

445th Airmen participate in joint-force training

*By Senior Airman Erin Zimpfer
445th Airlift Wing Public Affairs*

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio—Reserve Citizen Airmen from the 445th Aeromedical Evacuation and Staging Squadrons joined forces with the Army National Guard and active-duty Airmen from the U. S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine in a combined real-world simulation training, May 14, 2022.

According to Master Sgt. Charles Kilgore, 445th AES medical technician, every AE team member has a specific role to perform in order to get ready for patient movement. A typical AES team consists of a medical crew director, or MCD, two flight nurses and three aeromedical technicians.

Before heading to the flightline, the two Critical Care Air Transport (CCAT) teams from ASTS, the MCD, aeromedical technicians and flight nurses from AES held a detailed pre-flight briefing to discuss the equipment and medical needs of the incoming patients.

Additionally, the medical personnel must perform equipment checks to ensure everything is in working order. For medical evacuation purposes, the C-17 Globemaster IIIs work as a flying hospital and everything needs to be choreographed down to the minute details. Things such as equipment weight on the aircraft and where to place the patient litters for flight, along with patient oxygen needs require coordination with the loadmaster for the aircraft, Kilgore said.

The training also included an Army Blackhawk helicopter that landed at Wright-Patterson to allow the simulation of offloading critically injured patients known as a Dustoff, or emergency evacua-

tions of casualties from a combat zone. The guardsmen were from the Charlie Company 2nd General Support Battalion 104th Aviation Regiment.

"We have a flight medic company and the plan was to come out and simulate transports to familiarize the Air Force side with our medical platforms and our guys with the Air Force side of things," said Maj. David Wray, flight surgeon with the 104th. "It provides us the opportunity for both of our services to familiarize themselves with how each operates in a patient transport environment."

Four active-duty Airmen were also included in the training flight with two doctors training and evaluating the two CCAT teams. Along with personnel, USAFSAM also provided extensive equipment for the training.

"We can come in and allow the CCAT teams to fully dive into the scenarios and get true nuts and bolts training with their counterparts. We can come in and increase the fidelity and the evaluation to give them better feedback so they don't have to step out of role to instruct," said Lt. Col. Derek Sorensen, medical director for the initial in-flight care division in the in-route care training department, USAFSAM.

Working in concert with the 445th has been a long-standing commitment between the two entities. Sorensen said they've been flying with the 445th AES since December 2017, with a few months pause during the COVID-19 pandemic. They have launched a total of 41 missions over that time



Tech. Sgt. Joel McCullough

West Virginia Army National Guard Charlie Company 2nd General Support Battalion 104th Aviation Regiment soldiers transport a mock patient to a C-17 Globemaster III during training with 445th Airlift Wing and the U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine, May 14, 2022.

Saying YES yields unique opportunities

By Maj. Dustin Honious
445th Security Forces Squadron Commander



The first time I said yes it led to a recruiter's office at 18 years old, fresh out of high school. I was enlisting in the world's most powerful Air Force, but with no idea what I would be doing. Not being raised with any type of military background or expertise, I did what I believed to be the next best option. I just asked the recruiter what he thought I should do and he steered

me toward security forces...retrospect, I genuinely understand the error in that blind trust. Off to basic training I went, completely excited for the challenge of basic military training. My next yes came when we got to pick jobs for the duration of BMT. Our training instructor brought us all into the dayroom and "politely" asked for a volunteer. Wanting to put my best foot forward and really immerse myself into the training, I volunteered for the untold task. As luck would have it, the role he needed filled was dorm chief. I was fired three times in my first week, threatened to wash back at least half a dozen times, and somehow found a way to get in trouble for our sister flight even though we had never met. All of those moments withstanding the constant pressure, stress, accountability, and unknown were worth it the day I marched side by side with my TI down the bomb run for graduation.

As the "new guy" at my first duty assignment, I really wanted to prove myself to the other Defenders in my squadron. I had a lot to learn and they had a lot to teach, but I didn't know anyone. When the sign-up roster went around for the intramural sports team, I said yes. It was a quick way for me to get to know a lot of my squadron along with other people around the Wing, many of which I still talk with even to this day.

A few months later, we were notified of a Presidential visit that needed support locally. The chief solicited volunteers to head up SWAT before his visit and of course I said yes. Well, it turns out they didn't mean SWAT as in Special Weapons and Tactics, they meant Seeds Weeds and Trash. I was on a cleaning detail.

In typical fashion I made best of the situation even if it wasn't ideal, getting paired up with a pretty sharp master sergeant I had already met on one of the sports teams a few months earlier. As we chatted through the day he made mention of an upcoming trip he was taking with a team Outside Contiguous United States and they had just lost someone due to an injury. He asked if I wanted to backfill his spot. I said yes. It was my first experience doing joint training with an allied country, and to this day the hardest but most fun training I have ever had.

Later in my career, I was toying with the idea of separating and focusing on my civilian life. My commander at the time had other plans and told me he was recommending me to OTS [Officer Training School]. I had never in my life thought that would be an option. Astonishingly, I had said yes a few years earlier when my old supervisor sat me down at a computer and made me enroll in college; that first yes allowed this yes to even be possible. A few years later as a newly minted captain running operations, a request came down. The 445th SFS was looking for an ops officer. This position would be closer to home and potentially lead to a command opportunity a couple years down the line. I said yes. My first UTA [unit training assembly] at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base was December 2017 and by March 2018 I was on G-Series orders due to the commander being deployed and finding a follow on assignment upon return. The mission support group commander stated that if I had made it this long without being fired then he trusted me for the job if I wanted it. I said yes.

I have never opened any doors in my life with a NO, but I have closed some. Learn to start with YES!

TRAINING, from page 1

with a total of 852 Total Force personnel trained.

"It's been a really great relationship—a great fusion of training working with both 445th medical squadrons. Most of the time when we have been coming out, we are bringing instructors from USAFSAM and getting them good experience on evaluating in operational missions and folks who may get deployed are able to get to practice what they are supposed to be able to do in real world situations," said Sorensen.

In addition to the evaluations for the CCAT teams,

some of the AE members were given their "check rides" on the flight. The medical personnel must follow specific procedures and checklists to ensure proper care is being given to the patients in transport. The ability to coordinate all of this must flow seamlessly as it really is a matter of life and death in critical situations.

"The opportunity to train in concert with joint service components really highlights what the Total Force can do when we come together," said Col. Tory Woodard, USAFSAM commander.



Around the wing...



Master Sgt. Patrick O'Reilly



Master Sgt. Patrick O'Reilly

(left) Master Sgt. Lebaron Smith, 445th Recruiting Squadron recruiter, signs re-enlistment documents after Col. Raymond Smith, 445th Airlift Wing commander, administers the Oath of Enlistment, May 11, 2022. (right) Master Sgt. Felipe Henao, 445th Force Support Squadron base honor guard program manager, addresses attendees during the 445th Airlift Wing Flight Commander's Edge at the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force during the senior enlisted panel, May 18, 2022.



Staff Sgt. Ethan Spickler



Master Sgt. Patrick O'Reilly

(left) 1st. Lt. Amanda Hostetter, 445th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron flight nurse, interacts with a service dog during a wing-wide wellness fair, May 15, 2022, at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio. The wellness fair gave Airmen an opportunity to socialize and obtain information about the various on-base and off-base helping agencies. (right) Airman 1st Class August Russ, 89th Airlift Squadron loadmaster, marshals a vehicle out of a C-17 Globemaster III during static load training at Wright-Patterson AFB, May 2, 2022. Members of Indiana National Guard's 53rd Civil Support Team, Indianapolis, and the 89th AS, loaded a variety of heavy duty trucks and Ford F450s with trailers into the aircraft.



SPOTLIGHT



Master Sgt. Patrick O'Reilly

Rank/Name: Capt. Olutola Banjoko

Unit: 445th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron

Duty Title: Flight Nurse

Hometown: Lagos, Nigeria

Civilian Job: Nurse at Advanced Neurology Care Unit

Education: Master of Science in nursing, Bachelor of Science in nursing

Hobbies: English football, table tennis, travelling and spending time with my family.

Career Goal: I would really like to practice as a nurse practitioner one day. I want to continue to acquire relevant knowledge that will impact my nursing career in a positive light.

What do you like about working at the 445th?: I like working at the 445th AES because of the amazing people I get to work with (both the flight nurses and the aeromedical technicians) that inspire me to be a better

flight nurse. Most of the people within the unit come with great talents and skills that contribute to the unit's outstanding performance within aeromedical evacuation organizations.

Why did you join the Air Force?: I actually joined the Air Force out of curiosity. I was wondering what it is like being in the military. I later ran into a friend that enlightened me about being a flight nurse within the Air Force. The sense of appreciation and serving the country that provided me with many opportunities gave me the conviction to join one of the best branches of the military. The Air Force continues to provide training opportunities that will improve both my civilian and Air Force career. I am very grateful to be able to serve within this great organization.

Law increases number of man-days for Reservists

A change to the Fiscal Year 2022 National Defense Authorization Act has increased the number of man-days Reserve Citizen Airmen can serve on active duty before they are required to have a waiver.

Since 2004, traditional Reservists and individual mobilization augmentees could only serve up to 1,095 man-days of the previous 1,460 days in a rolling four-year calendar. To serve more than 1,095 days required a waiver from the secretary of the Air Force for manpower and reserve affairs.

"The new NDAA has replaced '1,095 days in the previous 1,460 days' with '1,825 days in the previous 2,190 days,'" said Wanda Henderson, a personnel specialist in AFRC's Directorate of Manpower, Personnel and Services (A1) here. "This is good news for the Air Force Reserve because it provides us with more flexibility and encourages volunteerism."

Prior to 2004, Reservists couldn't serve more than 179 man-days on active duty in a given year without an approved waiver.

The change in the NDAA that allows Reservists to serve the equivalent of five years of man-days in a rolling six-year period of time – up from three years in a four-year span – is good news for Reserve Citizen Airmen who were nearing the old 1,095-day limit. It also encourages

more Reservists to volunteer and makes service more predictable for them, their families and their employers.

Henderson said that Reserve Component members exceeding 1,095 days in the previous 1,460 had been accounted against active component and Active Guard Reserve end strength, consistent with tour funding – Military Personnel Appropriations against the active component and Reserve Personnel Appropriations against AGR.

In order to limit and control accounting against AGR strength, AFRC implemented an AROWS-R hard hold requiring AFRC deputy commander approval for a member to exceed the 1,095-day threshold.

"A systems change request adjusting the hard hold to the new NDAA thresholds has been submitted," she said. "In the interim, force support squadron commanders and RIO (Readiness and Integration Organization) detachment commanders are authorized to clear 1,095-day hard holds after validating that the member will not exceed 1,825 ADOS (active duty for operational support) days through the order's end date."

For more information, Reserve Citizen Airmen can e-mail the AFRC AIRR organizational box at AFRC.DPXX@us.af.mil. (Article courtesy of Air Force Reserve Command Public Affairs.)



89 Airlift Squadron loadmaster on path to become C-17 pilot

By Stacy Vaughn
445th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

From moving cargo as a Port Dawg to loading cargo in the back of a plane as a loadmaster, 89th Airlift Squadron instructor loadmaster Tech. Sgt. Noah Benefiel is now on the path to fulfill his dream to become an Air Force officer and fly the plane he's currently assigned to, the C-17 Globemaster III.

"This has always been a goal of mine, to be a pilot.

I set this goal when I started going back to school. However, when I did go back to school, I didn't think I'd meet the age requirements for pilot training. I didn't think I would graduate in time, get my private pilot's license in time, or do well on the AFOQT [Air Force Officer Qualifying Test]. But the next thing I knew, here I am," Benefiel said.

Benefiel will be trading in his stripes for bars when he attends Officer Training School Aug. 2, 2022, with a follow on to pilot training. Because the 89th AS is sponsoring him, he will return to the 89th as a C-17 pilot.

Lt. Col. Francis Saul, 89th AS chief pilot, does the hiring and screening of future pilots who want to join the Air Force and fly for the 89th. He screens and interviews candidates that possess the skills and requirements necessary to become a pilot within the 89th AS. He exams the necessary paperwork to include letters of recommendation, pilot licenses, logbooks, AFOQT test scores and college transcripts. After unit sponsorship, he forwards the application package to the Air Force Reserve Command Undergraduate Flying Training Board at Robins Air Force Base, Georgia, for the final approval. The board provides Saul the results and he informs the applicant.

Saul said he was in Benefiel's place back in 2001 when he started as an enlisted troop working in maintenance at the 445th Airlift Wing and was able to make the transition to become a pilot.

"It's funny that 22 years later, I'm the one who is calling the individual to share the official offer to become a pilot with the 89th Airlift Squadron. I'm thrilled

to give people the good news that they've been selected," Saul said.

Mark Benefiel, Noah Benefiel's father and unit program manager to the 445th Maintenance Squadron, said his son has always been interested in flying and was thrilled to learn that he was selected to be a pilot and will be coming back to the 89th.



Master Sgt. Patrick O'Reilly

Tech. Sgt. Noah Benefiel, 89th Airlift Squadron instructor loadmaster, performs duties at the loadmaster station on a C-17 Globemaster III May 13, 2022.

"I have five children and I took all of them flying through the years. I always thought that my second oldest son would be the one who would be the pilot. Noah ways quiet and didn't openly show interest until he became an adult. When he started showing an interest, I began to take him flying more and going to airshows. Now, we share a very mutual passion for flying," said Mark Benefiel.

Sergeant Benefiel said it was challenging at times to get to this point but worth it in the end.

"I spent three years working on my bachelor's degree in business administration online through Liberty University. While doing my schoolwork, I was doing my loadmaster duties, flying around the world. I was doing homework and writing papers on the airplane and during any down time. It was stressful balancing my schoolwork and my job. Like in Hawaii, I could either go hangout at the beach or finish writing a paper," the sergeant said.

Saul said the squadron benefits from hiring someone like Benefiel who has already been with the unit. He'll have the benefit of understanding the whole concept of being part of the C-17 aircrew and the culture of the 89th AS—his experience of loading and working the cargo aspect pays dividends as he will soon be the one flying the aircraft.

"We want to hire people like Noah. He's already a great asset to the squadron and he knows the culture of our unit. He's worked really hard to get to this point," Saul said. "You get people who say they want to be a pilot but do not always have what it takes to see it through," Saul said.



1st generation Reserve Citizen Airman pursues Ph.D.

By Senior Airman Erin Zimpfer
445th Airlift Wing Public Affairs



Courtesy Photo

Staff Sgt. Jeanette Salgado, 445th Aeromedical Staging Squadron medical material journeyman, empties a bin of equipment for a week-long aeromedical and global patient movement exercise, Ultimate Caduceus, held at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, April 28, 2021.

A medical logistics Airman from the 445th Aeromedical Staging Squadron is no stranger to hard work and dedication. Staff Sgt. Jeanette Salgado is a first generation U.S. born citizen. Her Salvadoran parents immigrated to New Jersey a few years before she was born.

In her 31 years, the young, trail blazing Airman is making a name for herself around the wing. Salgado is one of four logistics personnel in the squadron. She enlisted into the Air Force Reserve in 2018 after finishing her master's degree in sports administration.

But her interest in the military started about a year before that. "I had friends who went to the Naval Academy and West Point, and I knew that I wanted to commission," said Salgado. "I signed up to take my AFOQT [Air Force Officer Qualifying Test] and received a two-week notice of when my test would be. It was right in the middle of finals for my master's program and I did not study and ended up failing the test by one point."

She did not let that stop her determination. After receiving her master's, she moved to Louisville and was speaking to a recruiter soon after.

"Many people I had spoken with in the military told me that the best officers in the military were prior enlisted Airmen and I decided I wanted to go that

route," shared Salgado. "To me, enlisting in the Reserve was a way I could give back to my country and get a feeling for what being in the military is like."

Salgado had the desire to serve after her parents moved the family here in order to give their children the best opportunities. The young Airman did not even know if she would have the opportunity to attend a university because her family just made ends meet.

"My plans were to go to community college," she shared. "College was not something my family had really done before and community college was so much more affordable."

In high school, Salgado played club soccer and the girls on the team started to be recruited. Salgado was offered a full scholarship to play at Delaware State.

"I chose them because it was closest to my parents while still being a Division I school. School has always been really important to me. I have always had good grades and the small class sizes were important to me."

While at Delaware State, Salgado fell in love with strength and conditioning and a growing friendship formed between her and the coach.

"I was nearing the end of my bachelor's program in exercise science and my coach helped me to do my internship at the strength and conditioning facility at the school. This opened up the opportunity to do a graduate assistanceship with them in order to complete my master's degree there," said Salgado.

In addition to the education opportunities afforded to Salgado, her hard work and dedication also opened doors for her to play semi-professional soccer.

Salgado's college soccer coach encouraged her to try out playing the sport outside of the D1 environment.

"After I graduated with my bachelor's degree, I made a semi-pro team in New Jersey," recalled Salgado. "That wasn't really a good fit for me, then a team from Virginia Beach picked me up and I played with them for three or four months throughout that summer."

Even though it was short lived, the experiences shaped her and made her more determined than ever.

"Here I was on this semi-professional team, coming from a really small D1 school and playing with girls who have played internationally or come from larger D1 schools, it was intimidating, and I was not sure if I would ever see the field," she said. "I had it in my head that I needed to dig deep, work really hard and

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News Briefs

Major Selections

Headquarters Air Reserve Personnel Center officials announced May 23, 2022 results for the Calendar Year 2022 Air Force Reserve Line and



Non Line Major Promotion Selection Boards. Four reservists from the 445th Airlift Wing were selected for promotion to major: Stacey Blurton, 445th AW; John Boylson and Joshua Earl, 89th Airlift Squadron and Daniel McFadden, 87th Aerial Port Squadron.

Newcomers

SSgt Rodney Smith, 87 APS
SSgt Amanda Szymanski, FSS
SrA Trenden Fox, 87 APS
SrA Zechariah Gerardi, AW
SrA Yacouba Sibi, MXG
A1C Christopher Lan-

drum, AW
A1C Brooks Lyle, AMDS
A1C Katherine Pietras, ASTS
A1C Maiya Sauer, AES
A1C Justin Tomlinson, 89 AS
AB Brady Anderson, CES
AB Dorian Poling, CES

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*.

Family Day

Mark your calendars for the 445th Airlift Wing Family Day, Saturday, Sept. 10, 2022 beginning at 11:30 a.m. More details to follow.

Retirements

Maj Mark Hannon, 89 AS

SMSgt Jessica Osmer, AW
MSgt Frederick Hageman, AES
TSgt Sherica Hall, 89 AS

Promotions

Chief Master Sergeant
Anthony Staut, AES

Master Sergeant
Lawrence Mark, AES
Chris Van Iderstine, AMXS
Jason Ware, CES

Technical Sergeant
Jacob Kreuzer, AMXS
Christopher Lewis, AMXS
Jamie Minnish, MXS
Kyle Weir, CES
Jeremy Whitlow, SFS

Staff Sergeant
Emma Burbrink, LRS
Jacob Dorsey, AMXS
Steven Elgowsky, CES
Mariah Harris, AMDS
Ryan McCarty, SFS
Jacob Price, MXS
Jeanette Salgado, ASTS
Bradley Scheidt, SFS

Trenton Westfall, 87 APS

Senior Airman

Sibert Ndamayu, AMDS
Diana Molina Cardoza, SFS
Tyreca Rippley, AMDS
Blake Taylor, MXS
Phoebe Weidner, MXS

Airman First Class

Darius Moore, AMXS
Jashaya Poindexter, 87 APS
Katelyn Steele, AES

Airman

Hayden Arnold, SFS

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just keep going. Eventually I was a starter and was invited to play in a two week tournament in El Salvador, where my family is from. We played teams from Guatemala, Honduras and a couple teams that were from El Salvador. It was an awesome experience."

After that summer, even though she had seen a lot of success on the soccer field, she remained dedicated and focused on her educational goals.

"At that time, semi-pro was the highest level in the U.S. and they do not pay you to play. They cover your living expenses and necessities but it was too up in the air whether pro soccer was going to start again for women," said Salgado. "I did not want to leave anything up to chance. I had the full ride for my masters degree and my job as a graduate apprentice, so I had to leave soccer."

Salgado's hard work and dedication led to amazing opportunities in all areas of her education and career. In 2021, she was selected to be the lead medical

logistics coordinator for the Ultimate Caduceus Exercise held at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio.

"Staff Sergeant Salgado is a very passionate and sharp troop. She quickly embraced the medical logistics career field, demonstrating she is ready for her upcoming deployment during the Ultimate Caduceus exercise last year," said Tech. Sgt. Zachory Tschuor, lead medical logistics technician. "She is also not afraid to get involved with helping around the squadron Airman's council, physical training leader, holiday party planning, etc. She adds a lot to our squadron."

She was awarded an Air Force Achievement medal for her leadership in the Ultimate Caduceus exercise.

"People ask me sometimes how did all of this happen and I think, it is because I look at something that I want and I just start asking questions. How can I make things happen? I go to the people doing the things I want and ask them how they achieved it," said Salgado.



Wing Airmen recognized for doing great things



Tech. Sgt. Joel McCullough



Courtesy Photo

(left) Chief Master Sgt. Christopher Williams, 445th Airlift Wing command chief, presents a coin to Senior Master Sgt. Jessica Hodge, 445th Logistics Readiness Squadron logistics plans superintendent, May 14, 2022. Hodge was recognized by the Headquarters Air Force Reserve Command Community Action team for her nomination for the Wingman Saves Program, a program that recognizes Reserve Command community members who take action when observing a situation in which someone needs assistance. (right) Staff Sgt. Andrew Wade, (center) 445th Logistics Readiness Squadron, was selected as NCO Warrior of the Month for April 2022 while deployed with the 380th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron, at Al Dhafra Air Base, United Arab Emirates.

On the Web



AF Youth Programs



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