

## 445th mass casualty exercise stress tests AES

*By Senior Airman Angela Jackson  
445th Airlift Wing Public Affairs*

Members of the 445th Aeromedical Staging, Aerospace Medicine and Aeromedical Evacuation Squadrons participated in a mass casualty exercise Aug. 3.

The objective of the training was to stress test the AE crews to receive an excess of wounded warriors in a short period of time and to identify deficiencies.

"We were asked by the AE commander, Lt. Col. Melissa Seacat, to provide more realistic training scenarios for them for future combat," said Senior Master Sgt. Joseph Valenzuela, 445th Aeromedical Staging Squadron nursing services superintendent. "We're being told to expect increased casualties [for this exercise] unlike anything we've ever seen before. We're not going to be preparing ourselves or other squadrons in the wing if we don't partner to do simulations like this."

Approximately 40 personnel from ASTS and AMDS assembled to become medical exercise players. The MEPs got into moulage, or simulation of illness or injury, by using makeup techniques and acting. Moulage uses tactile cues to promote learner engagement through a more real-world experience.

As the C-17 lifted off with the AE crew inside, they had no idea of the mass casualty scenario that was unfolding on the flightline.

"We had no idea what to expect. All we knew was our plane was turning around due to a report of an

'active shooter' on the base," said Senior Airman Andrea Plaughter, 445th AES aerospace medical journeyman. "We didn't know how many injuries there were, or if ASTS was even coming to help. It was stressful having no clue what was in store."

As the AE crew landed and departed the plane,

they were inundated with MEPs from the ASTS and AMDS helping to provide a realistic training scenario to challenge the AE crew's performance.

"Initially, when I saw how many people were on the flightline it felt like a daunting situation," Plaughter said. "I've been on a lot of flights, and this felt much more real. But, as we started to assess the situation and work together, I think the crew responded to the scenario well."

Valenzuela agreed the training was successful.

"I think that despite it being a little unorganized and chaotic initially, I think everybody did well on the ground teams," Valenzuela said. "There's no way we can train and plan for every real-life scenario. The key to success in these exercises is being able to take what you know, use it efficiently under pressure and have flexibility. I think everybody had a positive attitude and came together to make it happen. We're going to continue to do more events like this in the future."



Master Sgt. Patrick O'Reilly

**A C-17 Globemaster III is loaded with mock patients during a multi-unit mass casualty exercise at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, Aug. 3, 2024. The exercise included members of the 445th Aeromedical Staging, Aerospace Medicine and Aeromedical Evacuation Squadrons.**

MASCAL from Page 1



Photos by Senior Airman Angela Jackson

(left) Senior Airman Andrea Plaughter, 445th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron medical technician, triages mock patients prior to loading them onto a C-17 Globemaster III during a multi-unit mass casualty exercise at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, Aug. 3, 2024. The exercise included members of the 445th Aeromedical Staging Squadron, Aerospace Medicine Squadron and AES. (right) Members of the 445th Aeromedical Staging Squadron, carry a litter to a staging site during a mass casualty exercise at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, Aug. 3, 2024.

## September is Suicide Awareness Month

By Vera Ensalaco  
445th Airlift Wing Director of Psychological Health

During the month of September, we focus on suicide awareness as it is designated Suicide Awareness Month. The Department of the Air Force is committed to providing valuable information on its website to raise awareness and offer support.

While we have annual mandated training, we need to foster an environment throughout each day to support one another.

Take a moment each day to connect with others, as even a small interaction can make a significant difference to someone feeling hopeless or lonely. Show genuine care and empathy, as special training is not necessary to express concern. Ask how someone is doing and truly listen to their words and emotions.

Create an environment that encourages seeking help, ensuring everyone knows there is no shame in reaching out. Be aware that seeking and receiving help is protected by law against discrimination.

Instead of just noting signs of suicidal risk, such as hopelessness, anxiety or self-destructive behavior, aim for ACE: ask, care, and escort individuals to the help they need. Keep company with them until you can get that person to someone who can assist, such as someone from a helping agency, chaplain, mental health, supervisor or trusted colleague.

If you or someone you know would like to talk with someone, please reach out for help. Dial 988, then press 1 for a veteran manning the line to get the crisis line. You do not have to be in crisis to call a hotline number. Those manning the phones can assist if you have questions.

Other numbers and their websites you or someone can reach out to are listed below:

- Department of Defense Safe Helpline: 877-995-5247 or [www.Safehelpline.org](http://www.Safehelpline.org)
- Domestic/Dating Violence Hotline: 877-785-2020 or [www.acf.hhs.gov/fysb/programs/family-violence-prevention-services/programs/ndvh](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/fysb/programs/family-violence-prevention-services/programs/ndvh)
- Military One Source: 800-342-9647 or [www.militaryonesource.mil](http://www.militaryonesource.mil)
- Military Family Life Consultants: 937-972-1054 or 937-203-6461, 7:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Monday through Friday
- EAP: 1-866-580-9078
- Samaritan Crisis Care (local Dayton area): 24/7 at 937-224-4646
- SARC Office: 937-257-7272
- Suicide Prevention Program: [www.resilience.af.mil/suicide-prevention-program](http://www.resilience.af.mil/suicide-prevention-program)





## 89th AS loadmasters conduct fueling operations training

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

The 89th Airlift Squadron conducted both classroom and flightline specialized fueling operations training for the C-17 Globemaster III during the August unit training assembly Aug. 3.

The aircrew members were instructed and evaluated on checklists for pre-, hot-, wet-wing- and post-refueling, as well as bulk fuel delivery systems.

Typically conducted by fuels specialists, SFO is used when aircrew members transfer fuel from an aircraft to another expeditionary fuel bladder, fuel truck or fighter aircraft.

The process also includes the transfer of fuel from a non-aircraft source into an aircraft having one or more engines running. These types of fueling or defueling are used in emergency and combat situations.

After covering procedures, hazards and checklists in the classroom, pilots and loadmasters travelled out to the flightline where a C-17 was parked in a specific and approved fueling location.

There the Airmen were cycled through wet-wing and hot-fueling procedures, which included rigorously following checklists.

“Normally, when we do a defuel, all the engines are turned off,” said Tech. Sgt. David Fink, 89th AS loadmaster. “[SFO training] is a process designed to make



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Joel McCullough

**Tech. Sgt. David Fink, 89th Airlift Squadron loadmaster, hooks up a fuel hose to a C-17 Globemaster III during specialized fueling operations at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, Aug. 3, 2024. SFO training includes hot refueling, wet-wing defueling, and bulk fuel delivery systems, all which Airmen are evaluated on utilizing proper checklists.**

this as quick as possible. We can do that by keeping half of the engines on and pumping gas out.”

Fink added that this allows the aircrew and whoever needs the fuel to get in and out of somewhere fast.

Master Sgt. Kelly Earehart, an 89th AS loadmaster and the loadmaster evaluator, said the training is an annual requirement for aircrew members.

“It’s not particularly cosmic training; it’s just fueling,” Earehart said. “But it is something, especially with future conflicts arising, that will start to become more prevalent.”

Earehart gave the example that if fighter jets were in an isolated location, like an island, the C-17 with its ability to carry 28,000 gallons of fuel, would allow the aircrew to land, refuel the fighters without completely shutting down engines, and still have fuel enough to return to their destination.

He said that through wet-wing operations, aircrews reduce reliance on standard fuel storage distribution points, enabling other aircraft to disperse and operate from more locations.

The training is an annual requirement with the goal to ensure the aircrews are trained, certified and confident to safely execute SFO procedures in any operation, Earehart added.



**Tech. Sgt. Jay Benedict, 89th Airlift Squadron loadmaster, is trained and evaluated on connecting a fuel hose to a C-17 Globemaster III by Master Sgt. Kelly Earehart, 89th AS loadmaster, during wet-wing refueling at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, Aug. 3, 2024. Wet wing refueling was conducted as part of the unit’s specialized fueling operations, an annual requirement for aircrew.**





# Around the wing ...



Senior Airman Angela Jackson



Master Sgt. Patrick O'Reilly

(left) Reservists Master Sgt. Matthew Keechle, left, 87th Aerial Port Squadron passenger services supervisor, and Airman Mason Kimmel, right, 87th APS cargo specialist, participate in the Port Dawg Memorial Run at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, Aug. 3, 2024. Approximately 100 Airmen ran in memory of APS members across the Air Force who lost their lives in 2023. (right) Capt. Alexandra Cunningham, 445th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron flight nurse, briefs potential recruits on the AES mission and career fields during a C-17 Globemaster III tour at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio. The potential flight doctors and flight nurses also received information on the benefits of being a Reservist as part of the 445th Airlift Wing's Health Professions Recruiting event, Aug. 4, 2024.



Senior Airman Angela Jackson



Master Sgt. Patrick O'Reilly

(left) Staff Sgt. Ramello Rhodes, 445th Aeromedical Staging Squadron unit training manager, throws a kickball during the ASTS Olympic games at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, Aug. 3, 2024. ASTS organized the games as a morale event and to commemorate the 2024 Summer Olympics that took place in Paris. (right) Col. Edward Hale, 445th Maintenance Group commander, passes the guidon to the incoming 445th Maintenance Squadron commander, Maj. Joshua Coffman, during the 445th MXS change of command ceremony at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, Aug. 4, 2024. Coffman assumed command from Lt. Col. Bjorn Langefeld.





# Wing announces 2nd Quarter CY 2024 award winners

## CGO



**Capt. Joel Russo**, 445th Logistics Readiness Squadron material management flight commander, is the 445th Airlift Wing Company Grade Officer of the Quarter. Russo led a nine-member team on his annual tour to Eglin Air Force Base, Florida, where his team powered \$500,000 in parts movement and distribution of 1.6 million gallons of fuel, enabling completion of 945 F-35 Lightning II and F-15 Eagle training sorties. He directed three multi-capable Airmen training events with the 87th Aerial Port Squadron, 445th Operations Group and 445th Aircraft Maintenance and Maintenance Squadrons, training 30 Airmen across six career fields, driving the completion of 67 cut training tasks in compliance with Task Order 2023-1. Russo initiated a Ready Airmen training event and led classes for 85 members. He connected an Airman struggling with post-traumatic stress disorder to a non-profit specializing in PTSD treatment. Russo organized an Eglin AFB Fisher House event where he led eight volunteers in their largest annual fund-raising event, serving 10,000 people, raising over \$35,000 for families.

## SNCO



**Senior Master Sgt. Joseph Valenzuela**, 445th Aeromedical Staging Squadron nursing services superintendent, is the 445th Airlift Wing Senior NCO of the Quarter. He filled a senior enlisted leader position, overseeing 145 members in eight career fields and was dual duty as superintendent. He provided strategic guidance and was integral in the deployment of three Critical Care Air Transport members. He leveraged his medical expertise and led four Airmen in 80 hours of training at MercyHealth Hospital. He coordinated with civilian staff to support the care of 120 patients posturing 216 readiness sustainment hours. Valenzuela led planning for a two-day mass casualty exercise and synchronized a joint training platform for three squadrons with \$135,000 in assets. As a Civil Air Patrol senior member, Valenzuela devoted more than 20 hours toward mentorship of 30 youth cadets on aerospace and innovation, instilling cohesion to help grow future Air Force leaders. He received his general aviation commercial pilots license where he amassed more than 300 flight hours with single/multi-engine aircraft.

## NCO



**Tech. Sgt. Marissa Lawson**, 445th Force Support Squadron education and training craftsman, is the 445th Airlift Wing NCO of the Quarter. Lawson conducted 152 education counselings, initiated 63 Community College of the Air Force action requests and approved more than 20 tuition assistance requests, facilitating the allocation of more than \$16,130. She resolved a backlog, providing dual wing support amidst a shortage of full-time staff. She accomplished more than 180 personnel actions, encompassing upgrades, supporting over 34 unit training managers, using effective time management techniques. Lawson handled more than 20 Foreign Language Proficiency bonuses using precise documentation, she resolved missing payments through multi office coordination, resulting in members receiving over \$6,000, averting potential financial hardships. Lawson completed 12 credit hours with a 4.0 GPA while pursuing an advanced nursing degree. She fulfilled honor guard responsibilities for three retirement ceremonies, devoting over eight hours of her time, ensuring each event was carried out.

## AMN



**Senior Airman Ashli Morris**, 87th Aerial Port Squadron passenger services representative, is the 445th Airlift Wing Airman of the Quarter. While backfilling a senior master sergeant position, Morris was appointed the Self-Assessment Program Manager for her squadron. Within 30 days, she learned to utilize the Management Internal Control Tool to record the unit's health under the Air Force Inspection System, managing 61 checklists totaling 204 items. She collaborated with squadron leadership to update and streamline the processing of material handling equipment trainers. Her efforts added an additional six members qualified, closing the gap for visibility, fulfilling voids in reporting on unit type code packages and increasing deployment readiness for the upcoming mobilization order. The Senior Airman is a member of the St. Elizabeth Healthcare Neonatal Intensive Care Unit Education Committee and is responsible for developing and implementing disaster evacuation training for all nursing staff in her region. She holds the secretary position on the 87th APS Rising 6 Executive Council.



# SPOTLIGHT

**Rank/Name:** Senior Airman Allie Grady

**Unit:** 445th Aerospace Medicine Squadron

**Duty Title:** Medical logistics technician

**Hometown:** Beavercreek, Ohio

**Civilian Job:** Stay at home mom of three

**Education:** Associate degree in dental assistance from Miami Jacobs Career College



**Hobbies:** Reading and taking my kids on adventures

**Career Goal:** Become the NCO

in charge of my additional duties and raise smart and kind children.

**What do you like about working at the 445th?** What I like about the 445th are the people. I have made some core friendships that will last past my time in the military.

**Why did you join the Air Force?** I joined the Air Force at the suggestion of my parents. I was lost and stumbling in what to do with my future after high school and they thought it would give me some structure back. I have no regrets.

## 445th AMXS Airmen keep the C-17 Globemaster III flying



Master Sgt. Patrick O'Reilly



Tech. Sgt. Joel McCullough

1) (from left to right) Tech. Sgt. Sean Steele, Senior Airman Paul Watkins and Tech. Sgt. Chris Lewis, 445th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron electrical and environmental technicians, remove a heat exchanger from a C-17 Globemaster III at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, Aug. 3, 2024. Heat exchangers are used in both cooling and heating processes in the aircraft.

2) (from left to right) Senior Airmen Jordan Terry and Jonathan Zimpfer, 445th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron crew chiefs, work on a broken variable restraint assembly on a C-17 Globemaster III at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, Aug. 3, 2024. Broken aircraft items like this one are not only repaired by the Airmen but also used as a training tool for new crew chiefs in the unit.





# News Briefs

## Promotions

### Senior Master Sergeant

La Sal Austin 87 APS  
Corwin Pope, ASTS

### Master Sergeant

Anna Delacruz, AMDS  
Shikima Gainey, AES  
Michael Kessinger, AMXS  
Jordan Reed, MXG  
Andrew Rossman, CES  
Daniel Williams, ASTS

### Technical Sergeant

Alexis Hymer, AES  
Heather Lalau, ASTS  
Dennis Robbins, CES  
Daryn Weatherspoon, SFS  
Jonathon Wileman, AMXS

### Staff Sergeant

Troy Bassant, AMXS  
Douglas Townsell, FSS  
Austin Willoughby, LRS

### Senior Airman

Michael Blythe, SFS  
Boris Nyambo, CES

### Airman First Class

Jimmie Darbonne, FSS

## Newcomers

2 Lt Stephen Bruce, ASTS  
TSgt Andrew Blumenstock, MXG  
TSgt Darin Fandrey, ASTS  
SSgt Jay Campbell, 87 APS  
SSgt Zachary Combs, FSS  
SSgt Rahching Switzer, ASTS  
SrA Jamie Bhe, ASTS  
SrA Jesse Holloway, FSS  
SrA Ashley Parker, SFS  
SrA Bryan Rivas, MXS  
A1C Aidan Farmer, MXG  
A1C Irvin Flores, AW  
A1C Gaston Keumo Dongmo, CES  
A1C William Kingsolver, LRS  
A1C Adedamola Ojo, AMXS  
AB Seth Staiger, MSG

## 445th App

The 445th App has functions that include more than the UTA schedule, checklists and wing news. It also has a small-group communication tool similar to What's App.

Groups, squadrons, flights, etc. can use the app to communicate with members in their units about unclassified information.

Additionally, Public Affairs will be using the Notifications and Announcement functions to pass on information to Airmen in between unit training assemblies, so you can stay up to date with what's going on at the wing.

Visit [www.445aw.afrc.af.mil/About-Us/445AW-App/](http://www.445aw.afrc.af.mil/About-Us/445AW-App/) to download the app. If you are interested in the

groups function, please reach out to the 445th PA Office at 937-257-5784.

## 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



# 2024 Family Day

Saturday, Sept. 14, 12-3p.m.  
Location: Bass Lake

- Football
- Tug of war
- Volleyball
- Cornhole
- Kid's zone/bounce houses
- Face Painting
- Video game station
- Inflatable jailbreak
- C-17 static display (bus transportation provided)

\*Bring picnic blankets and lawn chairs

\*Squadron tailgate: Each unit will provide food for its members.

\*Limited parking! Bus transportation to/from event location: 11 a.m. - 3:45 p.m.



## Updates to 445th Airlift Wing website

445th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Did you know you can find many resources for the wing on the 445th Airlift Wing website?

Looking for key phone numbers? Check out our website. Need to book a CAC/ID card appointment? Check out our website.

Much of what you might be looking for can be found directly from our home page – [www.445aw.afrc.af.mil](http://www.445aw.afrc.af.mil).

In addition to the above, you can find:

- Direct access to our Factsheets, Frequently Asked Questions, current and past issues of the Buckeye Flyer to include a preview of the current issue, our new C-17 tour page, the current UTA schedule, our new 445th Connect app, our biographies page and more.
- Direct access to our updated Chaplain Corps and Recruiting pages
- Direct access to the Hometown news Release Form

Each group now has its own page with the squadrons that fall under it. You can access the Units page via the Units link at the top of the page or in the left-hand navigation when you click on the three lines.

In addition, new Public Affairs pages were created, including a landing page that links to several PA mission sets. The pages include Photo Studio information, current/past issues of the Buckeye Flyer (to include a preview of the current issue), Press information,



Amanda Dick

Tour Program information and request form, and Flyover/Static & Speaker Request information and forms.

You can access the PA sites via the rotating graphics module on the Home Page, via the Units page under the 445th Airlift Wing Staff Agencies & Medical Squadrons card, or via the left-hand navigation under Units then 445th WSA-Medical.

Overall, the following is what you

will find in the left-hand navigation and have access to on our public website:

- Home page
- News page (can be clicked on once fully opened): includes Photos and Art pages
- About Us page (can be clicked on once fully opened): includes Biographies, 445AW App, WPAFB Space A, Fact Sheets, Questions and UTA Schedule pages
- Units page (can be clicked on once fully opened): includes 445th WSA-Medical (can be clicked on once fully opened – click for 445th PA pages), 445th MSG, 445th MXG, 445th OG, 445AW Recruiters, 445th Force Support Squadron, Honor Guard, Chaplains, Contact Us and Careers pages
- Sexual Misconduct Disciplinary Actions page

So, give our website a look and see what information we have that you might be looking for.



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

