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445th AW Reserve Citizen Airmen return from deployment



Photos by Patrick O'Reilly

Approximately 140 Reserve Citizen Airmen with the 445th Airlift Wing returned home from a two-month deployment January 4 that began in October 2023. The Airmen prepped and deployed in under 72 hours as part of the wing's first C-17 force element mobilization. The Airmen, along with four of the wing's C-17 Globemaster III aircraft, transported cargo, personnel and humanitarian aid to various locations, maintained the aircraft to ensure they were ready to fly at a moment's notice. They demonstrated their warfighting capability to support dynamic operations while integrating with coalition forces while deployed.



(left) Family and friends eagerly await the arrival of 445th Airlift Wing Airmen as they return from a two-month deployment at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, Jan. 4, 2024. (right) Capt. Carol Read-Arce, 445th Maintenance Squadron director of operations, greets her children as she returns from a two-month deployment at an undisclosed location, Jan. 4, 2024. The Airmen returned from a two-month deployment where they transported cargo, personnel and humanitarian aid to various locations.

SFS virtual marksmanship training produces authentic results

By Staff Sgt. Ethan Spickler
445th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

With a mission that demands decisiveness in complex situations, Airmen assigned to the 445th Security Forces Squadron require frequency and consistency with regard to training.

While Airmen continue to be proactive when identifying training opportunities, security forces now have an additional tool in their training toolkit: a virtual firearms range/simulator.

This virtual technology provides further training opportunities and maximizes the ability for Airmen to feel comfortable behind their weapon systems.

“This gets Airmen used to looking down range,” said Staff Sgt. Daryn Weatherspoon, 445th SFS training instructor. “We can set up virtual targets at the max effective ranges of our weapon systems. It’s an extremely useful solution to alleviate potential anxiety about pulling the trigger and improve on fundamentals at the same time.”

The virtual firearms range/simulator consists of a high-tech projector that casts a realistic image on a projector screen. A computer feeds the scenarios to the projector and interfaces with realistic simulated weapon systems to track shots and provide feedback to instructors.

This system provides an array of unique advantages for individual shooters. Each shot taken with each weapon system is tracked by its placement and quality.

Instructors can use advanced real-time electronic data to identify shooter error relative to shot placement. For example, if a shooter has poor trigger or breath control (part of shooting fundamentals), an instructor can access that data and provide real-time feedback.

On a traditional live fire range, correcting shooter error can be difficult and can only be accomplished after the cycle of fire. With the virtual platform, errors and inconsistencies can be identified immediately, demonstrated by the data and subsequently corrected.

“We can track in real time the way people shoot and give them feedback that will help them when they shoot for qualification and when they are out doing their jobs,” Weatherspoon said. “We have so many op-

tions with this system such as running standard marksmanship drills and creating our own missions from the ground up. It really gives us the flexibility to challenge our Airmen and present them with scenarios they may face in the real world with the feedback necessary to make them more effective.”

While the virtual range facilitates efficiency, there is also a convenience factor with the virtual range that doesn’t exist elsewhere. It doesn’t require extensive cleaning and preparation of weapon systems, and ammo or multiple instructors to ensure the safety of the

range.

With the virtual platform, the entire process is simplified exponentially. Multiple shooters can participate at a time. Additionally, the simulator is located at the squadron, so Airmen won’t need to travel far to get the opportunity to train.

“There is less fatigue with a system like this, which means we can cycle more troops through courses on the virtual range,” said Tech. Sgt. Jared Holliday, 445th SFS fire team leader. “In between qualifications, Airmen have the chance to improve and showcase the skills they have learned in an environment that allows for maximum flexibility.”



Staff Sgt. Ethan Spickler

Staff Sgt. Tyler Acevedo, 445th Security Forces Squadron fire team leader, engages targets during virtual marksmanship training at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, Jan. 6, 2024.

Wing announces 4th Quarter CY 2023 award winners



First Lt. Evan Postma, 445th Operations Support Squadron officer in charge of intelligence operations, is the 445th Airlift Wing Company Grade Officer of the Quarter. Postma led a three-member intel team as the officer in charge of intelligence operations in less than 72 hours to support United States Central Command. He debriefed the outgoing unit to ensure adequate change-over and coordinated with three units to brief ongoing geopolitical tensions across the combatant command. He managed operations 24/7 and created 59 pre-mission briefings for 355 aircrew members across two squadrons. He trained and ensured aircrews had situational awareness, safeguarding the transit of 970 personnel and 3,512 tons of cargo. He organized a cross-functional behind-the-scenes pilot and intel cross-talk collaboration at the Combined Air Operations Center to aid 89th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron flying personnel in their duties.



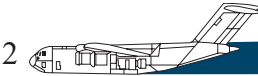
Master Sgt. Aaron Fisher, 87th Aerial Port Squadron load planner, is the 445th Airlift Wing Senior NCO of the Quarter. Fisher executed the 1st-ever 72-hour Secretary of Defense Orders Book call-up. He deployed a C-17 Mission Generation Force Element of four aircraft, 53 cargo tons and 141 passengers; enabling the delivery of aid. He load planned and coordinated airlift supporting the Pentagon’s rapid acquisition program. He led cargo inspections and a load team through 48 airlift missions, loading 1,700 tons of cargo and 168 passengers. He supported the Smithsonian Transcription Center as part of a volunteer team by digitally converting more than 2,200 Freedmen’s Bureau records enhancing the accessibility of post-American Civil War Reconstruction documents. He organized and led a team of 10 people for a six-hour Wichita Mountain Wildlife Refuge cleanup event removing litter and preserving a protected natural habitat.



Staff Sgt. Sarah Bennett, 445th Operations Support Squadron aircrew flight equipment technician, is the 445th Airlift Wing NCO of the Quarter. Bennett was instrumental in a 68 hour Aircrew Flight Equipment turnover where she streamlined local tracking systems to accurately account for more than \$1 million in deployed assets, resulting in zero loss of mission critical equipment, in support of two operations. She accomplished 102 AFE inspections within four weeks, resulting in 250 flight hours and 59 sorties driving the successful movement of 3,511 tons of humanitarian aid delivered throughout the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility. She initiated the inventory of an AFE mobility package accounting for 3,025 assets totaling over \$300,000 with less than 72 hours notice while preparing real world equipment items needed for deploying 89th Airlift Squadron aircrew members.



Airman Elias Strubler, 445th Security Forces Squadron fire team leader, is the 445th Airlift Wing Airman of the Quarter. Strubler assisted in training 96 wing personnel in a Shoot Move Communicate course, bolstering total force lethality. He contributed to building a more secure fighting force across five different Air Force career fields. He assisted in leading a four-person fire team during Close Quarters Battle, ensuring Agile Combat advanced skills were mastered. Strubler provided critical Defensive Fighting Position Fire, supporting 29 Defenders during a field training exercise and demonstrated combat lethality resulting in meeting 14 Career Field Education Training Plan requirements. Strubler dedicated eight hours at a local food bank, resulting in 150 pounds of food provided to eight families. He aided the holiday party committee, helping the team collect \$4,500 benefiting current members, their families, and retired members.



SPOTLIGHT



Rank/Name: Capt. Jonathan Charles

Unit: 445th Aeromedical Staging Squadron

Duty Title: Medical Readiness Officer

Hometown: Zanesville, Ohio

Civilian Job: Warranted federal contracting officer

Education: Bachelor of Science in marketing from Ohio Valley University and pursuing a master's degree in public administration from Central Michigan University

Hobbies: Homeschooling, church, value-investing, history and bicycling.

Career Goal: In the military, I want to make major and work for Global Patient Movement Requirements Center (GPMRC). In my civilian career, I want to start my own business.

What do you like about working at the 445th?

The mission and location. I left active duty to be closer to, and assist with, caring for my father. I chose the 445th ASTS specifically because of the wounded warrior/aeromedical evacuation mission. We care for, stage, and

evacuate wounded warriors, a job I fell in love with while stationed at the 779th Aeromedical Staging Facility while on active duty.

Why did you join the Air Force?

September 11th. In college, I found myself very vocal in support of the Global War on Terror, but that passionate support turned to guilt for not volunteering. So, upon graduation, I joined the Air Force to finally be a part of that worthy effort.

Not even snow can stop AMXS Airmen



Master Sgt. Patrick O'Reilly

(left) Tech. Sgt. Marsell Moody, 445th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron crew chief, performs a routine post-flight engine check on a C-17 Globemaster III during the Jan. 6, 2024 unit training assembly at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio. Post-flight inspections are performed on aircraft after every flight to ensure mission and operational readiness. (right) Senior Airman Killian Sullivan, 445th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron aircraft mechanic, clears snow as he installs an engine cover on a C-17 Globemaster III at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, Jan. 6, 2024.

445th units ensure smooth return of deployers

By Capt. Rachel Ingram
445th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Close coordination between several 445th Airlift Wing squadrons led to the successful reception of about 140 Airmen returning from deployment Jan. 4.

Four C-17 Globemaster III aircraft brought the Airmen home safely, along with 35 pieces of cargo totaling 88,340 pounds.

Upon arrival, the 445th Logistics Readiness Squadron briefed the Airmen about in-processing requirements while the 87th Aerial Port Squadron offloaded the rolling stock and pallets of cargo.

"It was a team effort," said Master Sgt. Jordan West, 445th Mission Support Group unit deployment manager. "We completed the offload of all four aircraft in just over two hours."

On the administrative side of things, the individual deployment readiness cell, or IDRC, led by Master Sgt. Felicia Johnson of the 445th Force Support Squadron, organized the four-stop in-processing schedule to ensure nothing falls through the cracks.

"The IDRC is like the wheels of a clock," explained Maj. Phillip Sobers, 445th LRS commander. "All we see is what time it is, but she [Johnson] is behind the scenes making it all happen."

Johnson personally greeted each aircraft on the flightline, providing an initial mass briefing and then sending the Airmen out to meet their waiting families.



Photos by Patrick O'Reilly

Chief Master Sgt. Sean Storms, 87th Aerial Port Squadron aerial port manager, works with Airmen and base contractors to break down a baggage pallet at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, Jan. 4, 2024. The bags belong to Airmen who returned to the 445th Airlift Wing following a deployment.

"I'm their last stop before they go into leave status," Johnson said.

The deployers must report back to duty the following morning to complete an array of in-processing tasks, including medical, finance, supply and military personnel, she explained.

"We completely in-processed all of the returning deployers within 16 hours of arrival," she added.

Staff Sgt. Weston Emanuelson, 445th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron crew chief, was on one of those four aircraft, completing his fourth military deployment, but first with the Air Force.

"It's not anything new for me," he said, noting he'd served on submarines in the U.S. Navy prior to joining the 445th AW.

"The process this time was fairly smooth and simple," Emanuelson said. "When there was one hiccup at the medical in-processing station, they quickly recalibrated to move things along more quickly."

From sorting out baggage to streamlining pick up to consolidating briefings whenever possible, each of the supporting units shared a common goal of reconnecting the homebound Airmen with their families as safely and efficiently as possible.



Carrie Ruby, 445th Airlift Wing Financial Management Office budget analyst, assists wing Airmen during post-deployment in-processing at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, Jan. 5, 2024. The Airmen returned from a two-month deployment where they transported cargo, personnel and humanitarian aid to various locations.



Wing Safety offers winter driving safety tips

By Master Sgt. Joe Klimaski
445th Airlift Wing Occupational Safety & Health

Operating a vehicle can be one of the riskiest things we do each day. Compound this with the dangers of winter weather hazards, and it can be costly.

Since most of us will most likely travel at some point this winter, here are a few winter weather driving tips to help reduce risks associated with winter driving.

- Each time you're behind the wheel, practice defensive driving, stay hands free with your phone, and never drink and drive.

- Inspect your tires monthly and before long road trips. Check your tire pressure and check for wear and tear. Replace tires when needed, and don't forget about your spare tire.

- Take note of your battery's health. Cold weather significantly reduces battery life and can leave you stranded. Have your battery tested and replaced when



U.S. Army Sgt. Rognie Ortiz Vega

needed. Also, hybrid and electric vehicles are susceptible to less-than-anticipated battery performance. Check with your manufacture on battery life expectancy.

- Keep your cool, but don't freeze.

Check your vehicle's coolant for proper levels and have your vehicle serviced as needed. Some coolants are only designed for warmer weather, so keep that in mind. Additionally, make sure all other fluids are topped off regularly.

- Drive slowly and allow time to safely manager road conditions. Even if snow isn't present, black ice can

form. Keep your focus when driving, maintain situational awareness, and allow for extra-spacing between other vehicles.

For more info contact wing safety at (937) 257-5767.

Feb. 17 is Random Acts of Kindness Day

By Vera Ensalaco
445th Airlift Wing Director of Psychological Health

Did you know the phrase "random act of kindness" has an actual terminology? Anne Herbert's book, *Random Kindness and Senseless Acts of Beauty*, (1993) that details true stories about acts of kindness described it as a "non-premeditated, inconsistent act designed to offer kindness toward the outside world."

It was based on the phrase "random acts of violence and senseless acts of cruelty."

There are films, literature, children's books, programs and a website (randomactsofkindness.org) covering this.

Doing random acts of kindness has many of the "feel good" properties you hear about. It has been found to increase oxytocin (a peptide hormone and deemed "the love hormone"), lower blood pressure and improve heart health.

These are small vehicles of change that improve the quality of life around us. As with negativity, positive acts have a ripple effect that can inspire others to also pay it forward.

This article is chocked full of phrases seemingly cliché, though in actuality, they are not. These are small, low-cost and apparently inconsequential things you can do at any given time, and often anonymously, have great impact.

Extend kindness. It might be the only nicety the

other person or you experience for the day.

It reminds me of when I was working at the host installation and facilitating trainings for annual Sexual Assault Prevention and Response, and Suicide Prevention. One of my trainers said hello to a colleague, thinking nothing of it other than a friendly hello. The next week, that person came to her thanking her for speaking to her.

She said she was in a dark place and that interaction brought her back into the day. She wasn't sure where her mind was, but that connection gave her a bit of light.

The most impactful influences in suicide prevention are connection and belongingness. These acts of kindness can help with this.

Additionally, Random Acts of Kindness Day is Feb. 17, but you can be kind on any day.

As you go about your day, if you can do something nice or kind like give a compliment, let someone ahead of you in line, etc., go ahead and do it. You'll probably feel just as good as the recipient!

"Carry out a random act of kindness, with no expectation of reward, safe in the knowledge that one day someone might do the same for you." – Princess Diana

News Briefs

Awards Banquet

The 445th Airlift Wing Annual Awards Banquet will be held Saturday, March 9 at the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force to recognize 2023 annual award winners. The reception begins at 6 p.m. followed by the program at 7 p.m.

A medallion ceremony will be held at 5 p.m. to formally recognize all nominees. Details will be emailed to nominees.

The cost is \$55 for adults; \$25 for children ages 6 to 10; and children 5 and under are free.

All reservations must be received by Feb. 16. In person reservations may be made via cash or check in the Public Affairs office in building 4010, room 171. Use the QR Code below to RSVP online using PayPal.



NOTE: PayPal payments may incur a processing fee. For more information, please contact the Public Affairs office at 937-257-5784.

Promotions

Chief Master Sergeant
Kyle Truelsen, MXS

Senior Master Sergeant
Joseph Hackney, AMXS
Sarah Hofmeister, MSG

Master Sergeant
Richard Bullard, 87 APS
Jared Dexter, FSS
Charles Tryon, MXS
Michael Wilson, AMXS

Technical Sergeant
Cassidy Atkins, LRS
Austin Hall, MXS

Staff Sergeant
Ian Kimmel, MXS
Katelyn Kingrey, ASTS
Kyle Mitchel, MXS

Senior Airman
David Fuller, AMXS
Janel Gipson, 89 AS
Tristen Walton, CES

Airman First Class
Jacklynn Davis, ASTS
Nathan Ernst, AMXS
Chetana Kunchuvari Anand Prakash, 87 APS

Airman
Gregory Knoop, AMXS
Jonathan Pascual Lopez, LRS

Newcomers

Lt Col Sabrina Ocampo, AES
2 Lt Brandon Peege, 89 AS
2 Lt Cierra White, FSS
SMSgt Kyle Truelsen, MXS
SSgt Tyler Acevedo, SFS
SSgt Zackary Case, AES
SSgt Lucas Cordes, AES
SSgt Danielle Mullenax, AES
SSgt Robert Meyers, SFS
SrA Zachary Fero, ASTS
SrA Eric Sutton, AES
A1C Emmanuel Fraiku, 87 APS
A1C Alyssa Burton, AMXS
A1C Brooks Dumke, AMXS

A1C Danyll Justice, AMXS
A1C Maria Rodriguez-Alonso, AMDS
A1C Paul Watkins Jr., AMXS
Amn Mikayla Murphy, AW
AB Timothy Dang, ASTS

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Wing announces lieutenant colonel promotions

Air Reserve Personnel Center officials announced results for the Calendar Year 2023 Air Force Reserve Line and Nonline Lieutenant Colonel Promotion Selection Boards Jan. 16. The boards selected 707 Citizen Airmen for promotion.

The selection boards convened at ARPC Aug. 14-22, 2023, to determine those officers best and fully qualified to assume the next higher grade. Board members selected 707 of 1,439 officers considered.

Categories considered during these promotion boards were: Line of the Air Force Air Operations and Special Warfare, Line of the Air Force Nuclear Missile Operations, Line of the Air Force Space Operations, Line of the Air Force Information Warfare, Line of the

Air Force Combat Support, Line of the Air Force Force Modernization, Line of the Air Force Cross Functional Operations, Chaplains, Dental Corps, Judge Advocates, Medical Corps, Nurse Corps, Medical Services Corps, and Biomedical Sciences Corps.

Eight 445th Airlift Wing members were selected for promotion to lieutenant colonel: Zachary Balas, Philip Becker and Michelle Williams 89th Airlift Squadron; Ernest Debrah, 445th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron; Gina Domm, 445th Aerospace Medicine Squadron; Christopher Moran, 445th Airlift Wing; Michelle Setliff, 445th Aeromedical Staging Squadron; and Bjorn Langefeld, 445th Maintenance Squadron.



4th Air Force Command Chief visits the 445th AW



Photos by Senior Airman Angela Jackson

(left) Maj. Daniel Shields, right, 445th Aeromedical Staging Squadron flight surgeon, demonstrates the heartbeat functionality of a medical mannequin to Chief Master Sgt. Travon Dennis, Fourth Air Force command chief at March Air Reserve Base, California, during his visit to the 445th Airlift Wing, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, Jan. 6, 2024. (right) Chief Master Sgt. Travon Dennis, Fourth Air Force command chief, coins Master Sgt. Felicia Johnson, 445th Force Support Squadron NCO in charge of installation personnel readiness, for being an outstanding performer at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, Jan. 7, 2024.



Chief Master Sergeant Travon Dennis, Fourth Air Force command chief, March Air Reserve Base, California, sits with 445th members in a 46-man life raft as they discuss life saving devices and methods. The members discussed signaling and recovering techniques for downed aircraft in a water scenario, Jan. 6, 2024. The chief master sergeant also met with the 445th's Chief's Group, Rising Six, First Sergeant Council and wing units during his visit at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, Jan. 6-8, 2024.



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