

445th MXS completes annual tour at Yokota Air Base

By Staff Sgt. Johnathan Quinones
445th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Located about 28 miles northwest of Tokyo, Yokota Air Base, Japan, served as the off-site annual tour location for the 445th Maintenance Squadron from April 6-18.

This year's AT was comprised of 10 sections within MXS: fuels, munitions, aerospace ground equipment, airframe power-plant general, instrument flight control systems, aerospace propulsion, electrical and environmental, sheet metal, metals technology, and command support staff.

A large part of annual tour is to build stronger relationships, not only between installations, but amongst each other, to remain actively involved in all aspects of the 445th Airlift Wing's mission for rapid global mobility and airlift operations across Air Force Reserve Command.

Many factors come into play when annual tour is off station, requiring proactive thinking and attention to detail.

According to Senior Master Sgt. Keric Johnson, 445th MXS assistant superintendent team chief, there are many steps in the coordination process. First, leadership must approve the training.

Then, they coordinate with the base where they want to conduct training to ensure they can support before sending the request to AFRC and the A4 Logistics Directorate to deconflict schedules.



Staff Sgt. Johnathan Quinones

Senior Airman Marcus Simones, left, 445th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron aerospace maintenance technician, and Master Sgt. John McDermott, 445th MXS jet mechanic, use a tire jack on nose landing gear to replace tires on a C-17 Globemaster III at Yokota Air Base, Japan, April 14, 2025. Air Force maintainers replace tires on transient aircraft to ensure safe and successful mission execution.

Additionally, other factors are looked at like the weather and time of year for the training.

Johnson said they also determine the availability of lodging and cost effectiveness for the trip before submitting a movement request to the 445th Logistics Readiness Squadron to travel via military air transport.

"Once all that is coordinated, we have members sign up on a trip list," Johnson added. "We try to be as fair as possible when picking members. Experience, Air Force Specialty Codes and skill levels are all considered."

The 445th MXS flightline personnel performed launch and recovery operations on multiple airframe

types, assisted with a C-5 Galaxy tire change and nitrogen servicing and completed multiple C-17 Globemaster III pre-and-post-flight inspections, resulting in necessary tire changes.

"Our members showcased the Air Force's new concept of Mission-Ready Airmen," Johnson said. "They assisted with maintenance on multiple airframes [C-17, C-5 and the CV-22 Osprey]."

Munitions accomplished 14 task completions toward skill-level upgrade training, and identified five potential quality and assurance writeups prior to being corrected in real time. They also performed a line delivery of 50 caliber and mark-25 ammunition for CV-22

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87th APS wins Reserve Command logistics readiness award

By Amanda Dick
445th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

The 87th Aerial Port Squadron recently won the Air Reserve Component Terminal of the Year Category II award as part of the Air Force Reserve Command Logistics Readiness Unit awards for Fiscal Year 2024.

As part of the submitted package, the squadron, which consists of around 160 members to include two full-time Air Reserve Technicians and part-time traditional Reservists, was judged based on three categories: direct mission support, innovative management and quality of life programs.

The unit awards recognize squadrons, depot units and other AFRC organizations that excelled in performance and made outstanding contributions to the Air Force and/or Department of Defense logistics readiness mission.

"We have a phenomenal team at the 87th APS," said Maj. Michael Harrison, 87th APS commander. "We have an established tradition of high performance with a close-knit team. We wanted to ensure the work our people are doing and the culture we maintain had a chance to be seen and recognized at a higher level."

During FY24, members of the unit deployed in support of Operations Inherent Resolve and Spartan Shield, executing around 1,500 air mission and moving 13,000 tons of cargo which earned them a 380th Air Expeditionary Wing Team of the Quarter award.

"I'm particularly proud of two accomplishments," said Capt. Anthony Busellato, 87th APS operations officer. "First, our team's response during Operation Swords of Iron ... demonstrated our readiness and ability to execute under pressure and contribute to critical global events."

Operation Swords of Iron included a 72-hour Secretary of Defense-driven deployment that was the first C-17 force element mobilization and enabled the swift deployment of approximately 140 members and 126 tons of cargo.

"Secondly, I am incredibly proud of our work supporting the Big Safari program," Busellato continued. "It is a U.S. Air Force program that began in 1952 and



Master Sgt. Patrick O'Reilly

Senior Airman Natalia Laziuk, 87th Aerial Port Squadron cargo representative, secures cargo during the squadron's semi-annual Port Dawg Challenge at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, May 3, 2025. The PDC is an opportunity for Airmen to demonstrate aircraft loading operations skills.

provides management, direction and control of the acquisition, modification and logistics support for special-purpose weapons systems derived from existing aircraft and systems."

The operations officer said joint inspections of 37 tons of U.S. command and control and munitions assets with a value of \$6.6 million were conducted, delivering "critical air defense capabilities."

"This involved meticulous planning, coordination and execution to ensure the safe and timely movement of sensitive assets, thereby directly contributing to the nation's defense under duress," he explained. "These accomplishments make me proud because they highlight our team's dedication, expertise and ability to deliver critical support when and where it's needed most."

Additionally, the squadron was involved with the Pentagon's FrankenSAM program that repurposed air defense weapons from a variety of global parts.

"The squadron's coordinated airlift support for this program stands out as a prime example of our capabilities," Busellato said. "Transporting \$3.5 million

in critical U.S. command and control assets through 48 airlift missions and delivering related equipment showcased our ability to rapidly and reliably deploy vital resources in support of national security objectives and our commitment to assisting our allies. This directly reflects our core mission of providing agile and responsive global mobility."

The 87th APS couldn't have achieved this award without the cohesion of a unit built on heritage.

"Our squadron has focused on teambuilding and team morale for the last year to ensure we continue the legacy of the 87th that has been around for quite some time," said Tech. Sgt. Kelly Sloan, 87th APS cargo processing/special handling supervisor. "That emphasis has come from leadership but isn't implemented

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Wing announces 1st Quarter CY 2025 award winners



Capt. Carrie Stachura, 445th Logistics Readiness Squadron fuels and ground transportation flight commander, is the 445th Airlift Wing Company Grade Officer of the Quarter. Stachura spearheaded deployment operations for the 315th LRS during exercise Nexus Forge, coordinating the processing of over 100 passengers across 20 wings and enhancing the Air Reserve Component's ability to project airpower rapidly in the Pacific. Stachura enabled efficient processing of 194 members and 33 increments during austere conditions, passing the Air Mobility Command Inspector General inspection and enhancing wing mission readiness during Palmetto Challenge 25. Stachura volunteered 15 hours at the Joint Base Charleston Airman's Attic. The captain completed 16 credit hours of Air Force Institute of Technology courses in logistics, data analytics and budgeting, gaining expertise to enhance training and resource allocation for her Airmen.



Senior Master Sgt. David Smart, 445th Airlift Wing Inspector General, is the 445th Airlift Wing Senior NCO of the Quarter. Smart was coined by the Air Force Reserve inspector general as a "Superior Performer" for managing the project officer role for the 445th Airlift Wing 2025 Unit Effectiveness Inspection capstone event. He expertly projected a four-year calendar, aligning with the UEL cycle, to detail all inspection requirements, annual document reviews and integrate exercise requirements in conjunction with the host installation's Commander's Inspection Program schedule. Smart analyzed data from the Risk-Based Sampling Strategy, 514 Management Internal Control Toolset self-assessment communicators, 152 IG Evaluation Management System deficiencies, and AFRC continuous evaluations to produce four Commander's Inspection Management Board briefs for 16 commanders.



Tech. Sgt. Wendy Glover, 445th Logistics Readiness Squadron logistics planner, is the 445th Airlift Wing NCO of the Quarter. Glover accelerated the transport of over 1,400 tons of humanitarian aid to Syria and Gaza, providing life-saving relief to two million people and playing a pivotal role in her team's award of the Humanitarian Service Medal. She validated 24 C-17 Globemaster III requirements. Glover optimized 145 intra-theater airlift requirements across 16 Component Campaigns and nine U.S. Central Command exercises. Glover volunteered 25 hours at the Al Udeid Air Base post office where she sorted and delivered over 3,600 parcels of mail, resulting in the timely delivery of supplies and wellness items while boosting member's morale across the base. The NCO devoted 12 hours at the United Service Organizations at Al Udeid Air Base, coordinating four events that boosted the morale of 65 deployed Airmen, enhancing their well-being and resilience while deployed.



Senior Airman Daniel Gallagher, 89th Airlift Squadron aircraft loadmaster, is the 445th Airlift Wing Airman of the Quarter. Gallagher led the safe airlift of 28 expeditionary personnel, eight pallets and seven rolling stock totaling 81.6 short tons of cargo in support of exercise Nexus Forge. On a mission, a damaged aircraft resulted in his insight into cargo plans, and future missions were vital in the investigation with the 445th Airlift Wing and Boeing crisis management teams inspecting safety of flight. Gallagher supported multiple missions transporting various amounts of large military supplies to multiple U.S. European Command bases. The Airman earned a 3.8 GPA for the semester at The Ohio State University toward a bachelor's degree in air transportation. Gallagher ran the squadron operations office on multiple weekends where he was responsible for the delivery and retrieval of aircrews supporting worldwide operations.



SPOTLIGHT

Rank/Name: Staff Sgt. Ian Kimmel

Unit: 445th Maintenance Squadron fabrication flight

Duty Title: Aircraft structural maintenance craftsman

Hometown: Tillamook, Oregon

Civilian Job: Full-time Active Guard Reserve member in the fabrication flight

Education: Currently enrolled at Arizona State University for a Bachelor of Science in Design in architectural studies

Hobbies: Motorcycles, snowboarding, hiking and traveling

Career Goal: My military goal



is continuing my Air Force career, either rising in the ranks as an enlisted member or possibly commissioning as a maintenance officer. My personal goal is finishing my bachelor's and master's

degree in architecture with the aspirations of managing my own architecture firm.

What do you like about working at the 445th? I like the camaraderie here at the 445th. Everyone looks out for one another and has each other's back. The friendships I've made here will last a lifetime.

Why did you join the Air Force? Both my grandfathers served in the U.S. Air Force when they were younger, as well as my two brothers Mason and Micheal who serve in the U.S. Army. I've always looked up to the people in my family who have served, especially my brothers. I joined to follow in their footsteps and make them proud.

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mission support and assisted with inspections for security forces small arms due to worldwide restrictions on current issued munitions.

The CSS worked with civilian staff to enhance Yokota's 730th Air Mobility Squadron Military Personnel Data System and salesforce knowledge, and learned new processes applicable for deployments and three in-and out-processing methods.

"Even though the work experience is what brings us to new places, the best part is getting to know our own people who we don't get the chance to spend



Capt. Rachel Ingram

Senior Airman Lucas Lefevre, 305th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, right, works with Airmen from the 445th MXS to connect an air hose to the C-17 Globemaster III in preparation for departure from Yokota Air Base, Japan, April 15, 2025.

much time with back home," said Capt. Amy Ray, 445th MXS officer in charge.

Annual tours are an opportunity for MXS Airmen to broaden their skills and experiences within the Air Force and in their career field in a way that can be difficult to obtain during the typical unit training assemblies.

"Not only are there opportunities to see different processes in work that we can apply back home, but we can act as a fresh perspective for the units we visit and share our own best practices," Ray said.

Around the wing ...



Courtesy Photo

A fire truck and three pallets of humanitarian goods are loaded onto a 445th Airlift Wing C-17 Globemaster III at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, May 8, 2025, for transport to Belize.



Tech. Sgt. Joel McCullough

Senior Airmen Kasin Davis-Hughes, left, and Boris Nyambo, 445th Civil Engineer Squadron water and fuel systems maintenance specialist journeymen, participate in the land navigation portion of the squadron's readiness training at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, May 4, 2025.



Staff Sgt. Angela Jackson

Shanna King, 445th Force Support Squadron military and family readiness director, discusses the importance of resilient families during the 445th AW Military Spouse Summit at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, May 3, 2025. Spouses who attended were able to network while gaining support and empowerment.



Staff Sgt. Angela Jackson

Maj. Dietra Watson, 445th Aeromedical Staging Squadron officer in charge of mental health, demonstrates the use of tones for Capt. Pauletta Hummel, 445th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron flight nurse, during the annual 445th Airlift Wing Wellness Fair at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, May 4, 2025.



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without the buy-in of every member in the squadron. “Each member plays an important role in ensuring our culture remains consistent at every place the 87th goes,” Sloan continued. “It’s a culture other squadron’s try to emulate. Our Airmen should be proud to know the work matters, both on and off duty, and is being recognized by people globally.”

Harrison said winning the award has been met with “excitement and pride” throughout the unit.

“We talk often as a squadron about the culture of excellence and community we strive constantly to build and maintain,” he continued. “Being recognized by AFRC is concrete validation for the work we’ve done as a team, as well as the culture we’ve built and maintain.”

This sentiment was felt at the group level for which the APS falls under.

“I can attest to the professionalism, hard work, dedication, leadership, and more importantly, the amazing culture the Port Dawgs have created in that squadron,” said Col. Robert Wengerter, 445th Mission Support Group commander. “Super proud of them all.”

This award doesn’t only showcase the squadron’s past performance but drives their future as well.

“It reflects not only our accomplishments but also our commitment to continuous improvement and our ability to adapt and excel in a constantly evolving environment,” Busellato said. “We are honored to receive

this recognition and will continue to strive for excellence in all we do, supporting the Air Force mission and serving our nation with pride.”



Master Sgt. Patrick O'Reilly

Senior Airman Emmanuel Fraiku, 87th Aerial Port ramp services representative, guides Tech. Sgt. Benjamin Battista, 87th APS load planning supervisor, as he operates a 25K Halvorson loader to transport a pallet onto a loading dock during the squadron’s semi-annual Port Dawg Challenge at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, May 3, 2025.

445th ASTS train on field hospital tent assembly



Photos by Staff Sgt. Angela Jackson

Members of the 445th Aeromedical Staging Squadron assemble a field hospital as part of their mission readiness and preparation for potential medical evacuation procedures at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, May 3, 2025. ASTS utilizes tents in deployed environments to facilitate the handling and staging of patients before they are airlifted to higher-level medical facilities. These tents provide a temporary staging area where patients can be triaged and prepared for evacuation.



News Briefs

Promotions

Chief Master Sergeant
Leo Swank, CES

Senior Master Sergeant
Scott Bowers, 87 APS
Kerrie Schutte, AMXS

Master Sergeant
Nathaniel Johnson, AMXS
Donali Lulich, ASTS
Clifton Pierce, MXG
Travis Smith, AW

Technical Sergeant
Tyler Bowling, ASTS
Alyssa Flynn, OSS
Alain Tshipamba, AMXS

Staff Sergeant
Aaron Borden, CES
Diana Molina Carozza, SFS
Dustin Collinsworth, MXS

London Foreman, MXS
Zechariah Gerardi, 87 APS
John Paget, ASTS
Nikola Wroblewski, OSS
Meggie Samuel, 87 APS

Senior Airman
Elias Strubler, SFS

Airman First Class
Corey Wells, CES
Hudson Tabor, CES

Airman
Biran Adhikari, 87 APS
Lorwy Valmir, FSS

Newcomers

Capt Kara Osburn, AES
1st Lt Mark Hart, AES
1st Lt Benjamin Moran, AES
1st Lt Latasha May, AW
TSgt Nicholas Guinther, 87 APS

TSgt Sable Hart, AES
SSgt Michael Stevens, MXS
SrA Wesley Hughes, SFS
SrA Jeremy Hulsmeier, MXG
SrA Zachary Schinker, MXS
SrA Sara Stone, CES
SrA William Taylor, LRS
AB Jarred Livelsburger, SFS

Family Day

The 445th Airlift Wing will host its annual family day event Saturday, Sept. 6, 2025 at Bass Lake.

More details to follow. Please contact Lt. Col. Kim Ebel at kimberly.ebel.1@us.af.mil if you have questions.

Buckeye Flyer

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Small, strength-based movement increases benefits to health

By Vera Ensalaco
445th Airlift Wing Director of Psychological Health

One thing we consistently hear, and often say to ourselves, is that we simply do not have enough hours in the day. Between work, family and life’s to-do lists, finding the time for exercise and personal well-being can be taxing.

But what if just five minutes a day could make a meaningful difference in your overall well-being?

Recent research published in the European Journal of Applied Physiology suggests even the shortest commitment to movement can improve strength, endurance, flexibility and mental well-being without requiring equipment.

The study tested whether a short, home-based body weight program could deliver meaningful results for basically sedentary adults. Their participants were healthy, though not active, between the ages of 32-69. The study found that after four weeks performing

bodyweight movements, such as squats and pushups, strength was boosted by up to 66% and improved their mental health scores by 20%. This is impressive in that a minimal amount of time and effort can have big payoffs.



If a lack of time feels like a barrier, please consider the time spent convincing yourself that you do not have time may actually be longer than a simple, effective five-minute workout. Each small step toward better health counts, and the benefits can extend beyond physical fitness.

Above all, please remember that well-being is not just about movement, it is also about support. If life ever feels overwhelming, reach out to someone you trust or one of our helping agencies. We are here for each other, for every step of the way.



Wing highlights 50th Anniversary of Operation New Life

By Tara K. Simpson, Ph.D.
445th Airlift Wing Historian

The fall of Saigon April 30, 1975, signaled the official end of the Vietnam War. By that time, U.S. military efforts in the region had been significantly reduced from its height of involvement in 1968.

However, even before the South Vietnamese government's capitulation to the communist forces, the U.S. Air Force Military Airlift Command was tasked to begin evacuating South Vietnamese who had been loyal to U.S. agencies. It was critical to move those refugees out of danger and to the safety of U.S. bases in the Pacific.

The vast humanitarian disaster of 1975, brought on by the rapid collapse of South Vietnam to the enemy, prompted an unprecedented airlift relief effort, known as Operation New Life.

Seven Air Force organizations employed C-141, C-130, CH-53, HH-53 and C-9 aircraft in an effort to complete one of the largest aerial evacuations in history. In the span of six months, more than 130,000 Vietnamese refugees accounted for were from East Asia.

The massive undertaking to evacuate tens of thousands of souls was conducted through a series of overlapping operations.

Saigon's rapid collapse within a matter of weeks at the end of a decades long war had occurred with unanticipated ease. As a result, it triggered a massive exodus.



Courtesy Photo

C-141 flight crews at Clark Air Base ready their "live cargo" for the journey.

Initially, commercial cargo planes attempted to fulfill the demand to transport hundreds of orphaned Vietnamese and Cambodian orphans. It was not enough.

Within days Saigon's collapse, Air Force cargo planes were flying non-stop missions to take refugees from Indo-China to U.S. bases in the Philippines and on Guam. Each airlift mission was exposed to great risks and dangers. The Airmen tasked with the missions recognized they were making history.

In the June 1975 unit history document, the 445th Operations Division report underscored the significance of the unit's contributions to Operation New Life. The operation originated at 445th Military Airlift Wing's home station at the time, Norton Air Force Base, California, where they were a tenant unit of the 63rd MAW.

Thirteen aircrew of the 445th MAW flew 83 sorties directly in support, and 43 sorties that indirectly supported the operation. This service, along with 13 flight nurses of the 68th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, part of the 445 MAW, flew 23 sorties, while 16

medical technicians flew more than 20 sorties.

Each of these members of the 445th MAW were vital to the Herculean airlift effort to safely evacuate those desperate to escape communism and for a chance to live in freedom.



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