

## 445th mother-son Airmen enlist, join Air Force Reserve Family attends basic military training together

By Senior Airman Erin Zimpfer  
445th Airlift Wing Public Affairs



**Senior Airman Amanda Guzman and her son Senior Airman Stanley Fairchild III both attended basic military training, Sept. 18, 2019.**

For many people, deciding to enlist in the military is one of the biggest decisions of their lives. But for two Airmen of the 445th Airlift Wing, it was life changing for an entire family.

Senior Airman Amanda Guzman, personnel systems management assistant, 445th Force Support Squadron and her son Senior Airman Stanley Fairchild III, loadmaster, 89th Airlift Squadron, made the decision together.

When Guzman took Fairchild to the recruiter's office in February of 2019, the two had no idea what adventure lay in store for them. After hearing all of the benefits available to her son in the Air Force Reserve, Guzman started to wonder if she could join the service herself.

Guzman had a successful career and family but had always wanted to have the honor of serving

her country. After much deliberation, the two recruits decided they would jump in and do it together. They went to the Military Entrance Processing Center together, took the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery exam together, out-processed together and went to the airport together.

To their surprise, upon arrival to basic military training, the two were placed in brother/sister flights which allowed them the opportunity to stay in contact throughout BMT. The two flights, exercised together and the mother-son tandem team could check in with each other during the morning runs.

"It was a just a really good experience and I wouldn't change it for anything," said Guzman. She added that it gave her reassurance to be able to know they were going through the experience together and sometimes added to the stress if her son was not in class when she expected him to be.

"The best part was being able to see each other progress through training and see each other become better and better at tasks," said Fairchild. "It motivated me to work harder."

Guzman agreed and explained that having her son there with her meant failure was not an option because she wanted to show him that if she could do it, so could he.

Both mother and son feel the experience brought them closer together. "Having the shared experience made it unforgettable," said

Guzman.

"Being able to hug my mom at the end, at graduation, without getting in trouble, was the best part," said Fairchild.

Both Airmen kept their relationship a secret from the military training instructors until the very end, though many of their fellow trainees were in on it.

"When the instructors found out, they were shocked," said Guzman. "I think they were mostly surprised that they had not caught on to it sooner."



Courtesy Photos

**Senior Airman Amanda Guzman, 445th Force Support Squadron personnel systems management assistant, and her son, Senior Airman Stanley Fairchild, 89th Airlift Squadron loadmaster, pose for a photo at the 445th Airlift Wing.**

# A look back at 2020



Master Sgt. Patrick O'Reilly

Col. Raymond A. Smith Jr., 445th Airlift Wing commander, accepts the wing flag from Brig. Gen. Robert Blake, mobilization assistant to the director of current operations, deputy chief of staff for operations, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, during the wing's assumption of command ceremony, Jan. 4, 2020.



Master Sgt. Patrick O'Reilly

Members of the 445th Operations Group complete water survival training in the Pacific Ocean, Feb. 13, 2020. More than 160 members from the 445th Operations and Maintenance Groups travelled to Naval Amphibious Base Coronado, San Diego, California, Feb. 12-18, 2020 to perform annual tour.



Master Sgt. Patrick O'Reilly

Col. Raymond Smith Jr., 445th Airlift Wing commander and Chief Master Sgt. Paul Stewart, 445th AW command chief, present the Airman of the Year Award to Staff Sgt. Matthew Miklasevich, 445th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, at the wing's annual awards banquet, March 6, 2020 at the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force.



Courtesy Photo

With less than 24 hours' notice, a team of seven Reserve Citizen Airmen: a doctor and six nurses from the 445th Airlift Wing packed their bags and boarded a C-17 Globemaster III bound for New York City, April 5, 2020. The COVID Commandos provided critical care support to more than 20,000 patients at Lincoln Medical Center. The team provided relief for nurses who had worked 12-hour shifts for 21 days in a row.



# Year in review



Courtesy Photo

Lt. Col. Sharon Ellis, 445th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron flight nurse, administers the Oath of Enlistment virtually to Staff Sgt. Logan Wild, 445th AES as he re-enlists May 4, 2020, and Master Sgt. Eric Riehle 445th AES career advisor witnesses via video conferencing.



Senior Airman Angela Jackson

Senior Airman Chloe Van Hoose, 445th Force Support Squadron career development specialist, checks the temperature of Master Sgt. Bryan Ulloa, 445th FSS services craftsman, as he enters the building, June 6, 2020. Temperature checks and other safety measure were established in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.



Lt. Col. Cynthia Harris

Reserve Citizen Airmen from the 445th Airlift Wing pause for a moment of silence at the wing's Patriot Day ceremony, Sept. 11, 2020.



Staff Sgt. Darrell Sydnor

(left to right) Senior Airman Valor Burkhead, 445th Logistics Readiness Squadron traffic management journeyman, writes pertinent information being dictated by Senior Airman Jalen Daniels, traffic management journeyman, during package consolidation training, Nov. 8, 2020. Reserve Citizen Airmen Senior Airman Thomas Wilson, traffic management journeyman and Staff Sgt. Charles Miller, traffic management craftsman, observe and ensure the information is written accurately.



Senior Airman Angela Jackson

Staff Sgt. Dylan Lewis-Lee, 87th Aerial Port Squadron ramp operations specialist, secures a training pallet during the 87th APS semi-annual Port Dawg Challenge, Oct. 17, 2020. APS Airmen must be proficient in numerous methods of securing cargo with nets, chains and straps.



## Farewell, thank you for your service

By Chief Master Sgt. Paul Stewart  
445th Airlift Wing Command Chief



The New Year is upon us. As the weather changes, the cold winter air starts to move over the mid-west, and I get to sit back and reflect on what the last year has brought us both personally and as a country.

We as a wing have had a fantastic year full of award winners and success stories; battling a pandemic; social unrest; and a loss within our ranks, but I think we have come out of

2020 a stronger and more cohesive wing.

Since the beginning of the year, we have been able to remain current in our readiness requirements through virtual training and creative unit training assemblies, and our individual medical readiness stats reflect the outcome of your hard work. I cannot thank you all enough for your tireless efforts and dedication.

As you reminisce over the last year, be sure to look with optimism to the future and what the next year will bring us.

November elections have come and gone, and no matter what your political beliefs or who we have as a Commander and Chief, the new year will bring new changes and challenges that we should meet with optimism and enthusiasm. I genuinely feel it is Americans that make this the greatest nation in the world.

As we say good-bye to a crazy year, it is time I bid farewell. I have decided to pull my retirement paperwork and continue to serve.

I have been selected as the Command Chief for the 183rd Wing, an Air National Guard unit in Springfield, Illinois. I have thoroughly enjoyed my tenure as your Command Chief. Together we have dealt with some tumultuous times while maintaining the utmost professionalism and fortitude.

I am blessed, honored, and incredibly grateful to have served side-by-side with every one of you.

## 445th SFS mission, more than just law enforcement

By 1st Lt. Rachel Ingram  
445th Airlift Wing Public Affairs



Senior Airman Angela Jackson

**Security Forces Airmen neutralize targets with simulated live rounds during shoot, move, communicate training, Feb. 8, 2020 at the Wright-Patterson Air Force Base War Fighter Training Center.**

On any given unit training assembly, the Defenders of the 445th Security Forces Squadron might be spotted behind the steering wheel of a patrol car on the flight line, manning one of the installation gates, or instructing a Combat Arms Rifle/Pistol course. But behind the scenes they are also training for field operations, whether those occur overseas in a deployed setting or stateside on a temporary duty assignment.

“People may equate Security Forces exclusively with law enforcement duties, but in reality, that’s just a fraction of what we do,” said Capt. Dustin Honious, commander of the 445th Security Forces Squadron. “Our career field is just so vast.”

Some of the other assignments that can be filled by 445th Defenders include drug interdiction off the Florida Keys with the U.S. Coast Guard and Navy, Operation Trident exercises with Naval Special Warfare, Presidential Security Detail for President of the United States with the Air Force One team, flyaway security missions, and riot control at airshows.

“We can flip a coin and go anywhere in the world,

See SFS MISSION, Page 8



## 445th AMXS key to mission success

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

The 445th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron and maintenance elements within the wing are tasked with supporting and maintaining the mechanical operation of the nine C-17 Globemaster III aircraft assigned to the 445th Airlift Wing.

The C-17, a powerhouse capable of carrying more than 170,000 pounds of cargo, is a key asset in global military transportation operations, and the aircraft maintenance squadron works together with other maintainers to ensure the wing commander's ability to direct this aircraft in support of the Air Force mission.

AMXS performs pre-flight inspections and repairs to ensure the aircraft can launch on-time and fly tasked missions. In the simplest terms, the Aircraft Maintenance Squadron readies and launches 445th C-17s, day-in and day-out.

"Our mission is to get things to where they need to go," said Master Sgt. Rodney McElfresh, a propulsion shop chief with the 445th AMXS. "That can include people, supplies or equipment. And it is important because the overall Air Force mission requires aircraft to be in the air and able to get the job done. Our job ties into everything else, and we are a big part of the team."

For every flight hour the C-17 is operational, it can take up to 20 hours of maintenance to keep the aircraft in peak operational condition. This means that the reliability and safety of the aircraft demands constant attention from maintenance crews and is a priority for Airmen within the career field. Throughout recent years, the 445th has maintained one of the highest operational tempos of any Air Force Reserve Command unit that flies C-17s.

"I've been doing this for 17 years, and I have been stationed at five different bases," said McElfresh. "The experiences that I have been able to have in the Air Force are amazing, and it is exciting to be a part of a team that is this active."

During the nationwide struggle with COVID-19, these 445th airmen were able to maintain their personal safety as well as continuing the operational tempo.

"Our Airmen never cease to amaze me! COVID



Master Sgt. Patrick O'Reilly

**Master Sgt. Rodney L. McElfresh Jr., 445th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron crew chief, verifies strut pressure on a C-17 Globemaster III, April 9, 2020. Reservists of the 445th Airlift Wing continue to fly and maintain a fleet of nine C-17 aircraft, despite the COVID-19 crisis.**

the air and diligently cared for on the ground. It is a big responsibility, but you will have a difficult time finding an Airman within the maintenance field that is not up for the challenge.

"We fly a lot, so it is a priority for us to keep our planes in the air," said Airman Ethan Stone, an avionics technician with the 445th AMXS. "This is something I've wanted to do since I was younger. I come from a military family, so for me service has always been important. What we do is a visible extension of that."

From providing immediate support on the flight line to inspecting aircraft components, 445th maintenance personnel spend their time, often behind the scenes, keeping the mission going.

"Leadership is proud of what the maintainers have accomplished during the pandemic. In the February and March timeframe, the 445th supported several high-priority COVID missions that were planned with less than 24-hour notice. Ops and maintenance worked seamlessly together to ensure flawless execution. Despite the added missions, the social-distancing and all of the new aircraft sanitization requirements, the maintainers have executed the sorties with perfection and without cancelling local training."

"My hope is that when COVID is a distant memory, the Airmen will recall a time when we answered the nation's call and supported the curb of the pandemic," Gharst added.

The 445th maintainers continue to adapt to these requirements and demonstrate their proficiency and the value of their service daily; every time one of our C-17s takes to the skies.

didn't slow them down. In fact, the total flying hours in Fiscal Year 2020 were about 700 flying hours more than originally planned, and we doubled our contingency lines going overseas to support the AOR [Area of Responsibility]," said Lt. Col. Karen Gharst, 445th AMXS commander.

Maintenance personnel understand how necessary their job is for the continued success of the mission, and airmen at all levels and in all situations help keep the aircraft of the 445th Airlift Wing functional in



# SPOTLIGHT



Staff Sgt. Darrell Sydnor

**Rank/Name:** Senior Airman Kai Vue  
**Unit:** 445th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron  
**Duty Title:** Aerospace Propulsion Journeyman  
**Hometown:** Akron, Ohio

**Civilian Job:** Since I joined the Air Force Reserve, I have been on active-duty orders. I am also a day trader.

**Education:** I am currently pursuing a Bachelor of Science in nursing degree, but I plan on switching my major to a Bachelor of Science in finance.

**Hobbies:** I enjoy playing sports, hiking and traveling.

**Career Goal:** I plan on pursuing my Airframe and Propulsion license after my degree and becoming a broker. And then one day, I plan on owning my own exotic tiger zoo.

**What you like about working at the 445th?:** The unit welcomed me in like family since day one. I also enjoy the new opportunities and challenges of the Reserve and the C-17.

**Why did you join the Air Force?:** I've always thought about joining the military since my childhood. I was presented with the opportunity to further my education and my career while traveling so it was a win-win situation.

## 87 APS Airman wins AFRC Honor Guard Member of Year



Staff Sgt. Shane Ellis

Staff Sgt. Shane Ellis, 87th Aerial Port Squadron, was selected as the 2019 Air Force Reserve Command's Base Honor Guard Member of the Year.

Ellis was the NCO in charge of 85 events where he provided flawless military honors for fallen veterans, executing 156 ceremonies and traveling 38,218 miles working 1,192 hours. He was selected as the lead trainer for the active-duty honor guard rotation. Ellis led a five-day Guard and Reserve training mission to Camp Perry that resulted in 18 Air Reserve Component honor guard members from eight units mission being ready.

Sergeant Ellis led an elite pall

bearer team. The pall bearer team is the most difficult position to hold in the honor guard. He was hand-picked for a 20-man funeral honors service (an active duty funeral that is the largest and most complex ceremony the honor guard performs) and rendered a dignified final salute, crystallizing Air Force representation. The NCO introduced three new honor guard candidates, briefing each on ceremonial, training and participation requirements.

Ellis led the Colors team during the 445th Airlift Wing 9/11 remembrance ceremony. He also led his squadron's open ranks inspection that consisted of 150 Airmen in formation.

Ellis was selected above his peers to replace the outgoing active-duty flight sergeant. In this role, he will supervise 12 honor guard members.

The sergeant volunteered for six overnight missions for ceremonies that lasted more than five hours.

The effort saved fatigue and man hours for his flight members. Ellis modified the active-duty detail scheduling when he ensured fair duty hour distribution and strategic division of labor. The sergeant collected and delivered \$100 in donated goods to the Wright-Patterson United Service Organizations (USO).



Staff Sgt. Darrell Sydnor

**Staff Sgt. Shane Ellis performs with the 445th Honor Guard at a 911 memorial ceremony, September 11, 2019 at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio.**



# News Briefs

## Retirements

Lt Col Patrick Allan,  
ASTS

## Promotions

### Senior Master Sergeant

Zachary Fontaine, ASTS  
Matthew Millis, FSS

### Master Sergeant

Caleb Boles, ASTS  
Chad Moystner, AMXS  
John Stevens, AMXS  
Mara Thomas, CES

### Technical Sergeant

Cory Baade, AMDS  
Andrew Hall, AMXS  
Leo Reid, LRS  
Mitcehl Ruiz, CES  
Jarred Steel, MXS

### Staff Sergeant

Mary Czarnecki, ASTS  
Jessica Fouse, 87 APS  
Tyler Langdon, ASTS

### Senior Airman

Nigel Banks, ASTS  
Jamaal Chandler, AMDS  
Amber Cole, AMDS  
Tessa Rhodus, 89 AS  
Madison Scott, AMXS

### Airman

Jennifer Gassawaysteere,  
AMXS  
Samuel Weaver, MXS

## Newcomers

Maj David Black, FSS  
Capt Matt Bush, 89 AS  
Capt Patrick Stainaker,  
AW  
1Lt Shanice Jackson,  
AES  
TSgt Donali Lalich, ASTS  
SSgt Katherine Donovan,  
AMDS  
SSgt Adam Sigrist, ASTS

SrA Christopher Davis,  
OSS

SrA Jorge Escobar, SFS  
SrA Sena Ford, AMXS  
SrA Dominic Rench, 87  
APS

SrA Daniel Schnaars, 87  
APS  
A1C Ian Chisholm, 87  
APS

A1C Joseph Dill, 87 APS  
A1C Esa Edwards, AES  
A1C Kyle Mitchel, AMXS  
A1C Victoria Smith, ASTS  
AB Iguade Cleansman,  
ASTS

AB Hannah Elam, ASTS  
AB Jenna Steere, AMXS  
AB Lily Tendero, ASTS

## BAH re-certification

The 445th Financial Management office is required to complete a full re-certification for every member's Basic Allowance for Housing every two years. Air Force Form 594 must be accomplished and submitted to the finance office for every Airman who is married or claiming a dependent.

Please do not assume that FM has the documents needed to pay the correct BAH rate. Even if you turned in the paperwork to customer service or personnel, the proper documentation must be filed with FM for pay purposes.

Please re-accomplish these forms and submit them to the pay office along with supporting documentation as soon as possible. Questions, call FM at 937-257-4397.

## PA story ideas

Have you ever wanted to be featured in a mission story for the Buckeye Flyer? Does your unit have special trainings planned? Does your unit do unique things that no one knows about? Have an interesting story to tell? We want to hear about it!!

Public Affairs Airmen love to tell everyone about the 445th Airlift Wing's most important asset – YOU! We want to know what you do on UTA weekends. We want to know about your volunteering and extra-curricular activities.

How do you stay well rounded while balancing work/family/military/social life?

If there is something happening, please let us know about it. Call the office at 937-257-5784 or email 445aw.pa2@us.af.mil to get your story out there.

## PA photo studio

The 445th Public Affairs Office is available to help unit members with photography needs such as official photos, passport photos and unit group photos.

Photo studio hours are 9 to 11 a.m., Saturday and Sunday of the Scarlet UTA and by appointment. Please call the PA office at 937-257-5784 to schedule an appointment.

## Award nominations

Nominations are being accepted for spouse, youth, field grade officer and civilian of the year.

Nominations should be submitted on an Air Force Form 1206 to 445aw.pa2@us.af.mil and include a photo. If a photo is needed, contact the public affairs office at 937-257-5784. Submissions are due no later than Feb. 7, 2021.

Any Airmen or civilian can nominate someone for these awards.

The 445th Annual Awards Banquet is currently scheduled for Saturday, April 10, 2021 at the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force. More details will be provided at a later date.

Questions, call the PA office at 937-257-5784.

## Buckeye Flyer

### 445th Airlift Wing Editorial Staff

Col. Raymond Smith, Jr.  
Commander

Lt. Col. Cynthia Harris  
Chief, Public Affairs

Stacy Vaughn / Darrell Sydnor  
Public Affairs Specialist  
Patrick O'Reilly, PA Assistant

5439 McCormick Ave.  
WPAFB, OH 45433-5132  
Building 4010, Room 171  
937-257-5784  
445AW.PA2@us.af.mil

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Senior Airman Amelia Gillies

**Senior Airman Krista Tungett and Staff Sgt. Kody Hildebrand, 445th Security Forces Squadron, participate in a training exercise, March 8, 2020.**

and instantly the mission changes,” he said. “We have to be able to change with it.”

This is why the squadron spends every single UTA fervently completing hands-on training at any opportunity. Not only must they be competent on a wide variety of skills, they have to be able to shift priorities and react to changing environments on the drop of a dime, explained Honious.

“We use the equipment, we train on the equipment, and to be honest, sometimes we end up breaking the equipment,” he said. “But that’s okay; we want those types of things to occur in training so we’ll know what to do if it happens in the field.”

Once a tasking does come up,

it’s too late to work on honing skills or try playing catch up on training; it’s go-time.

“I’m proud of the Airmen in my squadron, they live and breathe the epitome of 72-hour notice,” he said.

Overseas, the 445th SFS typically conducts routine security and patrol, monitors austere flight lines, and sometimes partners with other career fields to establish new air bases and outposts.

“On some occasions, it’s our guys and gals who are setting up those security parameters to monitor the surroundings while Airmen from other squadrons are literally building a base from the ground up,” Honious said.

Security Forces Defenders also provide missile alert and security, combat arms training, boat patrols and mounted horse patrols. Within the career field, Airmen have the opportunity to train and perform any of these functions.

“I tell people, if you’re ever bored, you’re doing it wrong,” Honious said. “You can spend an entire career in this AFSC and almost never do the same assignment twice, if that’s what you choose.”

Honious knows this firsthand. He enlisted straight out of high school, spending the first seven years of his career as a Security Forces Defender traveling the globe performing many of these tasks before commissioning in 2012.

“My mission for our senior leaders is to develop and deploy,” he said. “We teach our Airmen, we mentor our Airmen, and then they go away. If we, as leaders, do our job right, we will lose some of our people. And not because they get out of the military, but because they venture out and take assign-



1st Lt. Rachel Ingram

**Staff Sgts. Johnathan Rogers (right) and Luke Gehring, 445th Security Forces Squadron, engage a target in a locker room during use of force training, July 12, 2020.**

ments that will further their personal and professional growth and development; it’s how we continue forward, it’s how we drive to do better the next day, and it’s how we stay ready.”

445TH AIRLIFT WING/PA  
 BUILDING 4014, ROOM 113  
 5439 MCCORMICK AVE  
 WRIGHT-PATTERSON AFB OHIO 45433-5132

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