

Coordinated CHAOS: Defenders take over six-story decommissioned power plant

By Capt. Rachel Ingram
445th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

At 0530 the lights come on, illuminating rows of bunk beds lining both walls of the barracks at Camp Dawson, West Virginia. From the bays emerge 35 motivated Defenders from the 445th Security Forces Squadron, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio. They are spending the week on an Army National Guard post surrounded by 8,000 acres of remote training grounds utilized by units across the Department of Defense and law enforcement agencies.

The first day of the exercise, they trek nearly 10 miles on foot through dense undergrowth on a rural mountainside, enduring intermittent downpours. Split into two teams and restricted to only a map, compass and the water on their backs, they race to locate six checkpoints. The elevation on this section of Camp Dawson ranges from 1,880 to 3,000 feet. From breakfast to dinner, the Defenders are deep in the woods—exposed to heat, humidity, rain, wind chill and then heat again.

When lunch—hailed out to the field in insulated containers and served buffet-style off a truck tailgate—arrives, they quickly rig up a makeshift tarp canopy to



Chief Master Sgt. James Kirklin, 445th Security Forces Squadron manager, low crawls through a sand pit under suspended wire during a nine-part obstacle course at Camp Dawson, West Virginia, June 8, 2022.

shelter the food from the elements. At this point, every article of clothing the Airmen are wearing is drenched, whether from rain or sweat—most likely a combination of the two. They embrace it and press forward.

Day two begins out on the ranges. The Defenders pair up and fire M18s at eight interactive steel targets; they climb a makeshift tower of metal shipping containers stacked four high to fire a rooftop M4A1 carbine equipped with an advanced combat optical gun sight across a 600-meter range; and they zip through 30 rounds of ammo during a 9-Hole barricade drill, mimicking returning fire from available, albeit less than desirable, cover.

After another gourmet field buffet lunch, the Defenders move on to the day's next challenge: a nine-part Army obstacle course.

The leading obstacle is daunting at 35 feet tall. It features an interwoven rope ladder which renders even the most athletic competitors' arms noodle-like by the time they summit the log hurdle and begin their descent. Later in the course, the Defenders low-



Photos by Capt. Rachel Ingram

Master Sgt. Ryan Lamarr, 445th Security Forces Squadron operations superintendent, maneuvers over a log after climbing a 35-foot interwoven rope ladder on an Army training course at Camp Dawson, West Virginia, June 8, 2022.

Reserve Citizen Airmen use 3D printers to solve problems

By Capt. Rachel Ingram

445th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Three 87th Aerial Port Squadron Airmen currently deployed to Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar, are using 3D printers to solve operational shortfalls in their spare time. The Airmen are assigned to the 8th Expeditionary Air Mobility Squadron and working in the aerial port during the duty day. When they have downtime, the trio meets in an innovation lab on AUAB to develop 3D-printed prototypes and brainstorm new ways to more efficiently accomplish tasks.

“They’re bringing us problems, and there are certain problems that 3D printers can solve, so we’re working on solving them,” said Senior Airman Daniel Schnaars, who lives in Indiana and has taught subjects like computer science and engineering to high schoolers for nearly a decade.

Since discovering the lab and gaining momentum with prototype development, the three Airmen spend time in the lab every single day.

“Sometimes we’ll be in there for several hours at a time, and other times just to pop in and start a print,” Schnaars said.

So far, the Airmen have collaborated to create multiple rapid prototypes, resulting in long-term solutions to real problems Airmen on the base encountered.

“In our free time, or if we have downtime, we kind of just jump in here or there,” said Staff Sgt. Trenton Westfall, who enjoys inventing things and took classes about modeling and 3D printing back home.

Between missions, the Airmen use the computers in their work centers to draw and model their designs in preparation for printing.

“We are just doing what we can in this six-month window,” Schnaars added.

The first problem they tackled was impacting more than 120 Airmen on a daily basis. In one of the dorm buildings, six of the eight showers were unusable due to broken faucet knobs.

“On our floor alone, there are 62 males,” said Staff Sgt. Kirk Laytart. “About half of them work on day shift, and the other half on night shift, so you can imagine the chaos at 6 or 7 a.m. trying to use one of only two available showers. I found that I was having to wake up significantly earlier to be able to get a shower and get ready for work.”

Initially, Schnaars used his squadron-issued multi tool to turn the water on in one of the broken showers, but it wasn’t a sustainable workaround for all the broken faucets. This was the starting point for the team’s collaboration.

“3D printing is great when you need to reverse engineer and replace a broken piece, or duplicate an item that’s no longer being produced,” Schnaars said.

The team spent about half of their shift drafting the

first prototype. They tested it out and made some adjustments. Schnaars and Westfall returned to the lab to continue tweaking and improving the design.

“The first version wasn’t perfect,” Schnaars said. “We installed them and they started wearing down and



Staff Sgt. Stefan Alvarez

(left to right) Senior Airman Daniel Schnaars, and Staff Sgts. Trenton Westfall and Kirk Laytart, 87th Aerial Port Squadron, pose with four different prototypes of the shower faucet handles they designed and 3D printed for a dormitory building at Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar.

had to be replaced quickly, but we just considered this part of the field testing process.”

After approximately 35 man-hours of designing, printing, testing and adjusting, the trio landed on the faucet handles now installed in all six previously inoperable showers.

“The shower handles allowed us to return every single shower to operational status. It made a big difference to the 120 people living in the building with the broken showers,” Laytart said.

Following their success with the faucet knobs, Laytart was walking through the area where the large cargo-loading equipment is parked during his shift and realized there was another 3D printing opportunity for the team.

“I noticed that almost every windshield on our 60K loaders was dirty,” he explained.

The vehicles’ washer fluid reservoirs were empty, and because of the inconvenient reservoir placement under the hood, refilling the reservoirs was a time-consuming task, Laytart said.

“Airmen were meticulously opening tiny bottles of fluid and dumping them in the reservoir by hand—it took about 20 minutes to refill each reservoir,” he added.

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Around the wing...



Mr. Kenneth Sloat



Master Sgt. Patrick O'Reilly

(left) Chaplain (1st Lt.) Darrell Hornback, 445th Airlift Wing Chaplain Corps, prays with Lt. Col. Daniel Royer and Senior Master Sgt. Robert Ewest, both assigned to the 655th Intelligence Surveillance and Reconnaissance Wing, during a blessing of the bikes, June 5, 2022. (right) Airmen from the 445th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron explain their mission to a Cincinnati Bengals player during a C-17 Globemaster III aircraft tour, June 3, 2022 at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio. Cincinnati Bengals players learned about the aircraft, the AE mission and the service members who fly, maintain, and provide medical transport on the aircraft.



Tech. Sgt. Joel McCullough



Tech. Sgt. Joel McCullough

(left) Aircrew members from the 445th Airlift Wing, participate in water survival training at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, June 5, 2022. The training included exit procedures, time to egress, floatation device locations, raft survival and equipment usage. The Airmen are required to complete the training every three years. (right) Reserve Citizen Airmen from the 439th, 445th, 910th and 934th Airlift Wings view a monument dedicated to the 88th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry Regiment during their Leadership Staff Ride, June 7, 2022. The company grade officers visited Gettysburg National Park, June 6 to 10, 2022 to learn leadership through critical analysis of decisions made during the Battle of Gettysburg. The trip was led by Col. Don Wren, 445th Mission Support Group commander, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio and Col. Barry Crane, 307th MSG commander, Barksdale AFB, Louisiana.



SPOTLIGHT



Rank/Name: Tech. Sgt. Justin R. George

Unit: 87th Aerial Port Squadron

Duty Title: Senior Controller of Air Terminal Operation Center

Hometown: Cincinnati, Ohio

Civilian Job: Railroad Freight Conductor

Education: High school diploma

Hobbies: I enjoy traveling when I can, catching new movies, riding motorcycles and gaming online with friends.

Career Goal: To be a great Wingman, to perform my duties to my highest ability and to help teach and mold my fellow Airmen who come after me.

What do you like about working at the 445th?: I like the opportunities I get with the 445th to go out with the skills I possess and integrate into other units and perform to the best of my ability.

Why did you join the Air Force?: I first started off in the U.S. Army as a Cavalry Scout. I dealt with the Air Force quite a bit when it came to deploying and high tempo movements. I always had a love for planes growing up as a kid and I later had the opportunity to switch branches and serve from the Air Force side of the house.

SOLUTIONS, from page 2

With Schnaars and Westfall, they designed and printed a funneling tool, known as the “fill arm,” with exact dimensions to sit on the engine parts that inhibit reservoir access, and a long arm extending down to the container’s opening.

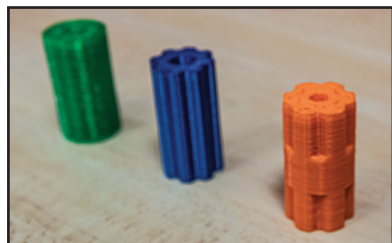
“It sits right on that shelf,” Laytart said. “No issues, no spillage, no waste, no damage.”

And the fill arm speeds up the reservoir refilling process.

“A once 20 minute job is now a 30 second job,” Schnaars added.

The latest innovation the team worked on was a personal protective equipment holster, tailored for Airmen who work on the flightline. The holsters attach to the utility belt and provide convenient storage of foam earplugs and work gloves.

“This was a problem that our leadership asked us to work on,” said Schnaars.



3D parts created by 87th Aerial Port Squadron Airmen.

They developed an initial prototype, then printed and distributed 12 of the PPE (personal protective equipment) clips for field testing.

“Now everyone is asking for one,” Westfall said.



Staff Sgt. Stefan Alvarez

Staff Sgt. Trenton Westfall, 87th Aerial Port Squadron, adjusts settings on a 3D printer inside an innovation lab at Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar.

Once the team makes design adjustments based on feedback about the prototype, they intend to provide base leadership with the design specifications.

“There’s something really neat about having an idea in your head and then holding it in your hand the next day,” Schnaars said.

Glancing over his shoulder at the whirring printer, Westfall added, “Or even an hour later.”



SECURITY FORCES, from page 1

crawl through a sand pit under strung wire, then boost each other onto an overhead log. Competing in four-person teams, the quickest completion time on the course is sub-10 minutes.

Despite their visible exhaustion, before hanging up their uniforms for the evening, the Defenders spread out maps and sketches on the barracks floor to develop their strategy for the final day and the capstone of the tour: Exercise *CHAOS*. They use the simulated operations order prepared by the squadron's training and development section to identify their course of action.

The FTX (field training exercise) is a conglomeration of the previous days' training events. The tone of the final training morning is rich with anticipation. They are out the door for early morning chow before the sun comes up. They swing by the armory then rally at the head of an unmarked, gated road. It's not even 0800 and the Defenders are in full body armor, waist deep in thorns, shrubs and poison ivy, with weapons in hand. Today, though, the ammunition loaded in their weapons are blanks, and their M4 carbines are outfitted with a blank-firing attachment covering the muzzle.

Relying heavily on tactical hand signals, the strike team traverses steep embankments, creek beds and downed trees to encroach on their target: a power plant and the oppositional forces who have taken it over.

In the real world, the now-defunct coal-fired Albright Power Station closed in 2012 and is routinely used for military special operations training and complex exercises. A mammoth facility with multiple layers of fencing and gates, the largest building at the center of the complex looms more than six stories tall.

Inside the power plant, the 445th SFS training and development section have rigged simulation improvised explosive device trip wires between old pipes and across narrow catwalks overlooking the largest open space. The oppositional forces have M4 carbines, M240 machine guns, M249 light machine guns and



Capt. Rachel Ingram

Tech. Sgt. Zachary Walker, left, and Staff Sgt. Josh Huber, 445th Security Forces Squadron, breach the outer perimeter of the Albright Power Station, and push forward to neutralize fictional enemy combatant forces during a 445th SFS field training exercise, June 9, 2022.

rocket launchers, also loaded with blank ammo which produces the realistic and unnerving sound and flash characteristic of live rounds. They are waiting for the strike team to come find them.

Closing in on the old power plant, the strike team can now hear the banter of the two oppositional force members left outside on gate duty. Occasionally, a spray of gunfire peppers the tree line, intended to trigger a response from any lurking potential intruders. The trained Defenders know better than to return fire and give away their position on the em-

bankment, so they coolly ignore the probing fire and remain focused on the mission. They complete their final reconnaissance phase, then they strike.

Based on sheer numbers, they easily overtake the gate, breaching the perimeter. Part of the strike team immediately establishes their own perimeter security while the assault team pushes ahead. Once inside, they discover a labyrinth of stairs and hallways, shrouded in darkness and fog, floors littered with crumbled ceiling tiles and puddles of murky water. The small team moves in a synchronous pack and begins methodically clearing the building, one room at a time.

Once the facility is secured, designated marksmen make their way to the roof to secure the high ground and provide a supreme vantage point. The rest of the strike team establishes defensive fighting positions, two listening post/observation posts, and calls for civil engineering support to make repairs to the power plant. The standoff continues for upwards of seven hours, with simulated gate runners, suicide bombers, small arms fire and rocket-propelled grenades coming in waves.

In all, the Defenders expend a combined total of 26,000 rounds of blank and live ammunition during their time at Camp Dawson. They are in "go mode" for no less than 12 hours for three straight days; each morning they faithfully get up, suit up, and file outside for morning formation, followed by breakfast. Despite the long days and challenging conditions, the Defenders' resolve, as well as morale, seem to be unshakable.



Medical services craftsman reflects on career

By Senior Airman Amelia Gillies
445th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Master Sgt. Litittia Cofie, 445th Aeromedical Staging Squadron medical service craftsman and career advisor, enlisted in the U.S. Air Force July, 21, 2000, and after 22 years she completed her final unit training assembly (UTA) weekend with the 445th Airlift Wing, June 4-5, 2022.

Cofie is a civilian nurse and has served as a traditional reservist at the 445th for her entire Air Force career, agreeing to sit down on her final weekend of service and share some of her experiences during her Air Force journey, as well as some advice for new Airmen.

Cofie's father served in the Ghana Navy and supported her desire to join the military here in the United States, although he would have preferred that she join the Navy she admits with a wry smile. With her enlistment in the Air Force Cofie became the first female member of her family to serve in the military.

"It empowered me," says Cofie. "It made me feel like I was doing something for my country."

Cofie immigrated from Ghana in 1998, without her family, and having grown up in a country that was vastly different to the U.S. impacted the way she approached her life and service in the United States.

"You look at things differently when you come from another culture, but many immigrants serve proudly, we had the opportunity to come here, and we understand the cost of freedom," says Cofie. "I am really proud of serving this country and grateful for having been given the opportunity to serve."

Cofie completed two deployments to Germany, one for 120 days, and the other for a year, commenting that at the time the base in Germany was a hub for transporting injured service members from the middle East and so it was a real opportunity to use both her civilian and Air Force training.

Cofie was also the first female in her family to obtain a

bachelor's degree, completing her studies in nursing, an area she hoped to pursue further within the Air Force.

"I was injured on deployment and had to have two surgeries" says Cofie with a grimace. "I had to reassess what I wanted, and what my future would be."

Cofie had initially planned to commission, but to do so would have meant leaving the 445th and the life she had built here, and the injuries she sustained on deployment further complicated that course of action.

"I had roots here, and family," says Cofie smiling as she mentions them and talking about her decision to stay at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. "In the military there are often growing pains and moments of indecision and in those times, you need to look inside yourself and ask, why did you make this commitment?"

When asked about what advice she would give to newer Airmen just beginning their Air Force journey Cofie is more than willing to share and having served as a career advisor for many years she has helped Airmen through

all kinds of situations.

"Being in the military is more than just wearing the Uniform," says Cofie with a grin. "Military life is not easy, it's a real commitment. Be open-minded and take your career for what it is. The world is changing and the mission you knew might be different from what the mission will become, so be flexible."

Cofie smiles warmly as she reminisces about her experiences with the Air Force Reserve, about Airmen she has had the opportunity to help along the way, and about the career and the family she has built in that time.

"You have to find your balance, especially in the Reserves, between your civilian life and your commitment to the Air Force," says Cofie. But it's been 22 years, and it's been good."



Senior Airman Amelia Gillies

Master Sgt. Litittia Cofie (center), 445th Aeromedical Staging Squadron medical service craftsman and career advisor, and 445th ASTS Airmen prepare to unload simulated patients during training, June 4, 2022.



News Briefs

Employers Day

The 445th Airlift Wing will host an Employer Appreciation Day Nov. 5, 2022. Employer information must be submitted to the public affairs office by July 9, 2022. The registration form can be found in the *Blue Pages*.

Newcomers

Maj Joshua Bohun, MXG
 Maj Jeffrey Haub, 89 AS
 Maj Kevin Normile, JA
 1 Lt Sean Conway, 89 AS
 TSgt Cassandra Diyer, ASTS
 TSgt Darius Smith, OSS
 SSgt Mark Fernandez, MXG
 SSgt Nathaniel Norden, ASTS
 SSgt Joshua Ramey, MXG
 SSgt Drew Taylor, AMXS
 A1C Dean Austin Flores,

CES
 A1C Luke Jeong, AES
 Amn Jared Baker, 87 APS
 AB Daisa Feaster, ASTS
 AB Alexander Hall, LRS
 AB Isaiah Slonkosky, AES

Promotions

Master Sergeant
 Kianna Johnson, CES
 Nicole Patterson, FSS
 Justin Staten, AES
 Tiffany Works, FSS

Technical Sergeant
 Brandon Davis, FSS
 Ethan Martinez, MXS
 Amanda McMillan, AES
 Diego Weithoener, AES

Staff Sergeant
 Nathan Boyer, AES
 Jennifer Brann, AES
 Anthony Miller, MXS
 Chase Sweeny, 87 APS

Senior Airman
 Royce Bridstrup, FSS
 Hayden Dutro, FSS
 Andrew Fultz, FSS
 Osiris Paez, AMXS
 Maiya Sauer, AES
 Michael Torres, AMXS
 Douglas Townsell, FSS

Airman First Class
 Jared Baker, 87 APS
 Cody Dufresne, SFS
 Bristan Guza, SFS
 Reuben Hershberger, SFS

Retirements

Lt Col Michael Pelger, 89 AS
 Maj Sonny Hernandez, AW
 SMSgt Rhiannon Toops, 87 APS
 SMSgt Nathan Livingston, 87 APS
 SMSgt Chad Cazan, 87 APS
 MSgt Daniel Barnett, MXS

MSgt Devardo Zeigler, MXS
 MSgt Litittia Cofie, ASTS
 TSgt Randall Fletcher, FSS

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Dunk tank
Food/beverages
Games/activities
 (all ages)
Bouncy houses
C-17 static
military vehicle
statics

Saturday
Sept. 10, 2022
11:30am-4pm
Hangar 4016

445th Airlift Wing Family Day 2022



445th LRS wins two AFRC awards



Members of 445th Logistics Readiness Squadron pose for a squadron photo.

The 445th Logistics Readiness Squadron quality assurance office won the Air Force Reserve Command LRS Quality Assurance Award and Maj. Philip Sobers, 445th LRS operations officer, won the AFRC General Thomas P. Gerrity Logistics Award. The announcement was made June 9, 2022.

The LRS Quality Assurance Award is given to a unit that exemplifies professionalism and demonstrates outstanding achievement in performance of all aspects of their duties. The General Thomas P. Gerrity Award is given to an individual who displays outstanding contributions to logistics operations, management, business processes and the success of logistics operations worldwide.

The 445th LRS QA office overhauled the quality assurance program, raising the inspection rate by 100 percent, achieving 100 percent routine inspection lists and personnel evaluations that were back-to-back years. This initiative resulted in the unit winning the 2021 ACE (Achievement Committed to Excellence) Award. LRS QA worked 542 evaluations; identifying multiple errors and provided critical feedback for frontline supervisors, facilitating a 100 percent pass rate. The unit enhanced the personnel evaluation program, reviewing 712 evaluations for 98 members,

exceeding standards and earning a 100 percent pass rate, lauded by AFRC.

The QA manager dedicated an extra 504 hours outside of the unit training assembly weekend to ensure program compliance. The Airman's efforts resulted in being coined by the 445th Airlift Wing commander.

The QA office trained two QA evaluators in (Management Internal Control Toolset) MICT; the two became risk management qualified and they conducted more than 15 wing level safety education and training. The office initiated C-17 static refuel and defuel scenarios, accomplishing 78 QA evaluations and 78 tasks. The outcome ensured AFRC QA flight compliance. They designed a document for squadron QA accountability during the COVID-19 global pandemic and prepared seven virtual quality assurance evaluator inspections, said to be the AFRC best practice. The QA office set the education standard for the 445th LRS; 100 percent of subject matter experts completed and enrolled in the required professional military education courses.

Maj. Sobers led a partnership with a vehicle maintenance organization, allowing the opportunity for 34 core tasks to be updated and completed by 17.3



Maj. Philip Sobers

percent, slashing upgrade training by 33 percent. The unit achieved a less than 24 months goal. He built a deployment management system that was replicated across the command and lauded by the AFRC commander. Sobers expedited a deployment for 445th Airlift Wing doctors and nurses, seven of them mobilized in support of the COVID-19 pandemic with less than 36-hour notice. The major partnered with a lab contractor, securing training for four members sampling seven mission critical fuels and 40,000 gallons daily, saving 40 man-hours.

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