

## 87 APS families forge connections ahead of deployment

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

The 87th Aerial Port Squadron hosted pre-deployment family events during the October and November, 2021 unit training assemblies in an effort to bridge the gap between the families of deploying Airmen and support agencies with the wing and squadron.

Through partnership with 87 APS Key Spouse group, the Airman and Family Readiness Center, the Yellow Ribbon program and other base agencies, about 50 families from the 87 APS had the opportunity to connect to resources, develop resiliency skills, and learn more about how their loved one impacts the Air Force mission.

"Squadron leadership wanted to connect with families and let them know that they aren't alone, and we care," said 1st Lt. Libya Binford, logistics readiness officer, 87 APS. "The goal was to raise awareness of available resources, alleviate pre-deployment stress, and help families see and understand the job their loved one will be doing while away."

The United Service Organizations (USO) provided a catered lunch, service member deployment kits, books, and novelty items for children. The organization also coordinated handwritten notes from players, coaches and staff of the Cincinnati Bengals National Football League team, written specifically for 445th Airlift Wing members.

"It's something folks can literally take on deployment with them as they head out the door," said Erik Oberg, center manager, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base USO.

Hosted within the 87 APS cargo warehouse, Airmen assigned to various sections of the unit demonstrated how the numerous roles within the Air Transportation career field work in harmony to receive, sort, prepare and load cargo and passengers for DOD military airlift across the globe. The hands-on demonstrations gave families and children the ability to see and touch the equipment and tools their loved one uses.

This event was all about connections. The involved agencies and the content of the event focused on two specific connections: the deploying Airman to their family, and the family to the unit.

"Sometimes spouses don't realize that the USO is available to them, too," Oberg said. "We have supportive programs available throughout deployment."

USO resources include special events like concerts and dinners, kids' camps, social groups, airport lounges, and more.

"Above all else, we offer smiles," Oberg added.

For children, the uncertainty of separation can be



Senior Airman Angela Jackson

**Tech. Sgt. Joseph Divish, 87th Aerial Port Squadron, and his wife, Destinee Divish, help their son, Deklan, choose new children's books provided by the USO through the Bob Hope Legacy Reading Program, Nov. 7, 2021.**

especially challenging.

Tech. Sgt. Joseph Divish and his wife, Destinee, went through a deployment several years ago, as newlyweds, but now they have a 5-year-old son, so it's a different experience for the family. Destinee said they've started talking with Deklan about his dad's upcoming departure, but it's tough for a kid to conceptualize the extended absence.

"I'm really excited about the book program. We read books together every night, so this way, he can have his dad still be a part of it even when he's away," Destinee said.

The USO provided a selection of new, hardcover children's books for take-home, and a USO volunteer recorded a video of the deployer reading the story so the child can watch the video and follow along with their own book at home.

"The worldwide Bob Hope Legacy Reading Program

— See FAMILIES, Page 5



# 445th Airlift Wing reflects on 2021



**JANUARY:** Volunteers from the Wright-Patterson Air Force Base United Service Organizations (USO) and the 445th Airlift Wing Commander, Col. Raymond A. Smith Jr., delivers food and beverages to 445th AW Airmen, Jan. 9, 2021.  
*Staff Sgt. Ethan Spickler*

**FEBRUARY:** Staff Sgt. Melvin Castro, 445th Aerospace Medicine Squadron NCO in charge of immunizations, prepares to give a vaccine. The 445th AMDS began administering COVID-19 vaccines, Feb. 26, 2021.  
*Senior Airman Angela Jackson*

**MARCH:** U.S. Marine Lance Corporal Colton Sabrowski, Charlie Company, 4th Law Enforcement Battalion, searches Senior Airman Scott Araujo, 445th Security Forces Squadron, during a training exercise, March 6, 2021.  
*Master Sgt. Patrick O'Reilly*

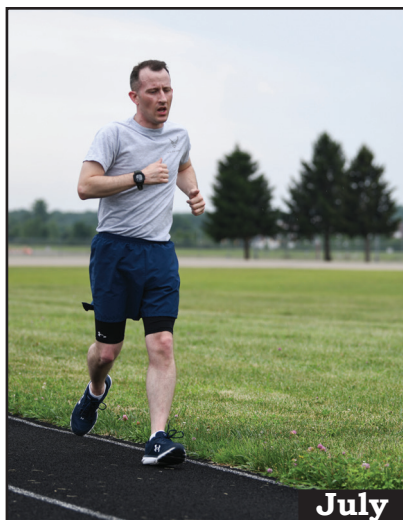
**APRIL:** Col. Raymond Smith, 445th Airlift Wing commander and Chief Master Sgt. Chris Williams, 445th AW command chief present the Airman of the Year trophy to Staff Sgt. Lauren Howard, 445th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron during the wing's annual awards banquet, April 10, 2021.  
*Master Sgt. Patrick O'Reilly*

**MAY:** The 445th Airlift Wing hosted a Spouse Appreciation Day, May 2, 2021. The event featured breakfast, presentations and C-17 tour.  
*Tech. Sgt. Joel McCullough*

**JUNE:** Senior Airman Jailen Dittman, 445th Aeromedical Staging Squadron medic, screens patients for eye exams during the East Central Georgia Medical Innovative Readiness Training, June 10, 2021. The IRT provided no-cost health services to local communities valued at \$858,869.  
*Master Sgt. Patrick O'Reilly*



# 2021 Year in Review



**July**



**August**



**September**



**October**

**JULY:** The 445th Force Support Squadron resumed fitness testing, July 9, 2021 after a pause due to COVID-19 pandemic.

*Master Sgt. Patrick O'Reilly*

**AUGUST:** An aircrew from the 445th Airlift Wing's 89th Airlift Squadron is credited with saving the life of an Afghan mother who went into labor during an evacuation flight to Germany Aug. 21, 2021. The 445th provided six crews and five aircraft in support of evacuations efforts in Afghanistan.

*Courtesy Photos*



**November**

**SEPTEMBER:** Tech. Sgt. Felipe Henao, 445th Airlift Wing Honor Guard, displays a wreath at the wing's 20th Anniversary of Sept. 11, 2001 ceremony, Sept. 11, 2021.

*Master Sgt. Patrick O'Reilly*

**OCTOBER:** Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force JoAnne Bass poses with members of the 445th Civil Engineer Squadron during a wing visit, Oct. 2, 2021.

*Master Sgt. Patrick O'Reilly*



**December**

**NOVEMBER:** Maj. Gen. Jeffrey Pennington, 4th Air Force commander, poses with members of the 87th Aerial Port Squadron during a visit, Nov. 6, 2021.

*Master Sgt. Patrick O'Reilly*

**DECEMBER:** Col. Raymond A. Smith Jr., 445th Airlift Wing commander, serves lunch to a 445th Airman during the unit training assembly, Dec. 5, 2021. Wing leadership served lunch to Airmen at the Pitsenbarger Dining Facility.

*Staff Sgt. Darrell Sydnor*





# Aircrew flight equipment Airmen keep NVGs in check

## Allows pilots, aircrew to fly night missions safely

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

During the Dec. 5, 2021 unit training assembly, three 445th Operations Support Squadron aircrew flight equipment (AFE) Reservist Citizen Airmen perform operational maintenance checks on the unit's night vision goggles (NVGs), making sure everything was mission ready when given to an aircrew member before a night flight.

NVGs allow aircrew and pilots the capability of flying night missions. They not only enhance ambient light to help see at night, but they also allow for covert operations invisible to the human eye.

NVGs are operations checked pre-flight by pilots and are post-mission checked by AFE personnel. During post-flight inspections of the night vision goggles, AFE members check batteries, nobs and lenses. They also zero the lenses out to the lowest setting so each pilot can adjust them to their own vision.



**Staff Sgt. David Smith, 445th Operations Support Squadron aircrew flight equipment craftsman, checks electronic training manuals while performing operational checks on night vision goggles, Dec. 5, 2021.**

NVGs are optoelectronic image enhancement devices that work by sensing small amounts of infrared light that are reflected off objects and then electrically amplifying that light into a characteristic glowing green image.

Aircrew members use NVGs attached to their helmets for night missions.

"Pilots also check out ALEPs (aircrew laser eye protection glasses) when they



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Joel McCullough

**Tech. Sgt. Ryan Brenner, NCO in charge of night vision goggles/training, 445th Operations Support Squadron, utilizes an ANV-126A to check the night vision goggle lenses, Dec. 5, 2021, at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio. The machine checks for damage and imperfections in the lenses.**

check out NVGs," said Master Sgt. Michael Scinto, AFE section supervisor.

Aircrew laser eye protection glasses protect eyesight from high intensity lasers which are not visible to the naked eye.

"High powered lasers are becoming more obtainable and pilots can utilize ALEPS to protect their eyes from lasers being shot into the cockpit," said AFE's Tech. Sgt. Ryan Brenner, NCO in charge of night vision goggles/training.

Brenner added that infrared laser are actually available in overt and covert, visually, so ALEPs are available in day and night versions.

AFE perform operations checks on many pieces of equipment for aircrew members and each piece of equipment is just as important as the next. NVGs are put through a comprehensive inspection every six months.

"The purpose of the six month inspection is to look for defects in the actual lens of the goggles," said Senior Airman Devin Litton, AFE journeyman.



# Chalkboard artist enhances morale of AES

By Senior Airman Erin Zimpfer  
445th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

A shared appreciation for art is something that has historically been significant in bringing people together. Known for evoking a myriad of emotions for the beholders, art has a way of grabbing people's attention and leading to discussion.

The 445th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron has its very own artist who regularly creates engaging chalkboard drawings for all to enjoy in the common area of the squadron. Capt. Michael Schibler, a flight nurse for the 445th AES, has been displaying his various creations since joining the squadron in 2015.

"He will take any crazy idea in my head, something random or kooky, and he runs with it," said Lt. Col. Todd Mulhorn, the 445th AES director of operations. "It's fun to watch it develop and come together."

The original intent for the board was for getting messaging to the squadron. We got the idea for chalkboard paint and built the frame and it has been great ever since, said Mulhorn, stating that it has been great for squadron morale.

"I like to start in an area and let it breathe and develop," said Schibler.

Schibler said he uses his artistic ability just for fun and enjoys drawing with his children.

"One of the best uses of the board has been to help us remember the members of our unit when they are deployed. A couple of the works have honored them when they are overseas," said Mulhorn.

Mulhorn said one of Schibler's works featured each



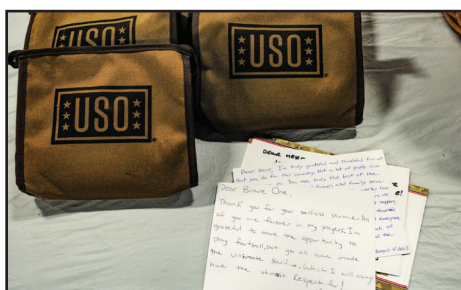
Tech. Sgt. Joel McCullough

**Capt. Michael Schibler, a flight nurse for the 445th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, poses in front of his chalk illustration of the rock band, KISS, Dec. 5, 2021.**

deployed member as a cartoon character that lined up with their personality and people were guessing who was who.

In addition to honoring the deployed, some of the art features hails, farewells, significant changes or promotions. The current artwork displays Mulhorn on stage with the music group, KISS, at his request, in honor of his upcoming retirement.

*FAMILY, from page 1*



**With the help of the United Service Organizations, players from NFL's Cincinnati Bengals wrote notes specifically for deploying 445th Airlift Wing members.**

helps keep parents and children connected through reading during a service member's deployment," Oberg explained.

The 445th AW Airman and Family Readiness Center provided

photo pillow cases for the children who attended.

In all, more than half the deploying Airmen brought families members to one of the events, which was hosted twice to promote social distancing and minimize scheduling conflicts for busy families.

"We wanted everyone to have the chance to bring their family and build those connections, both with the leadership of the squadron, and also with one another, as part of a support network," Binford said.

Throughout the deployment period, 87th APS Key Spouse volunteers plan to routinely check in with families to ensure they are taken care of.

"This unit is a big extended family, and every spouse and child is part of that family," Binford said.



Photos by Senior Airman Angela Jackson

**Erik Oberg, center manager, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base USO, serves lunch during a 87th Aerial Port Squadron pre-deployment family event, Nov. 7, 2021.**





# SPOTLIGHT



**Rank/Name:** Tech. Sgt. Ryan Brenner

**Unit:** 445th Operations Support Squadron

**Duty Title:** NCO in charge of night vision goggles/training

**Hometown:** Sugarcreek Township, Ohio

**Civilian Job:** Systems Engineer

**Education:** Bachelor of Science in psychology, Bachelor of Science in chemical engineering, currently pursuing Master of Science in electrical and computer engineering

**Hobbies:** Hiking, kayaking, gar-

dening, video games, board games

**Career Goal:** Make my work center more efficient by improving the way work is done.

**What you like about working at the 445th?:** The people I work with are very professional and they make working more enjoyable.

**Why did you join the Air Force?:** For college tuition and to make a difference in the world.

## Start New Year by setting realistic goals

*By Ms. Vera McClain*

*445th Airlift Wing Director of Psychological Health*

The New Year symbolizes a fresh start, a time to begin anew with a clean slate. Many of us make resolutions, take stock of their lives and set out to make positive changes. These are all great things. What could possibly go wrong?

There are some surveys that suggest that by mid-February, approximately 10 percent of these resolutions are off track or gone altogether. Yikes.

Personally, I think that resolutions can be self-defeating. Many people stumble off their chosen path then give up. The issue generally is the resolution that was chosen itself. Sometimes we set ourselves up for failure by setting unrealistic, vague goals, or something that others are influencing us to choose, hence, we're not vested. When we don't succeed, it can set off a period of self-blame, guilt, disappointment and self-deprecation. This is the polar opposite of what

we set out to do!

Setting realistic, achievable goals is best. This promotes success, which in turn, releases those 'feel good' chemicals in our brain. When we feel this way, dopamine is released into the body. Dopamine plays a part in feeling good which impacts the ability to think and plan. It engages the learning centers in our brain which allows us to be more motivated, resilient and productive.

What's great about this is that there are no grand approaches needed to reap the benefits. Small, daily focused changes in behavior for 21 consecutive days forms new habits. Change does not equal loss. Change can promote positive growth.

So while we are assessing ourselves in this New Year - diets, physical fitness, spending, time with those we love, let's look at something that is equally impor-

tant - our mental state. Instead of looking at what doesn't work for you, start to find and focus on things that do. We take our cars in for needed tune ups, there are annual dental and vision screening, and our mental health is just as essential. Your brain and mental functioning impact everything that you do so keep it at its optimal level. If things get too much, reach out to someone for help. We all deserve a life that is healthy and fulfilling. We can do these acts of self-care that lead to great things within us.

Here's to a great 2022!



# News Briefs

## Awards Banquet

The 445th Airlift Wing Annual Awards Banquet is tentatively scheduled for April 2, 2022 at the National Museum of the United States Air Force. The reception is slated to begin at 6 p.m. and the program at 7 p.m. More details of the event to include registration will be announced soon.

The awards banquet will recognize those selected for Airman, NCO, senior NCO, company grade officer, first sergeant, field grade officer, recruiter, honor guard member, civilian, spouse, youth and squadron of the year. The winner of each category will be announced during the banquet.

### Nominations needed

Any Airmen or civilian can nominate someone for spouse, youth, field

grade officer or civilian of the year. Nominations should be submitted on an Air Force Form 1206 to 445aw.pa2@us.af.mil and include a photograph. If a photograph is needed, please contact the public affairs office at 937-257-5784. Submissions are due no later than close of business Feb. 13, 2022. Please contact the public affairs office if you have questions.

## Retirements

MSgt Charlotte Branham, MXG

## Promotions

### Senior Master Sergeant

Brian Dawes, 89 AS  
Christie Suydam, OSS  
Skye Tancer, AMXS  
Justin Williams, SFS

### Master Sergeant

Caitlin Donnelly, ASTS

Bakiden Gordon, 87 APS  
Charles Kilgore, AES  
Roosevelt Reid, 87 APS  
Brandi Tschuor, AES

### Technical Sergeant

Robert Bunch, CES  
Tyler Deckard, CES  
Cody Green, OSS  
Mariah Magtoto FSS

### Staff Sergeant

Alexis Eppley, MSG  
Wally Jniyah, OSS  
Eric Lovingshimer, AES  
Samuel Schneider, 87 APS  
John Slonkosky, AMXS  
Gabriella Stockdale, 87 APS  
Nicholas Wright, MXS

### Senior Airman

Cole Arroyo, 87 APS  
Hailey Endsley, AES  
Thomas Lowe, 87 APS  
William Martin, 87 APS  
Edwin Mbassidje, OSS  
Zuri Pickrell, AES  
Myrbel Saint-Pierre, 87 APS

Gerik Snow, 87 APS  
Jorden Terry, AMXS  
Chaz Waller, 87 APS

### Airman First Class

Adeyinka Onanuga, 87 APS  
Meggie Samuel, 87 APS

## Newcomers

Capt Catherine Hahn, ASTS  
Capt Michael Wright, 89 AS  
TSgt Justin Taylor, MXS  
SSgt Ryan Koch, 87 APS  
SSgt Christopher Turner, MXG  
A1C Tatiana Altena, AES  
A1C Rahassona Davis, AES  
A1C Blake Taylor, AES  
AB Kenzie Simon, AMDS

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## 445th Airlift Wing Inspector General Tidbits

### #10: DON'T FEAR THE IG!

'WE'RE HERE TO HELP' IS THE REAL STORY ON HOW YOUR IG IMPROVES YOUR WING.



# 445th outstanding performers share common bond

By Staff Sgt. Darrell Sydnor  
445th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Every Airman has their own personal motivations for joining the Air Force Reserve: a transition from active duty, fresh out of high school or just looking for something different. But once trained and integrated in their unit, those motivations can evolve into being recognized as a unit's outstanding performer.

During the November unit training assembly the 445th Airlift Wing hosted the 4th Air Force commander, Maj. Gen. Jeffrey T. Pennington. While visiting the wing, he coined several individuals for their outstanding performance.

Two of those recipients are siblings. They expressed how humbled they felt being nominated by their units and reflected on their journey as naturalized citizen Airmen.

Tech. Sgt. Roselys Baugh, 445th Force Support Squadron NCO in charge of force management, is an Active Guard/Reserve Airman who emigrated from Venezuela with her family when she was 7 years old, and has made her mark at the 445th AW.

"I come here because I love to serve and I love my job. I have a passion for my office, manpower specifically," said Baugh.

Which made getting coined for her hard work a sweet consolation.

"It's nice to be recognized. Knowing that you really just love the job, it's just like a cherry on top."

Baugh's work converting More than 300 Air Reserve Technician positions to AGR in the 445th AW and 655th Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Wing, helped move the two wings into the manpower structure the Air Force Reserve is shifting to.

Working since fiscal year 2019, Baugh was converting nearly 100 positions per year.

Baugh credits her desire to excel to her mother and to another 445th member, Staff Sgt. Melvin Castro, 445th Aerospace Medicine Squadron NCO in charge of immunization, a Traditional Reservist who also emigrated from Venezuela when he was six years old.

Working as a staff sergeant in a master sergeant position, Castro deals with all immunizations for every member, which effects deployments and readiness. With both COVID-19 and flu vaccines to be administered, Castro coordinated a plan with half of the normal manning, and administered the vaccines in an effective timeline of the mandate, ensuring members were vaccinated and educated to be as comfortable as possible.

"I appreciate my job and I like making the life of my fellow wingman a lot easier, so I try to work as hard as I possibly can to make their job go as smoothly as possible," Castro said.

As sister and brother, Baugh and Castro both strive to make their mother proud and use the opportunity they're been given to the fullest, but a little sibling rivalry doesn't hurt.

"There's always that competitive rivalry," said Castro. "It all just really goes back to that ethos for us. It's all about hard work and we're going to pull ourselves up, whatever challenges present themselves, we're going to overcome them, and I think us both being here at the 445th has helped us support each other so we do better."



Staff Sgt. Darrell Sydnor

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