

# BUCKEYE FLYER



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## 445th Airmen train with local law enforcement

By Amanda Dick

445th Airlift Wing Public Affairs



Amanda Dick

**Master Sgt. Justin Van Niman, 445th Security Forces Squadron training and readiness NCO in charge, moves to clear a room during active shooter training at Calamityville, Fairborn, Ohio, July 14, 2023.**

Four Airmen with the 445th Security Force Squadron trained alongside their civilian law enforcement counterparts July 14 at Calamityville in Fairborn, Ohio. The training taught law enforcement how to respond during active shooter incidents through different scenarios, and how to provide critical care to victims on the scene such as wrapping and packing a wound, applying a tourniquet and more.

“There’s a need for Active Threat training, and today we are able to bring multiple police officers from different universities and areas to get that,” said Sarah Napier, Wright State University Calamityville program manager and advanced trauma life support coordinator. “Whether it be in a large classroom area, a dorm room or anything else, these officers can feel more comfortable if they were to ever have to face that threat.”

The Ohio State Highway Patrol Special Response Team trained members during morning and afternoon sessions, showcasing their procedures. The annual

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## 89th AS provides world-wide support

By Tech. Sgt. Joel McCullough

445th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

The Reserve Citizen Airman concept is built on a strong heritage of operational readiness and excellence and a legacy of outstanding service.

The 89th Airlift Squadron embodies that concept, providing combat-ready Airmen and world class strategic airlift to combatant commanders in support of national security objectives.

Lt. Col. Francis Saul III, 89th AS commander, said there’s a large list of missions the squadron supports, including Air Mobility Command, who they support six months a year with two full-time crews made up of three pilots and two loadmasters.

“At any given time, we could have one tail [C-17 aircraft] out supporting the Air Mobility Command contingency,” Saul said. “Those are real-world missions.”

Additionally, Saul said they support U.S. Africa Command missions to Niger, West Africa, most of which are resupply and large exercises. Those missions are flown at least once a month.



The 89th AS also provides support to the U.S. Navy, U.S. Special Operations Command, the Ohio National Guard, Civil Air Patrol, Air Force Reserve Command plus other active-duty Air Force units.

Saul said the relationships they have built facilitate not only networking, but win-win scenarios that provide opportunities for real-world, joint force training and are better for Airman.

The 89th AS flies local missions such as air refueling, take-offs and landings and night vision goggle training.

“Within 24 hours, we want to be ready to step out the door,” he explained. “For us, it’s staying continuously ready for flying missions on a daily basis, keeping that linear readiness.”

Saul said the wing has nine aircraft that fly missions going all over the world, sometimes on a mo-

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# Warrior ethos needed to obtain objectives

By Chief Master Sgt. Gordon Wager  
445th Airlift Wing Command Chief



During our July unit training assembly, a trainee within the Development and Training Flight asked me, “Why did you join the military and why do you continue to serve?” I took a moment, thought to myself, “With today’s fiscal constraints, operational LIM-FACs (limiting factors), and political divisiveness, it can become very hard to stay mission driven or

inspired.” However, it did not take long for me to answer with “My why”, a higher calling and care for Airmen!

My time in security forces taught me to cultivate a warrior’s mindset. One must mentally become more stoic, disciplined, and humble, while appreciating solitude and developing their strengths and skills to accomplish an objective.

As I talk to Airmen, all too often I’ve heard, “warrior mentality” doesn’t apply to me within my job. I would like to contest that logic. We need to abide by a warrior’s ethos.

The Webster Dictionary defines warrior as: a person engaged in a struggle or conflict; and ethos as: a distinguishing character, principals. We may be identified by our Air Force Specialty Code (AFSC) or by your group within the wing. However, we are warriors, and we must share the same ethos.

Our profession of arms is the heart of who we are as a force and should unite us! Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force JoAnne Bass recently released a memo highlighting the importance of maintaining standards. Our Air Force standards separate us from our sister services and private citizens. As a warrior, these Air Force standards (or ethos) should remind you of expectations of both society and your fellow warriors.

As warriors, we should be proud of our traditions and honored to swear (affirm) an oath to support and defend the Constitution of the United States.

Warrior ethos is personified throughout history: the spartan warriors at Thermopylae, soldiers in Battle of Gettysburg, the heroic Doolittle Raiders, Master Sgt. Chapman’s will at Robert’s Ridge.

Our wing embodies a warrior’s ethos: Vietnam Prisoner of War (POW) Maj. Gen. Edward Mechenbier, countless operational deployments, humanitarian missions, and the Hanoi and Afghanistan airlifts.

It is my belief; the warrior ethos will be pivotal in our future. As the great power competition endures, near peer adversaries escalate proxy wars, we need to improve our technical knowledge and sharpen our tactics during home station training. We use acronyms such as ACE (Agile Combat Employment) and MCA (multi capable airmen), but we must truly understand how we, the 445th Airmen, can perform these duties while executing national security strategy objectives.

We can no longer rely on “just in time” training, thinking we will win future wars. It will not happen.

Archilochus stated, “We don’t rise to the level of our expectations, we fall to the level of our training.”

In addition to our technical knowledge, we must pursue personal development and take an active part to shape our character by displaying moral courage and embodying our core values. In a previous assignment, we challenged our Airmen to be quiet professionals, above reproach, with relentless effort. These sayings became our mantra throughout the wing; resulting in increased capabilities and resiliency.

A warrior ethos is not limited to those who have a requirement to wear the uniform. Our civil servant Airmen may not be obligated to practice our profession of arms, but do take an oath of office and serve as continuity within their respective organizations. They are critical to daily operations inside their units impacting wing success. They are ever vigilant and know when something or someone is out of place. This awareness makes them a significant part of our security and our mission success.

The U.S. Navy Seals, who also embrace a warrior mindset, have a creed. Part of that creed states: “We train for war and fight to win. I stand ready to bring the full spectrum of combat power to bear in order to achieve my mission and the goals established by my country. The execution of my duties will be swift and violent when required yet guided by the very principles that I serve to defend.”

I challenge you to self-reflect and ask yourself, am I ready now? Are we prepared to transform for the future?

Again, thank you for the warm welcome. Beth and I are humbled and extremely proud to be part of the 445th family!

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training, which started last year, included the 445th SFS Airmen, law enforcement from WSU, Sinclair Community College, the University of Dayton, Fairborn Police Department and more.

“We get all of these different universities together to collaborate and then they can all work together and learn something from each other, as well as just be able to get that type of experience on how to clear [the scene] properly rather than having to do it when, unfortunately, it might happen,” explained Napier, who is also a reservist with the 445th Aeromedical Staging Squadron.

For Staff Sgt. Alexis Williams, 445th SFS command support staff, the training provided the chance to “keep improving our active shooter training and mingle with other agencies” and to see “different perspectives on how to handle an active shooter.” Williams, who has been a reservist and with the 445th for six years, explained this was an opportunity not just to mingle but to train alongside others and not only her fellow defenders where she might get complacent in the routine.

For the SFS, Senior Master Sgt. Justin Williams, 445th SFS Programs and Readiness superintendent, said that partnership is exactly why defenders are sent to the training, especially as there are differences in the way military and civilian law enforcement respond to an active shooter.

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ment’s notice.

“No month is ever the same, no week is ever the same,” Saul said. “It’s busy, lots of moving parts, but it keeps everyone proficient and qualified.”

At home, the 89th supports the 445th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron. The teamwork between them facilitates their training and completes flight hours and qualifications.

“The 89th Airlift Squadron provides the key element for AES to maintain its proficiency throughout the year,” said Maj. Nathaniel Copen, 445th AES director of operations.

“Without the C-17 aircraft, we wouldn’t be able to conduct as much training as we do each month to meet our

“During an emergency, it doesn’t really matter what kind of uniform you’re wearing,” said Senior Williams. “If you’re a responding officer, your expectation is to go and respond to the active shooter. It’s really good to liaise with our local counterparts to see what their tactics, techniques and procedures are to make sure we can integrate with them in an emergency. Likewise, they know how we operate as well – what gear we’re bringing, the types of equipment and weapons systems we’re bringing into the situation as well – so it works both ways. ... We want to understand how they operate as well to bridge that gap and try to be good supporters of each other.”

The four defenders who attended were Sergeants Van Niman and Williams in the morning session and Senior Master Sgt. Ryan LaMarr and Master Sgt. Jason Mufford in the afternoon.

Run by Wright State, Calamityville, formerly known as the National Center for Medical Readiness, provides training for students in the U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine and the 88th Medical Group. Additionally, it provides training, testing and research. Calamityville sits on 53 acres in Fairborn and trains first responders like law enforcement, fire and medical; first receivers like physicians, nurses and hospital staff; and tactical combat medical specialists in classroom environments, lab spaces, training zones, austere environments and more.



Master Sgt. Patrick O'Reilly

**Capt. Matthew Bush, 89th Airlift Squadron C-17 pilot/aircraft commander, performs pre-flight checks on a C-17 Globemaster III prior to take-off on a routine flight, July 19, 2023.**

readiness requirements,” Copen explained. “We are fortunate to have them in our backyard.”

Additionally, Saul said it’s a “no-brainer” to have AES, maintenance, aerial port, aircrew flight equipment or any other 445th Airlift Wing squadron training alongside them. It provides all sides better training and builds appreciation for each other.

Saul’s end goal for his squadron is to create an environment where “Rhinos” (what members call themselves based on the unit mascot) look forward to participating, achieving their goals, forming lasting relationships, serving with distinction and accomplishing our mission safely.



## 445th AMDS keeps Airmen medically mission ready

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

The 445th Airlift Wing is authorized over 1,500 Reserve Citizen Airmen who must be ready, including medically, to deploy with 72-hour notice.

While it is every Airman's personal responsibility to make sure they are deployment ready, the 445th Aerospace Medicine Squadron works diligently to ensure Airmen's medical readiness.

"Our mission is vital to the wing and the individual Airmen here," said Master Sgt. Christian D. Terrill, 445th AMDS medical standards NCO in charge. "We handle so many different aspects of health, from flying standards to medication reviews. Ultimately, medical readiness for each member of the 445th is our top priority."

To maintain current medical standards, all Airmen must complete multiple health screenings. Airmen receive notifications through the Aeromedical Services Information Management System, or ASIMS, informing them of any medical requirements. An ASIMS report is also sent to the commander and is vital for his or her ability to direct Airmen in support of the needs of the Air Force.

"We need to be able to give our commanders the ability to see who is able to deploy in the required timeframes," Terrill said. "Ultimately, we need to know what our wing's capabilities are to complete our mission, and when we send Airmen into a deployed environment, we need to know that they can perform to the best of their ability."

The 445th AMDS uses the information in ASIMS to schedule appointments for members to attend during the unit training assembly or provides additional



Senior Airman Brooks Lyle, 445th Aerospace Medicine Squadron aerospace medical technician, administers a flu vaccination to Master Sgt. Joseph Rychnovsky, 445th Civil Engineer Squadron, Dec. 4, 2022.



Photos by Senior Airman Angela Jackson

Senior Airman Amber Cole takes the blood pressure of Senior Airman Danielle Grill, both 445th Aerospace Medicine Squadron dental technicians at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, July 10, 2022.

information if an alternative is required.

To stay "green," reservists must complete an annual checkup with their civilian dental provider along with military dental checkups every three years. They are also required to complete an annual physical health assessment questionnaire, or PHAQ, and mental health assessment, or MHA, that gauge physical and mental health respectively.

"All traditional reservists have two different lives, military and civilian, and at AMDS, we marry those two lives together with the goal of overall health and mission readiness," said Senior Airman Brooks A. Lyle, a 445th AMDS aerospace medical technician. "That's essentially what we are doing here, but we want to make sure people are healthy as well and getting the care they need as individuals."

Additionally, Airmen have lab work done as required, including bloodwork, hearing tests, and vaccinations. The 445th AMDS tracks the completion of these screenings and feeds the information back into ASIMS.

Their work highlights the continual importance of ensuring that the wing is able to accomplish the mission.

"If we are thinking from an operational standpoint, we give or refer care with the purpose of making the individual healthy because there is a consolidating effect whereby healthy individuals make the wing healthy," Terrill said. "Essentially, the wing is better able to perform its mission effectively with the most effective personnel."

## Around the wing ...



Master Sgt. Patrick O'Reilly

(Left to right) Lt. Col. Edward Hale, 445th Maintenance Group commander, passes the guidon to the incoming 445th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron commander, Maj. Matthew Lynagh, at the 445th AMXS assumption of command ceremony, July 8, 2023.



Staff Sgt. Ethan Spickler

Airman 1st Class Kyleeann Engle, 445th Maintenance Squadron aircraft metals technology technician, shapes metal using a belt sander at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, July 9, 2023. Airmen in Metals Technology use a variety of tools to fabricate and repair metal parts for aircraft and equipment in support of the 445th Airlift Wing mission. The 445th MXS is part of the 445th Airlift Wing, and home to nine C-17 Globemaster III aircraft.



Master Sgt. Patrick O'Reilly

Master Sgt. Caroline Sussman, 89th Airlift Squadron loadmaster, inspects floor rollers on a C-17 Globemaster III before a flight at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, July 18, 2023. The rollers are used to move pallets and cargo on and off of the aircraft.

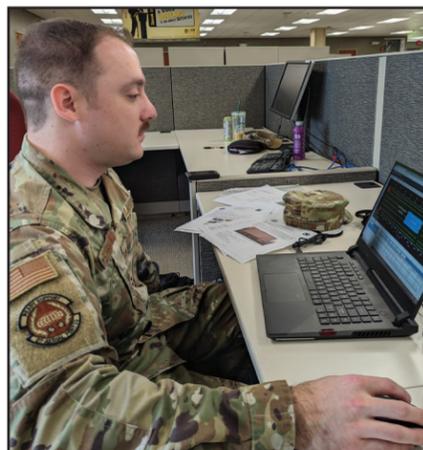


Master Sgt. Patrick O'Reilly

(Left to right) Senior Airman Stephanie Gillespie, 445th Maintenance Squadron fabrication flight non-destructive inspection technician, Staff Sgt. Lawrence Depasquale and Master Sgt. Bradley Swindall, 445th MXS aircraft structural maintenance mechanics, paddle to the finish line during the Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, Cardboard Boat Regatta on base at the Patterson Pool, June 30, 2023.



# SPOTLIGHT



Courtesy Photo

**Rank/Name:** Staff Sgt. Sean Stratton

**Unit:** 87th Aerial Port Squadron

**Duty Title:** Load Planner

**Hometown:** Huber Heights, Ohio

**Civilian Job:** Scrum Master

**Education:** Master of Business Administration, Southern New Hampshire University

**Hobbies:** Soccer, coding, UI (user interface) design, and gaming

**Career Goal:** To achieve a C-Suite level position in a progressive and dynamic organization within the next 10 years

**What do you like about working at the 445th?** The support and family atmosphere that is promoted when I am on or off duty.

**Why did you join the Air Force?** I wanted something in my life that was bigger than myself.

## Air Force develops Airman Safety Action Program

By Master Sgt. Joe Klimaski  
445th Airlift Wing Occupational Safety & Health

Did you know that the Air Force has created an interactive way to report safety/health hazards and offer risk mitigating solutions, anytime and anywhere? That's right, the Air Force Safety Center has developed an easy-to-use reporting system called the Airman Safety Action Program or ASAP.

Originally created to report aviation safety hazards, the ASAP can now be used to report any life safety or health issues within the occupational, weapons, flight and/or space safety disciplines.

While it's always "best practice" to first contact the wing safety office when unsafe work conditions/practices or hazards arise and cannot be resolved locally, the ASAP is available to Airmen using the Air Force Connect App (from your smart phone) and allows anonymous reports to be made.

Basically, an Airmen can submit an ASAP report anytime/anywhere, which is then sent to the Air Force's central safety reporting database for triage by the responsible safety office so that the hazards can be investigated and addressed.

For questions or inquiries about the ASAP or any other safety tips, contact the 445th Airlift Wing Safety Office at (937) 257-5767.



## News Briefs

### Family Day

The 445th Airlift Wing will host its Family Day picnic Saturday, Sept. 9 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Hangar 4016. Food and beverages will be provided. There will be games and activities for all ages including bouncy houses and squadron activities. A C-17 Globemaster III will be on display. Helping agencies will be on hand to share info about their services. Bus transportation will be provided. More details to follow.

### Suicide Awareness

Wing helping agencies will host a "kindness rocks" table during the wing Family Day, Saturday, Sept. 9. Many people face depression, anxiety, despair and hopelessness that may drive them to

feel that suicide is a solution. What they don't feel in that moment is a team that surrounds them; the rocks they can lean on in times of difficulty; in the community that would be forever impacted by the loss of one of their own.

We invite you to join us and take a moment to decorate a rock, connect to one another, and place your creation into the 445th community garden.

Just one message or image of hope, inspiration, care, encouragement, support or belonging can change someone's entire day. Remind each other why the Airmen of the 445th Airlift Wing rock!

No artistic skills required, only the desire to remind your fellow Airmen that we are all here and we all belong. #connect445

### Promotions

**Chief Master Sergeant**  
Michael Blake, AMXS

**Senior Master Sergeant**  
Angela Potchik, MXG

**Master Sergeant**  
Kathleen Burden, AMDS  
Alyssa Daley, AMXS  
Steven Dishong, MXS  
Kevin Kelly, LRS  
Mackenzie Logan, LRS  
Timothy Sexton, SFS  
Zachary Stevens, AMXS  
Andrew Wolf, MXS

**Technical Sergeant**  
Valor Burkhead, LRS  
Devin Crider, MXS  
Richard Edwards, SFS  
Matthew Kaper, SFS  
Amy Snavley, AMDS

**Staff Sergeant**  
Ryan Faris, ASTS  
Lizaura Jones, CES  
Sidney White, MXG

**Airman First Class**  
Elliott Abrams, AMXS

Nicole Miller, AES  
Samuel Shaffer, FSS

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## Back-to-school activities should include social media awareness

By Vera Ensalaco  
445th Airlift Wing Director of Psychological Health

August means back to school for many of us. Either we have children going back to school or we're taking classes ourselves. With that comes hitting the books though in today's world, there is technology in addition to books. Within that, there is social media.

While social media has its benefits, there is a possibility of misinformation. Some of the positives are that it increases communication speed; connects us in regards to student progress, school happenings or a threat/crisis; and publicizes accurate information.

The risks of social media can be cyberbullying, negative postings, inaccurate information and rumors. This can spread rapidly, and the effects from the distortion of truth can be long-lasting even while eventually being discounted. All this can have a profound effect on mental and emotional well-being.

This is our reality. We must look at ways that we can safeguard ourselves and our loved ones. One way we can do this is to use applications on our smartphones or computers to include increased privacy settings and parental controls.

Become familiar with school or your community organizations that can offer support and address concerns that you may encounter. Prioritize what is important to you and communicate with your loved ones about your expectations and concerns.

A social media cheat sheet published by Mental Health America lists the current sites, demographics, privacy and considerations and can be found at: <https://mhanational.org>.



# 445th maintainers perform annual tour in Alaska

## Building multi-capable Airmen



Photos by Staff Sgt. Darrell Sydnor

Tech. Sgt. Connor Karman, 445th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron aerospace propulsion technician, checks the exhaust of a C-17 Globemaster III engine at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska, July 17, 2023. Checking the engines is part of the thru-flight inspection after an aircraft lands. Each maintainer checks their respective area to provide maintenance and clear the plane for its next flight. The squadron completed its annual tour in Alaska July 10-19.

Staff Sgt. Nick Fannin, ladder, 445th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron aerospace propulsion technician, checks the intake of a C-17 Globemaster III engine as Tech. Sgt. Connor Karman, 445th AMXS aerospace propulsion technician, stabilizes the ladder at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska, July 17, 2023. Staff Sgt. Sena Ford, 445th AMXS crew chief, looks on as part of her cross-training for the multi-capable Airman concept. At the completion of the cross-training process, each maintainer will be capable of filling the job of another career field within maintenance, making them more versatile.



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