

445th AW honors 2020 annual award winners

445th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Leadership from the 445th Airlift Wing gathered at Hangar 4026, April 10, 2021 to honor the wing's annual award winners.

This year's event was much different from the crowd of 500 that usually graces the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force. The event highlighted the nominees accomplishments to the small crowd in attendance and those watching virtually via Facebook Live.

Thirty nominees were recognized at the ceremony. Col. Raymond Smith, 445th AW commander and Chief Master Sgt. Christopher Williams, 445th AW command chief presented medallions to nominees and trophies to the winners.

Congratulations to the following 2020 annual award winners:

Airman of the Year: Staff Sgt. Lauren Howard, 445th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

NCO of the Year: Tech. Sgt. Kathleen Burden, 445th Aerospace Medicine Squadron

Senior NCO of the Year: Senior Master Sgt. Sean McCaslin, 445th Security Forces Squadron

First Sergeant of the Year: Master Sgt. Rebecca Stammen, 445th Force Support Squadron

Company Grade Officer of the Year: Capt. Tyler Mohr, 445th Logistics Readiness Squadron



Photos by Master Sgt. Patrick O'Reilly

Members of the 445th Aerospace Medicine Squadron pose for a group photo with Col. Raymond A. Smith, Jr., 445th Airlift Wing commander and Chief Master Sgt. Christopher Williams, 445th AW command chief, April 10, 2021 at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base.

Field Grade Officer of the Year: Maj. Luke McKeeth, 445th AW Chaplain Corps

Civilian of the Year: Mr. Tomas Medina, 445th Force Support Squadron

Honor Guard Member of the Year: Staff Sgt. Sean Chapman, 445th Aeromedical Staging Squadron

Recruiter of the Year: Master Sgt. Lebaron Smith, 445th Recruiting Squadron

Spouse of the Year: Mrs. Whitney Kisner, spouse of Tech. Sgt. Timothy Kisner, 445th Security Forces Squadron

Squadron of the Year: 445th Aerospace Medicine Squadron

In addition to 445th members, the wing selected a 2020 Community Partner of the Year. Col. Smith and Chief Master Sgt. Williams presented the community partner award to Mr. Erik Oberg and the Wright-Patterson Uniformed Service Organizations (USO) staff, April 6, 2021.

Photos of this year's annual award recipients can be found on page 6.



Nominees for 445th Airlift Wing Annual Awards pose for a photo during a ceremony held to honor their accomplishments, April 10, 2021.

AMDS doctor encourages Airmen to get COVID vaccine

By Col. (Dr.) Hans Otto

445th Aerospace Medicine Squadron Commander

When I was a young boy growing up in Waynesville, Ohio, I remember telling my father that his smoking was bad for him. He agreed and took another puff.

A few years later, I was sitting in the front seat of our family station wagon with my mother and told her she should wear her seat belt. She said it was very uncomfortable and difficult to get used to, but she was happy that I was wearing mine.

A few years later, I was working at Miami Valley Skeet Club (now a suburb of homes off Bunnell Hill Road) as the youngest club manager ever (16) and I encouraged and provided ear plugs for all employees and members when on the shooting range.

I recognized early in life that I am a pain-in-the-backside know-it-all but prefer to think of this as an "early adopter" and advocate for public health.

Fast forward a few decades, and I find myself a private business owner, allergist/immunologist specialist in Cincinnati metro and commander of 445th Aerospace Medicine Squadron, as well as a continued advocate for public health who uses the best validated, cutting-edge advances and best practices to help make other's lives better.

Currently, that means encouraging everyone who is eligible to get their COVID vaccine.

As a wing, we are doing better than many other wings and the U.S. military as whole in getting COVID vaccine to our people. However, we still need to do better to win this fight...and we all have to do our part.

The hesitancy to get vaccinated has many contributing factors. Some think that vaccines are new or the mRNA vaccines are experimental.

There was a recent article in the *New England Journal of Medicine* that discusses the history of vaccinations, progress in biology and vaccine development and their impact on public health. Smallpox is estimated to have killed more than 300 million people in the 20th century (1901-2000) alone. However, the first vaccine was in 1796 by Dr. Edward Jenner, who found that infecting milk-maids with cowpox protected them against smallpox. It was not until a global public health effort in the 1970s, 200 years after discovery, that smallpox was eradicated.

Louis Pasteur in 1885 inoculated a 9-year-old boy infected with rabies and saved his life. In 1937, the Yellow Fever vaccine was developed, the 1940s led to development of the Polio vaccine, and many others. Some of these diseases we rarely hear of anymore and that is thanks to vaccinations.

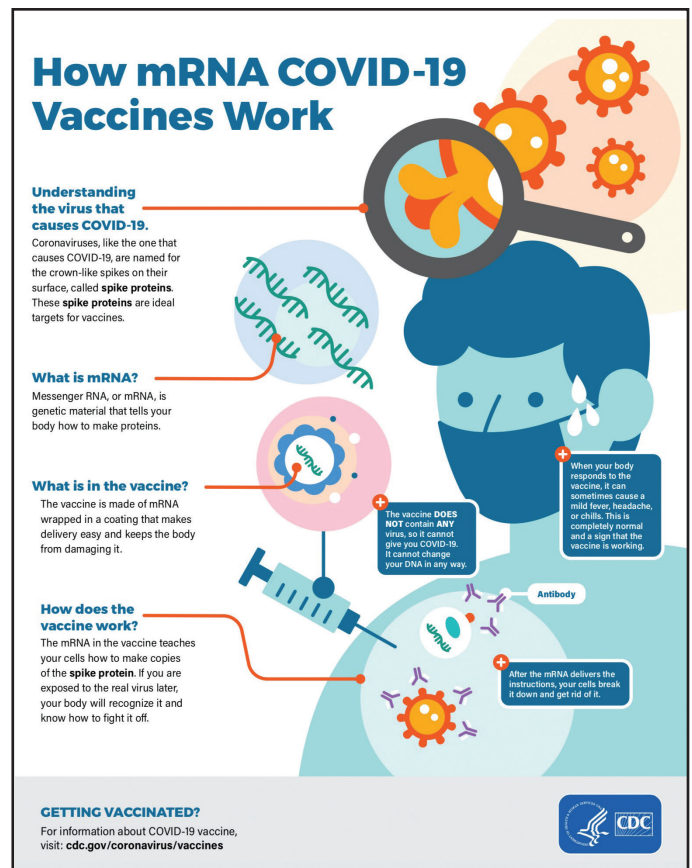
Since late 2019, we have seen COVID spread across the globe and as of April 2021, COVID killed more than 550,000 Americans with about 60,000 hospitalizations daily. With more than 180 research

institutes and 100 companies worldwide involved in vaccine development efforts, every strategy that has ever been used to make vaccines has been advanced against COVID.

The newest development of mRNA vaccine stems from hundreds of years of accumulated knowledge about infections, genetics, and vaccine development. The advantage of mRNA vaccines is that with current technology, these can be developed quickly, safely, and very effectively.

The safety and effectiveness has been proven in phase III trials and more data since has shown this as well. There are some side effects but very few in the civilian population and even fewer in our military population have any medical reason not to receive the vaccine.

Does anyone remember what our Air Force mission was before COVID? You could certainly reference the National Defense Strategy for details but put simplistically "To Fly, Fight and Win... Airpower Anytime, Anywhere." Please continue to do your part to support and defend this country from enemies foreign and domestic, including our newest pandemic viral enemy.



445th quarterly award winners recognized

CGO



First Lt. Traci L. Todahl, 445th Aeromedical Staging Squadron critical care nurse, is the 445th Airlift Wing Company Grade Officer of the Quarter. Todahl served a 90-day active-duty tour for an operational support critical shortfall, serving as the senior Air Reserve Technician managing the unit's operation and wing interfaces. She identified critical gaps in the Critical Care Air Transport Team's patient movement items and wrote the annual supply expenditure and repair funds. She completed initial and advanced critical care courses and became sustainment of trauma and readiness skills certified. She revamped the CCATT training platform, reorganizing \$250,000 in-flight kits equipment and coordinated hands-on training with the U. S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine. Todahl worked the COVID floor then transitioned to the team lead where she helped train a 30 transient nurse staff on advanced medicine support and patient care initiatives. She was accepted to the University of Cincinnati Masters of Business Administration healthcare operations certificate program.

SNCO



Master Sgt. Bradley Swindall, 445th Maintenance Squadron aircraft structural maintenance craftsman, is the 445th Airlift Wing Senior NCO of the Quarter. Swindall filled the role of the maintenance squadron's fabrication flight chief where he guided a 41-member personnel team composed of three career fields, executing 138 tasks and 32 inspections. He was a key player in the wing's 312 sorties and 1,100 flight hours. He wrote 12 request engineer disposition inquiries and devised repair and ensured seven Home Station Check completions. Averting a \$240,000 depot field team cost and saved \$14.2 million of assets. Swindall wrote a hazardous/bio-environmental plan that he coordinated with three base agencies and drafted decontamination procedures. As a kick-boxing and Muay Thai instructor, Swindall taught 112 self-defense classes for 12 children and 15 adults. He guided a tour of his section for the Rapid Sustainment Office, highlighting the section's capabilities and thus endorsed a future partnership with the group to create innovative procedures.

NCO



Staff Sgt. Matthew Crotty, 445th Aeromedical Staging Squadron aerospace medical service technician, is the 445th Airlift Wing NCO of the Quarter. Crotty created 26 lesson plans, edited 104 pages and organized the Comprehensive Medical Readiness Program Cat II skills training for 41 Airmen, boosting the capabilities 26 percent across three squadrons. He developed the first simulator lab initiative, by obtaining \$120,000 in medical equipment and was one of three trainers for it, where it bridged the gap for five Air Force Specialty Codes. He led an Air Force Reserve Command Surgeon General tactical combat casualty care training initiative, identifying shortfalls and championed a skillset review. Crotty authored a new civilian firefighter professional development manual and devoted 240 hours and two years, creating task progression for 90 firefighters. He completed emergency medicine technician refresher training and obtained his emergency medical technician paramedic license. He led six firefighters and paramedics, expediting the response for 1,000 emergency calls.

AMN



Senior Airman Alissa Gibbs, 445th Aeromedical Staging Squadron aerospace medical service journeyman, is the 445th Airlift Wing Airman of the Quarter. Gibbs executed the wing's flu program where she bridged the critical shortfall gap and administered 267 injections within 16 hours for eight squadrons. She tackled the Critical Care Air Transport Team's manifest creation, allowing training for four critical care patients and propelled the scope of practice for 15 Airmen from two squadrons. Gibbs was hand-selected for the "Stop the Spread of COVID-19" campaign, performing screening for 170 wing members to prevent the spread on Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. She was the first responder to a patient needing cardiopulmonary resuscitation. As a rapid response team member, she initiated suction and chest compressions. Her training and experience helped her to apply life-saving measures to the patient. Gibbs led 10 Airmen failing in upgrade training by devoting seven hours to create six practice exams and reinforced the master training plan.



SPOTLIGHT



Tech. Sgt. Joel McCullough

Rank/Name: Staff Sgt. Amanda McMillan

Unit: 445th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron

Duty Title: Aeromedical Evacuation Technician

Hometown: Orlando, Florida

Civilian Job: Emergency Room Technician

Education: Currently pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing at Ohio State University

Hobbies: Working out, hiking, snowboarding, traveling and flying

Career Goal: To complete bachelor's degree in nursing and commission as a flight nurse

What do you like about working at the 445th?: The 445th and the members that comprise this airlift wing are truly remarkable. The work ethic, as well as the standard of excellence that is upheld here makes me feel grateful to go to work every single day.

Why did you join the Air Force?: I knew from a relatively young age that I wanted to work in the medical field and that I wanted to help others. As I got older I started to consider the type of individuals I wanted to help most. When I saw the sacrifices that military members and their families made in regards to deployment and protecting the members of this country, I knew that's where my passion lies. Being able to bring these members home safely to their families is the most rewarding career that I could ever ask for.

LRS officer wins AFRC Logistics Readiness Award



Capt. Tyler Mohr, 445th Logistics Readiness Squadron fuels management flight commander was named the 2020 Outstanding Air Force Reserve Command Logistics Readiness Company Grade Officer of the Year, March 29, 2021.

Capt. Mohr planned logistics for six joint exercises and 60 airlift missions. He propelled Central America's COVID

response with United States Agency for International Development, procuring 73 tons of medical supplies worth more than \$4.9 million and treated 13,900 patients from 162 locations. The captain headed a complex airlift request, moving 22 passengers, 19 tons of

equipment, two UH-60 helicopters, the first United States Southern Command post COVID search and rescue operation.

Capt. Mohr replaced five-year inoperable airport x-ray equipment. He developed requirements and secured \$70,000 worth of fortified security, slashing the screening time of 2,000 passengers by 66 percent. The captain outlined logistics strategy for seven United States Embassy evacuations and instituted 14 egress support packages.

Capt. Mohr headed the Dayton Children's Hospital toy drive where he helped collect and deliver 236 items worth \$2,000 for 219 children. He led the United Service Organizations candy cane lane initiative, staging 2,840 pounds of safety fencing, tents and trees, providing holiday cheer to 100 families.

The captain also organized a remote Honduran orphanage hike that involved 67 volunteers carrying 4,000 pounds of food and supplies, bolstering the quality of life for 84 children.



Engineering, management 'wright' choice for 445th Airman

By Tech. Sgt. Joel McCullough
445th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Senior Airman Nicholas Wright, an aircraft metals technologist with the 445th Maintenance Squadron, has made a career and started a business of the knowledge and skills that he learned in the Air Force.

After attending college in Wisconsin, Wright moved back home to Ohio to live closer to his family. He soon met his future wife and started a family.

Wright was an industrial electrician doing maintenance, mostly fixing machines before joining the Air Force. While serving in the Air Force, he had the opportunity to choose between the job he has now or working with sheet metals. After working in his current field, he determined he made the right decision and pursued the job in his civilian career.

In his civilian life, Wright filled several positions, including plant engineer and maintenance manager.

"I work with larger companies that acquire smaller companies, with the goal of bringing the small companies up to their standards," said Wright.

Wright designs machinery and plant layouts. He also updates old antiquated equipment for companies.

"The other side of my job is the maintenance manager part," said Wright. "If there is a part that breaks, I might design that part and have it sent out somewhere to be manufactured so that we can replace the piece."

"I do a lot in my civilian life that I do in the Air Force," added Wright. "I design parts to be manufactured on Computer Numerical Control (CNC)." The CNC is an automated control of machining tools and

3-D printers by means of a computer. He also does a lot of Computer Aided Drafting (CAD) work. He builds and manufactures prototype parts and recreates parts to replace broken ones.

Wright works on large and small machinery. One of the companies Wright currently works for makes hunting and fishing gear. He has also worked with a company that builds parts for firearms.

When asked how his Air Force and civilian job complement each other, Wright explained, "They really do complement each other. I can take something I have learned here and translate it to something I do there. I really like what we do here in the Air Force. In the civilian world I wasn't sure what I wanted to do."

"I wanted to go to school so I started pursuing engineering because what we do here is really closely related. I started pursuing a degree in engineering and just kind of worked my way up through maintenance into engineering and management," he said.

It is easy to tell while speaking with Wright that he is very knowledgeable about the craft that he so enjoys. When asked what he plans to do with these skills going forward in the future he replied, "So I actually started a business." Wright has incorporated his business recently. "I bought a big CNC router and a CNC water jet and I have a plasma jet. I can do everything I need on those two machines. If I can keep getting my name out there and continuing doing this kind of work that would be ideal. My five to ten year plan is to basically work for myself.

Wright explained that he wanted to start his own business to work for himself and have the opportunity to spend more time with his family.

"I have a tendency to hyper focus on a project or job. The Air Force has given me the opportunity to work and buy my own equipment and translate what I do here to my home so I can start working out of my own shop and turn it into a profitable business. That is just ideal."



Drill bits used in the machining process.



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Joel McCullough

Senior Airman Nicholas Wright, 445th Maintenance Squadron metals technologist, uses software and measuring tools to digitally recreate and produce physical products. The software he is using, Computer Aided Drafting (CAD), allows him to create an accurate three dimensional blueprint which can then be crafted by automated manufacturing machines.



445 AW honors its 2020 annual awards winners

Airman



SSgt Lauren Howard

NCO



TSgt Kathleen Burden

Senior NCO



SMSgt Sean McCaslin

First Sergeant



MSgt Rebekkah Stammen

Company Grade Officer



Capt Tyler Mohr

Field Grade Officer



Maj Luke McKeeth

Civilian



Mr Tomas Medina

Honor Guard



SSgt Sean Chapman

Recruiter



MSgt Lebaron Smith

Spouse



Mrs Whitney Kisner

Community Partner



Wright Patterson USO



News Briefs

Retirements

May 2021

SMSgt Troy Fenhoff, OSS
MSgt Matthew Gundrum, MXS
TSgt Leon Henderson, AW

Newcomers

2nd Lt Alexandra Cunningham, AES
SSgt Baronica Seeley, ASTS
SrA Brianna Eveland, FSS
A1C Serenity Ferreira, AES
AB Madison Vordem-Thoren, AES
Amn Austin Willoughby, LRS

Awards

Meritorious Service Medal

Lt Col Jonathan Askins, AW
Lt Col Cynthia Harris,

AW
Lt Col Janene Luff, AMDS
Maj Aaron Wilson, 89 AS

Air Force Commendation Medal

Capt Nathaniel Kirstein, 89 AS
MSgt Michael Benzing, MXG
MSgt Kerry Penner, MXG

Air Force Achievement Medal

Capt Olutola Banjoko, AES

Promotions

Senior Master Sergeant

Jessica Hodge, LRS
James Lide, AW
Michael Pressler, MXG
Sean Smith, ASTS

Master Sergeant

Brandon Croghan, AES
Nicholas Garman, MXS
Kristine Martin, AES

Drew Ramsay, MSG
Brandon Sullivan, MXS

Technical Sergeant

Eric Andersen, OSS
Danielle Downing, ASTS
Candra Fisher, AMXS
Marcela Itah, 89 AS
Steffenie Kitchel, AES
Carl McComb, AMXS

Staff Sergeant

Alexander Boyd, 87 APS
Jabrea Chapman, MSG
Olivia Geans, AES
Michael Tucci, 89 AS
Kelly Dean, AMXS
Corey Scott, 87 AS

Senior Airman

Andrew Blanton, CES
Ian Chisholm, 87 APS
Joshua Johnson, AES
Ian Kimmel, MXS
Caleb McWilliams, AMXS
Kyle Mitchel, MXS
Luis Ramirez-Rosado, AMXS
Kyle Varner, AMXS

Airman 1st Class

Trevor Cornelius, 87 APS
Thomas Lowe, 87 APS

Airman

Haley Andrews, ASTS

Buckeye Flyer

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445th AW Inspector General tidbits



What is AFIS?

The Air Force Inspection System is a coherent integrated and synchronized alignment of inspections conducted on behalf of the Secretary of the Air Force, the Chief of Staff of the Air Force and commanders at all levels.

How does AFIS work?

It uses Risk Based Sampling Strategies to identify potential areas of concern. Each inspection and exercise complements the others, relying on input and output from each inspection and exercise for maximum mission effectiveness.



445th AGE Airmen lead the ‘charge’

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

Safety and efficiency play a key role in the Air Force mission, and when aircraft are not actively flying, they are constantly receiving maintenance.

Aerospace ground equipment Airmen support flight operations by supplying and operating equipment that provides electrical power, hydraulic pressure, and air pressure to the wing’s nine C-17 Globemaster III aircraft. These individuals also create maintenance schedules, plan diagnostics, complete equipment repairs, and document maintenance activities.

“Everything we do is to get our airplanes up in the air,” said Tech Sgt. Tyler Taylor, an aerospace ground equipment technician with the 445th Maintenance Squadron. “We are involved in many steps of the process, and our knowledge and experience allows us to minimize down time and keep things running smoothly.”



Staff Sgt. Ethan Spickler

Senior Airman Donald Ledman, an aerospace ground equipment technician with the 445th Maintenance Squadron, prepares to replace the gear cover gasket on a B809 generator, April 11, 2021, at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio.

The job of an aerospace ground equipment specialist involves a multitude of tasks including performing maintenance and repairs on motor and engine driven generator sets, air conditioners, hydraulic test stands, air compressors, bomb-lifts, heaters and other similar support equipment.

AGE Airmen also operate, clean, inspect and service AGE towing vehicles as well as maintain external fuel and grounding systems. The purpose of these duties is to allow the electrical and mechanical systems of the aircraft to function properly before, during, and after flight.

“Each aircraft is different, and we have to know how to provide the best service for each piece of equipment,” said Taylor. “We are required to have a broad base of knowledge to make sure that everything is good to go.”

For every flight hour a C-17 is operational, it takes roughly 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 AGE Airmen.

“The little victories mean a lot to me,” said Senior Airman Donald Ledman, an aerospace ground equipment specialist with the 445th MXS. “Every time we fix something or troubleshoot an issue, it feels good to look back and say we accomplished our mission. It gives me a sense of personal satisfaction knowing that I did my job well.”

The responsibilities of AGE Airmen are an integral part of the wing mission, and they provide a reliable resource for mission planners. From inspecting and troubleshooting equipment to making hands-on repairs and maintaining proper standards, these professionals make sure our planes are always ready for flight.

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