

445th AW hosts 9/11 remembrance ceremony



Photos by Master Sgt. Patrick O'Reilly

Retired Air Force Master Sgt. Mark Lyle, former 445th Airlift Wing Honor Guard and Wright-Patterson Air Force Base Honor Guard Programs superintendent, and his son, Senior Airman Brooks Lyle, 445th Aerospace Medicine Squadron, who was born Sept. 11, 2001, both gave remarks during the 445th Airlift Wing 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony held at the 445th AW's Heritage Park on Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, Sept. 10, 2023. They were joined by Mark's wife and Brooks' mother, Debra Lyle. The 445th Honor Guard performed a 21-gun salute followed by Taps. The ceremony honored those who lost their lives during the tragic events of Sept. 11, 2001.

VFW Honors 445th Airman with Firefighter of Year Award

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

Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2398 recently recognized a 445th Airman and career firefighter for his selfless service in the civilian and military sectors at Fire Station 1 in Columbus, Ohio, in front of his fellow firefighters and leadership.

Master Sgt. Eric Baldrige, 445th Civil Engineer Squadron fire emergency services assistant chief of health and safety, received the Firefighter of the Year Award, Columbus Division of Fire.

"I've adopted the 'service before self' concept," said Baldrige, who also works as a firefighter for the City of Columbus. "I'm proud to represent my branch of service, wing and squadron when I put on the uniform. Knowing that an organization which serves veterans is recognizing me for my service and efforts means a lot to me."

For someone to qualify for this award, they have to demonstrate the experience and dedication to fire service that sets them apart.

When a family friend, who is a member of VFW Post

2398, heard about Baldrige's experiences, including his recent deployment to Al Dhafra Air Base, United Arab Emirates, he decided to recommend him for the award.

Although he was honored by the recognition, Baldrige said he believes that being humble and teachable is the key to doing the job well.

"It's nice to receive the recognition, but that's not why we put the uniform on," said Baldrige, who has served in the Air Force for 28 years. "We put the uniform on because we care about making a difference and keeping people safe."

Working in emergency services isn't an easy task. Not only do Airmen in emergency services respond to on-base emergencies, they also may be asked to respond to emergencies in a wide radius outside of the base. It's a demanding career field. These Airmen take pride in doing their work to the best of their ability no

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Chaplain speaks at alma mater for military appreciation

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

In a full-circle moment, one chaplain's alma mater invited him back to North Carolina to speak at an event he found personally meaningful.

Chaplain (Capt.) Patrick Stalnaker, 445th Airlift Wing Chaplain Corps, spoke Sept. 7 at the Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, in Wake Forest, North Carolina, where he earned his master's and doctorate degrees.

"I was given the opportunity to share what God has done for me and the direction he has put my life on, that 15 years ago was not even on my radar," Stalnaker said.

A third-generation Airman, Stalnaker is also a pastor at First Baptist Kettering in Ohio.

He said his ties to both the military and civilian communities led to the school's invitation.

He said they were looking for someone who could speak about military chaplaincy and civilian ministry as well.

"I'm both, which is a very unique thing that they were asking for," said Stalnaker. He added that at one point in life, he considered hanging up his military hat so he could take on a pastoral role in civilian ministry. "I didn't know you could put the two together, but boy was I wrong."

Stalnaker and his family, wife Anne and daughter Adeline, were all invited to the evangelical seminary for the military appreciation event.

A chapel service is held twice a week at the school where students are required to give a sermon for course completion.

That morning the captain preached at the chapel service.

"In that same room 15 years ago is where I felt called to service as a chaplain," Stalnaker said. "It's



Courtesy photo

Chaplain (Capt.) Patrick Stalnaker, 445th Airlift Wing Chaplain Corps, poses with his daughter, Adeline, and wife, Anne, on the campus of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, North Carolina, Sept. 7, 2023.

pretty cool how that came full circle."

In his sermon, he shared why he serves both in the military as a chaplain and as a pastor. He said his purpose is rooted in a Biblical event, the Great Commission, detailed in Matthew 28.

According to Stalnaker, this passage serves as a call to action for missionaries all over the world.

The Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary is known for equipping and sending out missionaries, he explained.

Stalnaker said he's deemed a missionary to the military, and he always knew he would end up serving in the Air Force; he just didn't know it would be in this way.

That night he spoke again as a keynote for the school's military affairs office. The primary topic of his speech at the event was discussing how military members are wired just a bit differently.

"We understand sacrifice in a different way," Stalnaker said during his speech. "Ev-

ery one of us that has deployed brings back more than sand on your boots. It leaves marks and memories in your brain. Those experiences are part of the process that shape us and build character."

He added this invitation was a once-in-a-lifetime event for him and one of the most humbling things he'd ever done.

"It's so surreal. There are words I can't find for it," Stalnaker said. "The emotions of sitting in the front row when your friend of 17 years, who's in leadership at the school, introduces you, and shares things like his view of me. It still hasn't fully sunk in for me. Having my daughter there, who was born there, so many things came full circle for us."

89th AS pilot sets world record for flying across country

By Stacy Vaughn
445th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

When Lt. Col. Aaron Wilson, 89th Airlift Squadron C-17 Globemaster III pilot, opened his mailbox in August and saw an envelope from the Guinness World Records, he knew his dream of setting a world record became a reality.

Wilson and his friend, Barry Behnfeldt, set out in June to break a world record in the category, "The fastest journey by plane through all 48 contiguous U.S. states (team)." After two months it was officially acknowledged that they broke the record.

Wilson said the idea about making the attempt began in January.

"This whole experience began when Barry heard about an attempt that two other pilots had made regarding this record," Wilson said. "They started about three years ago and they made it thru 10 or so states but couldn't finish the attempt. It got Barry's wheels turning about making the attempt himself."

Wilson said Behnfeldt did some research to see if it would be possible to make the attempt to fly to 48 states in less than 48 hours. His research led him to see it was possible.

"We both have briefly flown together with Delta [Airlines] and we had similar background stories and live close to each other," Wilson said. "He reached out to me one day and asked if I wanted to do this and try and attempt this record with him. He gave a presentation describing everything then I was 100 percent on board."

The plane they used for the endeavor was Behnfeldt's Piper Saratoga, setting June 5-6 as the dates they would strive to meet their goal.

"I had never flown his airplane before," Wilson said. "We did some practice flights so I was comfortable flying it."

The two men brought along an aircraft mechanic for the journey, Thomas Twiddy, a Navy veteran and friend of Barry's who owns a maintenance shop, in case any mechanical issues came up with the plane.

There were also coordinators on the ground to help facilitate any issues the team could face at each stop.

The team began their effort June 5, leaving out of Berrien Springs, Michigan.

"We planned it so by the time we got out West, it would be sunrise," Wilson said. "We left Michigan by 10 p.m. so that by the time we got to Wyoming, where

the mountains started, and made our way south down to California and back East through Nevada and Colorado, it would be daytime. The beauty of flying out West with the mountains was--it's incredible. You're 1,000 to 2,000 feet above the mountains in some areas. And other areas you're below the mountains and flying next to them."

The team built in six planned fuel stops for the whole trip but had to build in other stops in each state per Guinness rules to make the attempt legitimate.

"We had to land, get out and get a signature by a witness to prove that we were

there," Wilson explained. "Then, we had to take a picture with them signing the airplane. This was done all while engines were running because we were doing it for time too so we scheduled each stop for about eight minutes."

Because they were only on the ground for a few minutes at each stop, they took turns flying. While one person was flying, the other could take a quick nap.

"We had a seat in the aircraft where we made a mini bed with a blackout curtain around it so we could lay down while one could catch a nap while the other was flying. That helped quite a bit," he said.

The only time they had to shut down the engines was during the fueling process. The different stops tended to be a little longer because people would show up at the different airports wanting to talk with the team and take photos of the airplane.

"We were promoting the record attempt on our



Courtesy photo

(Left to right) Lt. Col. Aaron Wilson, 89th Airlift Squadron C-17 pilot, Barry Behnfeldt and Thomas Twiddy pose after landing at the Henry County Airport in South Portland, Maine, June 6, 2023.

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matter the circumstances.

“It’s important to recognize our emergency services and first responders, because it’s a difficult job they do,” said Chief Master Sgt. Chad Lifer, 445th Civil Engineer Squadron fire emergency services fire chief.

“The men and women in this line of work aren’t out for an award,” Lifer continued. “They just want to do their job well, but it’s important to recognize the folks who go above and beyond.”

Airmen from the fire and emergency services career field bring a lot to the table in supporting the wing mission.

Although Baldrige will



Courtesy photo

Master Sgt. Eric Baldrige, 445th Civil Engineer Squadron fire emergency services assistant chief of health and safety, accepts the Firefighter of the Year Award from Greg Schick, U.S. Air Force veteran and commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2398.

continue to fight fires on the civilian side, his time in the Air Force is drawing to a close.

As he prepares to retire from the Air Force later this year, he offered advice for Airmen who are looking to make the most of their time while serving.

“Stay humble, because if you are in this for pats on the back, you are in it for the wrong reason,” Baldrige said.

“You have got to keep your heart in this job and what it represents to do it well,” Baldrige added. “That allows you to take full advantage of what the Air Force has to offer.”

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Facebook page for awhile and word spread what we were doing,” Wilson said. “As soon as we took off and began the record attempt, it seemed like each stop more and more people would show up.”

“By the time we got to Coffeyville, Kansas, it was probably about 11:30 at night; it was the second night,” Wilson added. “We pulled into Coffeyville and there were probably 50-60 people there just waiting for us. We didn’t know if we were going to stop or not but we saw all these people at the airport waiting for us, including kids. We gave out T-shirts and they wanted us to sign them and take pictures of the airplane. Perhaps during the attempt, we were inspiring younger generations. That was really rewarding to see that.”

The team completed their endeavor June 6, landing in Portland, Maine.

The goal was 48 states in 48 hours. They came up



with a plan of 43 hours 31 minutes with room for setbacks. The Guinness World Records certificate says they accomplished it in one day, 20 hours and 13 minutes.

Besides setting a world record, the team also raised approximately \$35,000 for Veterans Airlift Command, a nonprofit organization that offers free air transportation for wounded warriors, veterans and their families for medical and other compassionate purposes.

Wilson said his Air Force training and Barry’s Navy training kicked in and helped them prepare for the

journey.

“As a kid, I always wanted to be in the Air Force and fly,” Wilson said. “Today, I’m a C-17 pilot for the Air Force Reserve, a pilot with Delta Airlines, and now I was part of a team setting a Guinness World Record.” (No Federal endorsement intended)



Around the wing ...



Capt. Rachel Ingram



Master Sgt. Patrick O'Reilly

1) Tech. Sgt. Joel Ford, 445th Security Forces Squadron fire team leader, moves sand table pieces into place at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, Sept. 9, 2023, as part of preparations for an upcoming 48-hour squadron exercise. Sand tables, a visual representation of terrain, are commonly used by units to aid with planning tactical movements and mission contingencies. During the planned exercise, Defenders will camp out at the Warfighter Training Center, consume meals ready to eat and train in lowlight and dark conditions.

2) Members of the 445th Civil Engineer Squadron erect an Alaskan tent during a bivouac training exercise at the Warfighter Training Center, Sept. 7, 2023. Alaska military tents are lightweight, easy to setup and long-lasting. They can be scaled to provide complete base camp systems.



Capt. Rachel Ingram



Master Sgt. Patrick O'Reilly

3) Staff Sgt. Alexis Eppley, 445th Mission Support Group commander support staff technician, practices tactical movements to a defensive position while Airmen from the 445th Logistics Readiness Squadron and 445th Force Support Squadron provide protective cover from simulated enemy fire at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, Sept. 8, 2023. About 90 Airmen from various squadrons throughout the wing participated in shoot, move, communicate training during the September unit training assembly.

4) Chief Master Sgt. Chad Lifer, right, 445th Civil Engineer Squadron fire emergency services fire chief, adjusts the fire suit of Chief Master Sgt. Gordon Wager, 445th Airlift Wing command chief, before he participates in a live-fire training exercise at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, Sept. 8, 2023. The 445th CES teamed up with the 788th CES fire department for the required annual training which exposes the firefighters to heat and smoke, and low- to zero-visibility as well as familiarizes the members with tactics, techniques and procedures to respond, in case a real-world situation should transpire.



445th Airlift Wing Family Day 2023



Master Sgt. Patrick O'Reilly



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Reserve Citizen Airmen from the 445th Airlift Wing, families and friends enjoyed a day of food and fun at the wing's annual family day picnic at hangar 4016 on Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, Sept. 9, 2023. Participants enjoyed corn hole, children's bouncy houses, remote control vehicles, face painting and other activities. A C-17 Globemaster III static display was available for tours and a DJ was on hand for entertainment. In addition, various helping agencies provided useful information to Airmen and their families. Food and activities for the event were provided by the base United Service Organizations (USO).



Master Sgt. Patrick O'Reilly



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Senior Airman Angela Jackson



Senior Airman Angela Jackson



Senior Airman Angela Jackson



Master Sgt. Patrick O'Reilly

News Briefs

Promotions

Senior Master Sergeant
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Jeffrey Schneider, MXS
Douglas Shelton, CES

Master Sergeant
John McDermott, MXS

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Sean Chapman, ASTS
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Daniel Gallagher, 89 AS
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Alexis Risner, SFS
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Airman 1st Class

Aaron Petros, 87 APS
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Airman

Heaven White, 87 APS

Newcomers

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2 Lt Jacob Menser, 89 AS

MSgt Bryson Phillippe, OSS
TSgt Alexandria Fearon, AMXS
TSgt Casey Jones, AMXS
TSgt Maggie Kim, ASTS
TSgt Joseph Micallef, AES
SSgt Ryan Collier, CES
SSgt Alix Grassl, FSS
SSgt Lindsay Smith, ASTS
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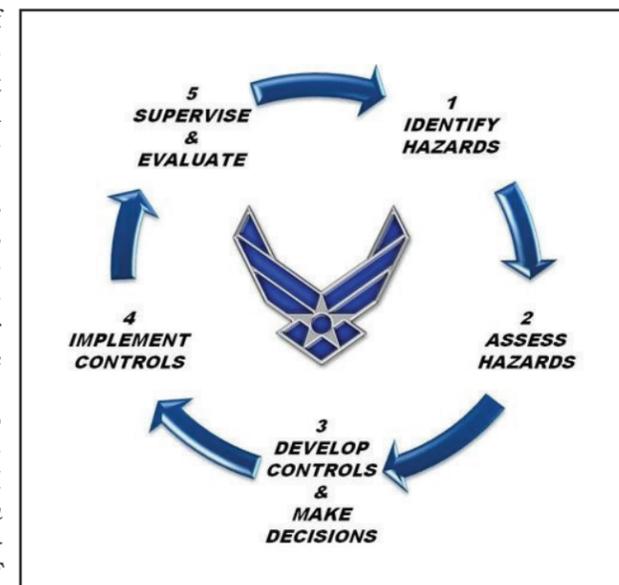
Risk management forms required for some activities

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

There are two kinds of Risk Management (RM): deliberate and real-time. Most often, we as Airmen rely on real-time RM when making on-the-spot decisions. However, deliberate RM is of equal importance but is all too often frequently neglected when planning operations, activities, and/or events involving employee risk.

Two Air Force Forms to assist commanders and supervisors with Deliberate RM processes are the AF Form 4437 *Deliberate Risk Assessment Worksheet* and the AF Form 4391 *High Risk Activities Worksheet*.

Both forms are useful tools in order to assess and mitigate risk(s) to the maximum extent practicable.



for assistance and advisement on the completion of applicable RM forms at (937) 257-5767.

The AF Form 4437 is used for on-duty events and activities of elevated risks, such as off-station trainers (OSTs), wing level exercises, etc. The AF Form 4391 is primarily used for high risk off-duty activities, such as skydiving, mixed martial arts (MMA) fighting, paragliding, skiing/snowboarding, etc.

Nonetheless, both forms are used to capture associated risks and develop control measures with the sole intent of lowering activity risk levels. Keep in mind, prior to any operation, activity, or event involving inherent or elevated risks, units should contact the wing safety office



87th APS Port Dawg challenge incorporates sports



1) Tech. Sgt. Matthew Foster, 87th Aerial Port Squadron air terminal operations representative, maneuvers a forklift to slam dunk a basketball while Tech. Sgt. Danielle Pfarr, 87th APS ramp operations supervisor, cheers during the squadron's annual Port Dawg Challenge at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, Sept. 8, 2023. The friendly competition doubles as a hands-on training opportunity for the Airmen to refine the skills required to prepare and move cargo across the globe.



2) Airman Cardae Lane, 87th APS passenger services operations representative, tightens a device to secure a chain bridle on a T-2 pallet train during a timed race to properly and efficiently secure cargo for military airlift during the unit's internal Port Dawg Challenge.



3) Senior Master Sgt. Jamie Sobers, 87th APS program superintendent, observes members as they take turns driving a forklift through an obstacle course. The course required Airmen to maneuver around traffic cones in a forklift then meticulously line up the tines of the forklift to release a bowling ball onto a ramp in an attempt to knock down all the pins and make a strike, completing the course.

Photos by Master Sgt. Patrick O'Reilly



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