

BUCKEYE FLYER

Wright-Patterson AFB, OH

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| January 2024

445th AW provides humanitarian support



Staff Sgt. Jasmonet Holmes



Senior Airman Sarah Williams

(left) U.S. Air Force reservist, Staff Sgt. Jeanne Caron, a loadmaster from the 445th Airlift Wing's 89th Airlift Squadron, ushers in 24.7 metric tons of humanitarian aid destined for Gaza aboard a C-17 Globemaster III at an undisclosed airfield in the Middle East, Nov. 28, 2023. The U.S. Air Force's rapid global mobility capability enables the expedited movement of critical, life-saving supplies throughout the Middle East. (right) U.S. Air Force reservists Senior Airman Victor Sandoval Gutierrez, left, and Staff Sgt. Ethan Stone, right, 445th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron avionics technicians currently assigned to the Expeditionary Airlift Squadron, perform maintenance on a C-17 at an undisclosed location in the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility, Dec. 8, 2023.

Another successful year in the books

The members of the 445th Airlift Wing closed out 2023 with many success stories.

Reserve Citizen Airmen from Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, flew 1,134 sorties for a total of 3,970 flying hours, consisting of 175 missions. The wing transported 5,981 passengers and delivered more than 17.4 million pounds of cargo.

In addition, the wing deployed 169 personnel for calendar year 2023. This included 140 Airmen who deployed in 72 hours to provide support in an undisclosed U.S. Central Command Area of Responsibility.

The 445th Operations Group and wing support agencies began the year with water survival training in January. In addition, the wing introduced Tactical Combat Casualty Courses that replaced Self-Aid and Buddy Care.

In February, the 445th Force Support Squadron was selected as the Air Force Reserve Command Education and Training Team of the Year Installation Level winner.

And after a three-year pause due to COVID-19, the wing was able to recognize its annual awards winners at a banquet at the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force in March.

The 445th Fabrication Flight was named the Main-

tenance Section of the Year April 17, 2023, in the 2022 annual Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Thomas N. Barnes Armament Systems, Munitions and Major Command Unit awards.

As the weather got warmer, the wing hosted its annual wellness fair as it focused on the mental health of Airmen and a spring clean up day in May.

Throughout the summer, various units participated in training including the aeromedical evacuation squadron at Patriot Medic; aeromedical staging squadron and AES at Steel Buckeye; and the maintenance squadron with confined space training.

In September, the wing paused to honor the victims of Sept. 11, 2001, during a remembrance ceremony.

In October, the wing hosted a civic leader tour to Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas. During this two-day tour, 22 community leaders from throughout the Miami Valley had an opportunity to learn more about the Air Force and AFRC.

In November, deployed Airmen supported humanitarian efforts in Gaza.

And in December, the 87th Aerial Port Squadron wrapped up the year with their annual toy drive for the Dayton Children's Hospital, donating about \$2,500 in toys and monetary donations for the 39th year.

Year in Review: 445th Airlift Wing reflects on 2023



January

Master Sgt. Patrick O'Reilly



February

Master Sgt. Patrick O'Reilly

(left) Members of the 445th Operations Group participate in survival, evasion, resistance and escape training aboard a 46-man life raft off the coast of San Diego, Jan. 19, 2023. (right) Tech. Sgt. Gabriel Clark, 87th Aerial Port Squadron, runs a 12K ruck march during German Armed Forces Military Proficiency Badge qualification Feb. 3, 2023.



March

Master Sgt. Patrick O'Reilly



April

Master Sgt. Patrick O'Reilly

(left) The 445th Airlift Wing Honor Guard conducts the POW/MIA Table ceremony during the annual awards banquet, March 11, 2023. (right) Tech. Sgt. Diego Weithoener, 445th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, directs critical care air transport teams during training at the Cincinnati Municipal Airport, April 6, 2023.



May

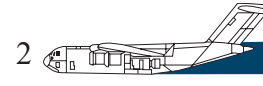
Master Sgt. Patrick O'Reilly



June

Senior Airman Angela Jackson

(left) Maj. Nathan Thomsen, 788th Civil Engineer Squadron, presents Master Sgt. Chad Engman, 445th CES, with a Command Civilian Award for Valor certificate, May 10, 2023. (right) Staff Sgt. Weston Emanuelson, 445th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, talks about the C-17 Globemaster III to Development and Training Flight member, Carlos Candelaria, June 3, 2023.



Year in Review: 445th Airlift Wing reflects on 2023



July

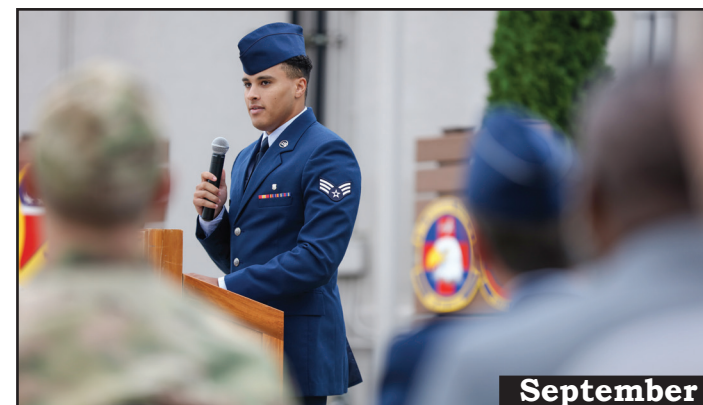
Amanda Dick



August

Master Sgt. Patrick O'Reilly

(left) Master Sgt. Justin Van Niman, 445th Security Force Squadron, clears a room during active shooter training in Fairborn, Ohio, July 14, 2023. (right) Tech. Sgt. Daniel Williams, 445th Aeromedical Staging Squadron Critical Care Air Transport Team, sets up a ventilation system during joint exercise Steel Buckeye Aug. 2, 2023.



September

Master Sgt. Patrick O'Reilly



October

Master Sgt. Patrick O'Reilly

(left) Senior Airman Brooks Lyle, 445th Aerospace Medicine Squadron, gives remarks during the 445th AW 9/11 ceremony Sept. 10, 2023. (right) Members of the 445th Airlift Wing board a C-17 Globemaster III during the wing's first C-17 force element mobilization, Oct. 28, 2023.



November

Courtesy Photo



December

Senior Airman Angela Jackson

(left) A 445th Airlift Wing C-17 Globemaster III is being loaded with supplies destined for Gaza for humanitarian aid, Nov. 28, 2023. (right) Tech. Sgt. Sandra Parcell, 445th Force Support Squadron Military and Family Readiness, arranges gifts donated for the Angel Tree program, Dec 3, 2023. The wing adopted 68 Angels, providing gifts for 33 families.



445th commander reflects on wing's successes

By Col. Raymond A. Smith Jr.
445th Airlift Wing Commander



Happy New Year 445th teammates. As you are preparing for a new year, I would like to share a few thoughts from our last gathering in 2023 and my final unit training assembly.

Driving in, it was hard to miss the almost empty ramp, and I was overwhelmed with a sense of pride and gratitude for the men and women who are engaged in training and increasing readiness to protect others. For those of you who are deployed, we are proud of you and look forward to your return.

It was a privilege to welcome our newest members to the wing at our newcomer's brief. During the briefing, we used a map highlighting the 36 states that our dedicated Citizen Airmen travel from to faithfully serve our nation. It illuminates the enormous sacrifice you and your families make to balance civilian careers and family obligations with military service.

Knowing we have men and women who continue to join our organization and make this sacrifice was even more evident when looking back at all the hands on training the 445th conducted in 2023. Your commitment to our wing is valuable and your time is a scarce resource. We do not take your participation for granted. Your teams participated in over 25 meaningful events that improved your readiness.

Operations, medical, maintenance and intel honed skills by participating in joint water survival training with the Navy in San Diego. Civil engineers bivouacked at the Warfighter Training Center (WTC) while increasing firefighting proficiency. The aeromedical evacuation squadron and aeromedical staging squadron teamed up to accomplish medical training events with the University of Cincinnati and Pittsburgh Air Reserve Station during the Steel Buckeye exercise to increase patient caregiving skills. The security forces squadron conducted a base defense exercise and worked with local law enforcement to increase their knowledge on active-shooter mitigation techniques. These are just a few examples of how you have been busy building and maintaining a highly proficient force. Thank you for being innovative, and finding solutions to time constraints and training challenges. Well done!

Steph, Chief Wager, Colonel Muha (our new deputy commander) and I enjoyed visiting your squadrons during your team building and holiday celebrations. The venues may have been different, but one thing was perfectly clear. All squadrons are highly functioning

teams with members who care deeply for one another.

In 2022, Lt. Gen. John Healy assumed command of the Air Force Reserve and asked us through the task order (TASKORD) to concentrate on building effective teams. It is an honor to be in the presence of so many selfless Airmen with strong character, all vowing to be dependable Wingman to their teammates. You exemplify exactly what General Healy was asking us to do, and it is inspiring to witness.

Sunday brought the opportunity to visit the Development and Training Flight. That visit took me back 30 years. I saw young adults full of promise and eager to make a difference. Again, I was struck by your commitment to serve. D&TF members spend hours preparing for basic training, and they gain experience that active-duty recruits do not receive. They often graduate at the top of their basic training class. There is a direct correlation between how well we prepare our young men and women for basic training and the success they have at technical schools, OJT [on the job training] and during their first supervisory position.

I encourage you to reach out to Chief Wager and see how you can offer your time and talents to ensure success for our future Airmen.

One of the best parts of being in leadership is the opportunity to recognize your accomplishments. The Command Team had the honor to present coins to outstanding Airmen who supported our deploying members by working long hours and solving complex problems.

I also had the opportunity to recognize a talented Airman who demonstrated superior academic/leadership skills in a formal training course. When I think of what "right looks like" in the way of day-to-day leadership, I think about leaders who "eat last." I think about leaders on a mission or on temporary duty who make sure their subordinates have accommodations before they check into their own room, and I think about the leader who studies hard and stays late for teammates who need help. These are the marks of a solid leader, the characteristics that were demonstrated by the members we coined and the type of Airmen who will be our future leaders.

I finished the UTA weekend with a text to our mission support group commander, Col. Don Wren. He has served our country 41 years. It was also his final training weekend. We discussed how proud we are of this wing and its members. We both put down the phone and felt a mental baton pass to the next generation of leaders. You are all more than ready, and we appreciate your service, sacrifice and protection.

It has been an honor to serve with you. I look forward to supporting you in a new way and learning of your future successes.

Around the wing ...



Tech. Sgt. Joel McCullough

Col. Raymond Smith, 445th Airlift Wing commander, and Chief Master Sgt. Gordon Wager, 445th AW command chief, serve lunch to Airmen at the Pitsenbarger Dining Facility, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, Dec. 3, 2023. Commanders, first sergeants and chiefs served Airmen at the dining facility during the December unit training assembly to show their appreciation for their service.



Master Sgt. Patrick O'Reilly

Ten members of the 445th Maintenance Squadron spent three hours sorting donations for Hope's Closet at YWCA Dayton, Dec. 3, 2023. The sorting process included sorting through clothing donations and ensuring their serviceability, separating clothing by gender and size, and then hanging/folding them in the correct location of the Hope's Closet "store." The squadron also contributed an estimated \$3,500 donation in toys, gift cards and clothing. YWCA Dayton is the domestic violence shelter, rape crisis center and 24/7 hotline for Montgomery and Preble Counties.



Courtesy Photo

Port Dawgs Staff Sgt. Kelly Sloan, Master Sgt. Kody Novak and Staff Sgt. Jacob Dietz donate toys to Dayton Children's Hospital, Dec. 16, 2023. Airmen with the 87th Aerial Port Squadron delivered \$2,500 in monetary and toy donations to the Dayton Children's Hospital. This event marked the unit's 39th year of giving to the children's hospital.



Master Sgt. Patrick O'Reilly

Tech. Sgt. Killian Sullivan, 445th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron crew chief, marshals a C-17 Globemaster III preparing for departure for a local flight at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, Dec 14, 2023. Crew chiefs use hand signals and torchlights for visual communication between the aircrew and the personnel on the ground.



445th ASTS Airmen run in NYC Marathon

By Senior Airman Angela Jackson
445th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Every year on the first Sunday in November, runners from all over the world gather to run in the New York City Marathon. Since its inception in 1970, the NYC Marathon has attracted premiere athletes, professional and recreational runners. Over 50,000 runners finished this year's race Nov. 5, 2023, including three Airmen from the 445th Aeromedical Staging Squadron: Maj. Nancy Costa, Capt. Daniel Shields, and Capt. Megan Buselato.

Starting in Staten Island, the 26.2-mile course spanned the five boroughs of New York and extended through the neighborhoods of Brooklyn, Queens and the Bronx, before ending in Manhattan at the famous Central Park finish line.

Although Costa, 445th ASTS medical service flight officer in-charge, grew up in Long Island, this was the first time she had ever run through the city.

"I remember asking my mother if I could run around the block when I was 6 years old. I grew up with

New York City as my backyard, so to be running in the city was nostalgic for me yet I experienced it in a different way."

Costa received a scholarship and ran competitively for the University of New England, but today she runs for her love of nature and the joy it brings. Costa has run over 60 marathons and prefers to do so alone.

"Whatever the weather, I'm out running in it. Some of the most peaceful runs are in the dead of winter. There's light snow on the ground, the air is crisp, and the earth is still. Those are my favorite runs."

For Shields, 445th ASTS flight surgeon, running is a family affair. He has run several races with his father and brother. The NYC marathon was the second one the three have run together.

"My dad was a runner and I thought it was normal for him to go for three-hour runs on weekend mornings," Shields said. "When I was young and started running, I couldn't even run a half mile lap around the neighborhood, but with persistence I was able to do a two-mile run without stopping."

To date, Shields has run 14 marathons and credits his father and brother as major influences but concern for his health catapulted him into marathon training.

"When I turned 18, I remember walking up a flight of stairs and feeling out of breath," Shield said. "I knew I had to do something to improve my health. I thought training for a marathon would be a good marker of being physically fit. So, at 19, I ran my first marathon in Columbus, Ohio."

Costa and Shields make it a point to run every day. In fact, Shields is on a 1,910 day running streak.

"I will find a way to run even if it's just running laps around a



Courtesy Photos

Capt. Daniel Shields (left), 445th Aeromedical Staging Squadron flight surgeon, runs in the New York City Marathon on Nov. 5, 2023. Capt. Shields finished the 26.2 mile race in 4:37:33.

room," said Shields, who confessed he had done at Officer Training School. "My roommate probably thought I was crazy."

Since they started running, Costa and Shields have run over 2,050 marathon miles (the distance from Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio to Las Vegas). They both agree there's a certain level of pride that comes from finishing a long race.

"Marathon running requires preparation, dedication, and the drive to do your best," said Costa. "It feels good to accomplish something that you know is hard. It's going into it knowing it will be uncomfortable, but you don't back down. You have to be committed and consistently push yourself to do better and look toward the next challenge."

Both Costa and Shields are doing just that. Costa's next race will be a 100 miler this summer, and Shields hopes to be selected for the Berlin Marathon this year, and plan to run the Tokyo Marathon in 2025.



Maj. Nancy Costa 445th Medical Service Flight officer in-charge, points to her name on the wall of race participants in the New York City Marathon, Nov. 5th, 2023. Costa finished the marathon with a time of 3:28:28 which is a 7:58 mile pace.

News Briefs

Promotions

Master Sergeant
Zachary Banks, 87 APS
Ryan Klingaman, 87 APS
Cole Milligan, CES
Bryan Parker, 87 APS
Danielle Pfarr, 87 APS
Chad Snavley, 87 APS
Curtis Ward, AMXS

Technical Sergeant
Benjamin Booker, AMDS
Taylor Fife, AES
Casey Jones, MXG
Connor McCann, LRS
Charles Miller, LRS
Nicholas Whiting, MXS

Staff Sergeant
Kayla Cornett, 87 APS
Joseph Dills, 87 APS
Ben Ndiaye, 87 APS
Joseph Poole, MXS

Senior Airman
Brent Boers, LRS
Christian Reeves, AMXS
Shantel Scott, LRS

Jonah Weidner, CES
Airman
Aiden Malanowski, CES
Elias Strubler, SFS

Newcomers

TSgt Michael Morrow, AMXS
SSgt Jonathan Thomas, AMXS
SrA Lane Crutchfield, LRS
SrA Garrett Mize, SFS
A1C Michael Blythe, SFS
A1C Chetana Kap, 87 APS
A1C London Foreman, MXS
A1C Jason Nixon, LRS
AMN Carissa Dillard, ASTS
AMN Jacob Miller, ASTS
AB Nathan Ernst, AMXS
AB Gregory Knoop, AMXS
AB Aiden Malanowski, CES

Marijuana Use Reminder

The state of Ohio recently passed the use of recreational marijuana.

Regardless of Ohio law, marijuana is still classified as a controlled substance by the Federal Government and there is a zero tolerance policy for federal employees.

As a federal employee, you may not participate in the use or cultivation of marijuana or its derivative products in any way. This includes the use of CBD products and hemp derivatives that, knowingly or unknowingly, contain greater than 0.3% tetrahydrocannabinol (THC).

Per DoD policy, for those holding a security clearance, the illegal use or misuse of controlled substances can raise security concerns. Please see January 2024 Blue Pages for more info.

Buckeye Flyer

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Save the Date Annual awards banquet

The 445th Airlift Wing Annual Awards Banquet will be held Saturday, March 9 at the National Museum of the United States Air Force. The reception is slated to begin at 6 p.m. and the program at 7 p.m.

A medallion ceremony will be held at 5 p.m. to formally recognize all nominees. Details will be emailed to nominees.

The awards banquet will recognize those selected for Airman, NCO, senior NCO, company grade officer, first sergeant, field grade officer, recruiter, honor guard member, civilian (category I GS-09 and below/ category II, GS-11 and above), spouse, youth and squadron of the year. The winner of each category will be announced at the banquet.

The cost is \$55 for adults; \$25 for children 6 to 10; and children 5 and under are free.

All reservations must be received by Feb. 16. In person reservations may be made via cash or check

in the public affairs office in building 4010, room 171. Online RSVP payments must be made using PayPal. PayPal payments will incur a processing fee.

Please use the link below to RSVP online:
<https://einvitations.afit.edu/inv/anim.cfm?i=817535&k=0A60450C7852>

The dress for the evening is semi-formal or mess dress for enlisted Airmen; mess dress for officers; and formal evening attire for civilians.

Award Nominations being accepted

Nominations are currently being accepted for spouse, youth, field grade officer and civilian of the year. Nominations should be submitted on an Air Force Form 1206 to 445aw.pa2@us.af.mil and include a photograph. If a photograph is needed or you have questions, please contact the public affairs office at 937-257-5784. Submissions are due no later than close of business Feb. 3.



SPOTLIGHT



Staff Sgt. Ethan Spickler

Rank/Name: Senior Airman Austin Willoughby

Unit: 445th Logistics Readiness Squadron

Duty Title: Vehicle Maintainer. I work on fire trucks and refueler trucks on the flightline.

Hometown: Lancaster, Kentucky

Civilian Job: I am a diesel technician for Blue Tank and Pump where I do a little bit of everything from working on small gasoline generator motors to working on ISX15 Cummins motors in big 18 wheelers.

Education: I graduated from Garrard County High School in 2020. I have taken some college courses and have some credits. I have also taken a handful of different mechanic classes including Thompson Pump certification through Thompson Pump's Pumpology School, and turbos and superchargers, Ford charging systems and Ford chassis systems through Indiana Wesleyan University.

Hobbies: I do a little bit of everything as far as hobbies but I love the outdoors. Camping, hunting, fishing, hiking, backpacking and even cooking. I love getting out. I'm definitely not a home body.

Career Goal: I really see myself becoming more in charge of the fleet at Blue Tank at my civilian job and becoming a fleet manager. A fleet manager is someone who takes care of all the vehicles coming in and out, the specifics of the vehicles and the parts used with every work order.

What do you like about working at the 445th? Working with the 445th is an absolute blast. There is not a better group of people to work with, not just in my career field as a vehicle maintainer, but the LRS squadron itself. Members will help you in any way possible. There are so many different career fields in the same building and they all keep the military moving.

Why did you join the Air Force? I had absolutely no clue what I was going to do. The Air Force was just an idea on the back burner. I signed my name and got on the career ready list in high school so I could graduate. Now 3 years later, here I am.



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