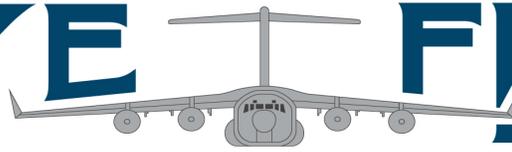


# BUCKEYE FLYER



Wright-Patterson AFB, OH

| Volume 63, No. 12

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## 445th employers honored during Employer's Day



Amanda Dick

**Tech. Sgt. Jared Holliday, 445th Security Forces Squadron fire team leader, observes as Brian Vacha, Radiance Technologies and employer of U.S. Air Force Capt. Caleb Smith, 445th Operations Support Squadron intelligence officer, secures a building in a simulated urban environment during Employer Appreciation Day at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Nov. 2, 2024. Civilian employees of Citizen Airmen were able to practice securing a building after being instructed by 445th SFS Airmen on proper maneuvers.**

*By 445th Airlift Wing Public Affairs*

The 445th Airlift Wing hosted more than 40 civilian employers for an Employer Appreciation Day Nov. 2 at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio.

The employers came from locations to include Michigan, Kentucky, Tennessee, Indiana and various parts of Ohio to experience firsthand several 445th Airlift Wing missions and learn how their Air Force reservist employees support Department of Defense efforts.

Employer Appreciation Day gives 445th AW reservists the opportunity to honor their employers for their continued support. That support ranges from allowing for flexibility regarding military service to fostering a work environment that is military friendly.

This year's Employer Appreciation Day was an excellent opportunity for the wing's leadership to personally thank Citizen Airmen employers.

Members of the Ohio Committee for the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) provided a briefing on the Uniformed Services Employment and

Reemployment Act (USERRA) and answered questions.

Employers were briefed on the wing's overall mission and treated to breakfast and lunch courtesy of the Ohio ESGR. They had the opportunity to participate in hands-on demonstrations by 445th Operations Support Squadron's aircrew flight equipment, 445th Security Forces Squadron and 445th Aeromedical Staging Squadron. They also participated in an 89th Airlift Squadron C-17 Globemaster III flight with 445th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron Airmen on board providing demonstrations and allowing the employers to participate as patients.

Events like Employer Appreciation Day enhance positive relationships between service members and their civilian employers.

See additional Employer Appreciation Day photos on page 6.

# Rounding out 2024 - Holiday Season, New Year

By Col Douglas A. Perry Jr., 445th Airlift Wing Commander and Chief Master Sgt. Gordon Wager, 445th Airlift Wing Command Chief

445th Warriors – The holidays are a time to reflect on the accomplishments and milestones we’ve achieved together; hardships and challenges we have endured; loved ones and colleagues who are unable to be with us; and those serving away from home and their families. It’s also a time to look forward to the opportunities and challenges the coming year will bring.



Master Sgt. Patrick O'Reilly

Having been in the seat now for six months, I have had a chance to settle in and have learned so much about the amazing things our team does every single day. This year has been full of remarkable accomplishments.

Just a few highlights:

- Ops and maintenance returned home in January from a no-notice deployment
- Security forces conducted off-station readiness exercise in May
- Individuals across multiple units deployed across the globe through the spring and summer
- Aeromedical Staging Squadron, Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron and 89th Airlift Squadron supported Patriot Medic exercise in August
- Wing executed over 3,500 flying hours for FY24, from local training to providing strategic airlift across the globe
- Wing readiness exercise in October
- Wing strategic alignment event in December
- The 89th AS and 87th Aerial Port Squadron supported Operation Tropic Arrow in October and November

All of that and much more, not to mention all our support to the local community with civic leader, media, Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve flights, and fostering community partnerships to just name a few.

Over this past year, approximately 50% of our organization’s leadership has changed through retirements and people moving on to their next endeavors. We have a lot of new faces in new positions. Similar changeover has also occurred across our mission partners at the 88th Air Base Wing. This gives us an opportunity to reset mission partner relationships and strive to find

our common ground. We are always looking to find ways we can better support each other.

Looking down the road and into the new year, we will be facing more challenges and will be even busier. We will be embarking into an organizational change with the A-Staff construct and re-shaping into a still to be determined, version of a combat wing. This is designed to better provide forces to the Joint Force

through new AFFORGEN [Air Force Generation] constructs surrounding the evolving environment with the Great Power Competition.

Looking ahead, we are confident 2025 will be a year filled with great achievements and growth across our wing. Together, we will continue to innovate and deliver critical war-winning capabilities to protect and defend our nation.

As we approach the end of this remarkable year, on behalf of the entire 445th Airlift Wing leadership team, Chief Wager and I want to take a moment to express our heartfelt gratitude to each and every one of you. Your commitment, selflessness, and tireless efforts do not go unnoticed. You are the driving force behind our success.

The dedication, hard work and resilience you have shown have truly made our wing a special place, and we are honored to be part of this wing during this critical time and change in the Air Force. We are so blessed and proud to be a part of this amazing team and exceptional group of individuals.

May this holiday season bring you, your family and friends joy, peace, and unity. Thank you for your sacrifice, hard work and dedication this past year. Please be safe and enjoy the holiday season.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! 🎉



# Wing welcomes new historian

By Tara Simpson, Ph.D. 445th Airlift Wing History Office



Over the past month I have had the privilege of meeting many of the incredible Airmen of the 445th Airlift Wing. I sincerely thank you all for the warm welcome and support that I have felt since the day I arrived.

While I may be new to Air Force Reserve Command and the history office here in building 4010, I am not new to the U.S. Air Force or military history.

As the spouse of an active-duty Air Force officer who has served for over 21 years, I have had the opportunity to learn about and brief others on the great history of the bases where we have been assigned throughout the United States and Pacific Air Forces.

My background includes teaching undergrad history and military history. I also have written for publications that include the *Stars and Stripes* and *All Israel News*. This past summer I graduated with my doctoral degree in history, focusing on early 20th century Middle Eastern military history. I am thrilled to now serve as the 445th Airlift Wing Historian. This unit boasts a tremendous history, beginning in World War

II and continuing with its reactivation in 1994 here at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base.

While it is an honor to work to preserve history, it is equally important to also ensure that current history in-the-making (i.e., what each of you do here in the 445th!) is collected and maintained here in the history office. The annual command history report is the only document that records events of the 445 AW permanently. To help in this process, I look forward to talking and working with each of you.

It is important that each unit designate a point of contact to send status updates on items that include flying hours, manning, orders, awards, reports, etc. to 445AW.HO@us.af.mil. Another option is to upload the data into your unit’s folder in the share drive. If this is preferable, please let me know so that I am able to retrieve the information.

In addition to collecting data and events for writing the annual history, I am here to provide historical services. Several of you have already reached out with questions on emblem status, which I am glad to answer. I am also here to provide historical reports to help give context for enhancing readiness and making informed decisions, as well as to support strategic communications (to include speaking at commander’s calls). My door is always open as I am here to help, happy to serve and always glad to talk history!

# Maintaining your mental health during the holidays

By Vera Ensalaco 445th Airlift Wing Director of Psychological Health

The holidays are often seen as the most wonderful time of the year. But for many, they can be quite challenging. According to National Alliance on Mental Health, a significant percentage of people experience worsened mental health during this season.

If you are feeling anxious about the holidays, you are not alone. Here are some things that you can do to prioritize your mental health during this hectic season:

1. Accept your feelings. Acknowledge and accept your emotions whether they are happy, sad or mixed. It is okay to feel both.
2. Maintain healthy habits. Maintaining healthy habits like eating a healthy diet, getting enough sleep, keeping appointments and exercising are critical to keeping their mental health on track.
3. Set boundaries. People like to be generous during the holidays, but that generosity doesn’t have to

come at the expense of having healthy boundaries. If hosting an event or buying an expensive gift is too stressful, saying no is okay. It’s also okay to limit the time you spend with family with whom you may have a complicated dynamic.

4. Make time to connect. Connection and meaning are critical to our mental health. Focus on meaningful relationships and connect with yourself through self-care.

This holiday season – whether you find it to be the most wonderful or most challenging time of the year – I hope you’ll join me in taking care of your mental health by accepting whatever emotions come up, maintaining healthy habits, setting boundaries on stressors and making time for meaningful connections. If things get to be too much, please reach out for support to someone you trust, your community, pastoral care or one of our helping agencies.



## Around the wing ...



Master Sgt. Patrick O'Reilly



Master Sgt. Patrick O'Reilly

1. Members of the 445th Airlift Wing Honor Guard present the colors during a ceremony at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, Nov. 3, 2024. The 46-member honor guard team participated in 846 funeral honor ceremonies during fiscal year 2024, providing a 35% increase from the 624 ceremonies performed in FY 2023.

2. Col. Douglas A. Perry Jr., 445th Airlift Wing commander, serves lunch to Airmen at the Pitsenbarger Dining Facility at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, Nov. 3, 2024. Commanders, first sergeants and chiefs served Airmen at the dining facility during the November unit training assembly to show their appreciation for their service.



Senior Airman Angela Jackson

3. Tech. Sgt. Mario Hinton, 445th Logistics Readiness Squadron NCO in charge of the ground transportation operations center, removes lug nuts from a tow truck at Sandy's Towing and Recovery, Nov. 3, 2024. Sandy's Towing, located in Moraine, Ohio has partnered with the 445th for more than three years to support large vehicle training.

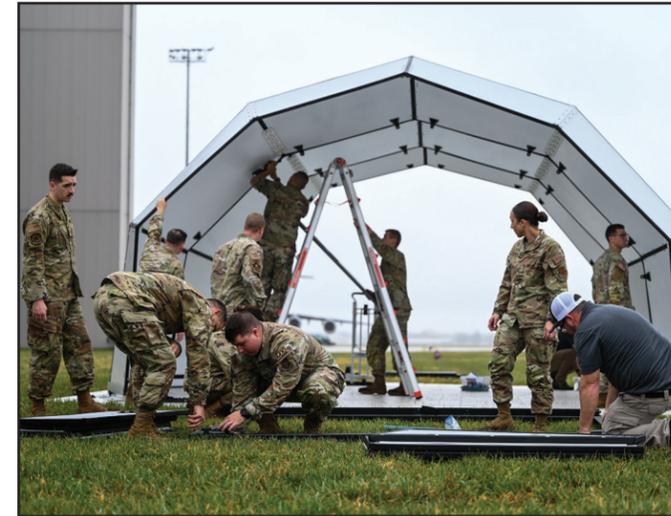


Courtesy photo

4. Master Sgt. Adam Sigrist, 445th Aeromedical Staging Squadron aerospace medical services technician, and Capt. Greg Geisler, a nurse with the Air National Guard's 178th Medical Group, pose with Capt. Shiloh, a therapy dog, during Shiloh's honorary promotion ceremony held at The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center, in Columbus, Ohio, Nov. 8, 2024. Sigrist sang the National Anthem during the ceremony and Geisler orchestrated the event.



## 445 MXG innovating for future, preparing for austere operations



Master Sgt. Patrick O'Reilly

Airmen from the 445th Maintenance Group train on how to operate an Advanced Deployable Aircraft Maintenance System (ADAMS), a solar-powered and wind-resistant structure designed for use in challenging austere environments at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, Nov 6, 2024. This mobile structure packs into one standard mobility container called an "ISU-90" and can easily be added to deployment kits for around-the-world operations to be used for maintenance operations, personnel lodging, medical operations, and many more wing functions. It can be operated fully-independent of external power sources or be used with a maintenance light card. The structure contains lighting systems, air-conditioning, heating, batteries and a backup generator. The traditional method for electricity generation in a remote area would rely on gas generators that require constant maintenance and refueling, which are tasks difficult to handle in an austere areas.

## Wing welcomes new MXG, 89th AS commanders



Senior Airman Angela Jackson

(left) Col. Douglas A. Perry Jr., 445th Airlift Wing commander, passes the guidon to Lt. Col. Karen Gharst, incoming 445th Maintenance Group commander, during the 445th MXG assumption of command ceremony at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, Nov. 3, 2024.



Master Sgt. Patrick O'Reilly

(right) Col. Michael T. Baker, 445th Operations Group commander, passes the guidon to Lt. Col. Dustin Johnson, incoming 89th Airlift Squadron commander, during the squadron's change of command ceremony at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, Nov. 3, 2024.



# SPOTLIGHT

**Rank/Name:** Tech. Sgt. Joseph Divish

**Unit:** 87th Aerial Port Squadron

**Duty Title:** Ramp services supervisor and unit fitness program manager

**Hometown:** Honolulu, Hawaii

**Civilian Job:** Senior Operations Director at Unistrut Midwest

**Hobbies:** Trail running, swimming, weightlifting, disc golf, golf, billiards

**Career Goal:** Military goal: Better my unit in any capacity by sharing the knowledge I have obtained throughout my career. Civilian goal: Obtain the position of Chief Operations Officer and grow the company as best I can.



**What do you like about working at the 445th?:** Working at the 445th is like one big family. I have had the privilege to work with so many people from so many different backgrounds. Whether it's working together in the Honor Guard or running into them while on a deployment, it's very comforting when you don't have to worry about who you're working with. You just trust that it's going to be fun and done well, no matter what.

**Why did you join the Air Force?:** Originally to carry on my family legacy of being an Air Force family. Now it's to create an example for my sons and give them something to look up to like I did with my father. School benefits were a close second.

## Employers learn about 445th mission, ESGR



Senior Airman Angela Jackson



Master Sgt. Patrick O'Reilly

(left) Master Sgt. Todd Ryan, 445th Aeromedical Staging Squadron tactical combat casualty care program director, applies a pressure bandage to Robin Mineer, Marathon Health and employer of Lt. Col. Alexander Bingcang, 445th ASTS, during a TCCC demonstration at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, Nov. 2, 2024.

(right) John McCance, State Chairman of the Ohio Committee for the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, briefs 445th Airlift Wing civilian employers during the wing's Employer Appreciation Day, Nov. 2, 2024.



## News Briefs

### Save the Date Awards Banquet

The 445th Airlift Wing Annual Awards Banquet is scheduled for April 5, 2025, 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. More details will be announced soon.

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, spouse, youth and squadron of the year.

### Promotions

**Senior Master Sergeant**  
Matthew Steele, MXS  
Caroline Sussman, 89 AS

**Master Sergeant**  
Shawn Haggerty, 89 AS  
Sandra Parcell, FSS  
Joshua Robidoux, AMXS  
Dustin Swift, MXS  
Diego Weithoener, AES

**Technical Sergeant**  
**Samantha Cox, FSS**  
Ryan Davis, AMXS  
Joshua Glass, MXS  
Nicholas Fannin, MXS  
Michael Tucci, 89 AS  
Caleb Wiseman, AMXS

**Staff Sergeant**  
Hailey Bullock, AES  
Matthew Campbell, LRS

Cameron Clark, LRS  
Hayden Dutro, FSS  
Kurt Jones, FSS  
Chad Morrison, AMXS

**Senior Airman**  
Calvin Ampadu, FSS  
Princess Uzoagba, FSS  
Lucas Wonderly, 89 AS

**Airman First Class**  
Danny Corbett, ASTS  
Gracia Halimoya-Musa, FSS

### Newcomers

Capt Carrie Stachura, LRS  
1Lt Desmond Brittle, FSS  
TSgt Aaron Wilson, OSS  
SSgt Jared Trabert, MXS  
AB Danny Corbett, ASTS  
AB Lovelace Eshun, FSS

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## 445th AW Public Affairs specialist wins AFRC PACE award



Air Force Reserve Command announced the fiscal year 2024 award recipients for the Public Affairs Communication Excellence (PACE) Awards Nov. 1, 2024. Amanda Dick, 445th Airlift Wing Public Affairs specialist, was selected as the Outstanding Communication Civilian, Category I (GS-5 – GS-9 or equivalent).

The PACE awards are presented annually to recognize individuals in the Air Force, Space Force or joint organizations for excellence in communication effects, outstanding achievement, and innovation.

Dick produced a social media Operations Security brochure to support the wing's 72-hour deployment mobilization and ensured 140 Airmen understood visual information processes and social media OPSEC.

She applied prior broadcast training to create a awards banquet recap video and wing PA news video for the assumption of command. By creating a video sequence plan and shot lists for two PA staff members, ensuring social media posts yielded an above average 3,000 reach for content performance.

Dick overhauled the wing's website by updating 16 pages and creating 18 new ones to include those that met chaplain's goal of 'one stop' for requesting support, utilizing form module to be more user friendly compared to downloadable PDFs. Additionally, She built 35 call-to-action graphics linking to forms and pages. Her superior knowledge of the American Forces Public Information Management System (AFPIMS) ensured website aligned with DOD guidance to deliver digital-first public experience.

She aided recruiting efforts for health recruiting event by building event page on the website to host centralized information, coordinating a flyer, and publishing the event on social media. She also created a short-notice video that aided the recruiter in meeting an USAF-level center of influence recruiting service objective with 24 potential applicants in attendance.

She synchronized media coverage for Airmen's deployment return that netted reporting from four major local news outlets that reached over 500,000 people.

Dick used the AFRC strategic exchange platform to interface with major command for higher headquarter messaging for distinguished visitors. Wing, AFRC and Air Force messages were relayed to nearly 20 Ohio delegation staffers to be used at the congressional level.



# Tips to keep your holidays safe

The Air Force Safety Center offers several holiday safety tips to keep Airmen and their families safe during the upcoming holiday season.

## Kids and Pets

1. Holiday decorations can easily be mistaken for a shiny snack, so keep bite-sized ornaments out of reach (this includes items like tinsel)
2. Remember, mistletoe, poinsettia, lilies and holly berries are all toxic; it's best to avoid decorating with these plants if you have kids and/or pets
3. Ensure children and/or pets don't have access to open trash cans and table scraps
4. Keep children/pets away from cooking areas; use back burners and turn pot handles inward
5. Keep fires and flames out of reach of both children and pets
6. If you have a live Christmas tree, ensure kids/pets cannot drink the water from the stand or consume fallen pine needles

## Food

1. Fully cook meats; insert a meat thermometer into the densest part and check for these temps: Turkey/Poultry 165 F, Beef Roast 145 F, Fresh Ham 160 F, Fully-cooked Ham 140 F
2. Thoroughly wash raw vegetables and fruits
3. Wash hands, cutting boards and preparation surfaces between uses, especially after handling raw meat
4. Be sure to keep hot liquids and foods away from the edges of counters and tables, where they can easily be knocked over by young children
5. Bring leftovers to a temperature of at least 165 degrees Fahrenheit to eliminate bacterial growth; never reheat a portion more than once
6. Bring leftovers to a temperature of at least 165 degrees Fahrenheit to eliminate bacterial growth; never reheat a portion more than once
7. Always thaw food in a refrigerator, NOT at room temperature

8. Refrigerate food promptly if not eating right away or within two hours of cooking

## Decoration Safety

1. Use non-flammable decorations
2. Check holiday lights annually for excessive wear, and replace strings of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections
3. Do not link more than three strands of holiday lights
4. Keep decorations away from windows, fireplaces and doors
5. Remember, some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use, but not both
6. Place burning candles in stable holders where they cannot be knocked down easily, and never leave them unattended
7. Keep Christmas trees away from heat sources and exits
8. Only purchase live Christmas trees that are fresh and green with needles that are hard to pull from branches
9. Water live Christmas trees daily to prevent them from catching on fire
10. Never use electric lights on metallic trees
11. When using a ladder to hang decorations, always make sure the ladder is on even and solid ground, and keep three body parts in contact with the ladder at all times
12. Never run electrical cords under rugs or carpeting; it's also best to tape cords down to avoid trip hazards



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