

Port Dawgs collaborate for training at JB Charleston

*By Capt. Rachel Ingram
445th Airlift Wing Public Affairs*

The aerial port at Joint Base Charleston, South Carolina, proved to be fertile training ground for members of the 87th Aerial Port Squadron on their annual tour Aug. 3-17.

Airmen assigned to these squadrons are often referred to as Port Dawgs and are responsible for ensuring the safe and efficient movement of passengers and cargo on military airlift. They work across several sections of the port, including in a cargo processing warehouse, a passenger terminal, and out on the flightline, loading and offloading passengers and cargo from aircraft.

Over the course of two weeks at JB Charleston, 30 Port Dawgs supported missions ranging from hurricane evacuation to international humanitarian relief, and special operations to orientation flights.

"These are the types of things we do in a deployed setting," said Tech. Sgt. Danielle Pfarr, 87th APS ramp



Capt. Rachel Ingram

Port Dawgs from the 87th Aerial Port Squadron and the 437th APS load pallets of rations and relief supplies onto an MD-11 cargo plane at Joint Base Charleston, S.C., Aug. 14, 2024.

445th MXS conducts annual confined space rescue exercise

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



Tech. Sgt. Joel McCullough

Staff Sgt. Ryan Collier, left, and Senior Airman David Asterino, 445th Maintenance Squadron fuels systems specialists, remove a simulated unresponsive person from the aircraft underfloor maintenance tunnel of a C-17 Globemaster III during a training exercise at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, Sept. 15, 2024.

The 445th Maintenance Squadron participated in a confined space rescue exercise alongside the 88th Air Base Wing and 445th Airlift Wing safety personnel Sept. 15.

The training was part of the unit's annual requirement for organizational rescue team training.

"When you practice this stuff, you are building that muscle memory for when it actually happens," said Senior Airman David Asterino, 445th MXS fuels system specialist.

"It's just like anything else, when you get excited or elevated, you are going to fall down to your level of training," added Asterino, who also played the attendant for the exercise. "So, the more you practice; the better off you are."

After a brief conversation with the 445th Safety Office, the exercise scenario began with "Mr. Mannequin" being reported as unresponsive in an underfloor maintenance tunnel of a C-17 Globemaster III.

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Wing comes together for Family Day 2024

Citizen Airmen from the 445th Airlift Wing, families and friends enjoyed a day of food and fun at the wing's annual family day tailgate event at Bass Lake on Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, Sept. 14, 2024. Participants enjoyed corn hole, children's bouncy houses, dunk tank, flag football, face painting and other activities. A C-17 Globemaster III static display was available for tours and a DJ was on hand for entertainment. In addition, various helping agencies provided useful information to Airmen and their families. The base USO provided a kids zone for the event.



Tech. Sgt. Joel McCullough



Master Sgt. Patrick O'Reilly



Senior Airman Angela Jackson



Senior Airman Angela Jackson



Master Sgt. Patrick O'Reilly

Airmen, families enjoy Family Day



Tech. Sgt. Joel McCullough



Senior Airman Angela Jackson



Master Sgt. Patrick O'Reilly



Senior Airman Angela Jackson



Senior Airman Angela Jackson



Master Sgt. Patrick O'Reilly



Wing participates in Exercise Patriot Medic 2024



Photos by Staff Sgt. James Fritz

(left) Tech. Sgt. Trey Naber, 445th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron AE technician, prepares the oxygen line aboard a 445th Airlift Wing C-17 Globemaster III during Exercise Patriot Medic 2024 at Fort McCoy Army Airfield, Aug. 10, 2024. (right) A medical convoy consisting of U.S. Air Force, joint and allied medical personnel participating in Exercise Patriot Medic 2024 line up ambulances to a 445th Airlift Wing C-17 Globemaster III assigned to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base for patient loading and unloading at Fort McCoy Army Airfield, Wisconsin, Aug. 10, 2024. Patriot Medic leveraged specialized training opportunities and partnerships with other military branches and allies to develop combat-ready medics.

Around the wing ...



Master Sgt. Patrick O'Reilly



Staff Sgt. Johnathan Quinones

(left) Members of 445th Logistics Readiness Squadron and 445th Maintenance Squadron aerospace ground equipment secure six 150-pound halon fire extinguishers during pallet building training at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, Sept. 15, 2024. (right) Tech. Sgt. Andrew Rahke, a 445th Maintenance Squadron metals technology craftsman, welds an air conditioner bracket to support an active-duty unit at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, Sept. 15, 2024. Rahke, who has been welding for 18 years, said that even though the process seems easy, it takes a lot of hours of practice to become efficient and effective at welding.



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Capt. Rachel Ingram

Senior Airman Georzena Sumang, 87th Aerial Port Squadron cargo representative, spots a Tunner 60K Loader into place as part of a cargo loading operation at Joint Base Charleston, S.C., Aug. 15, 2024. Airmen from the 87th APS and 437th APS staged cargo on three loaders assembled as a bridge and elevator.

operations. “There can be a steep learning curve when deployed. Training like this flattens that curve.”

While their career field encompasses all the functions of the entire port, Port Dawgs are typically assigned to a specific duty section, rotating every few years. When deployed, they may be required to fill a different role, so it’s critical to maintain competence in the basics of each function.

In Charleston, the Airmen did just that – training across sections and adapting to real-world conditions to support the Air Force mission.

“You can really see the collaboration, how the pieces of the mission come together, and how the whole mission flows,” said Senior Airman Ben Ndiaye, 87th APS passenger services.

Between missions, the unit participated in specialty, multi-day training like joint inspection certification and in the operation of the Global Air Transportation Execution System. They also had the opportunity to train with equipment, like conveyor belts and staircase trucks, they don’t have access to during unit training assemblies but need to be proficient in.

During the annual tour, the squadron directly supported about 100 missions, transporting more than 305 tons of cargo and 77 passengers.

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The runner, played by Staff Sgt. Ryan Collier, 445th MXS fuels system specialist, then made a radio call to notify other shop personnel, procured the automated external defibrillator and assisted the attendant.

“When you are freaking out when something like this actually happens, you won’t have to second guess, ‘Who do I call?’,” explained Collier, who has been at the unit for eight years and has run the training before. “Like Asterino said, that muscle memory from training kicks in, and you can make it through safely.”

The attendant entered the confined space once relieved of his duties by the runner, donned a new respirator on the mannequin and began removing it from the space.

The hangar door was then opened by the entry supervisor, who was also in charge of guiding the fire department to the scene.

The MXS Airmen going through the training used the AED and CPR to revive the “victim” and put it in a recovery position. After “Mr. Mannequin” was revived, the exercise ended.

“We do all of our paperwork, every single time, every single day, so that nothing changes with our procedures,” Asterino said. “We have a good steady state so that when things happen our people know what to do.”



Tech. Sgt. Joel McCullough

Staff Sgt. Ryan Collier, left, and Senior Airman David Asterino, right, 445th Maintenance Squadron fuels systems specialists, administer CPR to a simulated unresponsive person during the unit’s organizational rescue team training exercise at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, Sept. 15, 2024.



SPOTLIGHT

Rank/Name: Staff Sgt. Joseph O'Bryan

Unit: 445th Civil Engineer Squadron

Duty Title: Craftsman Electrician

Hometown: Petersburg, Kentucky

Civilian Job: Seminarian for priesthood

Education: Currently pursuing a Master of Divinity Degree at Pontifical College Josephinum

Hobbies: Outdoor activities such as hiking, biking, fishing and archery. I also drum.

Career Goal: To become a Catholic Priest

What do you like about working at the 445th?

The people here at the 445th are very authentic and I can relate to them. Many of the people in my shop are just good friends. I know that they have my back and I have theirs; its like a brotherhood. The 445th also gave me the opportunity to deploy along with multiple temporary duty assignments. I gained a significant amount of job experience and developed great relationships with others.



Master Sgt. Patrick O'Reilly

Why did you join the Air Force? I first joined the Air Force because I simply wanted to better myself, and also for educational benefits. The Air Force was highly recommended to me through multiple people I know who joined and said the Air Force was by far the best branch out there. After six years in the Air Force Reserve, I realized I've embraced the core values over time: integrity first, service before self and excellence in all we do.

Halloween events can decrease fear, anxiety

By Vera Ensalaco

445th Airlift Wing Director of Psychological Health

In tandem with Halloween, October is also depression awareness month. The two are somewhat connected in ways of dealing with fears, feelings and moods. This time of year can give us permission to openly express and address feelings and concerns regarding fears in a usually playful manner.

Traditional Halloween costumes allow people to play act other identities, often humorous, satirical, spooky or risqué. Often, these play upon our fears and allow us to explore and vent them appropriately. These effects allow social norms to be stretched within limits and through entertainment.

There is neurobiological evidence and research to note that specific phobias can improve after extinction of the fear sensitization pathway that triggers our evolutionary fight-or-flight response systems. By allowing ourselves to experience exaggerated images of these phobia-triggering phenomena, we may all be participating in a form of mass fear extinction. In other

words, we are working it out with a sort of pseudo-play therapy.

This is not to minimize the genuine impact of phobias, traumas or fears. It is realistic to set limits. For example, I enjoy a good mystery or psychological thriller though do not care for the extreme violence, degradation or graphic horror. No amount of exposure would likely change my mind.

We each have our own personal tastes and preferences. To desensitize to the point of emotional numbing can be counterproductive to facing our traumas and fears as well.

Halloween is during the fall of the year and activities associated with itwww last for a short period of time. Regardless of personal beliefs, and taken in the right context, it can be a relatively safe and fun outlet for people to experience a release, to connect with others, and to share our common vulnerabilities of being human.



News Briefs

Promotions

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Senior Master Sergeant
Michael Young, 87 APS

Master Sergeant
Brandon Davis, MSG
Aaliyah Lovett, AES
Thomas Penner, AW

Technical Sergeant
Paula Dennis, AW
Michael Sabala, LRS
Jeanette Salgado, ASTS

Staff Sergeant
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Armondo Montes-Hernandez, MXG

Craig Wildermuth, LRS
Devonte Wright, AMXS

Senior Airman
Kayla Carter, ASTS
Mikayla Murphy, AES

Airman First Class
Bethany Degraw, ASTS

Airman
Mason Kimmel, 87 APS
Seth Staiger, MSG

Newcomers

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TSgt Benjamin Haase, CES
TSgt Romario Martin, LRS
TSgt Kyle Pearson, MXS
SSgt Anesu Banda, LRS

SSgt William Bloodworth, FSS

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A1C Dawn Adams, CES

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A1C Princess Uzoagba, FSS

AB Francisco Garcia-Arellano, 87 APS

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Perry holds first wing commander's call



Photos by Senior Airman Angela Jackson

(left) Col. Douglas A. Perry Jr., 445th Airlift Wing commander, talks to Airmen during his first wing commander's call at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, Sept. 14, 2024. During the call, Perry discussed the importance of understanding the wing's mission, stressed personal readiness and explained wing expectations for the future fight. (right) Members of the 445th Airlift Wing attend commander's call, Sept. 14, 2024 during the unit training assembly.



SFS wins 2024 Command Chief's Challenge



Airmen with the 445th Airlift Wing participated in the wing's first Command Chief's Challenge, Sept. 14, 2024. The challenge is an esprit de corps event showcasing the physical resiliency and capabilities of 445th AW Airmen. Two-member teams from 11 squadrons participated in the Triple C. Teams completed a 1.2 mile ruck march with a 40 pound pack, performed buddy carries, bear crawls, burpees, heavy objects carry, cold water submersion, and a 1/2 mile run. Participants were also assessed on their knowledge of the wing, the Air Force and the National Defense Strategy. The winning team received the Command Chief's Trophy.

1. Maj. Robert Cost II, 445th AW director, Inspector General inspections, and Master Sgt. Stephanie Koth, IGI inspector, participate in the litter carry.

2. Chief Master Sgt. Gordon M.R. Wager, center, 445th AW command chief, presents Senior Airmen Austin Dilday, left, and Senior Airman Garrett Mize, 445th Security Forces Squadron fire team members, with the Command Chief Challenge award.

3. Tech. Sgt. Melvin Castro, 445th Aerospace Medicine Squadron aerospace medicine technician, participates in a cold water submersion.



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Joel McCullough



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