

BUCKEYE FLYER

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Master Sgt. Patrick O'Reilly



Tech. Sgt. Joel McCullough

(left) Chief Master Sgt. James Kirklin, 445th Security Forces Squadron manager, and Maj. Christopher Foti, 445th SFS commander, congratulate each other as they prepare to walk to the stage to receive the 2024 Squadron of the Year award during the wing's annual awards banquet at the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force, April 5, 2025.

(right) Lt. Col. Theodore Liszeski, 445th Aerospace Medicine Squadron commander, and Master Sgt. Kathleen Burden, 445th AMDS aerospace medical service technician, cheer during the awards banquet, April 5, 2025.

Wing announces 2024 annual award winners

445th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Members and families of the 445th Airlift Wing, and local community leaders gathered at the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force April 5 to recognize the wing's 2024 annual award nominees and winners.

About 40 Airmen and family members were honored at a medallion ceremony prior to the awards banquet. Col. Douglas A. Perry Jr., 445th AW commander, presented each nominee in attendance a 445th AW medallion.

The banquet began with nominees entering the room as part of the official party as the Chiefs Group formed a saber arch. The 445th Honor Guard posted the Colors and participated in a POW/MIA table demonstration. The Air Force Band of Flight's rock band, Flight One, provided entertainment for the evening.

Awards were presented to Airmen, family members and the community partner, and the event concluded with the announcement of squadron of the year.

The museum center stage echoed with sounds of various noisemakers as units cheered for their nominees.

Annual award honors were presented to:

- **Airman of the Year:** Staff Sgt. Brooks Lyle, 445th Aerospace Medicine Squadron

- **NCO of the Year:** Staff Sgt. Kayla Cornett, 87th Aerial Port Squadron

- **Senior NCO of the Year:** Master Sgt. Justin Van Niman, 445th Security Forces Squadron

- **First Sergeant of the Year:** Senior Master Sgt. Mark Gehri, 445th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

- **Company Grade Officer of the Year:** Capt. Joel Russo, 445th Logistics Readiness Squadron

- **Field Grade Officer of the Year:** Maj. Andrew Place, 445th Aerospace Medicine Squadron

- **Recruiter of the Year:** Master Sgt. Jeremy Mers, 445th Recruiting Squadron

- **Honor Guard Member of the Year:** Tech. Sgt. Gabriel Clark, 87th Aerial Port Squadron

- **Civilian of the Year CAT I:** Ms. Bircan Benevich, 445th Airlift Wing Financial Management

- **Civilian of the Year CAT II:** Mrs. Anjanette Hairston, 445th Force Support Squadron

- **Spouse of the Year:** Dr. Kathryn Jordan, spouse of Tech. Sgt. Michelle Logan, 445th Aerospace Medicine Squadron

- **Youth of the Year:** Mr. Logan King, son of Mrs. Shanna King, 445th Force Support Squadron

- **Community Partner of the Year:** Wright-Patterson Air Force Base Airman's Attic

- **Squadron of the Year:** 445th Security Forces Squadron

See additional photos on pages 2 and 3.

445th AW honors its 2024 annual awards winners

Airman



Staff Sgt. Brooks Lyle
First Sergeant

NCO



Staff Sgt. Kayla Cornett
Company Grade Officer

Senior NCO



Master Sgt. Justin Van Niman
Field Grade Officer



Senior Master Sgt. Mark Gehri
Civilian Category I



Capt. Joel Russo
Civilian Category II



Maj. Andrew Place
Honor Guard



Ms. Bircan Benevich
Recruiter



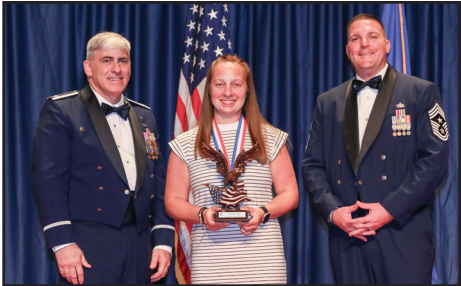
Mrs. Anjanette Hairston
Spouse



Tech. Sgt. Gabriel Clark
Youth



Master Sgt. Jeremy Mers



Dr. Kathryn Jordan



Mr. Logan King

Photos by Staff Sgt. Angela Jackson



Squadron of the Year



Staff Sgt. Angela Jackson



Master Sgt. Patrick O'Reilly

445th Security Forces Squadron



Master Sgt. Patrick O'Reilly

The 445th Airlift Wing held its 2024 annual awards banquet and medallion ceremony at the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force April 5, 2025. The official party and nominees entered under an arch of swords, and members from the 445th AW Honor Guard remembered POW/MIA members. The Air Force Band of Flight's rock band, Flight One, provided music. Squadrons cheered loudly for their nominees and winners with noise-makers of all varieties.



Master Sgt. Patrick O'Reilly



Staff Sgt. Angela Jackson



Master Sgt. Patrick O'Reilly



SPOTLIGHT



Rank/Name: Senior Airman Jimmie Darbonne
Unit: 445th Force Support Squadron

Duty Title: Food service journeyman
Hometown: Indianapolis
Civilian Job: Maintenance operation technician city contractor for Indianapolis
Education: Pursing a bachelor's degree in sports marketing from Indiana University
Hobbies: Practicing my faith in God, spending time with family, playing video games, relaxing, staying fit with basketball, sports
Career Goal: Be successful at anything I give my time to and be a positive example to people of all ages and backgrounds.

What do you like about working at the 445th? I like that this opportunity allows me to grow as a person and connect with people who I've grown very close to. Working for the 445th is something I don't take for granted, and I'm very appreciative of all the people who have helped me along my military journey.
Why did you join the Air Force? To give myself more opportunities. My family played a big role in raising me and I've always wanted to make them proud. I've always been very ambitious, and I think the Air Force has really given me another outlet to take advantage of resources I never imagined.

CYCLING SAFETY TIPS



With warmer weather on the way, below are some safety tips when using bicycles:

- Obey all traffic signs and signals** - Bicycles must follow the rules of the road like other vehicles.
- Always wear a helmet** - Bicyclist's 14 years old and younger are required to wear a helmet when operating a bicycle.
- Never ride against traffic** - Motorist's aren't looking for bicyclists riding on the wrong side of the road.
- Don't pass on the right** - Motorist's may not look for or see a bicycle passing on the right.
- Keep both hands ready to brake** - You may not stop in time if you brake one-handed.
- Scan the road behind you** - Learn to look back over your shoulder without losing your balance or swerving.
- Never operate a bicycle wearing headphones, talking on the phone or text messaging**
- Follow lane markings** - Don't turn left from the right lane.
- Do not consume alcohol** - Consuming alcohol and operating a bicycle do not mix.
- Dress appropriately** - Wear brightly colored clothing and dress in layers so you can adjust to temperature changes.
- Make eye contact with drivers** - Assume that other drivers don't see you until you are sure that the do.
- Keep your bike in good repair** - Adjust your bike to fit you and keep it working properly.



445th Aircrew Flight Equipment ensures safety in the skies

By Patrick O'Reilly
445th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

The 445th Airlift Wing plays a crucial role in air mobility and operational readiness. At the heart of its mission success is the 445th Operations Support Squadron Aircrew Flight Equipment, a dedicated team ensuring aircrew members have the necessary gear to operate safely and effectively.
The AFE shop consists of 10 full-time members and nine traditional reserve members.
"AFE is responsible for providing life-sustaining equipment in the event of implied emergencies, water landings and daily gear aircrews use such as night vision goggles for midnight sorties," said Tech. Sgt. Amy Stanfield, 445th OSS AFE NCO in charge. "That way, they can do their job and complete their mission successfully without incident."

AFE duties include managing oxygen systems, parachutes, helmets, anti-exposure suits, night vision goggles, flotation devices and other critical survival gear. The goal is to ensure all equipment is functional and meets stringent safety standards before every flight.
"We don't keep the jets flying but we keep them safe on missions," said Staff Sgt. Gabrielle Saidak, 445th OSS AFE technician.
The safety of aircrew members depends on AFE's expertise and meticulous attention to detail. Routine inspections and preventative maintenance are performed to identify wear and tear, ensuring no piece of



Photos by Master Sgt. Patrick O'Reilly

Staff Sgt. Jacob Bennett, 445th OSS aircrew flight equipment technician, trains other Airmen from other U.S. Air Force agencies on assembling and inspecting HGU-55/p helmets and MBU-12/P oxygen masks for defects or other damages at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, March 23, 2025.

equipment fails during a mission. Training aircrew on the proper use of survival gear and emergency procedures is also a key part of their responsibilities.
"If something goes wrong with the aircraft, it is our gear that is going to help them out of a bad situation and aid in recovery and survival," Stanfield said. "We are the last stop when all else has failed no matter how well they planned, trained and prepped."
Pride in the job is felt throughout the unit.
"I love AFE. It's pretty important, and every day when I am packing a parachute or reinstalling a battery in night vision goggles, I am reminded of how important my job is," Saidak said. "If I don't do my job correctly, someone could get injured, something could break, or worse-case scenario, someone could die. My job is cool but very important, and I am reminded of that every day."
The 445th AFE is an essential element in maintaining mission readiness and protecting the lives of those who serve in the air. Their dedication to precision and safety underscores the importance of their role within the Air Force's mobility and response capabilities.
"With all the outreach and instruction we provide, AFE Airmen are a jack of all trades," Saidak said. "We aren't exactly maintenance, but we are as close to maintenance as we can get in an operations situation. People come to us for anything and everything."



Staff Sgt. Gabrielle Saidak, 445th OSS aircrew flight equipment technician, inspects HGU-55/p helmets for defects or other damages at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, March 23, 2025.



445th AW legal office: Fairness, impartiality, free

Staff Sgt. Jonathan Quiñones
445th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Wills, general and special powers of attorney, and notaries are just some of the services provided by paralegals and lawyers with an average cost estimated at about \$300 for each document.

The services are available at no cost to military members assigned to the 445th Airlift Wing.

“We have free notary service, which is an authority under the U.S. Code, meaning no matter the state an Airmen resides in, we can notarize it for free,” said Lt. Col. Kevin Normile, 445th AW Staff Judge Advocate.

The JAG office also plays a role in pre-deployment readiness.

“We provide legal assistance to our Airmen where we assist with deployment readiness, making sure they have estate planning, wills, and general and healthcare powers of attorney,” said Maj. Karrie Howard, 445th AW Deputy Judge Advocate.

Normile also said that although a significant portion of the JAG office’s time is spent carrying out its mission to advise commanders and first sergeants on adverse action, military justice, administrative actions, and civil law issues, legal assistance is something he finds more satisfying.

“We are providing Airmen with the same legal considerations that we have – helping people get their estate protected, having a will, giving people some peace of mind,” he explained. “It is the most rewarding part of the job.”

The 445th legal office is located in building 4010



Staff Sgt. Jonathan Quiñones

Lt. Col. Kevin Normile, left, 445th Airlift Wing Staff Judge Advocate, and Maj. Karrie Howard, 445 AW Deputy JA, review legal documents at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, April 6, 2025.

and available during Scarlet unit training assembly weekends from 1 to 3 p.m. on Saturday and 9 to 11 a.m. on Sunday.

For legal assistance, contact the 445th JAG office at 937-257-3535.

89th AS maintains proficiency in fueling operations

Senior Airman Diegan Rhodes, 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, March 16, 2025. The 89th AS conducted SFO training which included hot-pit refueling, wet-wing defueling and use of bulk fuel delivery systems. Hot-pit refueling is when an aircraft is fueled while its engines are running, many times immediately after landing, and allows for aircraft to be refueled and relaunched quickly. Wet-wing defueling is the process of transferring fuel from an aircraft with its engine running to another aircraft or fuel truck. The bulk fuel delivery system transports and delivers fuel to locations and aircraft, especially in deployed and austere environments. It consists of two fuel bladders, two refueling pumping modules, a meter and hoses.



Master Sgt. Patrick O'Reilly

News Briefs

Promotions

Senior Master Sergeant
Zachary Smith, 87 APS

Master Sergeant
Taylor Harnist, LRS
Paul Millis, AES

Technical Sergeant
Marquise Riley, AW
Jacob Parsons, LRS
Ryan Collier, MXS

Staff Sergeant
Imisioluwa Ayoolaladapo, 89 AS
Alex Davello, OSS
Dylan Evoniuk, AES
Kiah Fuller, AMXS
Skylar Johnson, 87 APS

Andrea Plaughter, AES
Blake Taylor, MXS

Senior Airman
Kwabena Asirifi, ASTS
Timothy Dang, ASTS
Bethany DeGraw, ASTS
Christabel Okafor, ASTS
Luca Tancreti, AMXS
Allie Todd, ASTS
Bryan Rivas, MXS

Airman First Class
Evelyn Asamoah, ASTS
Koralina Castello, AMXS
Adam Dinovo, AMXS

Airman
Emily Cogossi, 87 APS
James Grady, MXS
Jack Rott, MXS

Newcomers

Maj Karrie Howard, AW
TSgt Laura McArthur, OG
SSgt Noah Linstead, AMXS
SrA Kierra Groves, FSS
A1C Daniel Adams, AES
A1C Kohlten Ratliff, CES
Amn Wesley Faulkner, MXS
AB Biran Adhikari, 87 APS

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Tips to achieve healthy relationship with green flags

By Vera Ensalaco
445th Airlift Wing Director of Psychological Health

We hear a lot about red flags in relationships but what about green flags? There are relationship green flags that show us what to look for to have a healthy relationship.

These types of relationships include boundaries, self-control, communication and respect. In healthy relationships, people feel supported, connected and independent.

Think of a healthy relationship you have, or have had, in the past, regardless of the type of relationship. Or maybe people who have a healthy relationship that you admire? What made you think of that relationship? What do you think makes it healthy?

Some things to do to achieve healthy relationships:

Communication

- Treat each other with respect.
- Share in decision-making.
- Speak openly about thoughts and feelings.
- Listen to each other; feel heard and supported.
- Celebrate each other’s successes.

Boundaries

- Trust each other.
- Spend time with family.
- Spend time with friends and apart from your partner.

- Don’t pressure each other to do things.

Conflict is a normal part of all relationships, and everyone reacts differently to conflict. Negotiating is

one of the best ways to resolve conflicts and problems. Negotiating includes the following:

- Focus on the idea, not the person.
- Allow others to finish statements and thoughts.
- Show interest in others’ viewpoints.
- Emphasize shared values, viewpoints and attitudes.
- Don’t let emotions run the discussion.

Express Your Expectations

• If someone isn’t meeting your needs, it is important to discuss it with them. Unless the other person is aware the behavior is negatively impacting you, there is little chance the behavior will stop. If you cannot positively express your expectations, you could limit your relationship.

• An effective way to express your feelings without sounding critical is an *I-statement*. These statements may sound odd at first, but they are logical. An example of an I-statement is I feel *(feeling)* when *(behavior)* because I *(effect)*. Or instead of “*You never clean up after yourself,*” perhaps try “*I feel frustrated when the house is messy because I am tired after work myself.*”

• It can feel odd at first though with practice it becomes more natural sounding. Using an *I-statement* allows you to pose your expectation, point, frustration or idea without making it about the other person. Showing kindness, understanding and respect enables individuals to create and sustain healthy relationships.

Getting to know Airmen of the 87th Aerial Port Squadron

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

The Air Force Reserve has many different facets that forge it into a lethal fighting force. One of them is the career history an Airmen carries with them – some straight from basic training, some from other bases and some from other branches of the military.

Tech. Sgt. Danny Newman, 87th Aerial Port Squadron joint inspection supervisor craftsman, started his career in the military as a Soldier in the U.S. Army, military police to be specific.

“My plan was to go active duty, but my mom had big plans for me to go to college,” Newman said.

Newman ended up serving eight years total in the Army Reserve. After three years of separation, he decided to make his way to the Air Force.

“I had the itch to get back in, and I figured if I was going to do it, I wanted to experience a different branch,” Newman added.

Newman is now going on 18 years of service and plans to finish his time out with the 87th APS.

“I love the 87th,” Newman said. “I know people say this all the time, but we really are like one big family.”

Another ex-military police officer is Tech. Sgt. Justin Daley, 87th APS air freight craftsman. Daley was prior active-duty with Air Force security forces.

After four years, he transferred to the Reserve, 445th Security Forces Squadron. He served the SFS for ten years before deciding to make the switch.

A unique aspect of Daley’s story is that his military journey is similar to the same path his father had.



Tech. Sgt. Joel McCullough

Tech. Sgt. Danny Newman, second from right, 87th Aerial Port Squadron joint inspection supervisor craftsman, conducts center of balance training with APS Airmen while on annual tour at Joint Base Charleston, S.C., April 10, 2025.

“He did six years active as security forces when I was a child,” Daley said. “Then, he went Reserve in the 87th Aerial Port. He stayed with the 87th until he retired.”

Although he said he has some catching up to do, Daley still plans on finishing out his time in the Air Force Reserve with the 87th APS.

“I like the job, but I am still learning and understanding everything,” Daley said, adding that although he has hit all the training marks to be a seven level in the career field, he personally doesn’t feel as proficient as someone who had done all their time with APS.

Prior active-duty services seems to be a trend with Airmen, and that applies to Senior Airman Trenden Fox, 87th APS air freight journeyman. Fox made his start in the Air Force with vehicle maintenance.

“I was in my fifth or sixth year, with a base of preference at Davis-Monthan AFB, and it was nothing but deploy, deploy, deploy,” Fox said.

Finding out his wife was pregnant and knowing he didn’t want that kind of life for his family, Fox said he pursued the Air Force Reserve.

Fox has now been at the 87th APS for three years.

“I like this a lot more than active duty,” Fox said. “The Reserve gave me the opportunity to chase a passion of mine on the civilian side [as a personal trainer]. I love it, the best job I’ve ever had. And the fact that I get to do that job and still serve – that’s what I’ve always wanted to do.”



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