

MOC: Connecting operations, maintenance one C-17 at a time

By Patrick O'Reilly
445th Airlift Wing Public Affairs



Patrick O'Reilly

Master Sgt. Chad Sears, 445th Maintenance Operations Center production control supervisor, manages incoming communications at the 445th Maintenance Operation Center at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Feb. 12, 2025.

While the 445th Airlift Wing has a heavy C-17 Globemaster III flying mission, there are many moving parts to ensure the wing's success.

One such piece is the 445th Maintenance Operations Center which is the liaison between the maintenance and production organizations, maintaining an overview of all maintenance operations on the flightline for all 445th AW assets.

According to Senior Master Sgt. Kerry Penner, 445th MXG maintenance operations superintendent, the MOC is a focal point for communication and part of the 445th Maintenance Group unit control center. All weather alerts for lightening, high winds, tornados and storms, along with Inflight Emergency notifications that are broadcast over the radio by MOC personnel as maintainers, are often engrossed in repair and sortie production activities.

The primary mode of communication for the MOC is radio, as they broadcast alerts concerning any other type of emergency event such as active shooter, acts of terrorism and exercises.

Penner said the MOC is typically the first call any maintainer or technician makes if there is an accident, fire, fuel spill or some other emergency on the flightline or in a back shop that may require an emergency

response such as fire department or ambulance.

The center relays this important information to the appropriate response agency, supervision, commanders, Quality Assurance and Wing Safety as necessary. The MOC uses a variety of checklists to ensure the appropriate response is initiated promptly and the necessary personnel are notified based on the nature of the emergency or situation, he added.

"Their area of responsibility primarily covers maintenance operations on the west ramp flight line, but the MOC also communicates with the maintenance back shops," Penner said. "They are also responsible for facilitating communication with 445th Maintenance Group flying crew chiefs on globally tasked Air Mobility Command missions. The MOC also maintains and reports aircraft status for Air Force Reserve Command tasked 445th AW C-17 aircraft anywhere in the world."

With such a huge scope of oversight, communication plays a key role.

"If we don't get accurate information within the MOC, we cannot disseminate accurate information," said Master Sgt. Chad Sears, 445th MOC production control supervisor. "In the event we receive inaccurate information, we have to hunt down the accurate information."

During emergencies, the MOC runs through checklists and provides commanders with around-the-clock notifications. Furthermore, they coordinate with base agencies and first responders.

"With MOC personnel, flexibility is also quite important," Sears said. "We were notified of an aircraft launch that would be taking place during an off weekend, so we were able to deviate a member's schedule to facilitate that launch within a few hours of notification."

The MOC is responsible for the wing's nine C-17 aircraft. Sears said. As the MXG's center for communications, the MOC plays a vital role in safeguarding the health and welfare of all maintenance personnel, as well as crewmembers who may be prepping/launching or returning from a sortie.

In addition, Sears said the MOC also facilitated aircraft generation for 1,240 sorties on 248 missions that transported 5,873 personnel and 18 million pounds of cargo in Fiscal Year 24. In FY 25, the MOC has already facilitated aircraft generation for 366 sorties on 60 missions that transported 1,687 personnel and 4.3 million pounds of cargo.

445 AMXS Airman living the American dream

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

The Encyclopedia Britannica defines the American Dream as the ideal that the United States of America is a land of opportunity that allows the possibility of upward mobility, freedom, and equality for people of all classes who work hard and have the will to succeed.

Senior Airman Salchuk A. Gafurov Sr., 445th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron integrated avionics technician, agreed with the description fully, as he’s a U.S. citizen of Turkish descent born in Russia under Soviet Union rule.

During the time of the of the Soviet Union in 1947, the second leader, Joseph Stalin, had ordered their military to forcefully migrate people from the border of Turkey. The migration led to the deaths of people on cargo wagons due to cold weather, hunger, dehydration, and diseases.

Of all his ancestors, only Gafurov’s grandparents survived the migration. His grandfather and grandmother were both young children at the time. They survived, despite adversity, in stations where people were dropped off. Sometime later, Gafurov’s parents were born.



Senior Airman Salchuk A. Gafurov Sr., 445th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, poses for a photo on the flight deck of a C-17 Globemaster III at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Jan. 12, 2025.



A family photo of Salchuk A. Gafurov Sr. (being held by his father) and his brother held by his mother as they pose with his late grandmother in Russia.

away our people from their land.”

He went on to say his entire family ran away from Uzbekistan and ended up in a small village in Russia. “I was born in 1993 in Russia,” Gafurov said.

The Russian government did not recognize Gafurov’s parents’ Soviet Union passports and, as Gafurov put it, gave them trouble whenever they had the chance.

At some point in time, Gafurov’s mother found out through her sister that the United States was doing an immigration program to allow people affected by disasters a chance to live there. The program was known as the International Organization for Migration. In 2006, his parents applied to the IOM program with the help of his aunt.

“We did not know how life in the U.S. was going to be, but the Russian government was not allowing us to live in peace. So, we had no choice,” Gafurov said.

Gafurov was 12 years old at the time that his family immigrated to the U.S. He said he is glad that his parents decided to take a chance at a better life here. He said he lived in Maryland and Colorado before ending up in Ohio.

Gafurov has achieved a bachelor’s degree in accounting and business administration through the University of Colorado.

“Through life’s ups and downs, I am glad my family and I ended up where we are today,” Gafurov said. “I hope the future continues to be better than the past and we all live long and healthy lives.”

Historian connects Reservist to fallen family member in Guam

By Amanda Dick
445th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

For many with family who served in a previous war or conflict, they might never know what happened to their relatives. But sometimes, connection to those lost comes from unexpected places or people.

This was the case in December 2024 for Lt. Col. Jonathan Askins, 445th Airlift Wing chief of safety, when he had a conversation with the wing’s new historian.



Corporal James L. Roberts, 2nd Battalion, 9th Marines, 3rd Division poses with his rifle.

Askins’ great uncle, James L. Roberts, was killed in the Pacific War somewhere in the Marianas Islands, and that was as much as he knew. Until he did genealogy research and found a couple of photos that indicated Roberts was a U.S. Marine. That led Askins to reach out to his father and aunts which led to Roberts’ daughter and granddaughter in New Zealand.

Askins was talking about his great uncle one day with Tara Simpson, Ph.D., 445th AW historian, when she realized she might be able to add insight.

“I spent several years on Guam researching and writing about the island’s rich military history,” Simpson said. “I easily recognized the date his relative had fallen in battle and knew where it had occurred.”

She was able to tell Askins what happened during Corporal Roberts’ last days of service in the 2nd Battalion, 9th Marines, 3rd Division.

According to Simpson, Roberts’ unit landed during the initial assault July 21, 1944, to help liberate the people and island of Guam. It was the third assault of Operation Forager that was an Allied offensive to secure the Marianas Islands.

“The 3rd Marine Division was instrumental in spearheading the offensive push up the nearly impossible cliffs to secure the Fonte Plateau,” Simpson explained. “They endured fierce resistance as the Imperial Japanese Army had occupied the U.S. territory since December 1941.”

Unfortunately, the month-long campaign carried out by Allied ships and aircraft did not fully eliminate Japanese entrenchments and caves, and by July 29,

1944, when Roberts died, Allied forces were still embroiled in intense fighting.

On the personal side, Askins said Roberts enlisted at 22 and met someone in New Zealand then married her after one month together before he left for Guam which led to a daughter born days before his death.

Shortly after Askins’ chat with Simpson, another opportunity presented itself that allowed him to connect even closer to his great uncle’s last days, and it came in the form of a previously scheduled flying mission in the Pacific that included a stop in Guam.

So, in mid-January during a crew overnight on the island, Askins and two other crew members, Lt. Col. Chris Costly and Capt. Nicholas Armour, both 89th Airlift Squadron C-17 pilots, honored his great uncle where he fell in battle.

But it was not without its obstacles. Askins said he faced delays on the flightline and getting to lodging, then he had to figure out the transportation logistics to get around the island. However, he was able to reach Fonte Plateau before sunset.

Askins said he secured a local ride share driver who took him, Costly and Armour to the battle site, known today as Nimitz Hill.

“It was very emotion-



Lt. Col. Jonathan Askins, 445th Airlift Wing chief of safety.

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SPOTLIGHT

Rank/Name: Senior Airman Janel Gipson

Unit: 89th Airlift Squadron

Duty Title: Aviation Resource Management

Hometown: Columbus, Ohio

Civilian Job: Bath and Body Works training program coordinator

Education: Associate degree in general studies and bachelor's degree in criminology from Kent State University. Currently studying project management at Spelman College.

Hobbies: Reading, playing video games, roller skating, watching anime and playing with my dogs.

Career Goal: Serve as a commissioned officer in the Air Force and obtain my certification in human resources.

What do you like about working at the 445th?
From my first days here, everyone was incredibly welcoming and made sure I felt comfortable. I have



Master Sgt. Patrick O'Reilly

received more support and encouragement than I could have asked for, and I couldn't be more grateful for the exceptional leadership at the 89th.

Why did you join the Air Force?

I wanted to achieve something that was entirely my own accomplishment. While it undoubtedly wouldn't have been possible without the love and support of my family and friends, I set a personal goal, made the choice to pursue it, and remained committed to seeing it through on my own.

Wing members selected for colonel promotion

445th Airlift Wing Public Affairs



Lt. Col. Karen Gharst

Air Reserve Personnel Center officials announced the results for the Calendar Year 2024 Air Force Reserve Line and Nonline Colonel Promotions Selection Board. January 31.

The selection board convened at ARPC in October of 2024 to determine those officers best and fully qualified to assume the next higher grade.

The boards selected 213 officers for promotion.

Congratulations to the following 445th Airlift Wing members who were selected for promotion to colonel:



Lt. Col. Karen Gharst, 445th Maintenance Group and Lt. Col. Francis Saul, 89th Airlift Squadron.

Air Force Reserve promotions to the grade of colonel require Senate confirmation. After Senate confirmation, officers will be promoted in increments announced by headquarters Air Reserve Personnel Center/PBO. HQ ARPC/PBE will publish promotion orders at the appropriate time and will enter selection data in Military Personnel Data System.

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Lt. Col. Francis Saul

Around the wing ...



(left) Tech. Sgt. Clifford Morgan, 445th Civil Engineer Squadron structures apprentice, thaws out a frozen training container filled with contents of an Alaskan shelter system during unit training assembly at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Feb. 1, 2025. The cold temperatures provided challenges to the unit as they endured the temperatures and pushed on to achieve their training and routine duties on the weekend.



Photos by Master Sgt. Patrick O'Reilly

(right) Members of the 445th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron run routine checks on a C-17 Globemaster III after donning mission-oriented protective posture gear during chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and high yield explosives training at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Feb. 2, 2025.

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al," Askins explained. "During the flight to Guam, I read an in-depth article Tara provided that detailed the beach landing and combat my Great Uncle James saw in the days leading up to his death. Then to have finally reached the location where he lived his last moments was overwhelming.

"Having finally learned his full story and then visiting this location felt very personal," Askins continued. "So, I wrote him a letter, as a service member and a father, thanking him for his service to the nation and world – that his legacy remained through his family and ultimate sacrifice."

Askins said after the driver heard his story, he took them to the Asan Bay Overlook, a location five minutes away with a panoramic view of the landing beaches. The overlook also included the War in the Pacific Park's Memorial Wall that honors both Guamanians who suffered during Imperial Japanese occupation and servicemembers who died in the Battle of Guam, including his great uncle whose name was etched into the wall.

"Seeing his name was the culmination and truly cemented that the journey to learn his story and honor his memory was accomplished and correct," Askins stated. "It felt as though the whole experience was ordained or serendipitous."

After the trip, Askins said he contacted Roberts' daughter, now 82, and granddaughter to share the story and photos he took.

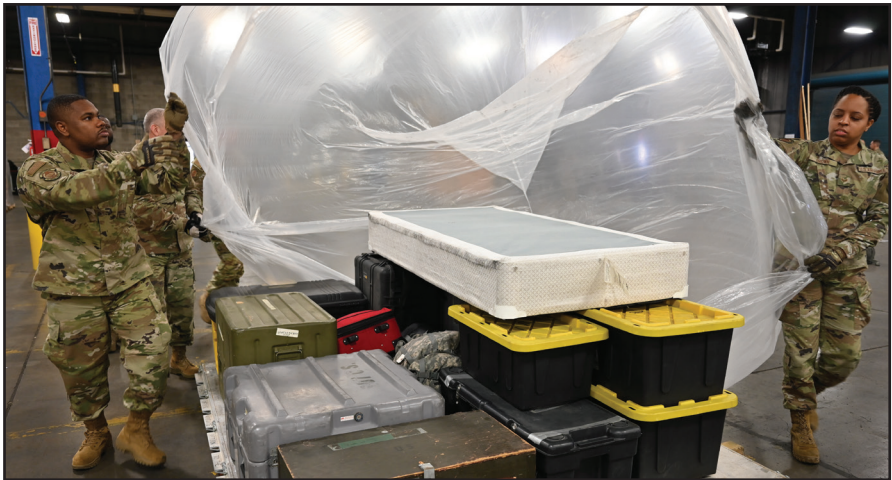
"They were grateful, and it was a very emotional experience for them as well – to know he was still honored and loved," Askins expressed.



Courtesy Photo

The Fonte Plateau Bunker in Guam, a Japanese communication center on top of the hill, is the location where Corporal James L. Roberts' unit was fighting at the time of his death.

87th APS prepares for 2025 Port Dawg Challenge



Airman 1st Class Pierre Berlus, 87th Aerial Port Squadron ramp operations representative, and Airman 1st Class Porsche Brown, 87th APS load planning representative, pull a protective plastic covering over a pallet during the pallet build and baggage inspection training for a future Port Dawg Challenge at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Feb. 1, 2025. A "Port Dawg Challenge" is a competition held by the Air Force Reserve Command where APS teams compete in various tasks designed to test their skills in loading and unloading cargo on aircraft, showcasing their proficiency in aerial port operations, and demonstrating readiness for wartime missions.

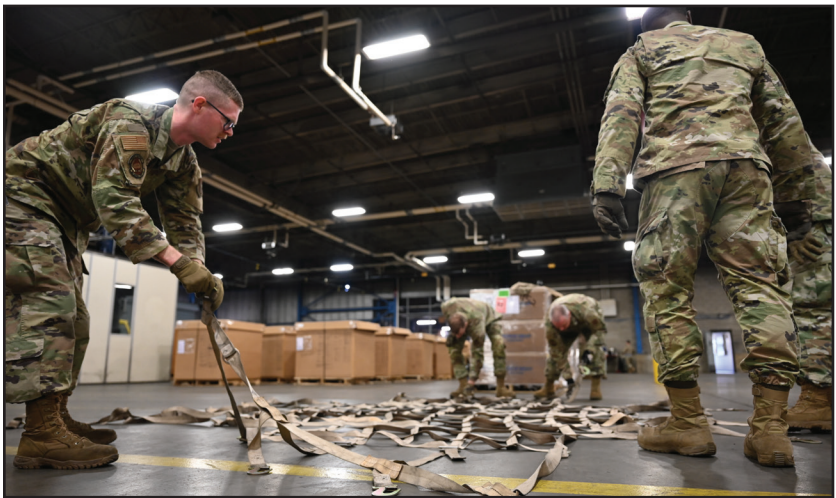


Tech. Sgt. Carter Lee, 87th Aerial Port Squadron load planning representative, secures a high mobility multipurpose wheeled vehicle at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Feb. 1, 2025.



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Joel McCullough

Tech. Sgt. Kelly Sloan, 87th Aerial Port Squadron joint inspection supervisor, operates an indoor forklift while Senior Airman Myrbel Saintpierre, 87th APS cargo specialist, uses proper hand signals to guide a basketball into the goal at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Feb. 1, 2025.



Staff Sgt. Daniel Schnaars, 87th Aerial Port Squadron joint inspection supervisor, and members of 87th APS prepare netting for the pallet build and baggage inspection at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Feb. 1, 2025.



News Briefs

Promotions

Senior Master Sergeant
Gregory Sparks, MXS

Master Sergeant
Justin Taylor, MXS

Technical Sergeant
Justin Daley, 87 APS
Justin Frost, FSS
Jonathan Hansen, 87 APS
Drew Huskey, 87 APS
Travis Jones, 87 APS
Kirk Laytart, 87 APS
Carter Lee, 87 APS
Austin Lewis, MXS
Daniel Newman, 87 APS
Connor Smith, CES

Staff Sergeant
Daniel Garcia, MXG

Alexandra Gutierrez, MXG
Grace Light, OSS
Eddie McCollum, MXS
Ashley Parke, SFS
Chaz Waller, 87 APS

Senior Airman
Irvin Flores Sanchez, AW
Gaston Keumo Dongmo, CES
William Kingsolver, LRS
Aiden Malanowski, CES

Airman First Class
Katelyn Weber, 89 AS

Airman
Jared Strong, MXS

Newcomers
Capt Jessica Ryan, FSS

TSgt Jacob McIntosh, CES
TSgt Derek Spencer, 87 APS
SSgt Branden Mathews, CES
SSgt Jana West, 87 APS
SrA Ata Mokari, 87 APS
SrA Ethan Neiswander, 87 APS
SrA Taris Pascual, FSS
SrA Amy Ray, MXS
A1C Devlin Fritz, 87 APS
A1C Allie Todd, ASTS



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Embrace a balanced lifestyle

By Vera Ensalaco
445th Airlift Wing Director of Psychological Health

Spring is an ideal time to rejuvenate your health physically, mentally and emotionally. As nature celebrates rebirth, it offers you a golden opportunity to reinvigorate your lifestyle with healthy habits.

Consider adopting these helpful recommendations that can help you live a refreshed and vibrant life:

1. Exercise regularly: Embrace the beauty of spring by engaging in outdoor activities like hiking, biking, walking or running. Strive for at least 30 minutes of exercise five times a week to energize your body and elevate your mood with natural endorphins.
2. Make healthier food choices: Transform your diet by incorporating more fruits, vegetables, whole grains and low-fat options. Your body will thank you for it!
3. Prioritize hydration: Increase your water intake while cutting back on sugary beverages, caffeine and alcohol. Hydration is key to maintaining your energy and focus.
4. Practice sun safety: Protect your skin by using sunscreen with at least SPF 15 and wearing clothing that shields you from the sun's rays. Health today leads to vitality tomorrow!
5. Maintain oral health: Prioritize your smile by scheduling regular dental checkups and committing

to daily brushing and flossing. A healthy smile boosts confidence!

6. Say no to tobacco: If you're looking to quit smoking, connect with your physician for a wealth of cessation options. Protect yourself from the dangers of tobacco and secondhand smoke.

7. Invest in quality sleep: Enhance your sleep hygiene to refresh your body and mind. Prioritizing rest is essential for your overall well-being.

8. Embrace learning: Stimulate your mind by picking up a new hobby, language or sport. Challenging yourself keeps your brain engaged and actively growing.

9. Understand your family health history: Discussing your family's health history with loved ones and consulting your healthcare provider can reveal crucial insights about potential health risks. Knowledge is power when it comes to prevention!

10. Don't hesitate to seek help: Remember, support is always available. Reach out to resources like the Director of Psychological Health Office, Chaplains, Military and Family Life Counseling Program, Employment Assistance Program, Military One Source and the 988 Crisis Line, because asking for help is a sign of strength, not weakness.

Embrace this spring as your opportunity to cultivate a healthier, more enriching life. Take these steps toward revitalization and watch your well-being flourish!



Meet the wing's new resiliency integrator

Master Sgt. Jason Cordle
445th Airlift Wing Resiliency Integrator



I am absolutely thrilled to introduce myself as the 445th Airlift Wing Resiliency Integrator. There have been many people and many experiences that led me to this point in my career. However, I will start from the beginning, as I believe my journey will resonate with most, if not all our Airmen.

I started my Air Force career with the 87th Aerial Port Squadron in 2009. During my time there, I developed many valuable relationships and gained a tremendous amount of leadership skills. I used those skills to earn the trust needed to be selected for many different leadership roles.

One of the most important roles I had while at the 87th APS was the fitness program manager. I worked very closely with many members of the squadron, guiding them through their struggles to be fit to fight. Being a part of other's success was something I wanted to pursue at a higher level. That desire led me to apply for and become the 445th Airlift Wing Development and Training Flight Coordinator.

As the D&TF coordinator, I had the gratifying opportunity to help hundreds of newly enlisted 445th AW members find early success in their careers. I was able to use the experiences I gained throughout my career to mentor and guide members who have made

a life changing, and in most cases, overwhelming decision to serve our country.

I was extremely motivated by watching others succeed and overcome the early struggles of their career. I was very proud to have the responsibility of teaching and displaying the highest level of Air Force standards and values in a way that would allow our members to achieve the growth and development needed for a smooth transition from civilian to military life. As my time in the D&TF was coming to an end, I knew I had to search for more opportunities to have a positive impact on our Airmen.

During my search, I learned about the resiliency integrator role. I knew this role was the best opportunity to continue to make the impact I want to make on our Airmen. I also knew it was the best opportunity to challenge myself to be the type of person and leader I want to become. I was not only confident that my professional experiences prepared me for this role, but I was also confident my life experiences had prepared me as well.

There is no doubt this position needs someone with the type of work ethic and determination I gained from my father and the type of compassion and selflessness I gained from my mother. It also needs someone who has gone through many trials and tribulations of their own. This ensures that I will be relatable and respectful to the backgrounds of each of our Airmen.

I believe these things will help me be exactly what our Airmen need, and I am once again, very excited to call myself the 445th AW Resiliency Integrator.

If you need to reach out to me, please give me a call at (937) 656-3293 or send me an email at jason.cordle@us.af.mil.



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