

## Reserve Citizen Airman receives civilian valor award

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

The 88th Air Base Wing presented Lt. Chad Engman, 788th Civil Engineer Squadron firefighter, with a Command Civilian Award for Valor during a ceremony May 10.

Engman is a master sergeant assigned to the 445th CES as a traditional Air Force reservist.

The valor award is given to an Air Force civilian employee who demonstrates courage or competence in assisting others in an emergency.

In this instance, Engman and four of his fellow civilian crew members received the valor award for their heroic acts March 23, 2022, while another member of the team received a Civilian Achievement Award for his expert command of the situation.

“I am proud to receive the award,” Engman said. “Overall though, it felt like just another day on the job in the fire house. Everyone on the scene was just doing their jobs.”

“This award truly reflects his ability not only within the civilian side of the Wright-Patterson Air Force Base but what he contributes to the Air Force Reserve Command as a firefighter as well,” said Chief Master Sgt. Chad Lifer, 445th CES fire emergency services fire chief. “He’s definitely a selfless individual who does his job well and understands the importance of having the courage to be able to do that.”

During the ceremony, Maj. Nathan Thomsen, 788th CES commander, thanked everyone in attendance for honoring “the bravery, heroism and commitment to duty” of the firefighters.

Engman said his unit was responding to assist and provide mutual aid to the Beavercreek Fire Department for a house fire that occurred in Fairborn, Ohio.

The fire was started by a 44-year-old disabled veteran who wished to cause harm to himself and barricaded himself within the home, blocking the route to where he was located in the basement.

They responded at 11:30 p.m. when the local crew began running low on oxygen.

Thomsen said during the ceremony that when the Wright-Patt crew arrived on scene, they were assigned to the rapid intervention team to rescue the Beavercreek crew and the veteran, who had changed his mind about wanting to live.

Barriers, such as broken glass and debris, slowed the local crew enough that they had started running



Master Sgt. Patrick O'Reilly

**Maj. Nathan Thomsen, 788th Civil Engineer Squadron commander, presents Lt. Chad Engman, 788th and 445th CES firefighter with a Command Civilian Award for Valor certificate at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, May 10, 2023.**

out of oxygen by the time they found the veteran.

Engman explained that when they found the Beavercreek team their low-oxygen alarms were ringing.

At this point, Thomsen said the Beavercreek team had to evacuate and the WPAFB team became the primary rescue team with no backup.

They faced zero visibility due to the time of night, a narrow stairwell and a 90-degree turn at the stair landing as they worked to get the veteran safely out of the home.

“We have a great crew,” Engman said. “I am proud of our crew and their quick responses to the situation. They were all on top of their games and had the equipment that was needed ready to go.”

Once outside the man was resuscitated from inhaling so much smoke and lived to fight another day.

“I feel good about the fact that we were able to save a fellow veteran,” Engman explained. “I am glad we got him out.”

# Always ask yourself: ‘What’s next?’

By Chief Master Sgt. Chris Williams  
445th Airlift Wing Command Chief



In May 2016, I took off my first sergeant diamond and left the 445th Airlift Wing for a tour with U.S. Transportation Command.

As I drove to my first drill weekend later that year, I received a call from a valued mentor and then 22nd Air Force Command Chief – “So, Chris, what’s next?” he asked.

Looking back, I admit that my response was far less professional than it should have been.

I stammered and stumbled to find an answer, and it was something like, “Chief, I haven’t even seen my new office and you want me to tell you what I want to do next?”

“Yep!” he quipped. “That’s how it goes now that you’re going to be a Chief.”

That moment, and the conversation that followed, changed everything about how I viewed my career path and professional development.

The investment that Command Chief Master Sgt. Clinton Ronan made in me that day has since been reinvested a thousand-fold or more within you all.

What he taught me is that professional development, when done right, must be both PLANNED and PURPOSEFUL!

This means giving your career progress an honest self-check. It means candidly identifying all gaps within your whole Airman concept.

It means sincerely seeking and engaging with like-minded career-oriented leaders.

One easy example is to look at the official biographies of successful leaders. Better yet, approach them and ask, “Will you tell me how you did this?”

I’ve yet to hear anyone say no to such requests.

Another proven method is to embrace successful mentors not only in your career field but outside of your career field.

This is commonly known as cross-talk.

Why is cross-talk so important? The gift of a candid mentor who will help point out your blind spots, holds a value beyond measure!

One of the best ways to find such trusted sources for cross-talk is within our newly developed wing Ris-

ing 6 and Top 3.

These organizations have quietly grown from a few lightning bolts of leadership passion to regularly attended forums, sharing ideas on how we as leaders implement proven approaches to help solve real problems our Airmen are facing today.

We Command Chiefs have long since checked our egos at the door to serve our Airmen in this very way.

In all cases, to answer what’s next, we must be comfortable with being uncomfortable.

I’ll gladly tell you that I’ve had just as many FORCED development experiences as I have force development experiences.

My examples include retraining into a new career field, deploying to hostile fire locations, having a developmental special duty assignment and being in a joint assignment to name a few.

Some of that growing did hurt.

Many times, I had to navigate overwhelming self-doubt. However, those positive stressors keep us sharp. That’s simply how our human bodies are wired.

When you feel uncomfortable butterflies in your stomach, take a deep breath and embrace the moment. You’re exactly where you planned and purposed to be!

What’s next for the 445th AW? You will enjoy a fresh set of eyes and new leadership perspective in my Command Chief successor Chief Master Sgt. Gordon Wager.

Chief Wager comes to us from Air Force Life Cycle Management Center as the Individual Mobilization Augmentee to the AFLCMC Command Chief.

Chief Wager will lead the wing to achievements that previously have been out of reach.

He will lead you to meet Lt. Gen. John P. Healy’s lines of effort to be READY NOW and to TRANSFORM FOR THE FUTURE.

Finally, what’s next for me? Lori and I have planned and purposed a strategic pause to catch our breath. We look to find our new balance with each other first.

Then our children, grandchildren, jobs, hobbies and life at the lake house, along with endless enjoyment in that blue 1972 convertible Corvette we planned the time and purposed the money to fully restore.

In all the years Lori and I have worked together to serve you, do know that it has been our most sincere honor and pleasure. YOU have made US better!

# Annual Wellness Fair focuses on Airmen’s mental health

By Amanda Dick  
445th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

The 445th Airlift Wing held its 2nd Annual Wellness Fair May 7 during the unit training assembly as part of Mental Health Awareness Month.

“We wanted to start doing an annual awareness where Airmen could get out there, know who the helping agencies were, and get in touch in a more comfortable environment,” said Vera Ensalaco, 445th AW Director of Psychological Health

Participating organizations included the American Red Cross, the Military & Family Readiness Center, the Key Spouses Program, Psychological Health programs, Veteran’s Affairs and 4 Paws for Ability (service dogs in training). In addition, three food trucks were on site to provide lunch.

“I hope 445th Airmen were able to make those connections,” Ensalaco said. “It gets us all connected and shows we’re here to support each other.”

Approximately 300 people turned out to the event which took place inside building 4010 due to weather.

“It is important that mental health is not overlooked,” said Staff Sgt. William Conley, 445th Force

Support Squadron Education and Training technician. “This boosted our moral, and it was helpful to see the resources available to us.”

Ensalaco said the fair was important not just to help people connect but to reduce the stigma of getting mental health help.

This was a sentiment felt by attendees.

“I think this really fosters comradery,” said Tech. Sgt. Marissa Lawson, 445th FSS Education and Training technician. “It makes it that much easier to spread communication and makes talking about mental health a more natural thing.”

The M&FRC can be contacted via phone at (937) 522-4607 or (937) 656-1502, or via email at 445fss.af@us.af.mil. The Director for Psychological Health can be contacted via phone at (937) 257-6267.

If you or someone you know is feeling suicidal, please call, text or chat 988 for the National Suicide Lifeline or visit <https://www.resilience.af.mil> and click on the “Suicide Prevention” button. (Tech. Sgt. Joel McCullough contributed to this article.)



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Joel McCullough



(left) Shanna King, Military & Family Readiness director, shows 445th Airlift Wing Airmen various stress relievers at the M&FRC table during the wing’s 2nd Annual Wellness Fair at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, May 7, 2023. (right) Lt. Col. Kimberly Ebel, 445th Aeromedical Staging Squadron flight chief administration services, smells calming oils at the Resilience table manned by Master Sgt. Rebekkah Stammen, 445th Airlift Wing first sergeant. (bottom left) A Veterans Affairs representative briefs Airmen on various benefits and services provided by the VA.



# Development, Training Flight learn SERE



(left) Tech. Sgt. Nathan Pritchard, 445th Operations Support Squadron Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape (SERE) instructor, teaches SERE to 445th Airlift Wing Development and Training Flight Airmen, May 7, 2023. (right) D&TF Airmen receive hands-on basic level navigation training using maps and compasses. The trainees learned about the SERE mission and its role in a squadron.



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Joel McCullough

# Tips for staying safe this summer

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

Summer is finally here. Sunshine, baseball, barbecues, and of course, vacations.

If you're going to be hitting the road this summer, use sound risk management to get to your destination. Planning for a trip, even a short one, should certainly include travel considerations.

Before you head out for your next adventure, keep these precautions in mind:

**Check the condition of your vehicle**

- Pay extra attention to your tires, belts, hoses and air conditioning.

- Good tires keep you moving and make your vehicle more efficient on the road.

- Rubber belts and hoses degrade faster in the high summer temperatures; therefore, check for cracks and signs of wear and tear.

- Lack of sufficient cool air can be particularly dan-

gerous to those sensitive to heat, such as children and older adults.

**Buckle up – every trip, every time**

- It should go without saying, but make sure all riders are safely fastened before the vehicle moves.

- Ensure children are in the necessary age and size appropriate car seat or booster seat.

**Plan your route**

- Familiarize yourself with the map, GPS or other navigational tools.

- Check the weather and adjust your driving time and roadway choices accordingly.

- Don't rush the trip. Stop often and

ensure the driver is getting adequate rest.

Have fun this summer and plan ahead to keep you and your family safe.



# Reserve transitions to Defense Travel System

By Lt. Col. James R. Wilson  
Air Force Reserve Command Public Affairs

Air Force Reserve Command is continuing steps to prepare for the transition to a single travel management system which, when completed Oct. 1, will mark a transformational effort for the command.

The initiative to transition all commercial travel arrangements to the Defense Travel System was announced in a memo to all Airmen in March by Lt. Gen. John Healy, chief of the Air Force Reserve and commander of Air Force Reserve Command.

“At its core, this initiative will help ensure our members get paid in a timely manner whenever they are traveling in support of our global mission,” said Col. Shannon Thompson, AFRC’s director of financial management and comptroller. “This is also a significant step to better align us with our active-duty counterparts and should help prepare us to integrate with MyTravel in the future.”

While DTS is operational throughout the Reserve today, many Airmen conduct official travel using orders produced in AROWS-R and vouchers that are submitted for payment upon completion of duty through the Reserve Travel System. Consolidating to a single platform for the full range of travel management support is intended to ensure a smoother travel and pay process for all Citizen Airmen.

“We see this as an opportunity for the command to be innovative,” Thompson said. “It also allows our units more flexibility to take care of their Airmen and ensure they get paid in a timely manner without having to rely on financial management specialists who are thousands of miles away to review and approve vouchers.”

Specialists from AFRC will be available for tailored

on-site training with leadership, squadron commanders and other members down to the end user to help prepare for the merger.

“This initiative will be a slight adjustment for Airmen who are accustomed to using RTS,” said Wendy Bellamy, chief of AFRC’s Financial Services Branch. “Our DTS specialists at headquarters will provide in-person training to lead defense travel administrators throughout the command. Additionally, we are offering mobile training teams to provide hands-on training on the planning changes to ensure a smooth transition in the new fiscal year.”

After implementation, AROWS-R will continue to be used to produce the orders required to reflect the “call to duty” activations via the AF Form 938 for Citizen Airmen. The travel authorization and voucher will be managed exclusively through DTS for the defined group and published via DD Form 1610 for non-PCS (permanent change of station) travel.

The transition will happen in three phases. Phase I began April 1 and includes civilians, Air Reserve Technicians and Active Guard Reserve Members assigned to AFRC Headquarters for end-to-end travel management needs.

Phase II will happen July 1 when traditional Reservists assigned to AFRC Headquarters will begin using DTS. Phase III will begin Oct. 1 when all other Reserve members who didn’t transition to DTS in the first two phases will start using DTS.

To request virtual or hands-on training on the planned changes associated with the implementation, contact the DTS Transition Team at [afrc.fmworkflow@us.af.mil](mailto:afrc.fmworkflow@us.af.mil).

# 445th SFS Airman wins AFLCMC security award

Sean McCaslin, Air Force Life Cycle Management Center Special Access Programs Oversight chief of security, takes a photo with his wife, Annie McCaslin; Jennifer M. Aquinas, left, Director of Security, Special Program Oversight and Information Protection, Office of the Administrative Assistant, Office of the Secretary of the Air Force in Arlington, Virginia; and Lt. Gen. Shaun Q. Morris, AFLCMC commander, after being presented the 2021 Air Force Security Community Award for Outstanding Leadership for his civilian job, March 27, 2023. McCaslin is a senior master sergeant assigned to the 445th Security Forces Squadron as a traditional Air Force reservist.



Courtesy Photo



# SPOTLIGHT

**Rank/Name:** Senior Airman Zane Standridge

**Unit:** 445th Civil Engineer Squadron

**Duty Title:** Firefighter

**Hometown:** Fort Wayne, Indiana

**Civilian Job:** Maintenance Electrical Apprentice at Steel Dynamics, Inc. (SDI)

**Education:** Studying industrial electricity at Ivy Tech Community College

**Hobbies:** Riding dirt bikes and

working on my 1953 Jeep. Volunteering as a firefighter at Huntertown Fire Department.

**Career Goal:** Finish my apprenticeship and become a shift electrician at SDI.

**What do you like about working at the 445th?** My favorite part about the 445th is all the great people I have the opportunity to work alongside.

**Why did you join the Air Force?** I joined the Air Force to serve the community in a different way and to further my firefighting career and knowledge.



Tech. Sgt. Joel McCullough

## Helping disabled students when individualized plans fail

By Maj. Kevin Normile  
445th Airlift Wing Deputy Staff Judge Advocate

Many people know public schools are required to support students with special needs that impact their learning by providing them with an Individualized Education Plan or IEP.

But did you know that Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 prohibits discrimination against people with disabilities in educational programs that receive federal financial assistance?

This means every, or virtually every, public school in the country is governed by legal requirements regarding the support they provide to students with disabilities.

If you have a child with disabilities not covered by an IEP, you have the ability to put in place a 504 Assessment and Educational Plan which will lay out the medical diagnosis facing your child and outline the challenges and discuss education impacts created by that diagnosis.

It will also allow for the identification of reasonable accommodations to make changes to the physical environment for the student and help reduce the barriers to education.

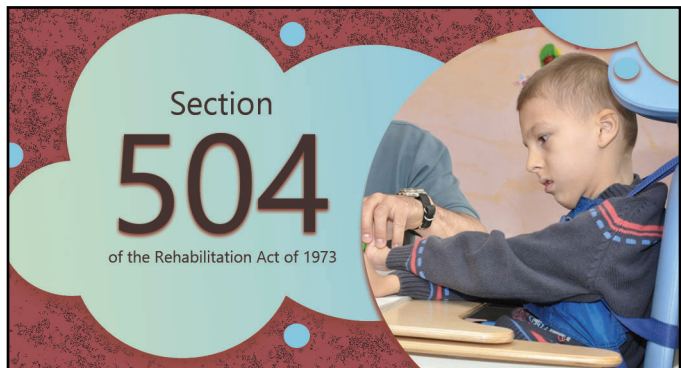
The Air Force Legal Assistance Program maintains a website for Special Education topics at <https://daffamilyvector.us.af.mil/MemberSite/>.

The website is a great source for information on these topics and contains links to a number of great resources.

If there is any way that we can assist you with these topics, please feel free to reach out to our office during walk-in hours for legal assistance on Scarlet unit

training assembly weekends.

The 88th Air Base Wing Legal Office also provides legal assistance services for service members. You can reach out to them at (937) 257-6142 to ask about eligibility and to schedule your appointment.



Graphic by Amanda Dick

## News Briefs

### Reduced retirement age reminder

The eligibility age for Reserve retirement pay was reduced to 50 years of age with eligible, creditable active-duty service after Jan. 29, 2008, per the National Defense Authorization Act for 2008 and U.S. Code Title 10, section 12731.

Qualifying service includes involuntary mobilization, voluntary active duty and medical treatment/medical evaluation.

Nonqualifying service includes Active Guard Reserve, annual tour, National Guard Service, call to active duty, captive status, disciplinary/courts martial, and muster duty.

The Reserve retiree health care remains at age 60, regardless of Reserve retirement pay.

For more in-depth details and information, see the June 2023 Buckeye Flyer Blue Pages and

visit <https://www.arpc.afrc.af.mil/retirement/>.

### Newcomers

1 Lt Tyler Finton, ASTS  
MSgt Stephanie Fisher, MXG  
SSgt Casey Cash, MXS  
SSgt Tiffany Giffard, LRS  
SrA Jacob Pugh, MXG  
SrA Charnay Ryland, AMDS

### Retirements

Maj Bobby Dempsey, 89 AS  
CMSgt Christopher Williams, AW  
SMSgt Jeffery Vaughn, 89 AS  
MSgt Timothy Emberton, Jr., AMXS  
MSgt Mark Graber, CES  
MSgt Aretha Jones, ASTS  
MSgt Anthony Katros, MXG  
MSgt Phillip Padgett, AW  
MSgt Bret Schlansky, 87 APS  
TSgt Shelton Beasley, ASTS

TSgt Michael Davis, 87 APS  
TSgt Robert Hughes, MXS  
TSgt Joshua McCrabb, SFS  
TSgt James Pugh, LRS  
TSgt Clayton Tallman, AMXS

### Promotions

**Master Sergeant**  
Samantha Chamberlain, MXG  
Chad Sears, MXG

**Technical Sergeant**  
Eric Ledford, ASTS  
Brooke Whip, MXS  
Megan Whittaker, MXG  
William Williamson, FSS

**Staff Sergeant**  
Quinn Creager, AMDS  
Nathaniel Davis, ASTS  
Justin Koors, MXS  
Luis Ramirez-Rosado, MXS

**Senior Airman**  
Demonte Autry, CES  
Jordan Church, MXS

Katie DeWitt, MXG  
Marisa Dollar, AMXS  
Dylan Newman, CES  
Shawn Parks, 87 APS  
Steven Shultz, MXS  
Kenzie Simon, AMDS

**Airman First Class**  
David Fuller, AMXS

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## AFRC selects 445th Airmen for major

HQ ARPC Public Affairs  
Headquarters Air Reserve Personnel Center



Air Reserve Personnel Center officials selected 13 445th Airlift Wing members for promotion to major during their Calendar Year 2023 Air Force Reserve Line and Nonline Major Promotion Selection Boards. The results were announced May 12.

The Airmen selected for promotion were Jeffrey C. Anderson, Ryan S. Belew, Andrew J. Bowman and Michael E. Wright, 89th Airlift Squadron; Nathaniel G. Copen, Trishana E. Edmund, Brianne K. Koessel, Da-

vid M. Miller and Emily E. Perkins, 445th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron; and Raymond L. Hunsucker, III, Kristina M. Losekamp, Nicola C. Okafor and Daniel A. Shields, 445th Aeromedical Staging Squadron.

The selection boards convened at ARPC in January to determine those officers best and fully qualified to assume the next higher grade. Board members selected 770 of 1,043 officers considered.

A complete list of Airmen selected for promotion is available online by visiting the Air Reserve Officer Promotion page on myFSS.



# 445th Airlift Wing takes part in spring cleanup



Photos by Master Sgt. Patrick O'Reilly

(top left) Airmen with the 445th Maintenance Group pull weeds around building 4012. As part of the overall Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, spring cleanup day, Airmen with the 445th Airlift Wing did their part to beautify the buildings and greenery around the wing, May 11. Activities included mowing, edging, weeding, planting flowers, power washing the exterior, cleaning inside the buildings and glass doors, and vacuuming. Once done, units held their own grill outs/lunch get togethers.

(top right) Airmen with the 445th Force Support Squadron plant flowers at entrances to building 4014.

(left) Lt. Col. Timothy Johansen, 445th Airlift Wing Inspector General Inspections director, blows newly mowed and edged grass during the the wing's spring clean-up day, May 11, 2023.



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