

Perry assumes command of 445th Airlift Wing

445th Airlift Wing Public Affairs



Senior Airman Angela Jackson

Col. Douglas A. Perry Jr., right, incoming 445th Airlift Wing commander, assumes command of the wing during a ceremony at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, June 1, 2024. Maj. Gen. D. Scott Durham, left, 4th Air Force commander, presided over the ceremony of more than 1,350 Airmen, community leaders, family and friends.

445th Airmen receive distinguished flying cross, more

445th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Maj. Gen. D. Scott Durham, 4th Air Force commander, presented medals to four 445th Airlift Wing aircrews and one aeromedical technician June 1 for their contributions to Operation Allies Refuge in August 2021. In total, one Distinguished Flying Cross with combat device, 19 Air Medals with combat devices and one Meritorious Service Medal were awarded to Airmen.

The crews and med tech are credited for assisting with the safe transport of the mother who delivered baby "Reach" aboard Reach 838, and airlifting and evacuating more than 2,000 refugees, more than

300 U.S. Army Soldiers, 19 Ravens, U.S. citizens and equipment.

Additionally, some crews faced indiscriminate machine gun fire and were constantly under hazardous conditions. They flew in heavily trafficked air space over Kabul with limited communications and minimal ground support. During the operation, crews prevented a collision and subsequent airfield closure during a runway incursion by Taliban forces; delivered food and water; and performed a nighttime refuel under non-standard, blacked-out conditions.

— See DFC, Page 5

Get to know your new wing commander

By Senior Airman Angela Jackson
445th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Recently, the 445th Airlift Wing Public Affairs Office sat down with the new commander, Col. Douglas A. Perry Jr., to get to know him and learn where he wants to take the wing.

Q: What are your thoughts on becoming commander of the 445 Airlift Wing?

A: When you are younger in your career and working toward that next professional goal, you never know what opportunities may present themselves. I'm super humbled and honored that the command put the trust in me to lead a wing. I'm very excited to come into a new team and be a part of this new mission set and see where we can take it. It's just an incredible opportunity for me, and I hope to bring that value to the table for the whole team.

Q: What do you hope to bring to the 445th AW?

A: I've been in the Reserve forces for 34 years now. I started my career in the Air National Guard and Reserve as a traditional reservist, and then I became an Air Reserve Technician. I've always been in the wing unit program, so I understand the struggles that Airmen face. I hope to bring different perspectives and new energy to the team here based on all that experience.

Q: What are some goals and priorities that you have for the 445th AW?

A: In the next six months, we need to update the wing's strategic alignment, to make sure we're still in line with the current needs and demands. It boils down to Air Force Reserve Command's strategic priorities – Ready Now and Transforming for the Future. With the great power competition, all our peer adversaries out there now, and the Air Force restructure, we've got to get in realignment. I want to make sure our Airmen have the tools they need to succeed, and they understand what they bring to the total fight. The bottom line is we've got to be ready when the call comes to go out the door and do our jobs, and this wing's proven



Senior Airman Angela Jackson
Col. Douglas A Perry Jr., 445th Airlift Wing commander.

that they can do that. I want to make sure everybody understands what value they bring to the team, and I will do the best I can to bring the resources we need to make those things happen. There's a lot of changes going on right now. If you're striving to be an expert in your job, and be the best you can be, all that other stuff will settle in around you.

Q: What are some words of wisdom you could impart to members of the 445th AW?

A: Take care of your spiritual, mental and physical health, and your families. Firstly, you've got to be in good shape to take care of your family. One of our core values is service before self. If you don't have those things lined up and your family taken care of with a good support system, then when service before self comes calling, it can be hard. All those things must be aligned, and if they're not, reach out for help. There are a lot of resources we can provide in the organization to help keep those things in line.

Secondly, there's a lot of noise out there, a lot of influence. If all those other things are aligned, and you're getting frustrated about the things you can't control, try not to make a major last-minute decision based on too much emotion because it might not be the best one. In flying airplanes, if you get compound emergencies, you step back and "hack a clock." You don't realize how much time has gone by, so if you step back, "hack a clock" and slow down, it gives you time to reevaluate. *

Applying that in other areas of my life, I found that if I get frustrated, and I'm trying to make a big life-changing decision, emotions might not be the best way to deal with those situations. As Citizen Airmen, you're balancing your family with a full-time civilian career and your other part-time military profession, which demands a lot. Maintain good communication with

See Commander, Page 4

Day of Honor brings veterans out of shadows, into community

By Capt. Rachel Ingram
445th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

From 45 states across the country, privately chartered commercial jets full of World War II, Korean War and Vietnam War veterans arrive in Washington.

It's all part of the Honor Flight Network, an organization on a mission to celebrate America's veterans by inviting them to share in a Day of Honor at national memorials in the National Capitol Region.

So far, 300,000 Veterans have been aboard an Honor Flight, and that number grows every month.

One recent Honor Flight departed from Lexington, Kentucky, May 19, and a 445th Airlift Wing Airman was aboard that plane.

Chief Master Sgt. Robert Rowe, 87th Aerial Port Squadron operations superintendent, accompanied his father, Larry Rowe, who served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War and achieved the rank of sergeant.

Three charter buses of veterans paired with volunteers, known as guardians, were on the May 19 Day of Honor organized by Honor Flight Kentucky. As is standard procedure for Honor Flights, they visited the Korean War Veterans, Vietnam Veterans, World War II and Lincoln Memorials, and the Washington Monument in one day, also witnessing the changing of the guard ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery.

For many portions of the trip, Honor Flights are given police escort, and local fire departments often spray water on the wings of the plane as it taxis by. There is never any charge for a veteran to participate in an Honor Flight, and all meals and expenses are covered by the organization. Rowe noted that four other Honor Flights, from other parts of the nation, were also in Washington the same day.

The first Honor Flights occurred in 2005 and 2006, departing from Springfield, Ohio, and Asheville, North Carolina, respectively. Retired Air Force Capt. Earl Morse, a Veterans Affairs medical center physician assistant, and Jeff Miller, a business owner and the son and nephew of WWII veterans, both set out to create an avenue for WWII veterans to see their newly constructed memorial.

Miller and Morse formed Honor Flight Network in February 2007, and there are now 129 Honor Flight hubs.

While the original focus was to transport WWII Veterans to their brand-new memorial, organizers noticed many of the guardians accompanying the veterans were veterans themselves – of the Korean and Vietnam Wars. As a result, they expanded the trip itinerary to include visits to other memorials in the NCR.



Courtesy Photo

Vietnam veteran Larry Rowe, left, and his son, Chief Master Sgt. Robert Rowe, 87th Aerial Port Squadron.

The Korean War is often called the forgotten war, Miller pointed out, "and Vietnam vets have been living in the shadow for 50 years."

To Miller, one of the big distinctions that separates Korean and Vietnam veterans from WWII veterans is the cultural response each group received, both during and after their tour of duty. WWII veterans, for example, often participate in reunions, and they received an entirely different welcome home from war than Korean and Vietnam veterans did, he asserted.

Larry Rowe, who now lives in Shelbyville, Kentucky, enlisted in the Air Force in the 60s. Two days later, he received a draft notice in the mail. Because his Army ship date was sooner than his Air Force date, he ended up being drafted into the Army, his son explained.

Rowe said that after his dad returned home from Vietnam he didn't sleep in a bed for about three months.

"He was pretty rattled when he came home before," Rowe said. "He was a combat veteran and came home with PTSD."

For Vietnam veterans particularly, Honor Flights give them the homecoming they deserved, some 50 years overdue. Two key components of each Honor Flight are mail call during the flight home and the welcome home party at the end of the day, with some welcome home parties boasting several thousand people, Miller said.

"That was the part that got me teared up," Rowe

See Honor Flight, Page 7



Commander from Page 2

your team. Keep the communication flat or level and try not to make a major life-changing decision about anything in general with too much emotion.

**Editor's note: "Hacking the clock" is a crisis management tactic pilots use to allow for more time to process the situation and respond appropriately. It is a method where they physically press a timer in the cockpit to provide them a visual parameter for how much time is truly passing. This helps "slow down" time to what is realistic and not what is perceived.*

Q: What are your impressions of the 445th AW so far?

A: I'm super excited to be here. I've got nothing but great things to say. When I got selected for this opportunity and it got publicly released, I started reaching out with my direct team, and they reached out to me too, and from that point forward all I've had is nothing but a really warm welcome. It's just an incredible feeling. Everybody has been super supportive with trying to help me find housing and get settled in. I've immediately learned that the wing is full of talented people working hard at what they do, and they're very proud of the wing's accomplishments, and what they do to contribute to the mission.

Q: What has been a memory during your career that has stuck with you?

A: There are so many. I think there isn't one particular situation per se, but there's one type of memory that's always been the same – the off time whether it's on a temporary duty assignment, social gathering outside of work with my fellow teammates when we're out of uniform off the clock, just breaking bread with your brothers and sisters, relaxing and telling stories. That's what's resonated with me.

Years ago, I was on an Eastern European capstone trip. We were traveling around to different U.S. embassies and one of the locations we were at was in Prague. Underneath the hotel, they had this huge go-kart racing track that spanned the hotel that you never would have guessed was there. There were about 10 of us who all got together from our trip. We had the space to ourselves, and it was just crazy, fun times. For some reason I just always remember that. I was young in my career and was like "Wow, I can't believe this. I'm over in the Czech Republic where the first 'Mission Impossible' was filmed and just the historic architecture and rich culture, and here we are racing go-karts in this basement of this hotel." I have a lot of memories of those type of bonding experiences where you just get to know your fellow Airmen better.

Q: What do you like to do when you're off duty? Any hobbies or interests?

A: I love the outdoors. I love being on the lake. We're a big lake family. I love boating, whether it's water sports and fishing. We've got a couple of jet skis in the family, and we go out there and just tear it up. It's a lot

of fun. Being out on the water with family and friends, relaxing and chilling out is probably what brings me most enjoyment. But aside from that, my family and I share a love for animals. We've had five dogs, three cats, eight chickens and five fish tanks.

I also really love racing, any type but particularly motorsports. I grew up just racing around on dirt bikes and go karts and different things like that with a group of friends that all shared the same interests. I just liked the competition. I miss it. I was really drawn to the camaraderie in the racing community much like that of the military. It's a core group of people who become your family.

Q: Is there anything else you'd like to add about your new role as the commander of the 445th AW?

A: It's an honor to be here and be a part of this team, to serve the Airmen in this capacity. As a team, we're going to continue to find ways to improve our processes and people. I want to make sure we are deliberate and purposeful with talent management and succession planning processes and programs to give people the opportunities to develop and grow – we've got to grow our future leaders.

Everybody from top to bottom has a path to that next bigger and better thing. Supervisors at all levels should be looking to who's going to replace you one day. When my successor comes, my goal will be to have left the wing in a better place. And that should always be the goal, right? At every level, strive to leave the organization in a better place than it was.

When I look at strategic depth from the wing level, we've got such diverse Airmen. You might be a doctor, a pilot, police officer, a nurse, an engineer, a business partner, you name it. Again, an immense amount of talent comes here. I want to make sure we're looking at all opportunities to leverage that talent and empower people at the lowest levels. I want our people to be valued and bring as much as they can to the wing even if outside of their Air Force career. Private sector companies or military organizations that don't continually try to innovate, improve processes and people and leverage all those talents become stagnant. There's a lot of things we can't control like a private company can because we're bound by all the government processes and rules, but we can certainly create the best environment we can for our people and organization and fight for the things we need and for what is in our direct control.

So, those are the things I'm thinking about. They've got to all go into making a super strong cohesive team, and everybody needs to be empowered at all levels. We need to have transparency across the field, and everybody needs to understand what they bring to our wing when it comes to the total fight. I think we can continue to foster and grow those things. The only path forward is to become better and stronger.

DFC from Page 1



(left) Tech. Sgt. Zachary Webb, 89th Airlift Squadron, accepts a Distinguished Flying Cross with combat device from Maj. Gen. D. Scott Durham, 4th Air Force commander. (right) Crew 1: Lt. Col. Dustin Johnson, aircraft commander; Capt. Logan Sisca, pilot; and Master. Sgt. Spencer Fisher, crew chief. Tech. Sgt. Zachary Webb, loadmaster, was also part of Crew 1. Not pictured: Capt. Jeffrey Anderson, pilot.



(left) Crew 2: Lt. Col. Andrew Pierce, pilot; Maj. Joshua Earl, aircraft commander; Maj. Jonathan Hall, pilot; Tech. Sgt. Bryant Fox, loadmaster; and Tech. Sgt. Cole Anglemeyer, crew chief. (right) Crew 3: 2nd Lt. Noah Benefiel (former technical sergeant), loadmaster; Tech. Sgt. Zachary Allen, loadmaster; and Tech. Sgt. Issac Graham Jr., crew chief. Not pictured: Capt. Cecilia Photinos, aircraft commander, and Maj. Jeremiah Brown, pilot.



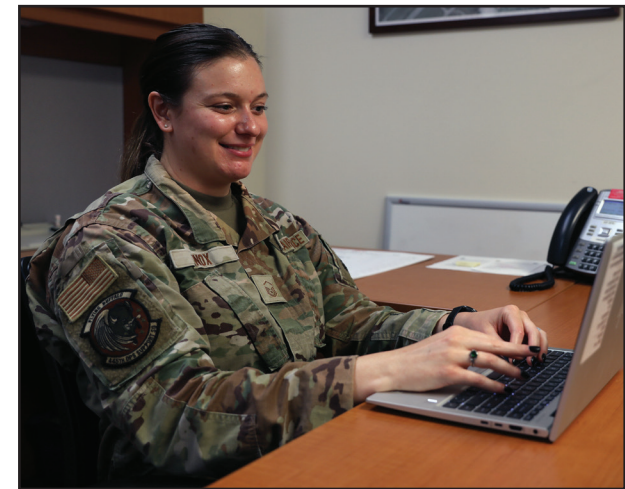
(left) Crew 4: Lt. Col. Jonathan Askins, aircraft commander; Lt. Col. Eric Florschuetz, pilot; Tech. Sgt. Justin Bateman, loadmaster; Tech. Sgt. Steven Flick II, loadmaster; and Tech. Sgt. Michael Kessinger, crew chief. (right) Master Sgt. Marjorie Butcher, 445th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, receives a Meritorious Service Medal from Maj. Gen. D. Scott Durham, 4th Air Force commander.



Photos by Senior Airman Angela Jackson



SPOTLIGHT



Rank/Name: Master Sgt. Holly Knox
Unit: 445th Operations Support Squadron

Duty Title: Aviation resource management craftsman

Hometown: Colorado Springs, Colorado

Civilian Job: 445th OSS operations technician (Air Reserve Technician)

Education: Bachelor of Science in Public Health from American Military University

Hobbies: I enjoy reading, gardening, running and going to the gym.
Career Goal: I plan on doing 20 years on the military side and

continuing to work in Current Operations as a civilian for as long as it suits me. I will also keep my eyes open for potential jobs within the public health field and potentially pursue a second career.

What do you like about working at the 445th? I love my job and the people I work with. It is a much-needed change of pace from what I did for the first nine years of my career.

Why did you join the Air Force? I never had any plans on going to college, and I did not want to continue living with my parents working small jobs. So, I sat down with a local recruiter and signed up. I left two weeks after graduation.

Around the wing ...



Tech. Sgt. Joel McCullough



Master Sgt. Patrick O'Reilly

(left) Shanna King, left, 445th Force Support Squadron Military and Family Readiness director, speaks to 445th Airlift Wing Airmen about available programs and services during the Annual 445th Wellness Fair at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, June 2, 2024. The wellness fair featured information provided by Veterans Affairs, Wounded Warriors, Military One Source, 4Paws for Ability, and 445th Airlift Wing and 88th Air Base Wing helping agencies.

(right) Senior Airman Reuben Hershberger, 445th Security Forces Squadron fire team member, demonstrates breaching a “shoot house” to gain entry during SF training at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, June 2, 2024. The training also included identifying and extracting prisoners of war, and keeping 360-degrees security on threats and targets. Additionally, the Airmen demonstrated key weapons systems and equipment.

News Briefs

Newcomers

Lt Col Melissa Seacat, AES
Capt Kandi Delee, ASTS
MSgt Nicole Camarata, MSG
SSgt Jared Day, AMDS
SSgt Edward Kearns, FSS
SSgt Cameron Walker, ASTS
SSgt Jonathon Wileman, AMXS
SSgt Barry West, CES
SrA Imisioluwa Ayoola-ladapo, 89 AS
SrA Tucker Brassfield, MXS
SrA Blake Bullion, AW
SrA Ethan Cass, AMXS
SrA Alexandra Gutierrez, MXS
SrA Robert Nevotti, ASTS
A1C Jessica Ababio, 87 APS
A1C Trenton Morrissey, AW
A1C Shafick Munoz, OSS

AB Zachary Ewald, AMXS
AB Mason Kimmel, 87 APS
AB Landen Krall, AES
AB Hudson Tabor, CES

Promotions

Senior Master Sergeant
Cody Smeltzer, AMDS

Master Sergeant
Michael Bell, AMDS
Sarah McAlister, LRS
Douglas Young, AW

Technical Sergeant
Brittany Petrakos, LRS
Jacob Price, MXS

Staff Sergeant
Eric Appiah, LRS
Serenity Ferreira, AES
Bronte Graham, FSS
Cicely McWhorter, 87 APS
Samantha Schinker, MXG
Kyle Walker, 87 APS

Senior Airman
Aaron Anderson, 87 APS
Brooks Dumke, AMXS
Nathan Ernst, AMXS
Salchuk Gafurov, AMXS
Colter Hess, MXS
Prejith Krishnankutty, CES
Aaron Petros, 87 APS
Jonathan Zimpfer, AMXS

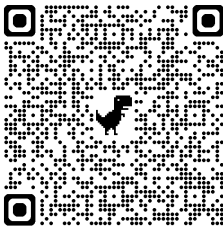
Airman First Class
Aiden Malanowski, CES

Airman
Ricardo White, AMDS

Employers Day

Employers Appreciation Day will be held Saturday, Nov. 2. Employer information must be provided to Public Affairs by Aug. 4.

Use the QR code in the following column for the fillable form:



Buckeye Flyer

445th Airlift Wing
Editorial Staff

Col. Douglas Perry Jr.
Commander

Lt. Col. Cynthia Harris
Chief, Public Affairs

Stacy Vaughn
Amanda Dick
Public Affairs Specialists

Patrick O'Reilly
Public Affairs Assistant

5439 McCormick Ave.
WPAFB, OH 45433-5132
Building 4010, Room 171
937-257-5784

445AW.PA2@us.af.mil

This funded Air Force Reserve newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services. Contents of the Buckeye Flyer are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by the U.S. Government, Department of the Air Force or Department of Defense. Editorial content is edited, prepared, and provided by the 445th Airlift Wing Office of Public Affairs. Photographs are U.S. Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated.

U.S. Government Printing Office
5-00001-445AW

Honor Flight from Page 3

said. “It was really powerful. There were Cub Scouts; big, burly bikers; just thousands of people shaking his hand and giving them little gifts. He never had that before.”

Rowe recognized his military service has garnered a vastly different reception from the community than his father’s tour of duty.

“For him to have an entire day that was just about him, and his service, and what he did, and then to cap that off with a gauntlet of people welcoming him home and thanking him, that was so special to witness, and something I think will always stay with him, and with me,” Rowe continued.

“For him to be able to experience that, and to be treated that way, it was so worth it,” Rowe said. “I would have done it a million times; I would have paid quadruple that; I would have taken days and days off work, just to give him that experience.”

Visit www.445aw.afrc.af.mil for the full story.



Courtesy Photo

Vietnam veteran Larry Rowe, father of Chief Master Sgt. Robert Rowe, 87th Aerial Port Squadron operations superintendent, visits the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, May 19, 2024.



4th Air Force commander visits 445th Airlift Wing

Maj. Gen. D. Scott Durham, 4th Air Force commander, visited the 445th Airlift Wing at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, June 1-2, 2024. In addition to presiding over the assumption of command, Durham and his wife Jennifer visited several units and functions of the wing to include medical, civil engineer, logistics readiness, aerial port, maintenance, military and family readiness, breakfasts with company grade officers and first sergeants, and more.



Master Sgt. Patrick O'Reilly



Tech. Sgt. Joel McCullough



Capt. Rachel Ingram



Senior Airman Angela Jackson



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

FIRST CLASS MAIL
POSTAGE & FEES PAID
USAF PERMIT NO. 1161

