

445th Airman fights COVID-19 behind the scenes

Molecular biologist combats pandemic

*By Airman 1st Class Erin Zimpfer
445th Airlift Wing Public Affairs*

Since the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic, researchers are working as quickly as possible to crack the code of the virus. Understanding ways the virus can be detected is an important aspect to the scientific research.

Senior Master Sgt. Sarah Katoski, superintendent of medical readiness at the 445th Aeromedical Staging Squadron, works as a molecular biologist in the Bioscience's Division of the Army's Chemical Biological Center at Aberdeen Proving Ground in Edgewood, Maryland.

"My research is centered on biological defense," said Katoski. "Our mission is traditionally standoff detection, which means minimal clinical work. However, due to our capabilities, we have been tasked with developing, testing and validating different efforts focused on coronavirus research to combat the pandemic."

Katoski's work has been focused on developing a rapid sequencing tool capable of detecting the virus not only in clinical but also environmental samples such as air or water, she said. Such a tool exists for detection of bacteria samples but using it to identify a virus is more complex.

"Since the outbreak, some of us have been deemed 'essential' to continue ruggedizing our system to make a field forward sequencing capability sensitive enough to detect the virus but equally reliable," explained Katoski. "This is ongoing."

Detecting the virus has been the focus of much attention since the pandemic began. According to



Courtesy Photo

Sarah Katoski

the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), two tests are available for COVID-19: viral tests and antibody tests. COVID-19 is primarily a respiratory illness caused by a coronavirus that can spread from person to person even asymptotically.

The sergeant said her research is concentrated on being able to detect the virus in nature, such as air, soil and water, which is more difficult than isolating and diagnosing a virus from a human sample.

"I am very excited about our work with air sampling and threat detection," stated Katoski. "This type of science will help develop a technology that has the potential to directly impact our ATSO (Ability to Survive and Operate) capabilities. For example, understanding the airflow of a C-17 and minimizing the recirculation of contaminated air by rapidly identifying, detecting and decontaminating the source will exponentially reduce ground time."

"Other efforts I am supporting are testing and evaluating clinical isolates on new COVID-19 diagnostic tests. Some have already been deployed to the testing sites," said Katoski. "We have been working with our engineering group to develop mobile labs for the Army. We have to add certain pieces of equipment for rapid detection testing."

Additionally, the Edgewood facility has been supporting other agencies with personal protective equipment, providing face masks and gloves to both civilian and government entities.

"Moving forward, our goal is to leverage national resources, so that the Department of Defense can support Force Health Protection to better protect and posture the military to maintain operational readiness, assist Federal Emergency Management Agency led national and local responses, and defend soldiers, civilians and their families in the national fight against pandemics," said Senior Master Sgt. Katoski.

As a member of the 445th ASTS, Katoski supports the work of her fellow Airmen and her behind the scenes contributions to the ongoing pandemic. Some members of the unit are deployed to New York and working in the hard hit areas of the state.

"The amazing work the doctors, nurses and medical professionals are doing to combat COVID-19 on the front line while we, scientists, work from the laboratory to mitigate this, and even those at home who help flatten the curve, is extremely commendable," Katoski concluded.

FM tip of the month - valid receipts

What is a receipt? A receipt is a legibly written/printed/electronic document (or facsimile thereof) provided by a service provider or vendor to a customer, which provides documentary evidence that the service provider or vendor has been paid for services or goods, provided to the customer.

To be considered valid, a receipt must contain the name of the entity providing the goods/services, the date(s) that the goods/services were provided/purchased, the price of the goods/services, any tax levied, and the total monetary amount due. It must also indicate that the total monetary amount due was paid.

Travelers are advised to retain all receipts for voucher purposes. Travelers are required to attach all supporting documentation including the original or legible copies of orders and receipts for all lodging expenses, as well as, claimed reimbursable expenses of \$75 or more.

When filing your voucher, keep in mind that a valid receipt must contain the name of the company, date, unit price of the item/service, and must show that the total amount due was paid. While travel charge card statements do

provide proof of payment, they do not provide the level of detail required such as, itemized cost.

Common receipts are lodging, rental car and airfare.



Often travelers attach a lodging reservation with an estimated cost, instead of the actual cost. A valid lodging receipt must be itemized to show the daily room cost and taxes. It should not show "balance due" unless it shows that there was a form of payment presented. See figure 1 for an example of a valid, itemized lodging receipt.

A valid rental car receipt is received once the rental car has been returned. The agent will give the traveler a receipt or the traveler will receive a receipt via email.

The rental receipt will itemize the cost of the rental and have a zero balance. If the traveler allows the rental car company to refuel the vehicle, the traveler will be responsible for the fuel cost. Per the *Joint Travel Regulations (JTR) 020209, Table 2-8 4*, rental com-

pany fuel charges are not a reimbursable expense. See figure 2 for example of an itemized rental car receipt.

When the traveler books the airfare through Defense Travel System, DTS provides receipts that states "this is an itinerary only" and "this is your official receipt for travel." Regularly, a traveler will submit the "this is an itinerary only" when filing the voucher. The "this is an itinerary only" receipt is given to the traveler prior to a ticket number being given and weeks in advance. The "this is an itinerary only" receipt cannot be used as a valid receipt because it does not show payment or ticket number.

Within 24-72 hours, the traveler will receive a receipt sent from SATO Travel that states "this is your official receipt for travel." This receipt is considered as a valid receipt because it has an invoice/ticket number and shows form of payment. See figure 3 and 4 for examples of valid airfare receipts, booked within DTS.

Travelers can reduce voucher return time by ensuring that proper and valid receipts are uploaded into their voucher.

Figure 1

Date	Description	Charges	Credits
09-26-19	Group Room	149.00	
09-26-19	OCDD Surcharge	1.49	
09-27-19	Group Room	149.00	
09-27-19	OCDD Surcharge	1.49	
09-28-19	Group Room	149.00	
09-28-19	OCDD Surcharge	1.49	
09-29-19	Group Room	149.00	
09-29-19	OCDD Surcharge	1.49	
09-30-19	Group Room	149.00	
09-30-19	OCDD Surcharge	1.49	
10-01-19	Visa	XXXXXXXXXX XXXX	752.45
Total		752.45	752.45
Guest Signature	Balance	0.00	

Figure 2

YOUR VEHICLE CHARGES:

MIN 99 HRS. IF NOT NET DLY RT=	75.25MAX	28 DAY
RATE CHART TIME AND MILEAGE		
Mts : Unlimited		
HRLY :	37.64	
DAILY :	75.25	
RD BY :	31.57	
PER :	789.28	
PRG	789.28=	789.28
Less 10.0% Discount =		78.93
		710.35
Time & Mileage:		
TAXABLE FEES		
VEH LICENSE RECOUP	1.95 /DY	+ 48.75
ENERGY RECOVERY FEE	.63 /DY	+ 5.00
GARS	5.00 /DY	+ 125.00
10.00% Concession Recovery Fee		+ 71.04
Subtotal Charges:		951.14
Sales Tax 10.00%		+ 95.11
NON TAXABLE ITEMS		
Fuel service charge		+ 70.92
Your Total Charges Paid:		1128.17
Prepayment :		0.00
NET CHARGES:	USD	1128.17
Your Total Due:		0.00
Fuel service:	.3996/MI	9.990/Gal

Figure 3

CWT SatoTravel | Your Itinerary

Trip on Feb 07, 2020 | Locator: ZPSLJW | Date: Feb 07, 2020

Traveller: [REDACTED]

Customer Number: 744QS84

Agent: OJ

THIS IS YOUR OFFICIAL RECEIPT FOR TRAVEL. PLEASE RETAIN FOR VOUCHERING OR REIMBURSEMENT PURPOSES.

Figure 4

Name	Invoice / Ticket / Date	Base	Tax 1	Tax 2	Tax 3	Total
[REDACTED]	328056/TRF2196598454/06FEB20	18.55				18.55
[REDACTED]	328056/0167499186168/06FEB20	436.28	79.12			515.40
Total Amount						533.95

Form of Payment: VXXXXXXXXXX [REDACTED]



NCOs provide pivotal leadership

By Col. Donald F. Wren

445th Mission Support Group Commander



Almost seven years has passed since I last had the privilege to write an article for this publication. For a long time I have been on a journey to define what leadership means to me as well as what good organizational leadership looks like. I found a clue.

Working with our brothers and sisters in the U.S. Army and our Air Force Special

Tactics Squadron at Ft. Bragg's Pope Army Airfield, I came to realize that the key to great leadership in a military organization is the non-commissioned officers--the NCOs.

The role of the senior non-commissioned officer and non-commissioned officer has become more vivid in my grasp of military organizational leadership. In fact, NCOs are the key! To that, here's a history lesson to make my point.

On July 2, 1863, two armies were in a struggle in a cross roads town in Eastern Pennsylvania called Gettysburg. The day prior, a portion of Lt. Gen. Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia met a few of Lt. Gen. George Gordon Mead's Army of the Potomac's men and fought hard against each other at a devastating cost. It was clear the Confederate Army won the day as General Lee had the Yankees on the run.

As dawn broke on the next day, General Lee's plan was to have Lt. Gen. James Longstreet's First Corps attack the Union on strategic high ground called Little Round Top. After a lot of fast thinking and troop movements, the Union forces of the North placed the 20th Maine regiment on the end of the Federal line. The commander, Col. Joshua Chamberlain, was told to hold this position "at all hazards." In other words, this position is of such strategic value he must fight to the last man.

As the battle began, Col. William Oates' 14th Alabama came charging into the Maine men's line and were repulsed. A back and forth began as the rebels attacked, retreated and reformed only to attack again. This went on several times with great cost. Men were killed and wounded during each attack. At some point in this struggle Colonel Chamberlain's determination began to wane and he soon felt a feeling of gloom. The gravity of his orders "hold at all hazards"

and the bloodshed made his circumstance seem impossible.

During a pause in the fighting, Chamberlain's disposition weakened further and despair began to set in causing him to question himself and his purpose. He surveyed his worn out battle line, which started with about 300 men, seeing many dead and wounded lying at his feet with gaps in his line. The 20th had more than 100 fighting men left to fight. Panicked reports rapidly came in from his officers that the regiment was dangerously low on ammunition with no resupply coming. He was unsure about what to do. As his eyes moved across his line, he saw, standing in the center of that line, First Sergeant Andrew Tozier and the Regimental flag with the Colors of the

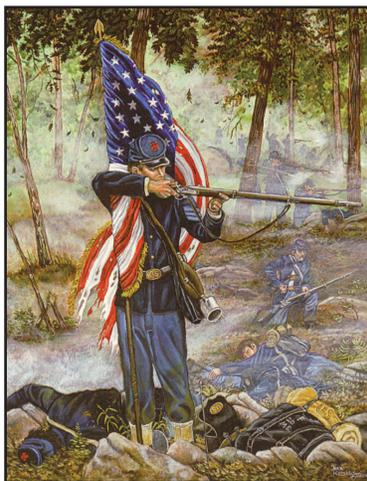
United States being boldly held steady. Tozier, like all great senior NCOs, knew the orders that were given. More importantly, as a seasoned fighter he knew the significance of this moment.

Sergeant Tozier was the senior NCO of the Color Guard for the 20th Maine. Shortly before this engagement, Tozier was a mutineer from the 2nd Maine which was disbanded a short time before this battle. He and the 100 other Maine mutineers wanted to go home, but still had another year of enlistment. They were sent to Chamberlain as the 20th was the only remaining Maine regiment left.

Obviously Colonel Chamberlain saw something in Tozier because soon after the mutineers joined the 20th, Tozier was appointed to the highly honored position on the Color Guard. This is the pinnacle assignment for any infantryman of the time.

The Color Guard is not a fighting force. They are the command and control taking the Colors in the direction ordered by the commander...the men follow where these go. However, the strength of the Union line weakened with each man shot or wounded as this battle thundered on. Sgt. Tozier realized the grave circumstance he and his men were in...he did something.

With men falling around him and determined Alabamians dangerously close and inside the Federal line, Andrew Tozier held his ground. As Colonel Chamberlain beheld the stalwart Tozier fearlessly continue the fight, he found himself newly determined and inspired to carry on the fight...the hope-

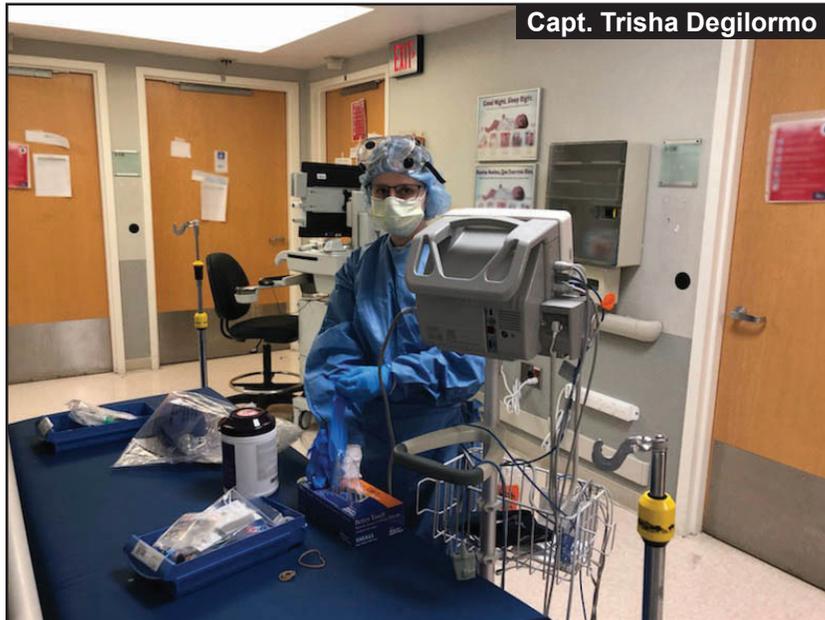


This lithograph by artist Nick Korolev titled "Sacred Trust" depicts Sgt. Tozier's stand on Little Round Top.

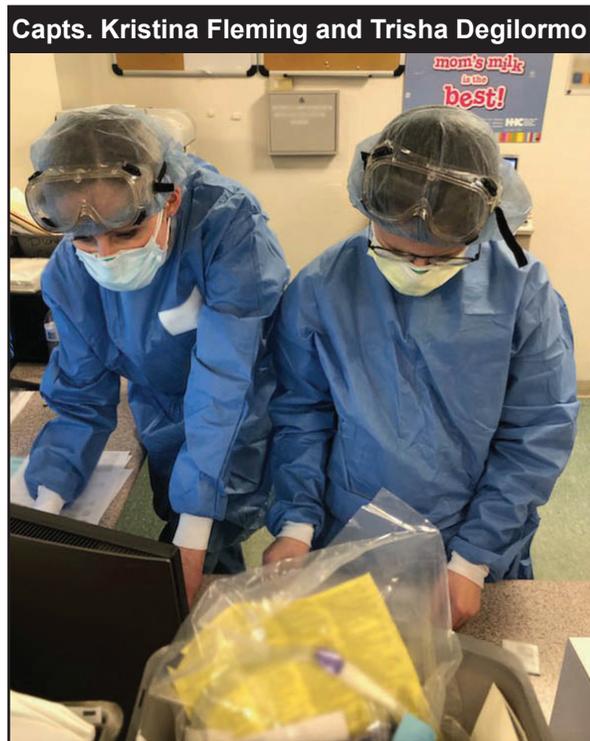
See *PIVOTAL LEADERS*, page 6



COVID Commandos continue supporting NY hospital



Capt. Trisha Degilormo



Capt. Kristina Fleming and Trisha Degilormo

Nurses from the 445th Aeromedical Staging Squadron provide care to patients at Lincoln Hospital in Bronx, New York, May 5, 2020. The nurses are working in the intensive care unit, neonatal intensive care unit and the emergency department to support patients battling COVID-19.

The 445th Airlift Wing currently has a doctor from the Aerospace Medicine Squadron and several ASTS nurses working at Lincoln Hospital. The "COVID Commandos" departed Wright-Patterson Air Force Base April 5, 2020 and are still on the front lines helping with the COVID-19 pandemic.



1st Lt. Jennifer Gerritsen



Maj. Raychaelle Blue



Capt. Kristina Fleming

Photos by Lt. Col. Karen Keller



Wing recognizes 1st quarter CY 2020 award winners

Amn



Senior Airman Taylor Fife, 445th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron aeromedical evacuation technician, is the 445th Airlift Wing Airman of the Quarter. Fife played a vital role in the Patriot Warrior exercise where she teamed up with 7,000 participants and accomplished eight United Kingdom and United States critical care air transport team missions. She achieved flight upgrade after flying 34 sorties for a total of 128 hours, maintaining 100 percent mission readiness. The Airman was chosen for an AE operational mission, flying two CONUS operations supporting Operation Freedom's Sentinel while organizing and leading the safe care of 12 patients and an AE crew. Fife maintained the squadron's information technology electronic health record, a \$50,000 electronic system used to track patients and she instructed 40 Airmen on it. She participated in the Sun 'n Fun Air Show, showcasing AE operations to more than 150,000 spectators.

NCO



Tech. Sgt. Ryan Steele, 445th Security Forces Squadron fire team leader, is the 445th Airlift Wing NCO of the Quarter. Steele was one of 16 Airmen selected by Air Force Reserve Command for the Naval Warfare Trident exercise at Cannon Air Force Base, New Mexico. He was sworn in as a wing inspection team member and evaluator representing security forces for chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear defense exercise and ability to survive and operate training; improving safety and readiness for his squadron. The sergeant led the squadron's force-on-force shoot, move and communicate exercise for 93 warrior Airmen, enhancing the wing's tactical and lethal skill sets. During his off-duty time, Steele earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Homeland Security, graduating Magna Cum Laude. Technical Sergeant Steele championed a first responder, veteran hockey league, a community outreach achievement reaching 28 citizen warriors.

SNCO



Master Sgt. Zachary Fontaine, 445th Aeromedical Staging Squadron aerospace medical technician, is the 445th Airlift Wing Senior NCO of the Quarter. Fontaine was selected as the program manager for the wing's medical skills lab where he lectured and directed new Sim-Manikin setup and training with a corepresentative. The training impacted 200 wing medics. As the NCO in charge of clinical management, Fontaine managed the Comprehensive Medical Readiness Program, patient safety, Credentials (a credentialing program), the Infection Control Program and mental health. Fontaine produced a joint training platform with the aeromedical evacuation squadron, leading a \$79,000 skills lab, increasing joint training capabilities. He was selected as the quarter master for the Indiana Fire Department, where he created and reviewed patient and personnel safety policies. Fontaine is working on a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing.

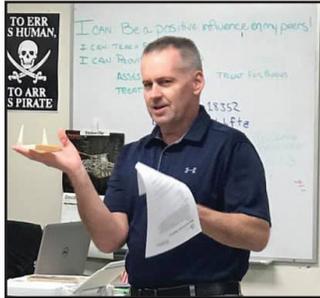
CGO



Capt. Joshua Earl, 89th Airlift Squadron scheduling officer and C-17 aircraft commander, is the 445th Airlift Wing Company Grade Officer of the Quarter. Earl commanded 46 crews and 37 sorties with more than 120 flying hours and transported 350,000 pounds of cargo while safeguarding more than \$100 million in joint coalition assets. As a total force integrator, Earl led 78 crews, accomplishing 63 flying training hours and he orchestrated an inter-theater human remains recovery mission and helped to prepare 445th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron Airmen to deploy. The captain oversaw three programs that generated 225 orders for more than 80 aviators flying 56 missions and dealt with \$108,000 in travel vouchers and a \$240,000 budget. Earl developed a 36-hour Air Force Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps pilot shadow program and he volunteered 12 hours with non-traditional and military student services, mentoring 24 officer candidates.



SPOTLIGHT



Courtesy Photo

Rank/Name: Master Sgt. Glenn Olmstead

Unit: 87th Aerial Port Squadron

Duty Title: Transportation Specialist/Unit Training Manager

Hometown: Science Hill, Kentucky (Not a

fictitious town as some may think from the Tom Cruise movie “Edge of Tomorrow”)

Civilian Job: Special Education Instructional Assistant

Education: Associate in Applied Science/Community College of the Air Force, Airframe and Power plant Mechanic Certification/Columbus State Community College

Hobbies: Flying, camping, boating, hiking, almost any outdoor activities.

Career Goal: I hold a private pilot certification

and plan to work on my instrument rating this summer. I am too old to fly for the military but hope to fly for the Civil Air Patrol in the future giving orientation flights to cadets and providing support in search and rescue missions.

What do you like about working at the 445th?: I served on active duty at the start of my Air Force career. Being in the Reserve brings a whole other level to serving your country. The diversity that all the members of the 445th brings to the mission is one of the greatest assets we have.

Why did you join the Air Force?: I joined the Air Force in May of 1983 at the age of 19. At first, I did it because I was not sure what to do for a career. The Air Force and the mentors I have met over the years gave me the direction I needed and is the contributing factor to the successes I have had in life. I continue to share my experiences with individuals of the younger generation that may not be sure of their direction in life.

PIVOTAL LEADERS, from page 3

lessness was gone. Tozier’s unspoken message was clear! The newly inspired commander’s confidence was key to swinging the momentum of battle. Ultimately, the Rebels were beaten as Chamberlain ordered a bayonet charge that ended the action that day. The Union held the strategic ground at Little Round Top.

I can’t imagine what Joshua Chamberlain was really thinking, but would think that a display of courage and determination, from a man who a few weeks earlier was going to prison as a mutineer, shot a charge of electricity into the Colonel’s body energizing him to continue in his duty. In my personal experience as a commander, it was the voice of the shirt or my chief that kept me going in tough times. Their voices resonate and inspire me yet today. You see, leadership doesn’t just move down the chain. That, what Tozier did, is what great senior NCOs do. They lead by example with unique experience and perspective...up and down the chain of command...enlisted and officers alike.

Having just completed the first virtual unit training assembly in this wing’s history, we will find that there is at a new normal riddled with unknowns and imperfect information. A lot is yet to be discovered in how we move forward post COVID-19.

How we conduct UTAs, ATs [annual tour] and daily business in the new norm is mostly unknown. This new circumstance demands leadership. How we approach the unknown is not just for the wing commander and command chief to figure out and lead us to future success. This new challenge must have leadership from the senior NCOs and NCOs. They will be the engine propelling the wing to meet these challenges head on.

In this sea of uncertainty, it is the senior NCOs and NCOs who will lead us forward just as First Sergeant Andrew Tozier did the 20th Maine almost 157 years ago.

What I’ve learned in the years of searching is: leadership is leadership, it is timeless. Sure styles change and many more books will be written about it, but truly there are only two kinds of leadership, good and bad. The mighty 445th Airlift Wing is rich with very good enlisted leaders. I look forward to “fighting the giants” shoulder to shoulder with them making sure we are mission ready in our AFSC [Air Force Specialty Code] skills, warfighting skills and family readiness as well as caring for the health and welfare of our families, friends and Airmen.

After the war, Sergeant Tozier received the Medal of Honor for his actions at Little Round Top.



News Briefs

Retirements

Lt Col Patrick Driscoll, 89 AS
 MSgt Joseph Holbrook, 445 LRS
 MSgt Harold Rogers, 445 MXG

Awards

Meritorious Service Medal

Lt Col Patrick Driscoll, 89 AS
 MSgt Ashley Byers, 445 AW
 MSgt Glenn Olmstead, 87 APS

Air Force Comendation Medal

Capt Carol Readarce, MXS

Promotions

Airman 1st Class

Preston Sanders, AES

Jonah Crawford, AMXS

Senior Airman

Keisha Neace, AES
 Tyler Bowling, ASTS
 Zane Smith, ASTS
 Philip Aliberti, ASTS
 Alexandra Frantz, CES
 Connor Smith, CES
 Tyler Whitfield, CES
 Matthew Morehead, MXS
 Britney Chinn, FSS
 David Delarosa, AMXS
 Jordan Kletschka, MXS

Staff Sergeant

Amanda McMillan, AES
 Clarence Isaacs, AMXS
 Tyler Teel, CES
 Diego Weithoener, AES
 Caleb Wiseman, AMXS

Technical Sergeant

Nickolaus Burns, AES
 Kianna Wade, CES
 Jason Ware, CES
 Justin Ortiz, OSS
 Cody Warner, MXS

Major promotions announced

Headquarters Air Reserve Personnel Center officials announced May 15, 2020 results for the Calendar Year 2020 Air Force Reserve Line and Non Line Major Promotion Selection Boards. The boards selected more than 800 Citizen Airmen for promotion.



The selection boards convened at HQ ARPC Jan. 27 to Feb. 1, 2020, to determine those officers best qualified to assume the next higher grade. Board members selected 882 of 1,159 officers considered.

A complete list of Airmen selected for promotion is available on the ARPC website or on the

Air Reserve Officer Promotion page on myPers.

Seven reservists from the 445th Airlift Wing were selected for promotion to major:

Tyler Altier, Joshua Anno and Isaac Cade, 445th Aero-medical Evacuation Squadron; William Harrison and Phillip Sobers,

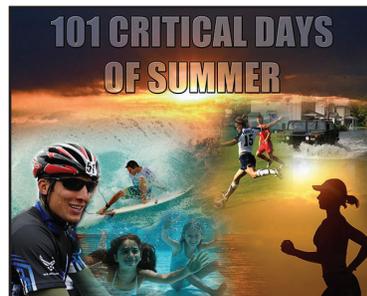
445th Logistics Readiness Squadron; Cassidy Helregel, 89th Airlift Squadron; and Nathan Lowman, 445th Maintenance Squadron.

Questions can be directed to the Total Force Service Center at (210) 565-0102 or DSN 665-0102.

OCP UNIFORM CHANGES BECOME MANDATORY BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 1

The changes for each uniform are detailed in Air Force Instruction 36-2903, Dress and Appearance of Air Force Personnel.

- The U.S. flag patch will be **Spice Brown**. Airmen will wear the flag while in garrison and deployed. Infrared U.S. flags are not authorized.
- The authorized T-shirt color will be Coyote Brown (Tan 499) only.
- Rank insignia will be **Spice Brown**. Exception: First lieutenant and lieutenant colonel rank insignia will be black.
- The authorized boot color will be **Coyote Brown only**. Exceptions: Airmen with a medical condition as determined by medical authorities at a civilian or military treatment facility and approved by the commander, and those who must wear black combat boots in industrial areas.
- The authorized socks will be DLA-issued green socks or Coyote Brown only.



Buckeye Flyer

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Virtual re-enlistment ceremonies new norm for 445th

By Stacy Vaughn
445th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

As the men and women of the 445th Airlift Wing adjust to a new normal, social distancing has affected the way every day events are implemented. Such is the case with re-enlistment ceremonies.

Senior Master Sgt. Sena Walker, wing career assistance advisor for the 445th AW and 655th Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Wing said several Airmen have taken part in a virtual re-enlistment and have given family members the opportunity to observe the re-enlistment from a distance. The Airmen can share their continuation of their military career with friends and family who are also at home.

“Covid-19 may have altered the way re-enlistments are conducted, however, our Airmen are resilient and adapt to their environment. Tradition and pride in serving our country have overcome this unprecedented time as our Airmen continue to serve virtually,” Walker said.

Walker said as long as the Airman has been approved for re-enlistment and has a video platform installed on their device, re-enlistments can and will continue.

“The re-enlistment ceremony can be conducted via Skype, Teams, FaceTime, Zoom, etc. As long as an authorized re-enlisting official is performing the oath before the re-enlistee, this meets the spirit and intent of Air Force instructions.”

Walker added that all other requirements outlined in *Air Force Instruction 36-2606 Re-enlistment and Extension of Enlistment in the United States Air Force*, still apply; such as wearing the official uniform and the ceremony being conducted in a dignified manner in reverence to the oath that is being taken. Additionally, the *DD Form 4* are common access card enabled but the forms may be digitally or wet signed during this time. The military witness, re-enlistee and re-



Courtesy Photo

Lt. Col. Sharon Ellis, 445th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron flight nurse, administers the Oath of Enlistment virtually to Staff Sgt. Logan Wild, 445th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron aeromedical evacuation technician as he re-enlists, May 4, 2020. Master Sgt. Eric Riehle, 445th AES career advisor, witnesses via video conferencing. Colonel Ellis, Sergeant Wild’s supervisor resides in Utah, and Sergeant Wild lives in Columbus, Ohio.

enlisting official may digitally sign, wet sign, or use a combination of digital and wet signatures on the documents and immediately forward them back to their unit, group or wing career assistance advisor.

Airmen who wish to postpone their re-enlistment to perform a traditional ceremony, is currently authorized an extension of up to three months.

Please contact your career assistance advisor team if you have questions.

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