to healing

By Maj. Audric Bills

445th Airlift Wing Equal Opportunity Office



On May 25, 2020, the death of George Floyd brought a long standing issue to the forefront of society that, in many ways, has been ignored.

This appears to be true because it does not affect everyone directly. Some may not even understand the full magnitude of it, but racism exists.

The Air Force's stance on unlawful discrimination, specifically racism, is "zero tolerance." But this is only relevant if the situation is substantiated. From the Equal Opportunity perspective, racism is difficult to prove because people, generally speaking, shy away from the conversation.

Now, in the midst of civil unrest, these conversations need to be had. Here's why... 12 percent of the entire wing is Black/African American and another 5 percent identifies with other ethnic backgrounds.

When a racist event occurs, be it an undertone or an overt action, it's traumatic in nature. On top of that you feel alone. I speak from experience.

Discrimination in a culture will initiate division in any organization if left unchecked. For those of you in uniform who are uncomfortable with the subject matter, my advice is learn to be comfortable with being uncomfortable. It is imperative. Encouraging these conversations and talking about the trauma are the

initial steps toward healing.

Building relationships and earning trust among team members help identify our unconscious bias behaviors, and develops understanding for your fellow Airman.

*"Trust is earned in the smallest of moments. It is earned not through heroic deeds, or even highly visible actions, but through paying attention, listening, and gestures of genuine care and connection."* ~ Brené Brown

Racial discrimination or inequality in any organization, simply put, is an injustice. Change and unity will not happen unless everyone participates. Everyone has the responsibility to address discrimination (racism) at the lowest level—this is the most effective approach.

Commanders, directors, first sergeants, supervisors and subordinates must ensure all appropriate resources are utilized to stamp out negative behaviors that promote bigotry and hate.

*"The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing."* ~ Edmund Burke

Again, leaders you are encouraged to have sit down conversations or sensory sessions with your Airmen and address the feelings concerning our current environment.

The EO office will assist in facilitating conversations should you need us. We can be reached at 937-257-0237.

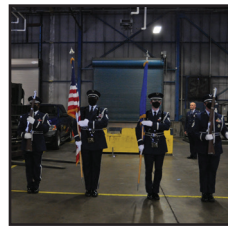
## On the Web



**MXS keeps  
planes in the air**



**SFS train  
during UTA**



**Honor Guard  
continues to  
serve during  
COVID-19**

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