

Current ops connects crew, aircraft to global missions

By Amanda Dick
445th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

When people think about the Air Force, many of them think of the pilots and aircraft performing the missions.

But how do they get to fly those missions? That's where the 445th Operations Support Squadron current operations section, or current ops, provides the glue that connects it all together.

"We coordinate with Air Force Reserve Command, active-duty Air Force units and other government agencies to get aircraft to missions that are the highest priority and on their requirements to move cargo and passengers," said Capt. Travis Egger, 445th OSS chief of current ops.

Organizations that need transportation of people or cargo globally fill out the appropriate paperwork to request movement, waiting for approval or denial by U.S. Transportation Command. If approved, organizations like the 445th see the list of all open requests on various scheduling programs.

"We can go in and select the ones that fit our mission and our time line," Egger explained. "Once we select it, we'll add it to our calendar and get the approval from the wing commander, who is the ultimate authority for everything that goes."

Current ops also coordinates with the directors of operations in both the 445th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron and 89th Airlift Squadron to move to their scheduling sections where crew are assigned. Additionally, they also have regular touch points with the 445th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron for aircraft availability.

Egger mentioned they'll reach out to AES and the 89th on their availability if they're unsure if the wing can support the mission.

This communication is integral to mission success

for the 89th.

"Current operations is the focal point to establishing our baseline flying hours program every year," said Maj. Joshua Earl, 89th AS director of operations and C-17 evaluator pilot. "This program facilitates planning and coordination for local training sorties, off station training missions and

user requests across the DoD that directly supports 89th AS training, currency, qualification and upgrade requirements.

"Even after these events have been scheduled current ops remains engaged, facilitating last-minute mission changes required by the squadron, the user being supported or any of the planned airfields during operations," Earl continued. "Daily interaction between 89th AS and current operations occurs to provide our aircrew with the most up-to-date and relevant information, ensuring the greatest probability for success."

Current ops consists of the chief of current ops and a loadmaster who fill rotational positions between the OSS and 89th, as well as transportation operations specialists who fill static positions.

The Airmen perform a range of functions to include everything from coordinating fueling and incentive flights to managing the flying hours program to getting permission to use other airfields and overall mission planning/scheduling for times, etc.

According to Egger, the wing has recurring missions with Air Mobility Command they conduct once or twice a month.

"We know when we're going to do them throughout the whole year, and those don't really change," he



Amanda Dick

(left to right) Senior Master Sgt. Jerald Cremeens, Capt. Travis Egger, Steve Palsgrove, Master Sgt. Holly Knox and Staff Sgt. Patrick McClain work in the 445th Operations Support Squadron current operations section at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. McClain is a traditional reservist on orders currently while the other four work full time during the week.

Shifting high-value thinking to performance

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



Staff Sgt. Johnathan Quiñones

Retired Chief Master Sgt. Monte Snyder, 445th Airlift Wing Performance Analyst – Value Architect, displays his table of 3D printed trinkets in his office at Wright Patterson Air Force Base, July 18, 2025.

If you enter the front entrance of the 445th Airlift Wing headquarters in building 4010, keep straight, taking the first opportunity to turn right, there is an office occupied by retired Chief Master Sgt. Monte D. Snyder filled with 3D printed trinkets people of all ages can enjoy, a large bookshelf of self-help resources and memorabilia collected throughout his years in the U.S. Air Force – it’s not difficult to feel welcomed and intrigued about the unique items in his office.

Since November 2020, Snyder has served as the 445th AW’s Program Manager for Air Force Continuous Improvement and Innovation (CI2) and Air Force

Lessons Learned programs. The lead change agent is responsible for the overall unit improvement initiatives. Snyder must execute his knowledge of Air Force command structure, missions, programs and organizational relationships to include a thorough understanding of quantitative and qualitative methods/techniques and their application to analyze workloads. Snyder said the benefits his position brings to the wing includes “providing data analysis, different perspectives on how processes are working and how to improve them, strategic thinking, innovative thinking, and using different tools to guide leadership to the best decision for the situation.”

Snyder serves as a mentor for the Rising 6 council, previously serving as the council’s senior enlisted mentor.

“I guide them, schedule, message and communicate their activities and needs to the wing as a whole, and [provide] leadership,” he explained.

Upcoming events present Snyder with some goals to tackle for the wing.

“A short-term goal is to resolve all the Unit Effectiveness Inspection findings/deficiencies, guide and assist [Airmen], and support the upcoming deployments.”

Looking forward, Snyder is focused on collaboration.

“Future long-term goals are to stand up a functional and value-added Innovation Cell for the wing, and partner with our host base for greater impact,” he added.

“Current ops is pivotal in ensuring our Aeromedical Readiness Missions [ARMs] are scheduled from week to week,” said Maj. Nathaniel Copen, 445th AES director of operations and flight nurse examiner. “They also assist in coordinating our off-station ARMs, as far as additional equipment needed in the aircraft, and with those AE squadrons we collaborate with on those missions.

“We have a strong rapport with our current ops,” Copen explained. “They are always available when needed and do a wonderful job of including us within the decision making of each mission. They are a wealth of information and are always willing to share their knowledge with us. We truly value and appreciate all current ops does for our squadron and our missions.”

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added. Other times, missions will involve assignments with dedicated aircraft and crew.

“Right now, we’re supporting hurricane and Patriot Medic missions, and we have an aircraft and crew who are assigned to that,” Egger said. “When there’s a tasking from the Reserve [on those missions], they’ll call our office and say, ‘we need that crew and that tail for this time, for this mission.’”

He added that while those types of missions aren’t picked by the 445th but assigned, the aircraft and crew are available for a specific period of time, like a month, where they can be tasked to those missions.

For AES like with the 89th, the partnership with current ops is key to their mission success.

SPOTLIGHT

Rank/Name: Staff Sgt. Jermaine Richards

Unit: 445th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

Duty Title: Crew chief

Hometown: Middletown, Ohio

Civilian Job: Aircraft maintenance technician

Education: Pursuing an undergraduate degree in athletic administration at the University of Cincinnati

Hobbies: Pickle ball, working out, coaching (High



school/Junior High, wrestling, track and football)

Career Goal: Athletic administrator

What do you like about working at the 445th?

The people here honestly make AMXS the best. Good leadership, supervisors and peers make this a great place to work. I also enjoy being a part of a bigger mission.

Why did you join the Air Force? Honestly, I joined the Air Force to set up my future. The Air Force has helped me to be set up for success. Also, I like the movie Lone Survivor.

STARR, Stripes programs reward Airmen, Guardians referrals

Tech. Sgt. Della Creech
Air Force Reserve Command

Airmen and Guardians are eligible for decorations or promotions through recruiting referrals under the Airman and Guardian Referral Program.

Referral Programs

Two programs, Stellar Talent Acquisition Recruiting Referral and Stripes for Referrals, aim to incentivize all Airmen and Guardians to inspire the next generation to serve in the Air Force and Space Force.

Who is Eligible for Medals

STARR authorizes enlisted service members up to senior master sergeant and officers up to lieutenant colonel to receive up to two Air and Space Achievement Medals for referring three enlisted accessions applicants who depart for basic military training.

Additionally, any enlisted member or officer up to colonel may receive the Air and Space Commendation Medal for referring five enlisted accessions applicants who depart for BMT.

Who is Eligible for Promotion

Stripes for Referrals allows Airman and Guardian recruits to be promoted up to E-2 by referring two enlisted accessions candidates, or to E-3 by referring four enlisted accessions candidates who join the Delayed Entry Program or Delayed Entry Training.

How To Apply

Applications must be submitted through the Aim

High application to qualify for the Air and Space Achievement and Commendation Medals. All users must create an account and input information in the ‘Refer a Friend’ portion of the app to receive credit for valid referrals.

The Department of the Air Force launched a Barriers to Service Cross-Functional Team to examine existing policies and procedures to ensure they reflect the service members needed for the future. The programs are part of this initiative and serve as a cost-effective instrument for referring candidates and increasing enlistments throughout the DAF.

Learn More

To submit referrals via application:

- Download the Aim High Application on your mobile device
- Create an account using your full, first and last name and your .mil email address
- Open the application and look for the three horizontal lines at the bottom right labeled ‘more’
- Select ‘more’ and scroll to the bottom and select ‘Refer a Friend’

More information on the STARR program can be found in Department of the Air Force Manual 36-2806 and Stripes for Referrals in DAFMAN 36-2032.



News Briefs

Promotions

Senior Master Sergeant
Timothy Kisner, SFS

Master Sergeant
John Brinker, AMDS
John Hardisky, 87 APS
Nathan Jones, MXG
Taylor Maurer, FSS
David Reed, CES

Technical Sergeant
Tyra Davis, LRS
Eric Lovingshimer, AES

Staff Sergeant
Darien Anderson, AMDS
Nicholas Laprairie, AMXS
Maiya Sauer, AES
Anjali Wadhwa, 87 APS

Senior Airman
Josiah Baxter, LRS
Rene Forghab, 87 APS
Gracia Halimoya-Musa, FSS

David Lopez, 87 APS
Selina Miser, FSS

Airman
Cameron Andrade, AMXS
Exocene Baseme, 87 APS
Josiah Gierman, MXS
Roland Otchere, 87 APS
Caleb Richardson, MXS

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.

CLEP/Dantes

Did you know you can complete many credits of your CCAF by taking

a CLEP or Dantes test? These tests are free for military members the first time you take them and traditionally have only been available during the work week at a National Testing Center.

However, the 88th Air Base Wing Education and Training Office has graciously offered to administer CLEP/Dantes tests on the weekend if there is enough interest.

If you would like to take a CLEP and/or Dantes test during an upcoming UTA, please email June Mohr at june.mohr@park.edu. Once a minimum number of participants is met, the 88th ABW Education and Training Office will open up a weekend for testing and email the interested members. Finish that CCAF!

Buckeye Flyer

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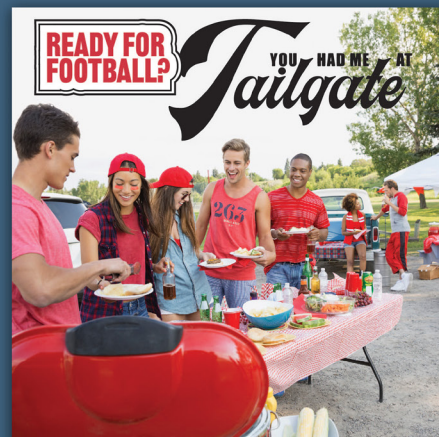
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2024 Family Day Football & Squadron Tailgate



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

- Football & Tailgate
- Volleyball
- Cornhole
- Kids zone/bounce houses
- C-17 static display
(bus transportation provided)
- Face Painting

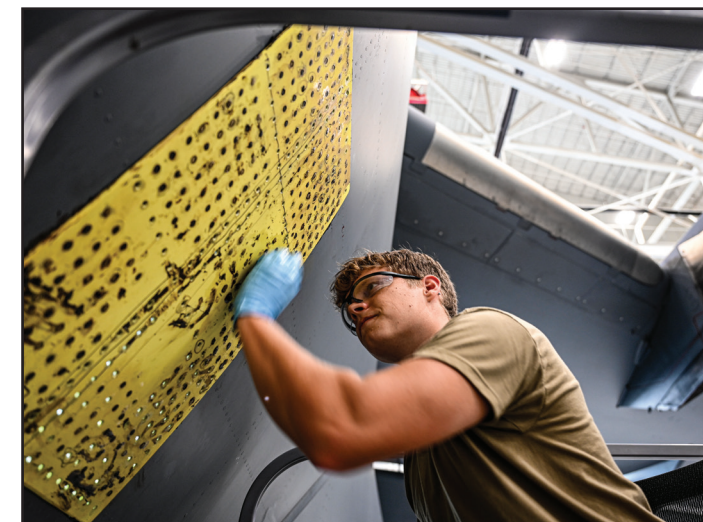
Bring picnic blankets & lawn chairs

Around the wing ...



(left) Senior Airman Cera Savage, right, 445th Logistics Readiness Squadron supply journeyman, receives education information from Master Sgt. Sandra Parcell, 445th Force Support Squadron Education and Training Air Reserve Technician, at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, July 17, 2025. Savage visited the educational and training office seeking information on education programs, requesting transcripts to apply for an associate's degree from the Community College of the Air Force and looking for general bachelor's degree information.

(right) Airman Lorwy Valmir, 445th Force Support Squadron personnel specialist, verifies a customer's identification before issuing a dependent ID at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, July 17, 2025. Dependents must keep their IDs current to retain access to base.



Photos by Staff Sgt. Johnathan Quiñones

(left) Staff Sgt. London Foreman, 445th Maintenance Squadron aircraft structural maintenance journeyman, performs an exterior aircraft skin repair on C-17 Globemaster III at Wright Patterson Air Force Base, July 17, 2025. (right) Staff Sgt. Gabrielle Saidak, left, 445th Operation Support Squadron Aircrew Flight Equipment air continuation instructor trains Tech. Sgt. Andrew Emmons 445th OSS AFE craftsman on BA-30 parachutes at Wright Patterson, AFB, July 21, 2025. Emmons is learning the fundamentals on BA-30 inspection, fold, repair and re-pack.



Resiliency Check: Reframing

By Master Sgt. Jason Cordle
445th Airlift Wing Resiliency Integrator

What Exactly Is Reframing?

Instead of dwelling on the negative aspects, reframing encourages you to seek out the lesson, the opportunity for growth, or even just a more neutral, less emotionally charged interpretation.

It's not about ignoring reality; it's about acknowledging reality while actively searching for a more constructive way to view it.

Why is reframing critical for Airmen?

- The nature of our mission: Our missions are complex and demanding. When things go wrong – and they will – reframing allows you to learn from mistakes without being crippled by them.

- Personal well-being: Stress, anxiety and burnout are real threats in our demanding environment. Reframing helps you manage these internal battles, fostering a sense of control and optimism, even in challenging circumstances.

- Adaptability and growth: The Air Force is constantly evolving. New technologies, new threats, new policies. Airmen who can reframe setbacks as learning opportunities are the ones who adapt quicker, innovate more effectively, and ultimately, grow into stronger leaders.

- Strengthening the wingman concept: When you're good at reframing your own challenges, you're better equipped to help your wingman. You can offer a different perspective, guiding them to see the situation in a more constructive light.

How to practice reframing – a first shirt's practical guide

- Acknowledge, don't ignore: Don't suppress your emotions. Acknowledge them first. "Okay, I'm really frustrated about this PT test score."

- Challenge the narrative: Ask yourself, "What's another way to look at this? Not what I wanted, but I

still passed. What did I learn? What adjustments can I make?"

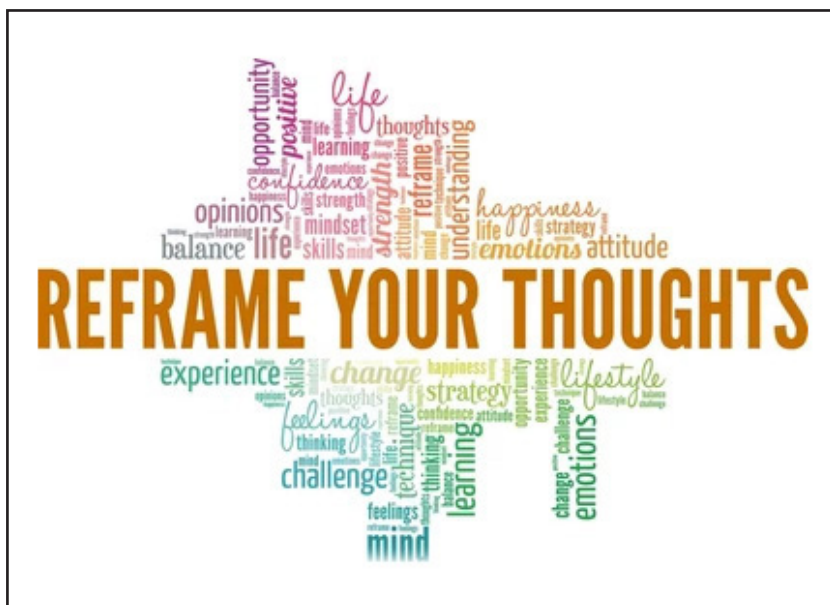
- Seek the lesson (or at least the opportunity): Every setback holds a potential lesson. What can you take away from this experience that will make you stronger, smarter or more prepared for the next time? "This deployment is long and tough, but it's teaching me incredible patience and how to truly rely on my team."

- Focus on what you can control: Often, we get bogged down by things outside our control. Reframing helps you pivot your energy towards what you can influence. "I can't control the squadron's budget cuts, but I can control how efficiently I manage my section's resources."

- Practice gratitude: As a Reservist, you're constantly navigating the complexities of two worlds. Even when a situation is difficult – like a surprise activation or a demanding drill weekend –

there's often a silver lining if you look for it. This isn't about ignoring stress; it's about intentionally focusing on the positives. "This deployment is incredibly hard on my family, but I'm grateful for the vital mission I'm contributing to, the bonds I'm forming with my fellow Airmen, and the pride my children/parents will have in my service."

- Lean on your wingman and resources: Sometimes, you can't reframe on your own. That's what your wingman is for. Talk it out. Seek advice. And remember, we have incredible resources available: your supervisor, your First Sergeant, the Chaplain, Mental Health, Military OneSource, and the Military and Family Life Counseling. Using these resources is a sign of strength, not weakness.



Air Force updates, clarifies DAFI 36-2903 guidance

Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

The Air Force updated its dress and personal appearance instruction to provide clear guidance for Airmen serving worldwide. The new guidance memorandum for Department of the Air Force Instruction 36-2903, Dress and Personal Appearance of Department of the Air Force Personnel, clarifies mandatory uniform items and personal appearance standards while adding visuals for greater clarity. The changes in this guidance memorandum only pertain to Airmen; the U.S. Space Force is projected to release a separate dress and appearance instruction in the coming weeks.

The new guidance:

- OCP Uniform: Requires all officers to maintain one complete set of an Operational Camouflage Pattern (OCP) uniform

- Eyelash Extensions: Removes authorization of eyelash extensions unless needed for medical reasons

- Combat Boots: Establishes a minimum height for combat boots

- OCP Sleeve Folding/Cuffing: Clarifies the folding or cuffing of OCP sleeves

Under the new guidance, all Air Force officers, regardless of career field, must maintain at least one complete set of either the non-fire-retardant opera-

tional camouflage pattern uniform or an improved hot weather combat OCP uniform. Additionally, combat boots must now be between 8-12 inches in height from the bottom of the heel tread to the top of the back of the boot, and soling material will not exceed two inches in height. Airmen must comply with the new uniform and boot height guidance no later than 90 days from the date of the guidance memorandum.

With the publication of this update, eyelash extensions are no longer authorized unless for medical reasons and documented on an Air Force Form 469, Duty Limiting Condition Report. If medical authorization is obtained and documented on an AF Form 469, eyelash extensions will not exceed 12 mm in length. Airmen must comply with the new eyelash extension standard no later than 30 days from the date of the guidance memorandum.

This update also clarifies the policy of folding or cuffing OCP sleeves. When sleeves are not rolled up, cuffs may remain visible, or members may fold their sleeves once or twice as shown in the updated guidance memorandum.

The new guidance memorandum for DAFI 36-2903 has been posted to the Department of the Air Force E-Publishing website.

Wing announces major promotions

Air Reserve Personnel Center officials announced results for the Calendar Year 2025 Air Force Reserve Line and Nonline major promotions June 27. The boards selected 763 Citizen Airmen for promotion.

The selection boards convened at ARPC Jan 13-17, 2025, to determine those officers best and fully qualified to assume the next higher grade.

Categories considered during these promotions boards were: Line of the Air Force-Air Operations and Special Warfare, Line of Air Force-Nuclear Missile Operations, Line of Air Force-Space Operations, Line of Air Force-Information Warfare, Line of Air Force-Combat Support, Line of Air Force-Force Modernization, Line of the

Air Force Judge Advocate, Chaplains, Dental Corps, Medical Corps, Medical Service Corps, Nurse Corps, Biomedical Sciences Corps and Cross Functional Operations.

Seven Airmen from the 445th Airlift Wing have been selected for promotion to major:

Brent Black, Jason Gumm and Pauletta Hummel with the 445th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron; Jonathan Charles with the 445th Aeromedical Staging Squadron; Carrie Stachura with the 445th Logistics Readiness Squadron; Matthew Bush with the 445th Operations Support Squadron; and Cecilia Photinos with the 89th Airlift Squadron.

Congratulations to our new majors!



Summer safety: Staying safe in the heat, water

Amanda Dick

445th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

With summer now in full swing, the days are getting hotter, and water activities are increasing.

“Summer months bring a greater number of people participating in water events which brings up a greater risk of injury or worse,” said Senior Master Sgt. James Lide, 445th Airlift Wing Safety Office Occupational Safety manager. “Then, there’s the heat, people lacking hydration, sunburns. So, it’s important to take that into consideration during these summertime months.”

The Air Force Safety Center offers several tips on both heat and water safety.

To help mitigate heat stroke or exhaustion, the Security Center states people can avoid either by wearing lightweight and loose-fitting clothes that are light in color, wearing sunscreen, drinking plenty fluids like water and drinks with electrolytes, pacing oneself when outdoors, and not leaving anyone inside a car with no air conditioning.

It is also important to know the signs and symptoms of both like confusion, loss of consciousness, and seizures for heat stroke; and headache, nausea, and dizziness for heat exhaustion, to name a few.

Once discovered, heat stroke can be treated by calling 911, moving the person to shade, and staying with them until emergency services arrive. Additionally, heat exhaustion can be treated by removing the person from the hot area, giving them liquids and cooling them down.

During the summer months, swimming, water sports and boating tend to be big activities to beat the heat.

Swimming can be especially perilous for children, especially for those up to age 4 where drowning is the No. 1 cause of death, according to the American Red Cross.

The Safety Center website recommends not leaving children alone near water, keeping tabs on them at all times, and taking children with adults when leaving the water.

For both water sports and boating, life jackets are key to safety, as the U.S. Coast Guard reported 75% of boating deaths in 2023 were due to drowning with 87% of those due to no life jacket.

More information can be found at <https://www.safety.af.mil/Divisions/Occupational-Safety-Division/Summer-Safety/>.

KNOW THE SIGNS

HEAT CAN KILL

HEAT STROKE & HEAT EXHAUSTION

HOW TO AVOID IT - SYMPTOMS - TREATMENT

LEARN HOW TO AVOID IT

- Wear lightweight, light-colored, loose-fitting clothing
- Pace yourself
- Wear sunscreen
- Never leave anyone in cars without A/C

- Stay cool indoors
- Drink plenty of fluids (water, drinks with electrolytes)
- Keep your pets hydrated

LEARN TO SPOT THE SYMPTOMS

HEAT STROKE

- Confusion, altered mental status, slurred speech
- Loss of consciousness
- Hot, dry skin or profuse sweating
- Seizures
- Elevated body temperature

HEAT EXHAUSTION

- Headache
- Nausea
- Dizziness
- Weakness
- Irritability
- Thirst
- Heavy sweating
- Elevated body temperature

LEARN HOW TO TREAT IT

HEAT STROKE

- Call 911 for emergency medical care
- Stay with person until emergency medical services arrive
- Move the person to a shaded, cool area and remove outer clothing
- Cool the person quickly with cold water or ice bath if possible; wet the skin, place cold wet cloths on head, neck, armpits, and groin, or soak clothing with cool water
- Circulate the air around the person to speed cooling

HEAT EXHAUSTION

- Take individual to a clinic or emergency room for medical evaluation and treatment
- If medical care is unavailable, call 911
- Someone should stay with person until help arrives
- Remove unnecessary clothing, including shoes and socks
- Remove person from the hot area and give liquids to drink
- Cool person with cold compresses or have the person wash head, face and neck with cold water
- Encourage frequent sips of cool water

See Something. Do Something ... Live to be Lethal!



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