

445th AW honors 2021 annual award winners



Master Sgt. Patrick O'Reilly

Members of the 445th Force Support Squadron are named squadron of the year at the wing's annual awards ceremony, April 2, 2022.

Members of the 445th Airlift Wing gathered at the 88th Medical Group auditorium, April 2, 2022 to honor the wing's 2021 annual award winners.

The event recognized 33 nominees. Col. Raymond Smith, 445th AW commander, Chief Master Sgt. Christopher Williams, 445th AW command chief, and Mrs. Stephanie Smith, 445th AW Key Spouse Mentor,

presented medallions to nominees and trophies to the winners.

The 2021 annual award winners are:

Airman of the Year: Senior Airman Cicely McWhorter, 87th Aerial Port Squadron; NCO of the Year: Tech. Sgt. Zachary Tschuor, 445th Aeromedical Staging Squadron; Senior NCO of the Year: Senior Master Sgt. Nicholas Akins, 87th APS; First Sergeant of the Year: Master Sgt. Brooke Howells, 445th Maintenance Squadron; Company Grade Officer of the Year: Capt. Cecilia Photinos, 445th Operations Support Squadron; Field Grade Officer of the Year: Maj. Phillip Sobers, 445th Logistics Readiness Squadron; Civilian of the Year: Mrs. Shawn Hayes-Davis 445th AW Financial Management; Honor Guard Member of the Year: Master Sgt. Victor Walker, 87th APS; Recruiter of the Year: Master Sgt. Kenya Shipp, 445th AW Recruiting Squadron; Spouse of the Year: Mrs. Ann McCaslin, spouse of Senior Master Sgt. Sean McCaslin, 445th Security Forces Squadron; Youth of the Year: Mr. Gabriel Lavender, son of Mr. Shad Lavender, 445th Operations Group; Squadron of the Year: 445th Force Support Squadron, commanded by Lt. Col. Miranda Laubie; Community Partner of the Year: Sandy's Towing and Recovery.

Please see photos of award winners on page 3.

87th APS Airmen win team of the quarter while deployed

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

A team of 29 Airmen from the 87th Aerial Port Squadron, temporarily assigned to the 380th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron at Al Dhafra Air Base, United Arab Emirates, won the 380th Air Expeditionary Wing team of the quarter for all of their work in the air transportation function.



Airmen of the 87th Aerial Port Squadron receive the 380th Air Expeditionary Wing team of the quarter award at Al Dhafra Air Base, April 8, 2022.

"The majority of the 380th Wing's accomplishments during this rotation came from the effective teamwork produced from the ATF," said 1st Lt. Amanda Collins, installation deployment officer, 380th ELRS. "The team made a significant impact on this base."

While deployed, the team, comprised

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What does “It” matter? It’s always right to do right

By Col. Donald F. Wren
445th Mission Support Group Commander



I recently had the pleasure of visiting Col. (Doc) Lawlor’s office. Hanging on his office wall is a sign that says, “The Rules Haven’t Changed.” Rules! Is he crazy...we don’t need no stinking rules! Or do we?

Growing up in Reading, Ohio, I played baseball in the Valley Youth Organization or what we simply called “The VYO”. This organization was started by a man named Mike Haffey, who was an icon for

many of us kids because he was more than an organizer of baseball. He was a friend and all about giving life lessons and used baseball to do it. He taught us things we would not discover for several years. One that stands out is, “Home plate on a baseball diamond is 17 inches wide.” In this lesson, he told us why it mattered.

As an early teenager, he invited me to be an umpire for the younger boy’s baseball league. Adult umpires were in the older league where I was playing, but the lower teams used teenagers. As we were being trained on how to be umpires, we were schooled on the rules of the game as well as how to manage tense situations with the adult coaches and parents. We were told that home plate was 17 inches wide, in fact, it remains a rule even today...hasn’t changed in over 146 years. It is the same width in the big leagues as in little league. It didn’t matter who was pitching, it didn’t matter who the home team was, and it didn’t matter if the umpire was 13-years-old or 32-years-old. This rule has stood the test of the angriest of parents in the stands who didn’t like how the umpire called balls and strikes for their MVP 7 year old son that was soon to be in the majors. Seventeen inches is the rule! Parents can’t change it and a player or coach can’t change it, and an umpire must never try to change it. “If a pitcher can’t get the ball over the 17-inch plate; we do not make home plate 18 inches,” Mr. Haffey would say.

He preached that if we arbitrarily widened the strike zone, then we changed the game and eroded its integrity. That’s what rules are intended to do, and why we measure our compliance with them...to protect integrity. Despite that purpose, it still amazes me how much pressure angry parents place on umpires even today...some want a bigger plate and some want a smaller one...seemingly no one is happy with 17 inches. Nevertheless, it matters.

A few years after my VYO baseball days, I found myself in Air Force Basic Military Training (BMT) learning how to become an Airman. That six-week process carried me into a new life full of rules and regulations. I walked out of BMT the same way I walked out of Mr. Haffey’s garage as a fledgling umpire in 1976...scared and with one question lingering in my mind; would I measure up to and meet the challenges of a good (umpire) Airmen? Could I endure the challenges of meeting the standard when it wasn’t the cool or easy thing to do? I reminded myself of Mr. Mike Haffey’s 17 inches lesson. Following the rules is hard work, but is right and good...it matters...it’s how we succeed.

When I joined the Air Force, I agreed to the obligation of following the rules, all of them, for the purpose of protecting the integrity of the Air Force. It is hard and sometimes not popular to follow the rules. I’ve watched crafty Airmen devise many ways to skirt the rules...spending more time to find a way to disobey the rules than simply following them. Often, this didn’t work out well for the Airman, but sometimes it did. Unfortunately, their success came at the cost of their integrity, the unit’s integrity and the Air Force’s integrity.

The lessons Mr. Haffey taught me has more application for me today, as a group commander, than it did in 1976 umpiring baseball in Reading, Ohio’s VYO. As I grew older and more experienced as an Airman, I really began to understand his lessons and apply them. As a maintainer, it had real meaning and use for me. I recalled this lesson every time I signed off a Red-X in the aircraft forms. My signature meant all the technical data was followed, without exception, and the aircraft was safe to fly. It mattered to the crew onboard that the rules were followed to the letter. Soon, I realized it defines what being an Airman means, because every time we deviate from the standard we lessen what it means to be an Airman. Rules not mattering could put the life, safety or health of others at risk. To use Mr. Haffey’s sage counsel “it’s always right to do right. If you make home plate 18 inches how long will it be before you make it 19?” Seventeen inches matters in baseball.

So, home plate is 17-inches wide, but what does it matter if an Airman fails to give courtesy and respect to reveille every morning? After all, what would our friends think if they saw us do that? What does it matter if I fail to salute a superior officer, or better yet, what does it mean when I don’t correct another subordinate Airman who fails to render customs and

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Airman



Senior Airman Cicely McWhorter

NCO



Tech. Sgt. Zachary Tschuor

Senior NCO



Master Sgt. Nicholas Akins
(Accepted by Capt. Daniel McFadden)

First Sergeant



Senior Master Sgt. Brooke Howell

Company Grade Officer



Capt. Cecilia Photinos

Field Grade Officer



Maj. Phillip Sobers

Civilian



Mrs. Shawn Hayes-Davis

Honor Guard



Master Sgt. Victor Walker

Recruiter



Master Sgt. Kenya Shipp

Spouse



Mrs. Ann McCaslin

Youth



Mr. Gabriel Lavender

Community Partner



Sandy's Towing and Recovery



SPOTLIGHT



Tech. Sgt. Joel McCullough

Rank/Name: Tech. Sgt. Nicholas Behr

Unit: 445th Civil Engineer Squadron

Duty Title: Station Captain

Hometown: Beavercreek, Ohio

Civilian Job: Air Force Materiel Command/A1 – Management Analyst (full time); Washington Township Fire Department – Firefighter/Emergency Medical Technician (part time)

Education: Master of Science in administration Central Michigan University; Bachelor of Science

in organizational leadership Wright State University; Associate of Applied Science in fire science; Community College of the Air Force

Hobbies: Playing with my three kids, hiking and just being outdoors with my family.

Career Goal: I would like to make deputy chief one day (maybe even chief). I would really like to help keep our career field progressive and stay at the forefront of innovation in the fire service.

What do you like about working at the 445th?:

Getting to work and serve with such a diverse group of people. Getting to travel and work alongside our active duty counterparts and exchange knowledge. I have trained with other TRs (traditional reservists) that work for big city fire departments like Indianapolis and Columbus. These guys come with a lot of amazing experience to be shared with our home units.

Why did you join the Air Force?: My driving force when I first joined was education and secondly, service to my country. I have continued to serve because of the pride I have in serving my country and my desire to want to mentor and train the people around me.

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courtesies? Some say those standards only applied in basic training, but we are in the “real” Air Force now.

In baseball home plate is the same size during practice as the real game. Others shun the rules because it isn’t cool, or they would be ostracized if their buddies saw them stop, face the music and salute during Retreat. Why is this behavior tolerated by Airmen? Does it matter if an airman doesn’t respect the rules we were taught to become an Airman?

Rules and regulations define who we are and help us maintain our integrity. It is the courage to want to follow the rules that makes us different...it is what makes us Airmen. It is what earned the Air Force Reserve the standing to become a major command. Because stalwart Airmen said it matters, the Air Force Reserve (AFRES) was able to put away the moniker of “weekend warrior” and bring us to the same playing field as the active duty as a major command in the fight every day. We are no longer “just reservists.” Those days are long gone because it matters.

General Hoyt Vandenberg was the Air Force Chief

of Staff in our Air Force’s early years. In the 1950 edition of “*The Airman’s Handbook*” he writes, “For those who can qualify, the United States Air Force provides opportunity worthy of careful consideration by intelligent and capable young men and women. The standards are high, but the rewards are worth striving for.” We are 72 years removed from these words. The rules have not changed...home plate is still 17 inches...the standards are still high. No one should lower the standards.

Our recent Unit Effectiveness Inspection proved the 445th Airlift Wing’s 12 squadrons are effective in our mission. You showed the Air Force Reserve Command’s Inspector General that 17 inches matter...to the point they gave up trying to find deviations. The Airmen of this wing proved Gen. Vandenberg’s prediction to be true. The standards are high, but you worked hard to reach them because it matters.

Congratulations to every Airman in the 445th Airlift Wing! Well done! You hit a home run.



445th quarterly award winners recognized

CGO



1st Lt. Caleb Smith, 445th Operations Support Squadron officer in charge of intelligence training, is the 445th Airlift Wing Company Grade Officer of the Quarter. Smith is the backbone of the 445th Airlift Wing's intelligence realm where he oversaw a five-member team, conducted three current intelligence briefings, executed six pre-mission briefings and performed 47 isolated personnel reports. He was selected as one of the wing's Unit Effective Inspection's "Superior Performers." Smith overhauled the training shop and bridged a mission support gap for C-17 Globemaster III operations. The intel officer revived the current intelligence program and briefed the Russia/Ukraine crisis to two squadrons, one group and the wing resulting in being lauded by the wing commander. The lieutenant mentored a new Airman on travel reimbursement where he educated the member on the Joint Travel Regulation and voucher process; saving the Airman \$3,600 in out-of-pocket yearly costs.

SNCO



Senior Master Sgt. Christie Suydam, 445th Operations Support Squadron senior enlisted leader, is the 445th Airlift Wing Senior NCO of the Quarter. Suydam led the wing's intelligence program, a 12-member flight with a long-term senior intelligence officer gap. She handled the mission support for two wings and six areas of responsibility. Suydam was selected as one of the wing's Unit Effective Inspection's "Superior Performers." She established the first-ever 655th Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Wing intel augmentee program where she secured an inter-wing mutual of understanding, resulting in offsetting a 50 percent manning deficit and supporting 15 Air Mobility Command and Air Force Reserve Command missions. The senior master sergeant is the Wright-Patt Top 3 secretary. In this role, she oversees private organization renewal and bylaws update. The Senior NCO taught a bullet writing class to the squadron and she completed her Senior Enlisted Joint Professional Military Education.

NCO



Tech. Sgt. Marjorie Butcher, 445th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron AE technician, is the 445th Airlift Wing NCO of the Quarter. Butcher responded in less than 72 hours to fly 80 Department of Defense troops out of Bagram in support of Operation Allied Refugees. She was selected for a high-visibility self-assess program duty where she had to quickly obtain access to the Management Internal Control Toolkit and Inspector General Evaluation Management System, a vital role in the wing's recent Unit Effective Inspection. Butcher was chosen for a Pacific Air Forces operation mission where she transported one Critical Care Air Transport Team and three incubated infants all while overcoming mission delays. She volunteered for multiple additional duties; physical training leader, unit health monitor, fetal protection program and airfield driving instructor. The sergeant is a member of the Wright-Patt Honor Guard—paying final respect to military members with the highest reverence and tradition.

AMN



Staff Sgt. Bradley Scheidt, 445th Security Forces Squadron combat arms instructor, is the 445th Airlift Wing Airman of the Quarter. Scheidt deployed in support of Operation Allies Welcome. While supporting the initiative, Scheidt was key in the support of more than 15,000 Afghan evacuees. He led a security team that provided internal and external security for three refugee villages and observed 15,000 refugees. The staff sergeant was the first on-scene for five domestic altercations and seven assaults; he stifled a volatile scene and separated the subjects resulting in restored order for 4,000 village residents. Scheidt partnered with village leaders and elders to coordinate sweeps for eight missing Afghan children. The children were found and returned to their distraught families. Scheidt crushed operations amid a pathogen risk by monitoring 72 isolation room where the Measles, Mumps and Rubella vaccine point-of-dispensing cut infection vulnerability for 2,000 personnel.



AMXS Airman selected to attend Air Force Academy

Maintainer desires to become pilot, fly C-17s

By Staff Sgt. Ethan Spickler
445th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Some Airmen fix planes, others fly them. On rare occasions, a few even have had the opportunity to do both. Such is the case for Senior Airman Jacob D. Dorsey, a crew chief with the 445th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, who was recently accepted to the Air Force Academy with the ultimate goal of flying the same aircraft that he currently maintains, the C-17 Globemaster III.

Since joining the Air Force, Dorsey has worked closely with aircraft as a maintainer, but he has had a dream to become a pilot ever since an experience he had while flying with his Junior ROTC group in high school. During a field trip, he was given the opportunity to handle the controls under the supervision of the pilot, and ever since, Dorsey has had a desire to fly.

"As soon as I touched those controls, I fell in love," said Dorsey. "That's really where everything started for me. I enlisted shortly thereafter, and I have learned a lot from working on the planes and interacting with the pilots and crews."

Since enlisting, Dorsey has served as a crew chief with the 445th AMXS. Crew chiefs are responsible for planning and completing maintenance duties off the plane as well as performing functional work on the aircraft. Their job demands that they have intimate knowledge of aircraft systems and flight line procedures; something Dorsey believes gives him knowledge and experience that will translate to his future roles.

"In maintenance, we turn wrenches," he said. "We are able to handle everything from changing tires and lights to refueling and servicing oxygen systems. Once you get so experienced with this job that you are capable of performing at the highest level, then you get

to fly out on missions and perform maintenance on the road as well as at home. That experience is invaluable," Dorsey said.



Staff Sgt. Ethan Spickler

Senior Airman Jacob Dorsey, 445th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron crew chief, was selected to attend the Air Force Academy.

ily issues. I decided to continue learning and working here to the best of my ability. In the meantime and when the opportunity to go the Air Force Academy appeared for a second time, I knew I was ready to take that step," Dorsey said.

That's exactly what Dorsey did. He is currently awaiting his departure for the Air Force Academy. While there, he will continue his education and pursue his dream, all while taking the culture and knowledge he gained from the 445th to new heights. When asked what aircraft in particular he wanted to fly, he stated it would be great to fly the C-17.

"It is such a phenomenal aircraft," said Dorsey. "I would love to continue working with it and bringing my experience from the enlisted maintenance perspective to the table as well. The culture of the 445th and the people we serve with is something I can bring with me wherever I go from here. At the end of the day, I'm excited to use the knowledge, experience, and focus I can generate to serve the best way I can."



News Briefs

Employers Day

The 445th Airlift Wing is tentatively scheduled to host an Employer Appreciation Day during the November Scarlet UTA. Employer information must be submitted to the public affairs office by July 9, 2022. See *Blue Pages* for more details.

Promotions

Senior Master Sergeant
Bryan Anderson, AMDS
Sean Stump, FSS

Master Sergeant
Thomas Cacowski, AES
Ryan Lucas, LRS
Cody Smeltzer, AMDS

Technical Sergeant
Christopher Hedrick, MXS
Aaron Lerro, OSS
Matthew Sanders, AMDS
Leslie Smith, MXS
Blake Reynolds, AMXS

Staff Sergeant
Michael Cage, MXS
Bhishma Desai, ASTS
Justin Hoffman, AES
Drew Huskey, 87 APS
Garrett Woodyeard, OSS

Senior Airman
Jared Baumgartner, AMXS
Vanessa Dongmo, LRS
Hannah Elam, ASTS
Trevor Hallahan, AMXS
Andrea Plaughter, AES

Airman First Class
Darien Anderson, AMDS
William Lugo, ASTS

Airman
Dustin Collinsworth, MXS
Katherine Pietras, ASTS
Jashaya Poindexter, 87 APS

Retirements

Lt Col Matthew Smith, 89 AS
CMSgt Bryan Cepluch,

MSG
MSgt Ashby Jakober, ASTS
MSgt Joel Lefevre, AMDS

Awards

Air Force Commendation Medal
SMSgt Randall Anderson, MXS
MSgt Anthony Katros, MXG
MSgt Matthew Spuhler, MXG
TSgt Justin Bateman, 89 AS
SSgt Katherine Redavide, 89 AS

Air Force Achievement Medal
SSgt Jordan Shepherd, MXS

Aerial Achievement Medal
Maj Joli Beasley, AES
MSgt Michael Flaata, AES

Newcomers

Capt Jefferson Sweet, CES
TSgt Matthew Steele, AMXS
SSgt Jeanne Caron, 89 AS
SSgt Abbie Lane, SFS
SSgt Rodney Smith, 87 APS
SrA Aaron Borden, CES
SrA Austin Carter, MXS
SrA Aaron Gordon, MSG

Buckeye Flyer

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solely of 87th APS Airmen, worked around the clock and coordinated several short-notice cargo movements, including an entire inbound fighter squadron, and two large, heavy outbound air frames to another base.

They also worked with medical and public health professionals to improve and streamline COVID-19 protocols for passengers, which were ultimately elevated to, and adopted at, the major command level.

In addition to mission requirements, team leader, Master Sgt. Justin Hunt, sought practical joint training opportunities in concert with the Army.

"They have some specialized equipment and vehicles that we don't routinely see, but we would be responsible for preparing that cargo for military airlift and securing it to the aircraft floor using chains and

devices," Hunt explained. "We started brainstorming how we could help those Soldiers better understand our processes, and also how we could prepare our Airmen to support the Army if this type of mission were to happen."

The exercise Hunt organized was so successful that Army leadership on the base asked the ATF team to construct a simulated aircraft floor training platform near their facility so that they could use it again in the future.

"We dealt with circumstances that no one anticipated or experienced. Those circumstances came fast and required not only a lot of hard work, but strategic thinking, which the team provided every day," Collins added. "They executed the mission with integrity, humility, and had a clear focus on the objectives."



Big changes coming to officer, enlisted evaluations

It is said that the only thing constant in life is change. The Air Force evaluation system is no exception to this rule. Prior to this year, officer evaluations were based largely on date of commission but are now transitioning to a static close out date (SCOD) system to mirror the changes to the enlisted ranks a few years ago.

Below are some key changes:

1. The myEval system housed on the Air Force portal under the myFSS suite of applications, will be the home for evaluation closeouts beginning May 31, 2022 or later. The site will replace the current evaluation system known as the virtual Personnel Center (vPC) and can be found at <https://myfss.us.af.mil/>

2. Officers will begin the transition to SCODs in April 2022 with some lieutenants who, depending on closeout date, may need a transition officer performance report.

3. There will be no changes to enlisted SCODs.

4. All officers and enlisted personnel are required to initiate a feedback for their supervisor. At present, feedback forms should be initiated and feedback conducted for enlisted closeouts of Sept. 30, 2022 and officer closeouts of Oct 31, 2022.

5. As part of this initiative, the functions of a force support squadron and commander's support staff will move to digital environments. The new system is accessible worldwide and requires common access card (CAC) authentication with the intention of a future mobile rollout later in the year.

6. Feedbacks are not required in myEval for FY22 senior master sergeant and chief master sergeant SCODs. CSSs will delete those initiated 927s in myEval (CSSs)

Standardizing evaluation closeout dates for each officer grade unlocks a synchronized comparison of performance within peer groups, providing officers with a fuller understanding of their performance assessment and where they stand among their peers. Additionally, implementation of SCODs provides more equitable and consistent information about officer performance to future Promotion Boards and other key talent management decision-makers (i.e., Development Teams, Command Screening Boards, Career Field Managers, etc.)

For more information, contact your commander's support staff.



Graduation surprise!

High school senior, Taylor Godsey, joins her mother, Master Sgt. Jennifer Godsey, 445th Force Support Squadron services supervisor, during the 445th Airlift Wing's 2021 Annual Awards event, April 2, 2022 at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio. Godsey received a special surprise, April 1, 2022 when Miami East High School in Casstown, Ohio held an early graduation ceremony for Taylor because the sergeant would miss the graduation due to a deployment.

Master Sgt. Patrick O'Reilly

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