

## We will not falter, we will not fail ...

### Reserve Citizen Airmen reflect on Sept. 11, 2001

*445th Airlift Wing Public Affairs*

Members of the 445th Airlift Wing honored the victims of Sept. 11, 2001 during a 20th Anniversary ceremony, Sept. 11, 2021 at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio.

The ceremony began with the singing of *God Bless America* and ended with the honor guard playing taps.

Col. Raymond Smith, 445th AW commander, reflected on the events that occurred that day and praised Airmen for their continuous service to the Nation.

“Every September 11, I normally end my day thinking of the military members who serve to protect our way of life, and for the past few years I’ve been thinking of you, members of the 445th and how you honor the victims, families, first responders and military personnel with your actions,” Smith said.

In addition to Colonel Smith, Staff Sgt. Adam Sigrist, from the 445th Aeromedical Staging Squadron reflected on that day, 20 years ago, when he was only 12 years old sitting in his second period religion class.

*See 9/11, page 5*



Master Sgt. Patrick O'Reilly

**Tech. Sgt. Felipe Henao, 445th Force Support Squadron base honor guard program manager, lays a wreath at the base of a section of the Pentagon that was salvaged from the rubble of the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attack, during a 9/11 ceremony, Sept. 11, 2021.**

## Pilot of Reach 828 recounts birth of Afghan baby on C-17

*By Staff Sgt. Ethan Spickler*

*445th Airlift Wing Public Affairs*

On Aug. 21, 2021, members of the 445th Airlift Wing participated in Afghanistan operations by helping to provide evacuees with safe passage out of the country.

The mission began as an emergency humanitarian airlift flight (non-combatant evacuation operation), and on this particular flight, evacuees were being transported from the Hamid Karzai International Airport (HKIA) in Kabul, Afghanistan to Ramstein Air Base in Germany via an intermediate stop at the Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar.

For one Afghan passenger, the

flight out of her home country would offer hope in more ways than one.

The aircrew on this flight, call sign REACH 828, had gone into this operation not knowing quite what to expect. They knew they would be assisting in the transporting of evacuees, but they did not know exactly how many or what the timeframe of the operation would turn out to be.

“Our crew was alerted at Ramstein Air Base to fly to Al Udeid, pick up an unknown number of evacuees, and transport them back to Germany for processing,” said Lt. Col. Dustin Johnson, a

pilot with the 89th Airlift Squadron and aircraft commander of the C-17 Globemaster III with the call sign REACH 828. “Upon arrival to Al Udeid, we were remotely parked on a taxiway adjacent to a C-5 Galaxy aircraft also awaiting vulnerable Afghan passengers. Due to the complexity of the operation at Al Udeid, we had no time estimate on when we could expect our vulnerable Afghan passengers.”

At Al Udeid, Lt. Col. Johnson and his crew patiently waited for

*See REACH, page 4*

# 445th Reserve Citizen Airmen remember Sept. 11, 2001



Photos by Master Sgt. Patrick O'Reilly

**(top left)** Members of the 445th Airlift Wing Honor Guard prepare to perform honors in commemoration of the victims of the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks at the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and Shanksville, Pennsylvania during a ceremony at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, Sept. 11 2021.

**(bottom left)** Col. Raymond A. Smith Jr., 445 Airlift Wing commander, speaks at the 20th Anniversary of Sept. 11, 2001 ceremony, Sept. 11 2021. The ceremony honored service members and others who lost their lives during the attacks on that fateful day 20 years ago.

**(center)** Master Sgt. Andrae Manuel, 445th Aeromedical Staging Squadron, raises and lowers the U.S. flag to half-staff as Master Sgt. Shawn McKellop, 445th Airlift Wing Inspector General Inspections, renders a salute, in honor of the victims attacked on Sept. 11, 2001. The event took place at Wright-Patterson AFB, Sept. 11 2021.

**(top right)** Staff Sgt. Darrell Sydnor, 445th Airlift Wing Public Affairs craftsman, renders a salute during a 9/11 ceremony, Sept. 11, 2021.

**(bottom right)** Members of the 445th Airlift Wing render a salute during the lowering of the U.S. flag at a 20th Anniversary of Sept. 11 ceremony, Sept. 11, 2021.



# Wing honors 20th anniversary of 9/11



Staff Sgt. Adam Sigrist, 445th Aeromedical Staging Squadron medical technician, speaks at the Sept. 11 commemoration ceremony, Sept. 11, 2021.



Members of the 445th Airlift Wing commemorate 20 years since the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, during a ceremony at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, Sept. 11, 2021.



Staff Sgt. Daniel Cassidy, a member of the 88th Air Base Wing Honor Guard, plays taps to conclude the 445th Airlift Wing 20th Anniversary of Sept. 11, 2001 ceremony, Sept. 11, 2021. Cassidy volunteered to support the 445th's event.

(right) A wreath was placed at the base of a portion of the Pentagon that was recovered from rubble after the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001 at the Pentagon. The wreath was placed by a member of the 445th Airlift Wing Honor Guard during a ceremony, Sept. 11 2021. The ceremony honored victims who died at the Pentagon, World Trade Center and Shanksville, Pennsylvania.



Photos by Master Sgt. Patrick O'Reilly



REACH, from page 1

the confirmation of their mission. The C-5 that was parked nearby and was planning to receive evacuees, but it was extremely hot and humid outside. The C-5 did not have air conditioning available in their cargo compartment, and they were also unable to floor-strap and transport evacuees. This left many evacuees stranded on the tarmac, and some of them began experiencing heat related medical issues. Concerned with the well-being of the Afghans and seeing that there was a need, Johnson volunteered his aircraft.

“I volunteered our C-17 to both the C-5 aircraft commander and Air Mobility Control Center personnel to take his evacuees on our aircraft since they were already outside in the heat and only 300 yards away,” said Johnson. “Both the C-5 aircraft commander and AMCC personnel agreed this would be the best solution possible since they still didn’t have evacuees allocated to our aircraft.”

The crew began the process of moving the evacuees on board and providing security while they prepared for the journey. After taking off and beginning the journey to Ramstein AB, Germany, Lt. Col. Johnson was alerted to a medical situation in the cargo hold. He handed the controls over to his co-pilot and went to investigate.

“Once airborne and over Turkey our loadmaster called up and reported that a female was having medical issues,” said Johnson. “I quickly walked downstairs to assess the situation and started making decisions. Both my loadmasters were focused on assisting the woman in need. Once I spoke with the translator, he informed me that the female in question was pregnant and experiencing low blood pressure. One of the attending female evacuees informed the translator what was happening and the medical supplies she would need. My two loadmasters quickly worked together to use the materials available from the on board first aid kits to help.”

While the woman was being cared for, Johnson informed the rest of his crew of what was happening, and

the decision was made to declare a medical emergency and obtain a more direct routing to Ramstein. Throughout the emergency situation, the woman’s blood pressure had been dropping rapidly, and Johnson made the decision to decrease altitude, which increased the air pressure inside the plane. This change helped to stabilize her blood pressure and likely saved the woman’s life.

“It wasn’t until we were 20 miles away from Ramstein Air Base that she began to go into labor,” said Johnson. “I was talking to the AMCC frequency ensuring that paramedics and medical personnel would be there to greet the aircraft. We also worked with tower and ground frequency to ensure immediate assistance upon landing.”

Lt. Col. Johnson maintained communication with all necessary parties throughout the process.

When the aircraft came to a stop, medical personnel from Ramstein rushed to the woman’s aid. She would give birth to a baby girl shortly thereafter.

“After landing, we parked the aircraft and as soon as the crew entry

door was lowered, Ramstein medical personnel boarded the aircraft and immediately assisted the woman in labor,” said Johnson. “The baby girl was born moments later right by the emergency escape hatch.”

The C-17 pilot then found the newborn’s father among the passengers, and the whole family was taken to safety. All remaining evacuees were then offloaded and processed. In total, 260 evacuees boarded REACH 828 and arrived safely at Ramstein. The aircraft commander credited his crew and medical personnel for working as a team and making the mission successful.

“This was a total team effort,” said Johnson. “Every member of my crew and the medical personnel on the ground had specific roles that led to the overall success of this mission.”

It was later learned that the baby’s parents named their newborn daughter Reach, after the C-17 aircraft’s call sign.



Courtesy Photo

**A 445th Airlift Wing aircrew for a C-17 Globemaster III, call sign Reach 828, talk with an NBC News reporter on the flightline at Ramstein Air Base, Germany, Aug. 27, 2021. The crew is credited with saving the life of an Afghan mom who went into labor during the flight. The family named the baby Reach after the C-17 aircraft’s call sign.**



# October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month

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

October is Domestic Violence and Mental Health Awareness Month. Given this, it's important to understand the double stigma that affects women and men of all races, ages, genders and sexual orientation.

Domestic violence, or intimate partner violence, is not limited to physical or sexual abuse but can involve a pattern of power and control that consists of psychological, emotional, financial abuse and stalking or harassment. It is a major cause of mental health issues in the United States.

Depression and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) are influenced by severity, duration and type of abuse, which can vary widely.

Depressive disorders for those who experience interpersonal partner violence are nearly double when compared to those who have not. Developing other disorders such as PTSD, anxiety, eating disorders, substance abuse and suicidal tendencies also increase.

Children who witness domestic violence tend to have an increase in health issues which can impact brain functioning that can lead to problematic school performance. Any developing mental health disorders



can transition into adulthood.

Emotional and social development can be impacted by low family support, isolation and lack of parental involvement.

Being subjected to domestic violence can make contacting authorities difficult as there are feelings of shame, guilt, responsibility, judged, intimidation and self-blame.

Men generally under-report due to societal and cultural views which can make their situations more complex. The increase of laws and allowing third-party reporting has helped though far from eradicating it. Collectively, we are becoming more aware through exposure in the media and other efforts.

It is important that we shed a light on domestic violence and mental health to completely remove the stigma behind both issues. We want those who need help to be able to ask and receive it without any type of hindrance.

For more information or assistance, contact the 445th DPH at 937-257-6267 or 937-701-1124.

9/11, from page 1

'America is under attack,' are the words Sigrist heard his religion teacher say.

He went on to describe events that occurred the following day.

"I remember September 12th vividly. I had never seen so many American flags on front porches going into school. My feelings of vulnerability were comforted, as the United States took immediate, powerful military action. Without hesitation, men and women traveled across the world to fight back on my behalf. I felt safe again, protected. These people were my heroes. Having never heard the word resiliency before, I learned its meaning in the days immediately following September 11th," Sigrist added.

Another Airman, Master Sgt. Jason Thomas, provided firsthand knowledge of the tragic events he witnessed, via Zoom. Thomas a native of New York, and a former

U.S. Marine recounted how his day began with him dropping off his daughter off at his mother's house, hearing about a plane hitting the tower and then heading to ground zero to provide support.

Thomas ran to his car, pulled out his uniform, threw it on, and drove as quickly as he possibly could into the city.

"As I look at the World Trade Center, I see pieces falling away from the building. I'm about 1/4 mile from the building, and I can now see people taking their lives by jumping out of windows. Seeing that was devastating. I said to myself, 'I want to get there and help evacuate.' I knew our first responders would need help," he recalled.

As he drove closer, he saw the tower collapse in front of him. Thomas emotionally described the horrible scene right before his eyes.

"I can hear the screaming and

crying, the twist of the metal and the debris falling. I could hear the collapsing of each floor one on top of one another."

He soon realized that it was not going to be an evacuation but a rescue. "I see this ash coming directly toward me roaring like a freight train." He kneeled by his vehicle as the ash covered him. He used his t-shirt to protect his nose and mouth from the ash. Then he ran to the pile of rubble to assist where needed.

Thomas and another Marine, with the aid of others, were able to rescue a port authority police officer that day. He spent the next 20 days helping at ground zero.

"As I reflect back on this day 20 years ago, I think of how men and women, our country, stepped up and stood as one. Our country is better and safer when standing together," Thomas concluded.



# SPOTLIGHT



Master Sgt. Patrick O'Reilly

**Rank/Name:** Senior Master Sgt. James (Jimmy) Lide

**Unit:** 445th Airlift Wing

**Duty Title:** Occupational Safety Manager

**Hometown:** Montgomery, Alabama

**Civilian Job:** Air Reserve Technician

**Education:** Master's degree in public administration; bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Valdosta State University, Georgia

**Hobbies:** Hunting, camping, coaching middle school football, helping kids raise 4-H animals

**Career Goal:** Achieve the rank of chief master sergeant and continue to improve the safety culture of the 445th Airlift Wing.

**What you like about working at the 445th?:** The family-like atmosphere that the members of the unit provide and the guidance I receive from leadership.

**Why did you join the Air Force?:** After completing 8 1/2 years of active duty in the U.S. Navy on submarines, I left military service and became a police officer. After some time away from the military, I decided to join the Reserve. After doing some research, with both the Navy and the Air Force, I decided the Air Force would allow for better opportunities for my career, and it has been a great choice.

## 445th AW recognizes STEP II promotions

The STEP II selection board convened at Headquarters Air Reserve Personnel Center, Buckley Air Force Base, Colorado, Aug. 2-5, 2021 to select exceptional Airmen nominated for promotion to the rank of technical sergeant - chief master sergeant. The board selected 208 Reserve Citizen Airmen out of 491 considered.

Congratulations to the following 445th Airlift Wing members selected for STEP II promotion:



**To Technical Sergeant:**

- Sarah M. McAlister, 445th Logistics Readiness Squadron
- Richard P. McEnhill, 445th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron

- Jonathan M. Prather, 445th SFS
- Deron M. Prince, 445th SFS
- Zachary W. Walker, 445th SFS

Results by rank are as follows:

Rank	Nominated	Selected
CMSgt	41	6
SMSgt	105	27
MSgt	215	70
TSgt	130	105
Total	491	208

The final results are posted on myPers at: [https://mypers.af.mil/app/answers/detail/a\\_id/14227/p/18/c/549](https://mypers.af.mil/app/answers/detail/a_id/14227/p/18/c/549). For questions pertaining to STEP II policy, contact HQ AFRC/A1KK at 478-327-1305 or the A1KK workflow at [afrc.a1kk@us.af.mil](mailto:afrc.a1kk@us.af.mil).

**To Senior Master Sergeant:**

- Brock M. Felgenhauer, 445th Civil Engineer Squadron
- Jon C. Webber, 87th Aerial Port Squadron

**To Master Sergeant:**

- Dustin K. Dobbs, 445th Operations Support Squadron
- Timothy D. Kisner, 445th Security Forces Squadron



# News Briefs

## Promotions

**Chief Master Sergeant**  
Chad Lifer, CES

**Senior Master Sergeant**  
Brooke Howells, MXS  
Joseph Valenzuela, AES

**Master Sergeant**  
Christopher Knight, MXS  
Devin Larsen, MXG

**Technical Sergeant**  
Dakota Coniglio, 87 APS  
Stephen Drain, 87 APS  
Jacob Emberton, 87 APS  
Dominic Fredo, MXS  
Bradley Green, MXS  
Ryan Hood, 87 APS  
Nicholas Hucke, CES  
Llyod Jackson, 87 APS  
Daneie Pfarr, 87 APS  
Zachary Sutton, 87 APS

**Staff Sergeant**  
Ashley Cissell, AMXS  
Patrick Jennings, AES  
James Moran, LRS  
Ruth Reed, LRS  
David Smith, OSS

Nuren Subair, MXS  
Alexis Williams, SFS

**Senior Airman**  
Mason Glaze, MXS  
Oscar Keino, 87 APS  
Cicely Mcwhorter, 87 APS  
Valerie Phan, ASTS  
Phillip Zagornik, MXS

**Airman 1st Class**  
Vanessa Dongmo, LRS  
Cleansman Iguade, ASTS  
Chandler Mather, FSS  
Alyssa Smallwood, MXS  
Phoebe Weidner, MXS  
Austin Willoughby, LRS

**Airman**  
Stephanie Ganow, MXS  
Alexander Gill, MXS  
Frederick Gillenwater, AES  
Eddie McCollum, MXS  
Madison Vordemthoren, AES

## Retirements

**October 2021**  
MSgt Daniel Lewis, FSS  
MSgt Kimberly McCoy, AES

## Angel Tree

The 445th Airman and Family Readiness Office is accepting nominations for the wing's first annual Angel Tree now through Nov. 7, 2021. The Angel Tree is open to ANYONE who works at the 445th and has a financial need. Angel Tree is designed to be the 445th helping the 445th!

If Santa needs a little extra help this year, please speak to your first sergeant, superintendent or any helping agency to get your children put on the tree.

The Angels will be adopted anonymously and returned no later than the December UTA. Airmen may self-nominate by emailing 445FSS.AFR@us.af.mil. Referrals must include the service member's name, unit and rank, the name, gender, age and a wish list for each child

(up to a \$50 value). The Angel Tree will be located the A&FR office (building 4014, room 118) with Angels available for adoption beginning Sunday, Nov. 7, 2021. To adopt an Angel or two, please stop by during normal business hours.

## Buckeye Flyer

### 445th Airlift Wing

Col. Raymond Smith, Jr.  
Commander  
Lt. Col. Cynthia Harris  
Chief, Public Affairs  
Stacy Vaughn  
Public Affairs Specialist  
Patrick O'Reilly  
Public Affairs Assistant  
5439 McCormick Ave.  
WPAFB, OH 45433-5132  
Building 4010, Room 171  
937-257-5784  
445AW.PA2@us.af.mil

This funded Air Force Reserve newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services. Contents of the Buckeye Flyer are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by the U.S. Government, Department of the Air Force or Department of Defense. Editorial content is edited, prepared, and provided by the 445th Airlift Wing Office of Public Affairs. Photographs are U.S. Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated.

U.S. Government Printing Office  
5-00001-445AW

## 445th AW Inspector General tidbits



## 445th Airlift Wing

### OUR MISSION:

Provide Combat-Ready Airmen and Rapid Global Mobility

### OUR VISION:

The Wright Global Presence: Premier Airlift Capability and Innovative Airmen... Right Today for Tomorrow's Fight

### COMMANDERS PRIORITIES:

1. Prioritize readiness
2. Strengthen the culture of resilient leadership
3. Drive unit effectiveness through innovation



# Around the wing...



Master Sgt. Patrick O'Reilly



Master Sgt. Patrick O'Reilly



Courtesy Photo

(left) Staff Sgt. Molly Hageman, 445th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron crew chief, uses a speed handle to install fairings around a window after a window replacement on a C-17 Globemaster III at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, Aug. 8, 2021.

(center) Tech. Sgt. Anna Noel, 445th Aerospace Medicine Squadron aerospace medical technician, administers the flu vaccine to Staff Sgt. Amanda Logsdon, 14 Intelligence Squadron intel analyst, at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, Sept. 11, 2021. AMDS began administering the flu shot for the 2022 flu season, Sept. 9, 2021.

(right) Lt. Col. Joshua Hunt, 379th Expeditionary Operations Support Squadron commander, presents a promotion certificate to Master Sgt. Brooke Howells, 445th Maintenance Squadron first sergeant, Sept. 8, 2021. Howells was promoted to the rank of senior master sergeant while deployed with the 379th EOSS at Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar. She is currently serving as the superintendent and first sergeant for the unit.

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

FIRST CLASS MAIL  
POSTAGE & FEES PAID  
USAF PERMIT NO. 1161

