

CMSAF JoAnne S. Bass visits 445th Airlift Wing



Photos by Master Sgt. Patrick O'Reilly

(left) Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force JoAnne Bass speaks to Airmen at the 445th Airlift Wing during an enlisted call, Oct. 2, 2021. (right) Senior Master Sgt. Nicholas Garman, 445th Maintenance Squadron fabrication flight superintendent, shows CMSAF JoAnne Bass a fabricated part created by the metals technology shop during her tour of the shop, Oct. 2, 2021. Fabricated parts are used to keep the wing's C-17 Globemaster IIIs mission ready.

445th firefighters complete DOD rescue, survival course

*By Capt. Rachel Ingram
445th Airlift Wing Public Affairs*

Four firefighters from the 445th Civil Engineer Squadron completed a Department of Defense firefighter rescue and survival course Sept. 20-24, 2021 at Grissom Air Reserve Base, Indiana. Three additional 445th CES firefighters served as instructors for this iteration of the course, which is open to the entire DOD community and held each spring and fall at Grissom.

The one-week course incorporates many elements of training otherwise covered in shorter sessions and combines them into a small group intensive. During this iteration, the Air Force, Army, Air National Guard, and DOD civilian employees comprised the nine student class.

"The training is progressive, but it moves quickly," said Staff Sgt.

Thomas Drouillard, 445th CES firefighter. "Not only did we learn the skills, we also completed them blindfolded, then amidst smoke and in confined spaces."

The first two days of training emphasized survival and self-preservation. Days three and four highlighted techniques for rescuing other firefighters from burning structures. The final day featured a multi-hour simulation exercise with a live fire component.

"Rain or shine, we trained," said Tech. Sgt. Brian Kutcher, 445th CES firefighter.

On one of the ladder training days, it poured rain all day long.

"That's when you use the rails, not the rungs!" added Staff Sgt. Matthew Archer, 445th firefighter.

The full week of grueling, 10-

hour workdays resulted in the equivalent of monthly or quarterly training, accomplished in just one course.

"If it's not a physical hurdle, then it might be mental, or spiritual, or a leadership hurdle," Archer said. "You're going to meet some type of hurdle, and you're going to have to face it."

The first day included an air consumption test on an obstacle course.

"One minute we were doing a cardio circuit workout, going as hard as we could, and the next moment we were laying facedown in the gravel trying to conserve our oxygen tanks for nearly an hour," Archer said.

— See FIRE, page 4

Wing announces 3rd Quarter CY 2021 award winners

CGO



Capt. Cecilia J. Photinos, 445th Operations Support Squadron C-17 aircraft commander and training officer is the 445th Airlift Wing Company Grade Officer of the Quarter. Photinos led three critical Operation Allies Refuge evacuation missions, coordinated crew efforts with eight combat hours of non-combatant evacuation operations. Her efforts resulted in 816 Afghanistan refugees rescued from Kabul. She commanded 50 hours: six combat airlift missions in support of Operation Freedom's Sentinel and more than 340,000 pounds of cargo was delivered. Photinos directed two Patriot Warrior missions where 82,000 pounds of equipment was airlifted for the aeromedical/homeland defense mobility exercise with 4,260 participants. She volunteered for the Air Force Reserve Command pilot shadow program offering 12 hours to mentor five future female aviators. She dedicated 24 hours to the Be Hope Church, helping raise \$11,000 for the Tree of Life organization that sends 200 African orphans to school.

SNCO



Master Sgt. Nicholas D. Akins, 87th Aerial Port Squadron passenger service supervisor, is the 445th AW Senior NCO of the Quarter. Akins expedited passenger processing for the 82nd Immediate Response Force, a high visibility troop movement involving 3,300 members and critical evacuation for 10,000 civilian and Afghan evacuees. He pioneered aerial port operations by moving 5,000 passengers and 598 tons of cargo on 82 missions in direct support of Operation Allied Refuge. Akins orchestrated a set-up passenger deployment function, moving 14 internal airlift/helicopter slingable container units, staged a pallet yard and enabled communications in less than eight hours, streamlining the integration of the 82nd IRF. He volunteered for the Scott Air Force Base Top 3 social where he coordinated a food truck and secured \$1,000 in donations, unifying 60 people among 10 base organizations. He supported H.E.R.O.E.S. Care by volunteering six hours to collect 900 backpacks and essential supplies worth \$17,500 for 2,000 members.

NCO



Tech. Sgt. Zachary T. Tschuor, 445th Aero-medical Staging Squadron medical material craftsman, is the 445th AW NCO of the Quarter. Tschuor facilitated a wing exercise planning event with three agencies where he coordinated a 10 bed en route patient staging system and chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosives gear worth \$572,000/prepped 13 members for combat readiness. As the vehicle control NCO, Tschuor manages a three bus/stake bed fleet worth \$350,000. He certified and renewed 10 driver's licenses and earned an outstanding during a wing inspection. He procured Critical Care Air Transport Team equipment, executing 30 orders and developed a tracking process for 604 items worth \$238,000. He led two teams for six hours of squadron block training and coordinated transportation, and meals for 145 members of two squadrons and two wings. Tschuor coached a local youth soccer team, devoting more than 20 hours to the development of nine preschoolers, instilling team cohesion.

AMN



Senior Airman Charles M. Reano, 445th Force Support Squadron communications element client systems technician, is the 445th AW Airman of the Quarter. Reano helped close more than 200 trouble tickets, resulting in an increase in C5ISR (command, control, computers, communication, cyber, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance) capabilities. As a lead standard desktop configuration 10.0.9 team member, he helped upgrade and patch 600 personal computers, two months ahead of schedule, eliminating 12,000 vulnerabilities on a \$51 million network. Reano managed the quality assurance representative Management Internal Control Toolset program, developed training evaluation and task list for skill level upgrade, prepping four Airmen for wing exercise and personnel inspection. He trained three members on user, computer and group account management. The Airman was qualified on 12 5-level upgrade training tasks. He completed two courses in pursuit of a bachelor's degree in information technology.



Knowing your wingman could save their life

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

Not everyone who is assigned to a Reserve or Guard unit lives in the local area. These Citizen Airmen sometimes come across the country. Some may have never stepped foot in the state of Ohio until they are assigned here. Those who are new, especially if they live alone, need a wingman right away.

Tech. Sgt. Marcela Itah, 89th Airlift Squadron aviation resource management (SARM) technician, knows the importance of having a wingman and shares her story.

"It's important to know your people. When asked if I wanted to share my story, if my story helps in any way, I want it to be that. I hope that anyone would have done the same. I just think there is something special to be learned from my experiences."

The weekend before the October unit training assembly, Itah was spending time with a friend she's known from her teenage years back in Florida who now lives in Columbus, Ohio.

The friend informed her that she had met a someone who was in the Air Force and that she might know him. After seeing a picture of him, that was not the case. Itah asked what he did for the Air Force but the only thing the friend knew about him was that he served part time. With a smile and a chuckle, Itah explained, "She knows nothing about the military, at all."

After returning home from her visit, one night her friend sent her some text messages, Itah didn't think to respond right away. Her friend followed up with a phone call. She asked if Itah had seen the messages she had sent her. She had sent her a screenshot of a social media post the guy had recently posted.

His post, in summary, stated that he realized that no one would read his suicide letter. How none of his (social media) friends would ever read his post because he doesn't have any true friends. He continued on about his life and how lonely he felt. How he spends every weekend by himself, and doesn't get invited out for his birthday or any holidays. While reading this Itah felt, "Oh my God, my heart immediately went out to him. I get it. I'm here (in Ohio) by myself."

Itah explained, "I feel it was a God given thing because when I saw that message I could relate to what he felt, that loneliness. I know what it is to be in a place where you don't have family, and you just rely on

your unit and friends."

Her friend asked, "What do we do?" She had not known him long enough to have his address. "How do I get the police to go to his house if I don't even know where he lives," her friend asked. All they had was his first and last name.

Itah contacted the 445th Security Forces Squadron at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base.

"Maybe they could look him up in the global, find his unit and reach out to his first shirt," Itah said.

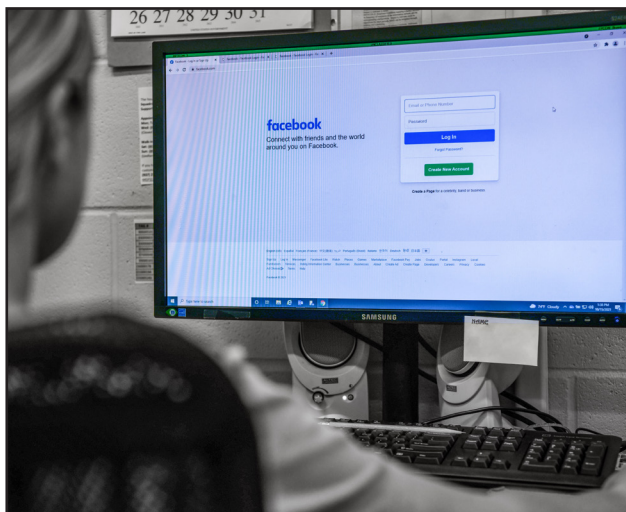
Itah's husband is a security forces member so she has some knowledge of the chain of events if something like this happens. Itah explained to the security forces Airman on the phone the events that had unfolded thus far. He called back and they felt confident that the individual was not a part of the 445th Airlift Wing.

The security forces Airman passed the information on to the 445th AW first sergeant, Master Sgt. Rebecca Stammen. Shortly thereafter, Itah received a call from

Stammen. After confirming all the info that was passed to her, Stammen asked if she knew if he was an officer or enlisted. Her friend had no idea. Itah had the idea to scour his social media for a picture of him in uniform. After a lot of scrolling her friend came across a photo from a few years back of him in ABUs (Airman Battle Uniform). Though they couldn't tell his exact rank, they could tell he was enlisted. After some more vigorous detective work on Facebook, they determined that he had to be a technical sergeant or above. Using the global email, they were able to narrow him down to two people, both who were not a part of the 445th Airlift Wing.

Itah said that from there, it was a trail of texts between her, her friend, the 445th first sergeant and the 88th Air Base Wing first sergeant, trying to locate and piece the whole thing together. The 445th first sergeant and Itah were able to determine what unit he belonged to. Stammen had a contact there and reached out to the unit. Stammen then informed them that they had found his information and had called the authorities.

While this was going on, Itah and her friend were



Graphic by Master Sgt. Patrick O'Reilly

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FIRE, from page 1



(left to right) Tech. Sgts. Zachariah Hastings and Brian Kutcher, and Staff Sgts. Matthew Archer and Thomas Drouillard, 445th Civil Engineer Squadron firefighters, pose for a photo during the Department of Defense firefighter, rescue and survival course at Grissom Air Reserve Base, Indiana, Sept. 20-24, 2021.

“Beads of sweat were running along my brow, but because of my mask, I couldn’t wipe them away. You think that doing the workout is really hard and at first you’re grateful to lie down and rest, but then as the time drags by you can hear your heart beating and feel the gravel digging in to your skin. You realize that lying there is worse than doing the obstacle course. You just had to stay there in your mask and mentally power through.”

Another training objective required the students, wearing full gear, to navigate through a small, horizontal tunnel full of intersecting wires. When they went through the tunnel blindfolded, the wires would cut between their body and the oxygen tank on their backs, forcing them to backtrack.

“It’ll check you,” said Tech. Sgt. Zachariah Hastings, firefighter. “You never know what is going to freak you out, until it does.”

For Hastings, it was a 14x20 inch hole that he had to crawl through. When the radio near his shoulder snagged on the wall, he panicked.

“You’re trapped in there and you can’t see. You can start to freak out,” he said. “Throughout the course, I was having to go places in my head just to stay on task and not give up.”

The mental challenges associated with the course were compounded by the grim reality of the risks associated with firefighting, the Airmen noted.

“Every training objective taught in the course is based on real events where a firefighter was seriously injured or killed in the line of duty,” Archer said.

The techniques which could have saved those firefighters are now taught and practiced to strengthen firefighters’ skill sets and boost survival rates in emergency response settings.

“The stories are really sad. They would find these firefighters perished with the tools they needed lying right by them,” Hastings said, “but they either didn’t know, or had never practiced, the techniques they needed in that situation.”

The students practiced using ropes, carabiners, firehose, webbing, and more to rescue downed firefighters inside a burning building, mirroring the historic, real circumstances which tragically resulted in loss of life.

“A lot of the rescue techniques, I’d heard of but never done,” Hastings said. “For this stuff to be truly effective, you have to be able to practice it until you’ve got the skill down fast and smooth.”

The final simulation, which required the students to work in small teams, rotating in and out of the building to attack the fire while also searching for a downed firefighter, went on for several hours, which closely mirrors the length of time it typically takes to complete a similar objective in a real world setting.

“During the rescue scenario, we were busting walls, cutting wires, and getting as far as we could before we ran out of air and had to rotate with the next team to take our position and keep pushing forward,” Kutcher said.

At course conclusion, each of the four Airmen said they walked away with not only knowledge of new techniques, but renewed confidence in their own abilities and resilience.

“I know that later on in life when challenges inevitably come, I’ll lean on the fact that I completed this course to carry me through,” Hastings said.



Courtesy Photos

Staff Sgt. Thomas Drouillard, 445th Civil Engineer Squadron, navigates a smoke-filled building during firefighter training at Grissom Air Reserve Base, Sept. 20-24, 2021.

November is month of gratitude

By Ms. Vera McClain

445th Airlift Wing Director of Psychological Health

The month of November brings with it many thoughts – Thanksgiving, autumn, the upcoming holiday season and Veterans Day – gratitude is a pervasive theme.

November is Veterans and Military Families Month. It was established in 1996 by the Armed Services YMCA with the U.S. Government recognizing it yearly. Each November, the President signs a proclamation declaring November as National Veterans and Military Families Month.

This is a time to celebrate and recognize the loved ones of our military, past and present, the support they give and the sacrifices they make.

Many local merchants in your area offer discounts during this time for veterans. Military.com posts information on discounts available being updated as more are opened so check back frequently.

Of note, it is important to recognize that there are those without families or loved ones. A family can be made up of more than blood relation or marriage that constitutes a supportive structure. The military family and its camaraderie is a draw for many to enlist or

work within this area.

On a personal note, my dream job was to work on base. I grew up near Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio. My father was military then a federal worker. He would take me to events, cook-outs, lunches at his shop and I felt that sense of family. There was a sense of pride and honor within all of those interactions. I recognize that to be here is a privilege every day when I drive onto base and have the opportunity to serve the 445th Airlift Wing.

Military families provide the strength and fortitude for the structure that supports Airmen. When this service ends, they continue to provide this same steadfast care to veterans. Military families, by blood or those close, understand what it means to serve. Each day they stand by during long trainings, extended duty and deployments. Knowing the time spent away from home and the risks, they selflessly accept and choose this life of service. During times of solitude, they stay resolute in knowing that serving is an honor. This makes me think of a quote by A.A. Milne, “How lucky am I to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard.”

WINGMAN, from page 3

continuously calling the Airman; trying to reach him anyway possible. Itah alerted the Columbus police department of the situation. They didn’t know his address but they gave their best guess to what area he lived.

“I thought, that way they could cut down response time. By this time it had been about an hour since his post,” Itah said

Not even 10 minutes after talking to the Columbus police department, they received a call back from dispatch letting them know that they had found him and that he was on his way to the hospital.

“We were so relieved to hear that he was on the way to the hospital and that he wasn’t going to be alone.”

They knew he had pets and that someone needed to look after them. Using the individual’s

unit webpage, Itah was able to find the director of psychological health’s phone number. The director thanked her and her friend and confirmed that they did the right thing. She also informed them that he was safe and that was partly because of them.

“In the moment, you realize you did something good,” Itah said. “At the time, I didn’t think I did anything out of the norm. I feel like anyone here would do that.”

After getting the information, her friend ended up spending the day with him at the hospital. On Oct. 2, Itah was going to meet him that night.

“I want to let him know he’s not alone and that he has another friend here. Even if I leave Ohio, I would still want to stay in contact with him.”

Itah added, “My first year here

the only person I knew in Ohio was my friend from Columbus. On my first Christmas here, my boss here invited me over. The next year, someone else did. Now I have my husband and we spend holidays together, but there was that time that I didn’t. I always got invited to go somewhere whether through people at work, or people I had met through them. I have essentially created an extended family.”

Itah also added, “It is something to be aware of that most of the people we work with here, live with people or are from here, but not everyone is. There are people here that are not from here, it’s just not as common as it is in the active duty world. We become a little caloused to seeing that, we assume everyone has a place to go.”

Itah and her friend would like to thank everyone involved.



SPOTLIGHT



Master Sgt. Patrick O'Reilly

Rank/Name: Staff Sgt. Mariah Lynn Martin

Unit: 445th Mission Support Group

Duty Title: Commander's Support Staff Technician/Mail Clerk

Hometown: Cincinnati, Ohio

Civilian Job: Human Resource Specialist

Education: Tennessee State University, Bachelor of Science in mass communications

Hobbies: Traveling, binge watching shows, braiding hair and doing acrylic nails

Career Goal: Ultimately, I'd like to move toward the medical field. I have been accepted to the University of Cincinnati, where I plan to apply to their dental department, and obtain an associate degree in dental hygiene.

What you like about working at the 445th?: Working at the 445th with the Commander Support Staff, the POD, has been nothing short of amazing. It feels like a home away from home. We take care of each other in and out of uniform. As I transitioned to a mail clerk in the 445th mail room, I have gained nothing but support. I enjoy all the new and familiar faces who come pick up their mail daily. It's nice to build those relationships and network while on the job. Overall, no matter what position I have been in, it feels very family oriented and welcoming, and that is something I appreciate the most.

Why did you join the Air Force?: I joined the Air Force because I wanted to show my nieces and nephews that there is more to the world than what they're learning in school, and what they're seeing on a daily basis. I wanted to give them something/someone to look up to. I've always been a well-disciplined child growing up, but I knew the Air Force would teach me how to become an effective leader, while overcoming obstacles and challenges that I face on a daily basis. Also, I knew no matter where I wanted to go career wise, there would always be a job somewhere in the Air Force for me to pursue that career.

445th AW Inspector General tidbits



5 S, or more recently 6 S (5 S + Safety) is a six step Lean technique, aimed at optimization of the workplace, for efficiency of work performance.



Most of these are self-explanatory, with each step, building on the previous one.



Email me!



News Briefs

Retirements

November 2021

Maj Keith Collard, 89 AS
SMSgt Allan Blackwell, 89 AS
SMSgt Eric Peters, AMXS

Awards

Meritorious Service Medal

MSgt Danielle Kremer, 89 AS
MSgt Kira Sanders, OSS
MSgt Kerrie Schutte, OG

Air Force Commendation Medal

MSgt Kira Sanders, OSS

Promotions

Senior Master Sergeant

Brock Felgenhauer, CES
Nicholas Garman, MXS
Jon Webber, 87 APS

Master Sergeant

Dustin Dobbs, OSS
Isaac Graham, AMXS

Timothy Kinser, SFS
Ryan Maloney, LRS
Justin Van Niman, SFS
Joseph Rinkes, MXS
John Stewart, LRS
Aaron Stokes, MSG

Technical Sergeant

Brandon Foster, MXS
Sarah McCalister, LRS
Richard McEnhill, AMDS
Jonathan Prather, SFS
Deron Prince, SFS
Zachary Walker, SFS
Ian Weidner, MXS

Staff Sergeant

Caleb Errett, AW
Alexis Hymer, AES
Casey Schlotman, LRS

Senior Airman

Gabriel Calubad, SFS
Samantha Williams, ASTS
Sy Yost, AMXS

Airman

Cody Dufresne, SFS
Reuben Hershberger, SFS

Darius Moore, AMXS
Katelyn Steele, AES
Abigail Webber, ASTS
Scotie Wood, 87 APS

Newcomers

Maj Bjorn Langfeld, AW
Capt Trishana Edmund, AES
Capt Yannick Tuwamo, ASTS
1 Lt Jacob Howell, AES
2 Lt Trevor Moyer, ASTS
MSgt Molly Walton, AW
TSgt Paul Millis, AES
TSgt Gregory Wilson, ASTS
SSgt Crystal Carlisle, OSS
SSgt Jeremy Parsons, LRS
SSgt Joshua Sweetman, CES
SSgt Chaz Waller, 87 APS
SSgt Aaron Watts, CES
SrA Tyler Fults, 87 APS
SrA Samuel Gibson, FSS
SrA Sam Gunther, CES
SrA Dillion Haines, CES

SrA Chandler Mullin, LRS
SrA John Paget, ASTS
SrA Madelyne Stenger, SFS
A1C Jared Baumgartner, AMXS
A1C Jeremy Gabbard, 87 APS
A1C Cailin Hollander, 87 APS
A1C Dustin Kleiman, SFS
A1C Osiris Paez, AMXS
A1C Jorden Terry, AMXS
A1C Sy Yost, AMXS
A1C Cole Arroyo, 87 APS
AB William Lugo, ASTS
AB Darius Moore, AMXS
AB Jashaya Poindexter, 87 APS
AB Katelyn Steele, AES
AB Abigail Webber, ASTS

Lieutenant colonel promotions announced

Air Reserve Personnel Center officials announced results for the Calendar Year 2021 Air Force Reserve Line and Nonline Lieutenant Colonel Promotion Selection Boards Oct. 14, 2021. The boards selected more than 700 Citizen Airmen for promotion.

The selection boards convened at ARPC June 7 - 23 to determine those officers best qualified to assume the next higher grade. Board members selected 726 of 1519 officers considered.

Eleven members from the 445th Airlift Wing were selected for promotion to lieutenant colonel: Andrew Baker 445th Aerospace Medicine



Squadron; Annette Bergman, 445th Operations Support Squadron; Leslie

Houk, 445th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron; Matthew Judd, 445th OSS; Nguyet Khong, 445th Aeromedical Staging Squadron; Kelly Kunkler, 445th AMDS; Miranda Laubie, 445th Force Support Squadron; Melissa Seacat, 445th AES; LaToya Siples, 445th Operations Group; Angela Washington, 445th AES; and Aaron Wilson, 89th Airlift Squadron.

A complete list of Airmen selected for promotion is available online at, <https://mypers.af.mil>.

Buckeye Flyer

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Around the wing ...



Master Sgt. Patrick O'Reilly



Master Sgt. Patrick O'Reilly



Senior Airman Angela Jackson

(top left) Staff Sgt. Connor Karman, 445th Maintenance Squadron, connects an external power receptacle to a C-17 Globemaster III at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, Sept. 30, 2021. The receptacle supplies power to hydraulics systems, electrical systems and lights for loading the aircraft and providing maintenance during ground operations.

(top right) Senior Airman Tessa Rhodus and Tech. Sgt. Ryan Garrett, 89th Airlift Squadron loadmasters, use chains to secure the wheels of the Beech C-45H Expeditor prior to moving it into the cargo area of a 445th Airlift Wing C-17 Globemaster III Sept. 30, 2021. The C-45H is being transported to the Museum of Aviation at Robins Air Force Base, Georgia on loan from the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force. The aircraft move has a unique connection to a tragic accident that happened at Robins AFB. On Feb. 13, 1947, a C-45F (similar to the C-45H model) took off from Robins with seven members of a Wright-Patt AFB IG (inspector general) team on board. The aircraft struck the ground and was destroyed approximately two minutes after takeoff.

(left) Col. Nathan Day, 445th Airlift Wing vice commander, passes the guidon to Lt. Col. Scott Williams, incoming 445th Aeromedical Staging Squadron commander, during an assumption of command ceremony Oct. 3, 2021. Williams served as ASTS chief nurse before assuming command.

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