

Joint training sharpens survival skills for Wing Airmen

By Master Sgt. Patrick O'Reilly
445th Airlift Wing Public Affairs



Master Sgt. Patrick O'Reilly

Reserve Citizen Airmen assigned to the 445th Operations Group participate in survival, evasion, resistance and escape (SERE) training aboard a 46-man life raft during water survival training held off the coast of San Diego, California, Jan. 19, 2023.

Approximately 150 members from the 445th Airlift Wing conducted exercise training in San Diego, California, Jan. 19-20.

Additionally, the Airmen, who are with the 89th Airlift Squadron, 445th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, 445th Operations Support Squadron, the 445th Maintenance Group and 445th Aerospace Medicine Squadron, provided support for the mechanical operations of two 445th AW C-17 Globemaster III aircraft.

The Airmen coordinated with the local Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron-3, HSC-8, HSC-23 and Coast Guard Sector San Diego to conduct a joint agency search and rescue personnel recovery in the waters of southern California.

"The primary function of the fly-a-way is to meet training objectives for C-17 aircrew members of the 445th AW," said U.S. Air Force Senior Master Sgt. Robert Bowles, 445th OSS superintendent of aircrew flight equipment. "Those consist of pilots, loadmasters, and aeromedical evacuation personnel."

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445th AW Airmen must complete BAH recertification this year

By Amanda Dick
445th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Reserve Citizen Airmen with dependents will need to complete their triennial Basic Allowance for Housing recertification this year.

The 445th Airlift Wing Financial Management Military Pay Office is planning to begin commander notifications by the March unit training assembly, and Airmen will have until Sept. 30 to recertify their dependency status.

Per Air Force Manual 65-116V3, *Financial Management*, Airmen typically have a 60-day turnaround to provide a completed Department of the Air Force Form 594 with a wet signature to the pay office; however, it also states the pay office has a year to complete the recertification.

According to Andrew Dalton, 445th Airlift Wing Financial Management military pay lead, they opted to use that as the target for their deadline. He also stressed there will be no impact to pay if nothing has changed, as the recertification is only a document ver-

ification process.

Once the form is submitted, the pay office will compare the form to the Defense Joint Military Pay System-Reserve Component Housing Master Record, certifying and updating the BAH entitlement if there is a change.

Dalton said the 445th AW recertification will also cover those who are military-to-military married members even if they receive the single BAH rate due to both members being on orders. Additionally, if only one member is on orders, that member will be able to claim the with-dependent rate.

If Airmen miss the Sept. 30 deadline, the pay office will create the form with a change in dependency status on the Airman's behalf and submit it in the system. This could create a serious financial burden for Airmen and their families.

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“The biggest thing is your BAH rate is decreased from the with-dependent rate to the single rate,” Dalton explained. “Normally, it’s a couple hundred dollars, and you’ll be losing that a month basically.”

To get it changed back to a with-dependent rate, Airmen will need to complete and expeditiously submit the DAF Form 594 with supporting documents to the pay office.

The change will not be retroactive to the deadline, and the with-dependent rate will start on the date of late submission of the form.

While AFMAN 65-116V3 states the commander can approve an Airman for retroactive pay, it is only done if the Airman can prove they missed the deadline due to circumstances beyond their control.

While the pay office is working on ways to help make the process

easier, for now, Airmen can submit their forms via email to 445aw.fm.bahrecert@us.af.mil.

Airmen can help prepare themselves by getting all the documentation together now.

“All you really need is the DAF Form 594 and whatever substantiating documents you need to support that,” Dalton said. “So, if your 594 says you’re married to a civilian spouse, we need your marriage certificate.”

“If it says you’re claiming a child as your primary dependency status – meaning you’re not married to a civilian spouse and only claiming a child – then we would need the birth certificate as well as the custody paperwork,” he added.

The recertification is done every three years in addition to reporting a change in dependency status or

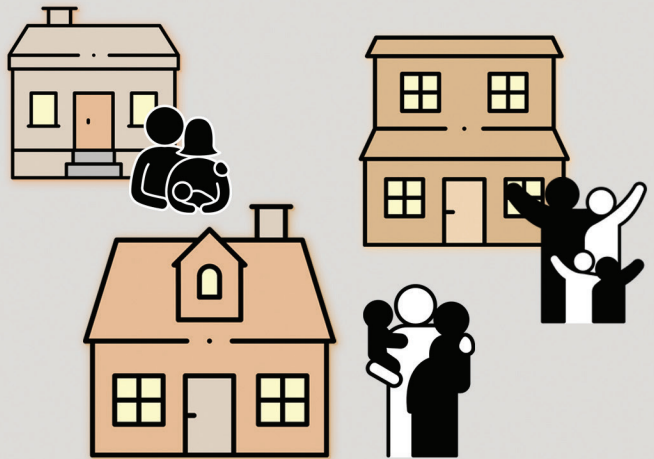
when a member is reassigned to a new unit with a different servicing pay office. Airmen with dependents must reaccomplish the form even if done so recently due to one of the other options.

The pay office maintains the forms until they are replaced by the next triennial recertification, submitted for a change of dependent status request, or no longer needed due to an Airman’s reassignment, separation or retirement.

If a member does not receive notification from their commander and/or believes they should receive the with-dependent BAH rate, Dalton said they should complete the form and submit it during the recertification process.

Questions and concerns can be directed to the email listed in the article.

Triennial BAH Recertification

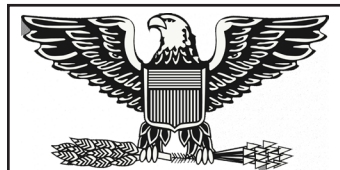


- 1 Fill out a Department of the Air Force Form 594 (those who receive Basic Allowance for Housing under a with-dependent rate).
- 2 Gather supporting documents like marriage certificates, divorce documents, custody documents, etc.
- 3 Submit the forms and email questions to 445aw.fm.bahrecert@us.af.mil.

ARPC announces Reserve colonel promotions

Air Reserve Personnel Center officials selected one 445th Airlift Wing Reserve Citizen Airman for promotion to colonel during their Air Force Reserve Line and Non Line Colonel Promotion Selection Boards.

Results were announced Jan. 31, and Michael Bennett with the 445th Mission Support Group was selected.



The selection boards convened at ARPC Oct. 17-22, 2022, to determine those officers best qualified to assume the next higher grade. Board members selected 212 of 1,611 officers considered.

A complete list of Airmen selected for promotion is available online by visiting the Air Reserve Officer Promotion page on myPers, <https://mypers.af.mil>

445th Airman earns silver German proficiency badge

By Amanda Dick

445th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

One 445th Airlift Wing Reserve Citizen Airman earned the German Armed Forces Badge for Military Proficiency, or GAFPB, during a challenge held Feb. 1 through 3 at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio.

Tech. Sgt. Gabriel Clark, 87th Aerial Port Squadron ramp operations representative, not only qualified in all the events but also secured enough points to gain the silver GAFPB badge.

Clark, who participated in the event with friends, explained he had been interested in the GAFPB for years.

“I enjoy physical challenges, and it looked like a fun thing to do,” the Port Dawg said. “I hadn’t seen one since college, and I wanted to hop on the opportunity, as it’s pretty rare to see on the Reserve side.”

Chief Master Sgt. Joseph Newton, 88th Mission Support Group senior enlisted leader who helped coordinate the event, said the 88th Air Base Wing had been planning the event for a few years but because of COVID-19 had to postpone it.

“The Air Force doesn’t have enduring physical events that challenge folks where they can show their overall level of commitment and how competitive they are,” Chief Newton said. “A lot of our NATO partners have physical enduring events we can participate in.”

The Armed Forces of Germany, or Bundeswehr, is one such military NATO partner that has an approved challenge where Airmen can earn and wear the badge – the GAFPB.

The challenge consists of several events where participants must meet a minimum level to earn the badge. The four main events are:

- A 12-kilometer ruck march
- A pistol marksmanship test
- A 100-meter swim in uniform where participants must also tread water

• A basic fitness test that consists of a flexed-arm hang, 1000-meter run and completing a 10-meter sprint 11 times

Participants must finish the ruck march and meet minimum time requirements for the other events to

earn the badge. In addition, scores can help them level in bronze, silver or gold.

Chief Newton said 24 participants were badged out of the 38 who started the challenge which had been reduced from the 100 who signed up. He also praised the Airmen who helped bring it all together.



Mr. Patrick O'Reilly

Tech. Sgt. Gabriel Clark, 87th Aerial Port Squadron ramp operations representative, pushes through a 12k ruck-march during the German Armed Forces Military Proficiency Badge qualification at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, Feb. 3, 2023. He finished the event with a 1:37:50 runtime.

“If it wasn’t for security forces, regarding the shooting and overall accountability for scoring, and force support, specifically the Dodge Fitness Center allowing us to use their facility for the competitions, it wouldn’t have been successful,” the SEL explained.

Clark said he and his friends didn’t prepare for the event outside of practicing for the marksmanship portion at the range because they focus on regularly maintaining fitness. What do his workouts look like?

“A little bit of everything,” Clark explained. “I do lots of cardio during the week about five to six times either

running or swimming, strength training three times a week, calisthenics several times a week and rock climbing a few times during the week. I don’t focus on one specific thing but on staying in functional shape.”

The Port Dawg said the ruck was the most difficult and physically demanding.

“It’s doable, but you have to know your body and pace yourself,” Clark said as he recalled how he had ice on his face once done with the ruck march. “It was a great time; I’m really happy we got out there. It was humbling for me.”

“I crushed the swim and ruck but what prevented me from gold was the flexed-arm hang because I didn’t practice ahead of time. I thought because of rock climbing I’d be fine, but those few seconds cost me getting gold. It was also the fastest ruck I’ve ever done.”

Clark said mentality is the key for those interested in pursuing the coveted badge.

“Be sure to take care of yourself and approach it from a foundation of fitness,” he said. “Be humble enough to know what to expect on each of the events and not think you can do it all. Approach it with a humble mindset.”

SPOTLIGHT

Rank/Name: Senior Airman Wyatt Woodyard

Unit: 445th Operations Support Squadron

Duty Title: Combat Crew Communications Technician

Hometown: Lewisburg, Ohio

Civilian Job: Full-time student/electrician

Education: Pursuing a Bachelor of Science in electrical engineering (completed 2 years of a 4-year program)



Mr. Patrick O'Reilly

Hobbies: Coaching youth baseball, working out and play video games

Career Goal: To commission and become a C-17 pilot in the Air Force and a civilian electrical engineer.

What do you like about working at the 445th? The comradery between all different components of the unit and the friendships and opportunities that have been given to me.

Why did you join the Air Force? To travel and see the world and to help pay for schooling.

Ensure you're ready for spring with motorcycle safety

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

The sun is finally out again, barbecue season has arrived, and baseball is right around the corner. Spring is always great, especially for the motorcycle riders out there.

Do you intend to operate a motorcycle this spring? If so, do you intend to do it in a military status – Title 10 orders, annual tour, and/or to and from unit training assemblies? Keep in mind, there are additional Air Force training and administrative requirements in accordance with Air Force Instruction 91-207, *The U.S. Air Force Traffic Safety Program*.

To start with, any member who operates a motorcycle in a military status requires a Motorcycle Unit Safety Tracking Tool (MUSTT) account. The account can be set up through your unit Motorcycle Safety Representative (MSR) and is designed to track all Air Force motorcycle training requirements.

The Air Force requires several different levels of training to legally operate a motorcycle in a military status:

- Level I – Initial training: Basic Rider's Course or possess a state endorsed motorcycle license in lieu of the course
- Level II – Intermediate training: Basic Rider's Course 2 within one year of Level I training
- Level III – Refresher training: Basic Rider's Course 2, Advanced Rider's Course or attend a Motorcycle Mentorship Program. (This level is required every five years.)

Additionally, new operators must receive an initial motorcycle briefing, and every spring prior to the motorcycle season, an annual/pre-season briefing must be accomplished. (Briefings are provided by unit MSRs.)

The Air Force requirement for MUSTT and the additional training requirements are to reduce mishap and/or injury potential for motorcycle operators.

Reach out to your unit MSRs or the 445th Airlift Wing Motorcycle Safety Program Managers, Senior Master Sgt. Jimmy Lide or Dave Gardner, at (937) 257-5767 with questions or for more information.



Stacy Vaughn



Around the wing ...



Senior Airman Angela Jackson

Senior Airman Cicely McWhorter, right, 87th Aerial Port Squadron passenger services representative, gives hand signals to Staff Sgt. Chase Sweeney, left, 87th APS cargo representative, during the Port Dawg Challenge at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Feb. 4, 2023. The PDC is an opportunity for Airmen to practice aircraft loading operations demonstrate their skills.



Tech. Sgt. Joel McCullough

Capt. David Miller, left, a 445th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron flight nurse, helps his fellow 445th AES flight nurse, Capt. Mike Schibler, right, don his gas mask during Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and high yields Explosives training, Feb. 5, 2023. The training is conducted every two years as a requirement for aircrew members who might have to operate in a chemical threat area.



Courtesy Photo

Tech. Sgts. Jeremy Whitlow and Drew Brenner, both of the 445th Security Forces Squadron, stage in preparation of departure on a CH-47 Chinook operated by the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment at White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico, Jan. 20, 2023. Nearly 30 servicemembers, including Green Berets and British Army Rangers, boarded the helicopter for a night training mission which included insertion in a simulated rural mountain village.



Mr. Patrick O'Reilly

Staff Sgt. Valor Burkhead, right, 445th Logistics Readiness Squadron traffic management journeyman, is greeted by Tech. Sgt. Drew Brenner, 445th Security Forces Squadron combat arms instructor, and fellow Airmen at the Dayton International Airport, Feb. 6, 2023. Burkhead is returning from a six-month deployment at Ali Al Salem Air Base, Kuwait. While deployed, Burkhead was responsible for in-processing all the cargo for the Air Force and Army.



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Photos by Master Sgt. Patrick O'Reilly

A Reserve Citizen Airman assigned to the 445th Operations Group is hoisted out of the ocean via a rescue basket from an MH-60S Seahawk helicopter, assigned to Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron (HSC) 23 during water survival training held off the Coast of San Diego, Jan. 19, 2023.

"This year's fly-a-way was unique as we were able to incorporate Navy support in order to meet objective necessary for water survival training competition," Bowles added. "In addition to meeting the training objectives of the 445th aircrew members, it also gave the Navy support team a better idea of what it would take to transport a large amount of people who are stranded at sea and get them safety to land using helo support."

During the water survival training, aircrew members systematically exited the 46-man life raft and swam out in frigid 58-degree waters to be accompanied by a Navy rescue swimmer and later a rescue basket. Soon after, they were hoisted up by MH-60S Seahawk helicopters.

"We put rescue swimmers in the water and gathered data on how long it would take in a mass casualty situation for us to rescue upwards to 40 people," said U. S. Navy Chief Clay Cantwell, the HSC-3 Search and Rescue Model Manager evaluator, from North Island San Diego.

"There were a couple different layers to our training here," said U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Chris Davis, 445th OSS Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape specialist. "We have exercised the SERE capabilities of our own unit and their retention of TTPs [tactics,

training, and procedures] for open water survival as well as the Coast Guard and Navy's preparation for search and recovery preparation and their readiness."

"The water survival is a three-year requirement for aircrew," Davis continued. "They cover a lot of ground and water with our airframe. A lot of time we spend over water survival which is incredibly important. We were able to become very familiar with not only the TTPs for open water survival but familiarization with the equipment as well.

"If they were to ever need this in a real-world situation, they can then recall exactly where to find certain equipment, how to use it, and how to keep their wits about them to be able to make it out of a life-threatening situation," he added.

Davis said that besides the open water survival, they conducted after capture, urban evasion and considerations, and practiced techniques.

"This is the first time we've done this here to this scale," Cantwell said. "Most of our scenarios typically recover two to four survivors at a time. I feel it went well."

The training was a successful learning experience that was vital to building a stronger relationship between the military branches.

"The lessons learned will be commended in our next time around to make the next iteration even better," Davis said. "We made a strong connection with the Navy rescue swimmers and the search and rescue teams here at Coronado so we can continue to build this relationship and do this again in the future. From the outside looking in, they did an amazing job."



Reservists from the 445th Operation Group's 89th Airlift Squadron, 445th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron and 445th Operations Support Squadron participated in water survival training, Jan. 19, 2023 at North Island Naval Air Station, San Diego, California.

News Briefs

Newcomers

2 Lt Kristin Bailey, AES
SSgt Jeffery Keith, SFS
A1C Kyleeann Engle, MXS
AB Aaron Anderson, 87 APS
AB Zachary Slone, FSS

Retirements

MSgt Benjamin Kessler, MXS
MSgt Michael Rosato, MXG
MSgt Leah Smith, FSS
TSgt Katherine Goerlitz, MXS

Promotions

Chief Master Sergeant
Benjamin McCleary, AMXS

Master Sergeant

Douglas Lippert, AMXS
Mitchell Ruiz, CES

Technical Sergeant

Matthew Brumage, ASTS
Christopher Heckman, FSS
Todd Jones, CES
Travis Smith, AMXS
Kevin Sweeney, AMXS
Brian Walker, AES

Staff Sergeant

Tavis Adams Jr., AMXS
Markia Frye, FSS
Leah Kinyua, MSG
Daniel Newman, 87 APS
Joseph Osborne, LRS
Charles Reano, FSS
Connor Smith, CES

Senior Airman

David Asterino, MXS
Thomas Cornelison, AMXS

Cody Dufresne, SFS
Bristan Guza, SFS
Reuben Hershberger, SFS
Joe Marchio Murrer, SFS

Airman 1st Class

Brady Anderson, CES

Airman

Elliott Abrams, AMXS
Brandon Buchanan, AMXS
David Fuller, AMXS
Christian Reeves, AMXS



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Airmen enrolled in new maximum life insurance coverage

By Capt. Rachel Ingram
445th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Blanket changes to the Servicemember' Group Life Insurance go into effect March 1, and Airmen have until the end of March to adjust their insurance coverage even if they've previously declined or reduced coverage.

If no action is taken, Airmen will remain enrolled in the SGLI maximum coverage policy of \$500,000 and see a \$30 monthly deduction on their leave and earnings statement beginning in April.

To reduce or completely decline coverage, current servicemembers must log into MilConnect and access the SGLI online enrollment system, known as SOES. Coverage elections can be made in April and beyond, but reimbursements will not be offered on premiums already paid.

SGLI policies are available in \$50,000 coverage increments up to the \$500,000 cap. The lowest available premium is \$4 per month, while the two new tiers are \$27 per month for \$450,000 of coverage and \$30 per month for maximum coverage. In the event of a quali-

fying claim, the policy would pay out over the course of 36 months or as a single check.

Family Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance maximum coverage amounts are not impacted by this change in law, nor are previous elections of spousal coverage. Dependent children are automatically covered by an active SGLI policy.

There are no required steps for Airmen who wish to maintain the full \$500,000 insurance coverage, but all servicemembers are encouraged to log in to SOES and ensure their beneficiary information is up to date.

The changes come as part of the Supporting Families of the Fallen Act, signed by President Joe Biden Oct. 17, 2022. Prior to this Act, policy options for SGLI and Veterans Group Life Insurance were last updated in 2005. The increase is intended to mirror changes to the nationwide cost of living.

For more information, visit www.benefits.va.gov/insurance/sqli-increase-faqs.asp



445th Force Support Squadron wins MAJCOM-level award

445th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

The 445th Force Support Squadron won the Education and Training Team of the Year Installation Level in the force support capabilities category of the 2022 Reserve-level A1 awards.

The winners were announced Feb. 2 by Air Force Reserve Command manpower, personnel, and services director Col. Harold W. Linnean III.

The 445th FSS Education and Training section secured more than \$1 million in government funds with 77 Airman completing 1,931 core tasks.

While providing dual support to the 445th Airlift Wing and 655th Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Wing, the office processed 667 formal school requests and poised Airman for success. The office proctored five Air Force exam categories, resulting in 290 exams completions fortifying a qualified and readied force. The education and training exceptional unit training manager program provided oversight for 34 parent or subordinate units across 12 geographically separated units, igniting communication, enhancing program knowledge and improving efficiencies plus securing future leader development.

The team continues to develop the future force through review, counsel and approval of 178 new education goals. Education and training inspired excellences through approval of 263 Community College of the Air Force action requests and 113 degrees conferred.

The section conducted total force development council supporting nearly three thousand enlisted, officer and civilian on professional development courses impacting personnel across 13 installations. Conducting monthly briefings, the team imparted wisdom and instilled warrior ethos through shared knowledge of programs, benefits and entitlements, mentoring over 300 Airman.

Committed to development, the team facilitated 1,200 education counseling sessions, sharing insight and experiences. The exceptional professionalism and adept program knowledge of the section directly influenced the completion of 1,062 college courses, effectively utilizing a total of more than \$754,000 in tuition assistance funds.

The 445th FSS Education and Training section will be submitted at the Air Force level for the Nathan Altschuler Outstanding Education and Training Program.



Staff Sgt. Ethan Spickler

Members of the 445th Education and Training Office pose for a celebratory photo, Feb. 4, 2023, at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio. The group was recently awarded the Education and Training Team of the Year Award which distinguishes them as Wright-Patterson's number one education office.



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