

# BUCKEYE FLYER

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## 445th family maintains a three-generation legacy

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

Many families have connections to the military, but few families can claim the same longevity as the DeWitt family, who have had a unique connection to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base and the 445th Airlift Wing for three generations.

Three individual family members are currently serving in the 445th Maintenance Group.

The 445th Maintenance Group is comprised of the 445th Maintenance Squadron and the 445th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron. Both are responsible for maintaining the operational capability of the wing's nine C-17 Globemaster III aircraft.

The late Master Sgt. Raymond DeWitt Sr. served as a B-17 bottom gunner during World War II. He retired from Wright-Patterson AFB in 1969, where he served as a nuclear weapons superintendent for the B-52.

His son, Master Sgt. Raymond DeWitt Jr., who has a military career that spans more than 20 years, continues the legacy and is currently an electrical and environmental systems (ELEN) expert, and the supervisor of the ELEN back shop of the 445th MXS. He attributes his family's connection and proximity to Wright-Patterson with helping him decide where to commit his time and energy.

"I wanted to continue what my father had started here at Wright-Patterson, and I wanted to serve my country," said Master Sgt. Raymond DeWitt.

He also laid the groundwork for what his children would eventually pursue in the military. "I wanted to teach my kids to be patriotic and to understand the

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Photos by Master Sgt. Patrick O'Reilly

(center) DeWitt family: Master Sgt. Raymond DeWitt Jr., 445th Maintenance Squadron; Tech. Sgt. Joshua DeWitt, 445th MXS; former Senior Airman Daniel DeWitt, 445th Force Support Squadron; and Airman 1st Class Katie DeWitt, 445th Maintenance Group, pose for a photo.

(top left) Airman 1st Class Katie DeWitt coordinates with a co-worker during a unit training assembly (UTA).

(top right) Tech. Sgt. Joshua DeWitt inspects an air conditioning unit on a C-17 Globemaster III for defects.

(bottom left) Master Sgt. Raymond DeWitt Jr. displays a photo of his father, Master Sgt. Raymond DeWitt Sr.

(bottom right) Master Sgt. Raymond DeWitt Jr. fastens a clamp to a C-17 aircraft storage battery after recharging.



# Wing command chief reflects on 2021

By Chief Master Sgt. Christopher Williams  
445th Airlift Wing Command Chief Master Sergeant



Over the past few years, many times have I said to our Airmen, ‘On her darkest day, our Nation may ask you commit violence upon her behalf, to defend the homeland against an outside aggressor or even deliver humanitarian relief to her neighbors. When that time comes, we will be prepared.’ And in a moment’s notice you all answered those same urgent requests this

year in 2021 as you did when COVID-19 changed our way of life in 2020.

When I survey the 445th Airlift Wing for 2021, the memories that shine brightest are those memories in which our Reserve Citizen Airmen placed their own lives on hold to take care of others.

In 2021, I saw Innovative Readiness Training visits in several places throughout the United States by our numerous members of mission support, medical and dental personnel of all specialties. In some terribly underserved communities, you provided for optical, dental or medical needs to numerous Americans. I saw in other areas where you engaged in the development and construction of summer camp facilities that for years to come will make the dreams come true for numerous families who have children with developmental challenges.

I watched with pride when the Airmen of the 445th Airlift Wing materially participated in the largest non-combatant evacuation in the history of the United States. This could not have happened without our aircrews, maintainers, port dawgs, schedulers, logistics readiness and others. And as of this writing, we have numerous members, some even working outside of their specialties, that are deployed overseas and within our borders supporting Operation Allies Welcome demonstrating to the world that the American Dream is alive more than ever!

In 2021, I also got to see our Citizen Airmen be acknowledged for amazing achievements. In one case honor guard members stopped and helped a distressed motorist avoid disaster. In another, one of our Citizen Airmen rendered lifesaving first aid during a weapons training ammunition malfunction. We applauded while watching our own receive honor gradu-

ate and distinguished graduate accolades in various professional military education or technical training courses. And in one case, we applauded the achievements of one of our firefighters who attained World Champion status and in doing so produced a signal on the lethal part of CMSAF Bass’ radar. In such, the 445th even hosted a UTA [unit training assembly] Saturday morning visit to show CMSAF Bass how we Reserve Citizen Airmen get it done with style!

Now, I would be remiss if I failed acknowledge that 2021 was not without challenges. This year we lost Airmen to the struggles of the world. This year several of our Citizen Airmen suffered personal losses. This year, we had to say goodbye to comrades that we served life-long careers with. Again this year we had budgetary frustrations that forced tough and unpopular choices. Some even had their Oath of Enlistment challenged when faced with the choice of vaccination. In these moments of struggles and successes, you all clearly demonstrated your abilities to lead with conviction, confidence, grace and compassion. Struggle and success gives us the opportunity to display who and what we are. We in the 445th Airlift Wing family know we are American Airmen and once again in 2021, it was evidenced on the WORLD stage.

As this year closes, please consider resting your spirit and giving time to what feeds your resiliency. Please pause and thank your entire support network, for without them our service to our great nation would be much more difficult. And finally, if possible, try to make moments of quiet to reflect on the successes of 2021 with some goals in mind to set for 2022.

My wife Lori and I, thank you all for an awesome 2021. We look forward to working side-by-side with you all in carrying on these good works of the 445th Airlift Wing into 2022.

Chief Williams



# Happy Holidays!

By Ms. Vera McClain  
445th Airlift Wing Director of Psychological Health

Ho! Ho! Ho! Happy holidays and all that! Are we ready? Are we ever? With military life, the demands of being in service keeps many families in flux time-wise. PCSs [permanent change of station], deployments, extended duty, training, often time separation from those we love can be taxing. That along with stressors of the holidays, longer nights and shorter days, finances, family issues, mental health issues can become overwhelming.

Caloric intake increase and physical exercise decrease often result in weight gain. What is intended to be the most wonderful time of the year can sometimes be the opposite. Awareness of depression, anxiety and stress helps. There are other things that can be done to enjoy this season:

1. Keep active. When the weather outside is frightful, inside can be quite delightful. Carve out time to exercise, before work, lunch time, directly after work before going home. This aides mental and physical functioning.

2. Know your triggers. If you have ghosts from Christmases past, keep that in check. For some it's

over indulgence in food, alcohol, time with toxic people, keeping with traditions that make you sad. Bottom line is if it makes you sad or angry, make changes. You are not betraying anyone's memory to do this. Create new traditions that is best for you and yours.

3. Gratitude. Focus on the things you have rather than what you don't. You've heard it said if you can't be happy with what you have, you won't be happy with more. That's true in the fact that things don't make us happy, they provide us comfort. Avoid creating debt for others. They wouldn't want that for you and likely feel the same.

4. Be honest with yourself. Once someone told me that in time you learn to not carry your burden but let it walk beside you. Some things will remain with us, a loss of someone close, physical challenges, various hardships and the holidays can compound those feelings. If you feel distressed, please reach out. It is a sign of strength and courage to do so. Talk to a trusted friend, relative, clergy or mental health provider. These people are here to help.

Wishing each of you a happy, healthy and safe holiday season.

## LEGACY, from page 1

value of what we have while they were growing up. To see them serve really makes me proud."

When Master Sgt. DeWitt's children were growing up, they felt a similar passion for service. He has had three children serve at the 445th.

"The Air Force for me was a calling," said Airman 1st Class Katie DeWitt, a maintenance management production specialist with the 445th MXG. "The 445th was here, and I had the opportunity to work with my family. I like the connection and the history that my family has here."

Airman DeWitt's job is to help plan, schedule and organize the use and maintenance of air-

craft, engines, munitions, missiles, space systems, aerospace ground equipment and associated support systems.

"I love the environment here. I love the responsibility as well, and with how complex things can get, it keeps things interesting," said Airman DeWitt. "It also feels amazing to carry on the family legacy here. I am the first female in my family to enlist, so it's rewarding to add that experience to our heritage as well."

Master Sgt. DeWitt's

son, Tech. Sgt. Joshua DeWitt, is currently assigned to the 445th AMXS as an electrical and environmental specialist. In



this role, he supervises aircraft electrical and environmental functions and activities aboard Air Force aircraft. Work in this career field includes troubleshooting and rewiring systems that affect everything from

systems to cabin pressure to engine control. The focus of the job is on the electrical systems that support the environment for personnel and passen-

gers inside the aircraft.

DeWitt's son, Senior Airman Daniel DeWitt served until recently in the 445th Force Support Squadron communications element. He was responsible for the critical computerized systems around the wing and kept networks and equipment connected.

"Working in maintenance, I know that my job makes an impact," said Master Sgt. DeWitt. "That really makes me appreciate everything that we have the opportunity to do. Even though I plan on retiring soon, it means a lot to me to know that the history we have with the 445th and the base, will continue to be written."



## Wing conducts C-17 familiarization training



Photos by Master Sgt. Patrick O'Reilly

**(left)** Members of the 445th Civil Engineer Squadron fire and emergency services flight perform a four-man litter carry as part of C-17 Globemaster III familiarization training, Nov. 7, 2021. **(right)** Staff Sgt. Devin Copeland, 445th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron medical technician, demonstrates how to use an emergency oxygen mask as part of C-17 familiarization training during the unit training assembly, Nov. 7, 2021.

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

More than 50 members of the 445th Airlift Wing participated in C-17 Globemaster III familiarization training Nov. 7, 2021. The training focused on patient movement designed to test the Airmen's ability to provide medical evacuation.

The exercise was organized by the 445th Civil Engineer Squadron fire and emergency services flight, 445th Aeromedical Staging Squadron, 445th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron. Support was also provided by the 445th Maintenance Group.

"The main objective of the exercise was to introduce the 445th CES fire and emergency services flight members to the aeromedical evacuation and aeromedical staging squadrons mission, and to familiarize the firefighters with the on- and off-loading of litter patients going into or out of the AE system," said Chief Master Sgt. Chad Lifer, 445th CES fire chief.

"In a deployment setting, the additional manpower could help expedite the transfer of medical care to or from the AE crew should the ASTS personnel become overly tasked with patients or ground duties, Lifer said. They would use the manpower to help off-load the patients in an emergency situation."

During the exercise, personnel utilized proper lifting and litter carrying techniques as well as learning how to use the commands to guide the team. The use of proper commands, lifting techniques, as well as safety procedures, were imperative for the success of transporting patients to aircraft or ground vehicles.

"It was a perfect training scenario with perfect weather. The crews providing instructions were doing a fabulous job making it easy to understand what's expected of the crews as they come into an emergency situation," said Lifer. "The preparatory commands that were given, the movement of the cots to prevent injury and the expedition of on- and off-loading of patients. It was a very good training exercise."

Master Sgt. Jimmy Montalvo, 445th ASTS aerospace medical technician, further explained his thoughts on the training exercise.

"The firefighters wanted support with training with patient movement down-range. Patient movement is what we do best. In any way, we can we provide the best training that we can," Montalvo said.

Lifer added that the training enforced the importance of teamwork between the squadrons.

"This training reinforces the importance of having a good relationship within the units in the 445th. We can get together and train and be better prepared should this happen in a real-world emergency situation in a deployed location," said Lifer.

During the exercise, the group was visited by 4th Air Force Commander Maj. Gen. Jeffrey Pennington, who was visiting the wing that weekend.

"I think we did great. There was a team that lifted Maj. Gen. Pennington who was visiting the exercise during their first carry and they did great! He loved it, they loved it and it doesn't get any better than that," said Montalvo.



# 4th Air Force commander visits 445th Airlift Wing



(left) Maj. Gen. Jeffrey T. Pennington, 4th Air Force commander, speaks to Airmen at the 445th Airlift Wing during breakfast at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base Pitsenbarger Dining Facility, Nov. 6, 2021.

(right) Maj. Gen. Jeffrey T. Pennington, 4th Air Force commander, presents a coin to Tech. Sgt. Roselys Baugh, 445th Force Support Squadron force management NCO in charge, Nov. 6, 2021. Baugh was selected as the 445th Mission Support Group outstanding performer.



(top left) Maj. Gen. Jeffrey T. Pennington, 4th Air Force commander, greets Senior Master Sgt. Jennifer Boggs, 445th Civil Engineer Squadron senior ART (Air Reserve Technician), during his visit to the 445th Airlift Wing, Nov. 6, 2021.

(top right) Maj. Gen. Jeffrey T. Pennington, 4th Air Force commander, poses with the 445th Force Support Squadron during his visit, Nov. 6, 2021.



(left) Staff Sgt. Melvin Castro, 445th Aerospace Medicine Squadron NCO in charge of immunizations, receives a coin for outstanding performance from Maj. Gen. Jeffrey T. Pennington, 4th Air Force commander, Nov. 6, 2021.

Photos by Master Sgt. Patrick O'Reilly



# SPOTLIGHT



**Rank/Name:** Staff Sgt. Alyssa Thacker

**Unit:** 445th Aeromedical Staging Squadron

**Duty Title:** Aerospace Medical Technician

**Hometown:** Columbus, Ohio

**Civilian Job:** Emergency Room Nurse

**Education:** Hondros College of Nursing

**Hobbies:** Plant keeping, lifting weights, hiking and kayaking

**Career Goal:** Complete Bachelor of Science degree in nursing, then eventually become a nurse practitioner and work in aesthetics.

**What do you like about working at the 445th?:** I like the cama-

raderie between everyone. I have learned a lot from many people around the unit over the years I've been a part of the 445th!

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

At the time in which I decided to join, I just had no clue where my life was going at the time. I chose to become an aerospace medical technician, even though I had zero interest in healthcare, but ended up falling in love with patient care. I owe the Air Force for giving me the opportunity to fall in love with my career. On top of that, the Air Force has opened up many education and training opportunities for me to advance in my military and civilian life.

## MyVector updates help connect Airmen, Guardians

*By Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs*

ARLINGTON, Va. (AFNS)--To help advance diversity efforts across the force, MyVector has recently added several features to the platform.

MyVector is one of the many tools Airmen and Guardians can use to enhance their career development, including tracking personal development and assignments, writing performance evaluations, and connecting with mentors as well as mentoring others.

Last summer, the Secretary of the Air Force stood up the Diversity and Inclusion task force to address the issue of racial, ethnic and other demographic disparities and their impact on the forces. The task force identified MyVector's mentorship platform as an area that could help expand diversity efforts. Having more specific filters, such as race, ethnicity and disability, allows Airmen and Guardians to better tailor searches to their specific needs.

"The objective of expanding the mentoring filters in MyVector is to provide a better search experience for Airmen and Guardians to locate potential mentors with similar backgrounds," explained Dr. Carrie Baker, a member of the SAF Office of Diversity and Inclusion. "We noticed that the men-

tor request fields had limited search features and wanted to enhance this valuable resource."

Lt. Col. Cindy Roberts, one of the leaders within the task force, explained that the new filters also applied to those in the Exceptional Family Member Program, or those who have identified themselves as having a disability, such as hearing loss or invisible wounds. The disability filter allows approximately 1,000 Airmen and Guardians who have identified themselves with a disability or an invisible wound to connect with other Airmen and Guardian mentors who have an identified disability.

These MyVector additions will advance Department of the Air Force inclusion practices to incorporate as many aspects of mentorship as possible and make it easier for members to find the best mentor for their needs.

"There may be someone out there struggling with a topic, but there's no one near them to connect with, discuss their problem, or provide advice," Roberts said. "These new filters help narrow down the search for a mentor that can best assist someone seeking advice on their unique topic."



# News Briefs

## Promotions

### Master Sergeant

Chelsea Eldridge, MXG  
Zachariah Hastings, CES

### Technical Sergeant

Maxwell Garcia  
Gonzalez, CES  
Kevin Mullinex, CES  
Charles Tryon, MXS

### Staff Sergeant

Jacob Bennett, OSS  
Devin Copeland, AES  
Elliott Holmes, CES  
Alexis Hymer, AES  
Tara Orr, AES  
Joseph Richer, CES  
Gordon Sullivan, OG

### Senior Airman

Joshua Burritt, MXS  
Serenity Ferreira, AES  
Dustin Kleiman, SFS  
Chandler Mather, FSS  
Brandon Sanborn, 87  
APS  
Chester Williamson, CES

### Airman First Class

Haley Andrews, ASTS  
Hayden Dutro, FSS  
Douglas Townsell, FSS  
Jeffrey Wenger, AMXS

### Airman

Bristan Guza, SFS  
Craig Wildermuth, LRS

## Newcomers

Lt Col Michael Shutt, AMXS  
Capt Kristina Knickerbocker, ASTS  
2 Lt Christopher Callo-way, ASTS  
2 Lt Michael Poffenbarger, OSS  
2 Lt Bilal Temsah, SFS  
MSgt Skye Tancer, AMXS  
TSgt Dennis Fashbaugh, CES  
TSgt Daniel Garcia, MSG  
SSgt Andrew Duhamel, 87 APS  
SSgt Keandra Gibson, SFS

SSgt Cory Nelson, LRS  
SSgt Andrew Szafarski, 89 AS  
SrA Jose Apolito, LRS  
SrA Lizaura Jones, CES  
SrA Brandon Sanborn, 87 APS  
SrA Benjamin Schimer, 87 APS  
SrA Kevin Turcios, AMXS  
A1C Anthony Carreon, AMXS  
A1C Braeden Dunlap, AMXS  
A1C Noah Goodwin, AMXS  
A1C Wayne Hardy, AMXS  
A1C Dalton Hargrove, AW  
A1C Jason Howe, SFS  
A1C Blake Hoyng, MXG  
A1C William Martin, 87 APS  
A1C Diana Molina Car-doza, SFS  
A1C Gerik Snow, 87 APS  
Amn Bristan Guza, SFS  
AB Seneca Bratton, SFS  
AB Taiwo Olawore, CES

## Buckeye Flyer

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## 445th AW Inspector General tidbits



The Air Force Inspection System (AFIS) wants us all to:

### EMBRACE THE RED!!!

- Identify weaknesses
- Waive areas that make sense yet still accomplish the mission
- Acknowledge areas of non-compliance
- Empower/enable change at all levels of the organization
- Eliminate fraud, waste and abuse



# Around the wing ...



Senior Airman Angela Jackson



Master Sgt. Patrick O'Reilly



Staff Sgt. Ethan Spickler



Tech. Sgt. Joel McCullough

**Capt. Ryan Belew, 445th Operations Support Squadron, executive officer and C-17 Globemaster III pilot, checks his radio during Combat Search and Rescue (CSAR) training at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, Nov. 6, 2021.**

**(top left) Col. Michael Baker, 445th Operations Group commander, passes the guidon to Lt. Col. Christopher Kojak, incoming 445th Operations Support Squadron commander, during the squadron's change of command ceremony, Nov. 7, 2021.**

**(center) Staff Sgt. Hanna Yassney, 507th Medical Squadron, trains in the simulation lab at the 445th Aeromedical Staging Squadron, Nov. 7, 2021.**

**(top right) Staff Sgt. Christopher Hedrick, 445th Maintenance Squadron home station check maintenance technician, cleans debris from a hydraulic assembly inside the wheel well of a C-17 Globemaster III, Nov. 6, 2021. During HSCs, Airmen inspect and perform maintenance on the aircraft to maintain readiness.**

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