

## Wing hosts 2023 Civic Leader Tour



Master Sgt. Patrick O'Reilly

**Staff Sgt. Brittney Turco, 802nd Security Forces Squadron military working dog handler, and Chris Paulik, Lab Surface senior director of sales and marketing North America, demonstrate MWD capabilities during the 445th Airlift Wing's Civic Leader Tour at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas, Oct. 18, 2023.**

### *445th Airlift Wing Public Affairs*

The 445th Airlift Wing hosted Dayton-area civic leaders in conjunction with the 433rd Airlift Wing at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas, Oct. 18-19 at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio and San Antonio.

The 445th flew 22 local community leaders from Ohio to Texas aboard a C-17 Globemaster III.

On the first day of the tour, Col. Raymond Smith Jr., 445th AW commander, and Col. Philip Warlick, 655th Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance Wing commander, briefed attendees of their respective wing missions before takeoff.

While in the air, the community leaders witnessed firsthand 445th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron life-saving techniques for the nation's wounded warriors while experiencing the capabilities of an Air Force Reserve airframe.

Once in San Antonio, the day included a demonstration by the 802nd Security Forces Squadron military working dogs, a tour of the 733rd Training Squadron simulators and virtual reality lab, and concluded with a reception at the Greater San Antonio Chamber of Commerce.

The second day included attending a Basic Military Training graduation, a tour of the Medical and Education Training Campus at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston and a tour of the 433rd AW's C-5 Galaxy aircraft before departure back to Ohio.

The purpose of the civic leader tour was to facilitate public awareness of the 445th AW, Air Force Reserve Command and Air Force missions, and roles from both the Reserve and active-duty perspectives while providing a clearer understanding of the AFRC and Air Force roles in the nation's defense.

## 445th AW, 655th ISRW train on new strike-fire pistol

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



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Joel McCullough

**Senior Airmen Danny Gallagher, left, and Stanley Fairchild III, 89th Airlift Squadron loadmasters, familiarize themselves with the SIG M18 strike-fire pistol during an Air Force Qualification Course at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, Oct. 15, 2023.**

The 445th Security Forces Squadron Combat Arms Training and Management, or CATM, held their first Air Force Qualification Course, or AFQC, with the SIG M18 strike-fire pistol, Oct. 15.

The course was attended by Airmen from the 445th Airlift Wing's 89th Airlift Squadron and 87th Aerial Port Squadron, and the 655th Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance Wing's 64th Intelligence Squadron.

Three years ago, 445th SFS defenders were given the M18 to begin training. Most service members are familiar with the M18 that replaced the Berretta M9 pistol. Both weapons utilize 9mm ammunition.

Three months ago, the weapons were distributed to CATM for other units in the 445th AW to begin using.

"The logistics readiness squadron has done a great job of handling the change over," said Master Sgt. Jason Mufford, 445th SFS noncommissioned officer in charge of CATM.

Mufford said that they have inspected and inventoried about 200 to 300 new pistols.

He explained that the M-18 is a lighter weapon and its strike-force trigger versus the double-action trigger of the Berretta should be easier to manage for teaching trigger pull.

"It's just a smoother pull," he explained.

One thing the Department of Defense looked into

when reviewing weapons contracts was maintenance costs and reliability. They determined the M18 to be cheaper to maintain over its lifetime. The two pistols were narrowly separated in performance margins with trigger pull standing out.

Staff Sgt. Caleb Menezes, 445th SFS CATM combat arms instructor, led the classroom portion of the training. He said most all agree that after shooting and handling the M18, it's a solid weapon and the new training shouldn't cause any hiccups in qualification.

In his instruction, Menezes said that trigger pull might be one of the main limiting factors for people when qualifying.

This factor is dependent on the person firing the weapon, as some might find it easier while others find it harder.

"It's going to be a little bit of a learning curve, but so far, it has been an easy transition," Mufford said, adding the course of firing and qualifying is still the same, just with a different weapon.

"If you have qualified before or shot any other similar pistol, the baseline should be there, you just have to trust your training," Mufford added.

The CATM instructors do not anticipate Airmen having issues with the weapons

The next AFQC for the SIG M18 is scheduled for the November unit training assembly. SFS plans to hold at least one course per quarter in fiscal year 2024.



**Airmen from the 445th Airlift Wing and 655th Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance Wing fire the SIG M18 strike-fire pistol during an Air Force Qualification Course at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, Oct. 15, 2023.**

## 445th AW Command Post provides 24/7 command, control

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

The 445th Airlift Wing Command Post relays communication, providing organizational and emergency services support for the safety and security of the nearly 1,700 Reserve Citizen Airmen throughout the wing 24 hours a day.

The Command Post reports directly to the wing commander, and provides command and control resources during routine flight operations, emergencies, contingencies and increased readiness.

"We are a ground liaison between getting our missions off the ground and all the other agencies on the base," said Master Sgt. Amber Church, 445th AW Command Post superintendent.

"Whatever information is necessary to get our missions off the ground, that's what we focus on," Church continued. "We do whatever we need to do, coordinate with whoever we need to coordinate with to get the cargo to get passengers, to get the crew taken care of. Communication is the key to getting this job done."

They also ensure the wing's nine C-17 Globemaster III aircraft are flying missions, and Airmen are kept up to date on relevant information from around the base. In a nutshell, the command post is the hub of incoming and outgoing communications for the wing.

"We are constantly in contact with the base, letting them know the missions that we have and where they're going and what they need, keeping them in the loop," Church said. "That extends to our Airmen. The ability to know what's going on and adjusting to changes in information is the name of the game."

The communication could include providing weather alerts and emergency notifications to changes in force protection conditions.

While each individual Air Force Specialty Code in the Air Force has a list of tasks and functions, the command post is unique in that its mission supplements and supports all other jobs around the wing simultaneously.

In addition to providing accurate communications during flight operations, the command post will direct critical communications to the wing commander in the event of an emergency.

If something happens to an Airman off base, it is usually the command post who receives contact from emergency services and relays that to the appropriate parties.

"I enjoy the pace we deal with, because it's not al-



Staff Sgt. Ethan Spickler

**Master Sgt. Amber Church, 445th Airlift Wing Command Post superintendent, demonstrates the operation of command and control communications systems at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, Oct. 15, 2023. The Command Post relays communication, providing organizational and emergency services support for the safety and security of the nearly 1700 Reserve Citizen Airmen throughout the wing.**

ways the same day in and day out," said Master Sgt. Daniel Berry, 445th AW Command Post senior controller. "There's always something different going on. We could be dealing with injuries or aircraft incidents or a variety of other scenarios that we have to be prepared for. Our ops tempo can be unpredictable, so we have to be ready to make sure everyone else is ready."

Whether it's providing weather updates and emergency alerts or notifying Airmen of a change in the status of base security, the command post handles and passes information on to make sure everyone else's mission can be accomplished. It's a job they don't take lightly.

"We ensure our planes get off the ground no matter what type of mission it is, whether we're supporting active duty or we're just flying a local mission for training for our own pilots," Church said.

"There is a lot of job satisfaction that accompanies having that responsibility," Church continued. "We can get the message across, and no matter where we are, our job is mobile and we are always operational."



# Around the wing ...



Master Sgt. Patrick O'Reilly



Senior Airman Angela Jackson

Airmen with the 89th Airlift Squadron take to the field at the Cleveland Browns Stadium, Ohio, after a flyover Oct. 15, 2023. Flyovers provide another avenue for crews to train aboard the C-17 Globemaster III aircraft, honing their skills and showcasing the aircraft's capabilities to millions across the country.

Col. Raymond Smith Jr., 445th Airlift Wing commander, takes a photo with Senior Master Sgt. Mark Gehri, 445th Aircraft Maintenance Group first sergeant, first place pumpkin carving winner, at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, Oct. 15, 2023. The 445th Maintenance Squadron and 445th Mission Support Group staff placed second and third respectively. Each year, the 445th Airlift Wing hosts a pumpkin carving contest for the October unit training assembly.



Master Sgt. Patrick O'Reilly



Senior Airman Angela Jackson

Airmen with the 445th Maintenance Group conduct a morning foreign and object debris (FOD) walk on the flightline at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, Oct. 11, 2023. These walks are routinely held to clear the flightline of any objects foreign to the area that could cause damage to the aircraft such as rocks, screws, trash, etc.

Senior Master Sgt. Zach Miles, rear, 445th Maintenance Group assistant superintendent, explains how to use My Vector to Staff Sgt. Michael Cage, 445th Maintenance Squadron crew chief, during the 445th Rising Six Council meeting at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, Oct. 14, 2023. Located on the Air Force Portal, My Vector is a tool that supports career progression of all Airmen, including goal development, mentorship, writing performance evaluations and assignment opportunities.

# 3rd quarter CY 2023 award winners announced

## CGO



**Capt. Logan Sisca**, 89th Airlift Squadron C-17 Globemaster III mobility pilot, is the 445th Airlift Wing Company Grade Officer of the Quarter. Sisca led the execution of multiple missions in support of Defender Europe 23, enabling the successful accomplishment of the joint, multi-national exercise by airlifting personnel and vehicles to Spain and Greece. He graduated from the C-17A pilot checkout course ahead of his peers as a first lieutenant, earning a "commendable" rating on the check ride and supporting the unit's mission by progressing toward his aircraft commander upgrade. Sisca propelled the multi-capable Airman concept by spearheading aircraft servicing, fueling, alert cocking and secure communications training, ensuring crews can maintain readiness and lethality in austere locations. He mentored 64 future Reservists from three Development and Training Flights, helping the trainees understand the capabilities of the wing and how they can support the global airlift mission during their careers. Sisca volunteered to complete instructor training for the SAPR courses, enhancing unit training.

## SNCO



**Senior Master Sgt. Tyler Salsburey**, 89th Airlift Squadron instructor loadmaster, is the 445th Airlift Wing Senior NCO of the Quarter. As a traditional reservist, Salsburey logged more than 170 flight hours across 53 sorties, transporting over 74,000 pounds of cargo and facilitating the safe travel of 286 passengers while supporting both continental United States and outside CONUS operations. Salsburey was selected to be a squadron tactical combat casualty care course instructor. His leadership ensured 100% training completion. Salsburey as the lead NCO/loadmaster on several high-profile missions. The Senior NCO earned his Bachelor of Science degree while concurrently serving as an instructor loadmaster and full-time fireman. He was coined for authoring the first ever Operations Manual for Columbus Fireman Journeyman program. As a dedicated first responder and fireman, Salsburey accumulated more than 40 hours for Ohio Fire Burn Card credit, which he was able to use to mentor and instruct fellow firemen.

## NCO



**Staff Sgt. Daryn Weatherspoon**, 445th Security Forces Squadron fire team member, is the 445th Airlift Wing NCO of the Quarter. Weatherspoon served as a cadre instructor for the Air Force Reserve Command Integrated Defense Leadership course. He instructed more than 90 students who graduated as certified on 86 core security forces tasks and were evaluated throughout 197 hands-on training hours. He assisted in the implementation of the M18A1 Claymore mine and M67 fragmentation grenade training where 96 Reserve and National Guardsmen completed live-fire familiarization training, increasing the lethality of security forces. In an effort to support joint force capability, Weatherspoon supported U.S. Marine Corps leadership to get 10 Marines certified on Department of Defense directed Tactical Combat Casualty Care All Service Members Course and the Harris Radio System. Weatherspoon coordinated and oversaw joint competition where Air Force and USMC personnel competed in a two-hour long physical exercise that resulted in the Air Force team being named No. 1 overall squad out of 100.

## AMN



**Senior Airman Kylee-Ann Engle**, 445th Maintenance Squadron metals technology apprentice, is the 445th Airlift Wing Airman of the Quarter. Engle machined 14 aircraft parts in support of six airframes on eight local manufacture requests. She coordinated actions with two additional work centers, cementing parts availability within 48 hours of requested time. Engle seized control over the shop's tool room which sparked a complete inventory, reorganization and consolidation of 1,400 dispatch-able tools, driving Quality Assurance passes and slashing undetected non-compliance by 19%. While completing an aircraft windshield frame corrosion repair, Engle identified an incorrectly installed bushing which she machined and replaced. Her attention to detail and fabrication skills shattered the estimated time for completion by four hours. She volunteered for the inaugural Kids Understand Deployment Operations to help youth navigate through the deployment process, supporting 46 kids in 32 households. Engle donated 16 hours to assist with maintaining sustainable food for a local gardening center.





# Defenders test readiness, combat effectiveness



The 445th Security Forces Squadron conducted a daytime/nighttime base defense exercise at the Warfighting Training Center on Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, Oct. 14-15, 2023. The training tested their agile combat employment (ACE) with limited resources, revealing strengths, limitations and resource requirements. Squads performed area security operations (ASO) that focused on expeditionary combat skills. They created defensive fighting positions (DFPs) with tools, sandbags and dirt to fortify the sector, and built expeditionary entry control points (EECP). Defenders established a Tactical Operations Center (TOC) to run command and control and performed Quick Response Force (QRF) patrols. The squads also engaged with noncombatants to test security protocols and observe impacts of interactions.



Photos by Capt. Rachel Ingram



445TH AIRLIFT WING/PA  
BUILDING 4014, ROOM 113  
5439 MCCORMICK AVE  
WRIGHT-PATTERSON AFB OHIO 45433-5132

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