

BUCKEYE FLYER

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445th flyers escape Ohio for evasion, survival training

By Capt. Rodney McNany

445th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

The pitch dark morning was punctuated by flashes of lightning and at times torrential rain. Such was the greeting for 445th Airlift Wing personnel on their first morning of training in Key West, Florida. With six months of preparation and valuable training on the line, Hurricane Paula relented allowing the 445th Operational Support Squadron aircrew members to survive in and on the water.

Members of the 89th Airlift Squadron, the 445th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron and OSS members took part in the tri-annual training requirement as part of their annual tour obligation Oct. 13 - 16.

A 25-man life raft served as the classroom for the water portion of the training. The floating venue provided the OSS survival instructors an excellent platform for teaching a wide variety of signaling devices from mirrors and strobe lights to radios.

“On the water you may need to survive on limited resources so instructors spent a lot of time on the water discussing those things. While they were on the water, I was on shore demonstrating other signaling devices like the MK13 day (smoke) and night flair and the pin flair which is also known as a gyro jet. Everybody got to fire one off and by doing that in a controlled situation hopefully it takes out some of the intimidation and fear if they ever had to do it for real,” said Tech. Sgt. Maurice Upshaw, OSS survival instructor.



Capt. Rodney McNany

Staff Sgt. Chris Judd, 89th Airlift Squadron, and Senior Master Sgt. Greg Serision, 445th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, consult their map and compass reading before advancing to their checkpoint during an assisted evasion exercise.

Though Paula was downgraded to a tropical storm, the choppy water, high winds and constant rain added to the realism of the hands on familiarization training. And that is the very reason they come to Key West for the training.

“Until 2009, this training was satisfied at Bass Lake (Wright-Patterson AFB). And while we didn’t have to travel far, it didn’t really provide the realism that an ocean ditching would be like. Here in Key West, we have the elements like salt water and great support from the Navy with boats and helicopters for basket hoists,” said Lt. Col. Dave Deluca, assistant operations officer and former training officer for the 89th AS.

Along with the authenticity of the tropical storm came the operational limits for the training and while the storm did not curtail the training exercise it did mean some last minute changes. Unfortunately, the helicopter mission had to be scrubbed, said Lt. Col. Philip Pierce, operations officer with the 89th AS. He went on to say, the helicopter basket lift is a highlight for our folks as there is nothing like the sensation of actually climbing into the basket and being hoisted up and back down in a rescue basket from open water.



Staff Sgt. Robert Nelson

Tech. Sgt. Troy Fenhoff and Staff Sgt. De’Juan Gaskins, both from the 445th Operation Support Squadron, act as enemy combatants during the land evasion exercise.

See SURVIVAL, page 6

Gratitude gives birth to many virtues

By Chaplain (Capt.) Jonathan Kollmann
445th Airlift Wing

“Satisfy us in the morning with your unfailing love, that we may sing for joy and be glad all our days.” -Psalm 90:14

It’s coming...Thanksgiving! Oh yeah! It is one of my favorite national holidays! The day produces sights like the Macy’s Thanksgiving Day parade, smells like stuffing and turkey cooking, tastes like pumpkin pie and again...turkey!

Everything about that day makes me extremely excited (as if you can’t tell)! However, I enjoy

the day not just for what it does to the senses, but what it does for my heart, mind and family.

Thanksgiving produces gratitude, and gratitude is not just a day; it should be an attitude, a daily disposition. This past August, I had the privilege to listen to a lecture on “Gratitude in Community” by Dr. Christine Pohl. Dr. Pohl said, “Gratitude gives birth to many virtues like; grace, joy, worship, celebration, respect, generosity, laughter, authenticity, self-

worth and above all, love!” She proceeded to state what ingratitude produces, “Ingratitude births many vices like; entitlement, cynicism, taking things for granted and grumbling.” This was very eye-opening to me.

This month as we make our way to Thanksgiving, my prayer is GRATITUDE would birth a fountain of virtues in your daily life.

May our hearts produce a pulse of praise to God and those around us! Amen.

Buckeye Flyer

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Not all dinosaurs are extinct

By Lt. Col. George Palmer
445th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

There are a few of us left alive and fairly well in the U.S. Air Force Reserves. Like the dinosaurs of old, we have a tendency to stay with our kind.



Perhaps it is safety in numbers or just misery loving company. We also have a bad habit of talking about the younger generation (it’s a learned behavior from the generation ahead of us) and often say they just “don’t get it.” We complain about everything from work ethics to disregard of our Core Values. Someone ought to do something about those young people!

At this point, if you are not a dinosaur, feel free to move on to the next article. I want to throw out a challenge to my fellow old fogies.

First, if we are really honest about it, we are complaining about just a few of the younger generation. Probably the same percentage of our peers who always gamed the system

and shirked their responsibilities. The vast majority of our young troops are just as tough and certainly smarter than we were at their age.

Secondly, what happened to most of those folks we carried for so long? When I think back about my favorite gold brickers, I realize that virtually all are gone. What happened to them? Oh wait...those OLD TIMERS either showed them the way or showed them the gate.

Now here we are, a few short decades later, and we are those old timers standing around the back of the government truck complaining about young people. Rather than whine, let’s follow the footsteps of our predecessors and do some mentoring. Most of the shortfalls we see in a few of our young folks can be corrected. If they choose not to follow the righteous path, we have remedies for those folks too.

Bottom line: It is our responsibility to mentor and train our replacements. Let’s take the measures necessary to make sure we reward the good and correct the bad – no matter how aggravating or time consuming – so the next generation is even better than ours. They deserve no less.





Staff Sgt. Amanda Duncan

Tech. Sgts. Heather Chapman and Natalie Storms, 445th Airman and Family Readiness office, remove transfer paper from a pillowcase after printing the photo of a deployed Airman on it.

Operation Pillowcase: Keeping children, deployed parents close

*By Staff Sgt. Robert Nelson
445th Airlift Wing Public Affairs*

The 445th Airman and Family Readiness office does more than offer services to military members and spouses, they provide support to the children too. They do this through the Operation Pillowcase program.

The Operation Pillowcase program is designed to boost and maintain morale of the entire family. A photo of the deployed Airman is placed on a pillowcase for their children. The kids can then hold their pillow with a picture of their parent close to them.

“This is an awesome program, and I love being a part of it. We never forget that the kids can use some support too,” said Tech. Sgt. Natalie Storms, 445th Airman and Family Readiness office.

The program plays a significant role in the morale and wellbeing of children while their parent is in a deployed location.

“This is a free service that we provide to the families,” Tech. Sgt. Heather Chapman, 445th Airman and Family Readiness office.

The airman and family readiness team can either take a photo of the deploying airman or they use one from the family. Then the family readiness team hot presses the photo onto the pillowcase.

“We make one pillowcase per child,” Sergeant Chapman said. “Then we mail it directly to the child. Their name appears on the mailing address, so they know it’s for them,” she added.



Photos by Senior Airman Matthew Cook



Yellow Ribbon

Master Sgt. Patricia Wortham, 445th Airman and Family Readiness office, explains deployment benefits to Staff Sgt. Michael Posey, 87th Aerial Port Squadron.

The daughter of a 445th Airman enjoys watching an alligator at the Columbus Zoo while participating in the Yellow Ribbon event. Nearly 100 Airmen and their families attended the pre-deployment Yellow Ribbon Program Sept. 24-26 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Dublin, Ohio.

Fourth quarter award winners announced

Airman



Staff Sgt. Justin Staten is an aeromedical evacuation technician in the 445th Aeromed-

ical Evacuation Squadron. Sergeant Staten was hand-chosen to participate in an operational mission, during which he cared for eight wounded warriors, immediately after becoming qualified. He completed upgrade training, flight training and universal qualification in record time and is now qualified on the C-130 Hercules, C-17 Globemaster III, and KC-135 Stratotanker. In addition to working on his Master of Public Administration degree, Sergeant Staten was selected as the John L. Levitow Award winner at in-residence Airman Leadership School.

NCO



Tech. Sgt. William Dolan is an air transportation craftsman in the 87th Aerial Port Squadron.

While deployed to Joint Base Balad, he served as the Special Handling Team, team chief. Under his leadership, the special handling team completed more than 5,500 missions with zero mishaps, processed more than 231 short-tons of equipment, and decreased frustrated cargo by 35 percent. Sergeant Dolan is pursuing his Principal Certification through the University of Dayton's Masters in Education Leadership Program. He mentors students and teachers. He completed the Transportation Proficiency Center Joint Inspector's course at Dobbins AFB, Ga.

SNCO



Master Sgt. Darrell Mellars is an avionics craftsman/element chief for the 445th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron.

As supervisor of C-5 maintenance production during Afghan surge, the unit maintained more than a 50 percent mission capable rate and flew 578 hours. Sergeant Mellars streamlined the awards and decorations program resulting in 26 medal presentations. He augmented the wing's C-17 conversion process by establishing a standardized master training plan and identifying personnel to attend C-17 training school. Sergeant Mellars excelled while a full-time student pursuing an accounting degree, earning a 3.8 GPA.

CGO



Capt. Robert Wengertner is the vehicle maintenance flight commander in the 445th Logistics

Readiness Squadron. While deployed to Kandahar Air Field, Afghanistan, Captain Wengertner led 75 Airmen and managed 50 aircraft and \$20 million in assets while providing airlift for 94,000 passengers and 71 tons of cargo on 7,000 missions. He planned the 445th Mission Support Group's annual training deployment to RAF Mildenhall. While deployed, he was named 451st Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron CGO of the month and received the International Security Assistance Force's Headquarters Commander Kandahar Air Field Hero Award.

Mark your calendars for the 445th Airlift Wing Annual Awards Banquet Saturday, January 8, 2011.

Donations sought for annual VA Christmas party

The Department of Veterans Affairs annual Christmas party organized by the 445th Airlift Wing and the Air Force Sergeants Association Kittyhawk Chapter 751 for the residents of the Dayton VA Medical Center, is scheduled for Dec. 4.

Each year the wing donates hundreds of items for both the VA residents and for those veterans in the center's outreach programs. Many veterans have outlived

their spouses and have little family support for incidentals or comfort items. The VA relies on donations to provide their veterans these items at no cost.

Units are encouraged to establish their own collection points and bring the items collected to the wing flag pole for transport Dec. 4. A collection point is set up in the maintenance group building 4012, Room 141.

The VA medical staff has provided a list of

items to help the veterans to include: new or gently used clean clothes for men and women; extra large t-shirts; new underclothes; socks; decaffeinated coffee; powdered creamer; sugar; sweetener; spray deodorant; shampoo; new or used DVDs; hand lotions; flip flops or shower shoes; baseball caps (military and patriotic); toothbrushes and toothpaste; combs and hairbrushes; and paperback novels.

Transportation will be provided for those interested in attending the VA Christmas party. The bus will depart from the flagpole at the 445th Airlift Wing Headquarters, building 4010, at 10:30 a. m. and return at approximately 1 p.m. Members may also drive their own vehicles.

Direct questions to Master Sgts. Anthony Johns at 257-0068 or Henry Harlow at 257-3787.



AES reservist trains new Air Force officers

By Stacy Vaughn

445th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

While many wing members took the opportunity during the summer to go on vacation, one reservist spent the summer teaching new Air Force officers the basics of officership and the Air Force lifestyle. Maj. Dawn Rice, 445th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, became a certified commissioned officer training instructor this summer.

She is now qualified to teach new medical, legal and chaplain officers coming into the Air Force that are going through Officer Training School at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.

According to Lt. Col. Todd Ackerman, 23rd Training Squadron, COT seeks instructors who exemplify leadership, professionalism and integrity in teaching their newest Total Force medical, legal and chaplain direct-commissioned officers for their first assignments.

As one of her commanders, Colonel Ackerman said Major Rice was selected because of her excellent performance as a prior COT trainee and her operational experience as a flight nurse, which she can share with their future trainees.

"Major Rice had a superb initial instructor tour," Colonel Ackerman said. "She produced three distinguished graduates and helped her student squadron earn Honorary Squadron, which was the number one squadron out of three."

Major Rice began her three-month journey to become a COT instructor in June. The first seven weeks she completed academic instructor and instructor qualification courses. She then stayed an additional 5-6 weeks to teach her own class. She is now a certified AETC instructor, an additional duty to her 445th

AES responsibilities.

"Every summer, they have a summer surge where class size goes from about 100 to more than 300 per class. A lot of the summer surge trainees are medical officers or officers going into the reserves," Major Rice said.

Major Rice said that being an instructor is much harder than anticipated. It involves delivering 25 classroom lectures and teaching trainees on the Leadership Reaction Course, the Confidence Course, the Assault Course and a mass casualty exercise.

"The hardest part was remembering that if I had to wake the trainees up by 4:30 a.m., I had to be up long before then," she said.

According to Major Rice, it's important to teach trainees, who are fully qualified in their professional civilian career fields, about officership because they can misunderstand rank structure and the leadership responsibilities that come with it.

"The greatest part of this experience was seeing the 16 people (in her flight) on day one and I was able to teach

them what it means to be an officer in the Air Force and see the changes," Major Rice said.

Major Rice will go back to OTS to teach COT every summer and teach one or more classes. The classes generally run from May-June, July-August, and August-September. She will be one of 15 or so flight commanders.

"Because of her strong performance and medical experience, even before she left her current tour, I asked Major Rice to return in 2011 to teach another 15-30 new officers for our Air Force," Colonel Ackerman said. (Capt. Caroline Wellman contributed to the story)



Courtesy Photo

Major Dawn Rice, 445th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, stands in front of an obstacle training course at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.

Officer position available for deserving Airman

The 445th Airlift Wing currently has a vacant officer position that will be filled through the Deserving Airman Commissioning Program.

All enlisted members under the age of 35, who have been a member of the 445th Airlift Wing for at least one year and have a bachelor's degree are eligible and encouraged to apply.

If you have not updated your

education status to reflect your bachelor's degree, please contact the education and training office at 257-5092 to initiate the process. Your education status must be updated in order for you to submit an application.

Completed applications are due to the military personnel flight (Tech. Sgt. Rhoda Salinas) no later than 4 p.m. Dec 5. Late applications

will not be accepted.

To obtain a copy of the application package fact sheet, please call Sergeant Salinas at 257-4638 or stop by the career enhancement office in building 4014.

The DACP Board will be held during the Gray unit training assembly in December.



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Deluca stated, “What we’re able to do here is put together a comprehensive training exercise that allows for not only water survival but combat survival and continuation training in a realistic environment.”

The realism continued off the water with several hundred acres of wooded terrain. The Airmen were able to hone and refresh their skill in compass and map reading as well as trying to be stealthy. The OSS team took advantage of the large rugged property by putting together an assisted evasion scenario. “The assisted evasion is one where you meet a “friendly” at a designated point and time. You can’t arrive too early or be too late and of course you have to continue to circumnavigate around the enemy,” explained Colonel Deluca.

Senior Airman Eric Ruth, a member of the OSS, played the part of aggressor and it was his job to make the inhospitable land even more hostile.

“I won’t lie, it’s thick in there, and the first day it was dark and wet too. Sometimes we would make noise on purpose so the evaders would know where we were and try to work their way around us. When they were sloppy, we would set ambushes to help them understand they always have to be vigilant,” said Airman Ruth.

The second day of training broke with plenty of sunshine and mild temperatures allowing the woods to dry out a little. And for Colonel Deluca who walked around all the first day in a drenched flight suit, the second day couldn’t have been any better...unless of course you are a Yankee’s fan.

“Getting 70 aircrew members signed off and current over a three day period is phenomenal,” said Colonel Deluca. “This was a successful TDY by anybody’s standard.”

SPOTLIGHT



Rank/Name

Tech. Sgt. Dale Quigley

Unit

445th Civil Engineer Fire Operations; Fire Department

Duty Title

Assistant Chief of Operations

Civilian Job

Lieutenant for Wright-Patterson Air Force Base Fire Department Station #2

Education

Completing a Community of the Air Force degree in Fire Science

Hometown

Martinsville, Ohio

Hobbies

Black Belt in karate; teaching and instructing karate to ages 5-50

Career Goal

To become chief of the fire department

What do you like about working at the 445th?

I feel like I’m a part of a big family.

Why did you join the Air Force?

To further my education in firefighting.



Senior Airman Matthew Cook

ASTS trains for war

Members of 445th Aeromedical Staging Squadron conduct a shelter assembly during the unit’s annual field training exercise Oct. 2. More than 100 Airmen completed ATSO (the ability to survive and operate) training to include mission oriented protective postures, alarm conditions, and force protection actions. The group also participated in flu outbreak, security issues and medical recovery exercises.

News Briefs

Awards

Meritorious Service Medal

Lt Col Michael Bending, 89 AS
 Lt Col Dean Michals, 89 AS
 Lt Col Neil Repke, AW
 Maj Brian Guthrie, SVF
 Maj Franklin Harbert Jr., AES
 Maj Brett Manger, 89 AS
 Maj David Mohr, 87 APS
 CMSgt Robert Haye, 87 APS
 SMSgt Jacqueline Larrison, 87 APS
 MSgt Leroy Carpenter Jr., MXS
 MSgt Michael Gdula, OG
 MSgt Cynthia Holland, OG
 MSgt Mark Lyle, MSG
 MSgt Patrick McCoy, AES
 MSgt Rex Schlosser, 87 APS
 SSgt Sara Kavanaugh, 87 APS

Air Force Commendation Medal

TSgt Christopher Falloon, AMXS

SSgt William Burdick, AMXS

Air Force Achievement Medal

Lt Col David Leist, AW
 SSgt Joey Frisco, SVF
 SrA Nastasskia Gerald, SVF
 SrA Eddie Mulkey, AES
 SrA Angela Prince, SVF

Promotions

Airman

Anthony Benoit, CES
 Dane Ewing, CES
 Joshua Farley, MXS
 Derek Jones, CES
 Matthew Shaw, AES

Airman First Class

Joseph Benefiel, AES
 Douglas Lippert, AMXS
 Justin Van Niman, ASTS
 Adam Olsen, ASTS

Senior Airman

Jason Benedict, CES
 Anthony Brown, AMXS
 Nathan Collett, 87 APS
 Jessica Houser, LRS
 Michael Johnson Jr., CES

Joseph Morgan, 87 APS
 Joel Olsen, CES
 Cassandra Titus, AMDS
 Nathan Volz, CES

Staff Sergeant

John Brinker Jr., SFS
 Danitra Brown, AMDS
 Hugh Gibbs, CES
 Jamie Pope, 87 APS
 Starlain Thompson, 87 APS

Ashley Williams, ASTS

Technical Sergeant

Michael Baker, AMXS
 Henry Lewis, AMDS
 Eric Marshall, 87 APS
 Michael Maurer, 87 APS
 Shawn McKellop, LRS
 Jason Niederwerder, AMXS
 Belinda Reilly, AMDS
 Rhoda Salinas, MSF
 Garrett Stallion, 87 APS

Master Sergeant

Michael Carley, SFS
 Amanda Crooker, AMXS
 Lessa Givens, AW
 Todd Noe, AMDS
 Daniel Porta, AMXS
 Terry Reisinger, AW
 Harold Rogers, MOF
 Michael Smith, ASTS

Newcomers

Capt Doris Bleah, ASTS
 Capt Stephanie Kennedy, SVF
 TSgt Anthony Springer, AW
 SSgt Kevin Patillo, MSF
 SSgt Bjorn Solhein, SFS
 SSgt Derick Stephens, ASTS
 SSgt Carnetta Thomas, 87 APS
 SrA Breanna Fowle, AES
 SrA Joshua Lefevre, AMDS
 SrA Jessica Preciado, AMDS
 A1C Robert Cole, SFS
 A1C Emily Collins, AMXS
 A1C Elyse Detling, AES
 A1C Michael Johnson, CES
 A1C Joseph Morgan, 87 APS
 AB Santana Austin, AW
 AB Eric Cohen, MXS
 AB Alyssa Daley, AMXS
 AB Joshua Farley, MXS
 AB Jonathan Hawkins, AMXS
 AB Joseph Heck, AMXS
 AB Siarra Kynarol, MSF
 AB Garrick Payne, 87 APS

Annual Awards Banquet

Mark your calendar for the 445th Airlift Wing Annual Awards Banquet scheduled for Jan. 8 at the National Museum of the United States Air Force. The reception is slated to begin at 6 p.m. and the program at 7 p.m.

Please come out and support your unit's nominees for Airman, non-commissioned officer, senior NCO, company grade officer, chief, spouse and youth of the year.

The cost of the event is \$30 for E-7 and above; \$27 for E-6 and below; \$14 for children 6-12; and kids 5 and under are free.

Please RSVP for the banquet at: <https://invitations.afit.edu/Belna/anim.cfm>

For more information, contact the public affairs office at 257-5784.

Toys for Tots

The U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots program for Christmas is now underway. Bring your new and unwrapped gifts to drop off containers located throughout the 445th Airlift Wing. In addition to gift and monetary contributions, volunteers are needed to help bag toys throughout November. Help is also needed Dec. 18 for distribution. Please contact Master Sgt. Anthony Johns at 257-0068 if you'd like to assist.

TOYS FOR TOTS





Master Sgt. John Koehl

Sharp Shooter

Airman 1st Class Jeremy Whitlow, 445th Security Forces Squadron, practices maneuvering techniques during the SFS shoot-move-communicate training Oct. 2 and 3, at Powell Park in Xenia, Ohio.

On the Web



SFS Airmen train in Xenia



ASTS trains for war



Maj. Gen. Crabtree visits 445th

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