

BUCKEYE FLYER

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Wing holds Operation Honor 2025 to recognize veterans



Col. Douglas A. Perry Jr., right, 445th Airlift Wing commander, and retired Maj. Gen. Edward Mechenbier, center, Vietnam veteran and guest speaker, unveil the newly re-designated name of the C-17 Globemaster III with tail number 99-0165 at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Sept. 19, 2025. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Johnathan Quiñones)



Left: A veteran is escorted to a 445th Airlift Wing hangar after returning from Honor Flight Dayton at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Sept. 21, 2025. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Johnathan Quiñones)



Right: A 445th Airlift Wing Citizen Airman speaks with a veteran at the Marine Corps War Memorial at Arlington, Va., as part of Operation Honor 2025, Sept. 21, 2025. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Sean Evans)

For more photos and video from Operation Honor 2025, visit www.dvidshub.net/feature/OperationHonor.

Wing comes together



Citizen Airmen from the 445th Airlift Wing, families and friends enjoyed a day of food and fun at the wing's annual family day tailgate event at Bass Lake on Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, Sept. 6, 2025. Participants enjoyed corn hole, children's bouncy houses, dunk tank, flag football, 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. The base USO provided a kids zone for the event.

(Photos by Tech. Sgt. Joel McCullough and Staff Sgt. Angela Jackson)



for Family Day 2025



Partners in readiness: Deployment manager, M&FRC help Airmen navigate pre-deployment process

Staff Sgt. Johnathan Quinones
445th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

As the Air Force continues to adjust its deployment approach to meet the demands of modern operational environments, such as transitioning to the Air Force Force Generation model, the importance of comprehensive pre-deployment planning becomes even more distinct.

This critical process exceeds logistics; it reveals a partnership between unit deployment managers and the 445th Airlift Wing Military & Family Readiness Center.

“There are a lot of different factors that go into deployment readiness,” said Jordan West, 445th Mission Support Group UDM. “I look for members completion of all prescribed CBT’s [computer-based training], briefings and exercises they need for the Ready Airmen Training [RAT].

“Our goal is to ensure Airmen are proficient upon deployment; therefore, we must optimize training opportunities while also accommodating necessary appointments,” he added.

The 445th M&FRC office is an item on outprocessing checklists and an office that can brief a couple of the required RATs, a necessary portion in pre-deployment for both the center and the UDM that helps ensure Airmen are in the correct category and see how much progress they have made.

While UDMs execute the tactical and administrative aspects of deploying Airmen, ensuring their operational readiness and proper equipping, the M&FRC

provide a vital layer of support, addressing the unique challenges faced by Airmen and their families at home throughout the entire cycle.

“At the M&FRC, we do a cornucopia of things for deploying Airmen and their families,” said Shana King, 445th M&FRC director. “When it comes to the actual deployer, we make sure they have a basic understanding of the emotional cycle of deployment and what their family is going through. Even if you are a single Airmen, there are people here who love you and are going to be worried about you, so make sure they know who we are.”

The M&FRC offers a breadth of services, including pre-deployment briefings, financial counseling and family support programs such as the Commander’s Key Support Program (formerly Key Spouse Program), Transition Assistance Program, and the Red Cross process.

While information and referrals for most M&FRC checklist items is provided on the checklist itself, King said they typically answer the generalized questions not addressed on it, and

“foot stomp the family piece and help normalize what anybody is going through.”

This collaborative approach ensures not only mission success but also adopts the resilience and well-being of both the deploying member and their family unit.

“The information that M&FR would get from the UDM that is the most helpful is timelines on what units are deploying when and how many,” King explained. “The UDMs and M&FR both have good aware-

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The 445th Airlift Wing, an Air Force Reserve unit assigned to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base Ohio, prepped and deployed about 140 people for deployment Oct. 27-29, 2023. In addition to personnel, four C-17 Globemaster III aircraft and cargo were used to support these efforts-- a first for the wing. (photos by MSgt Patrick O'Reilly)



News Briefs

Promotions

Chief Master Sergeant
Brian Anders, 87 APS

Master Sergeant
Cody Burdette, AMXS
Bradley Green, MXS

Technical Sergeant
Dionna Brown, FSS
Jay Campbell, LRS
Joshua Johnson, AES
Jordan Kletschka, MXS
David Powell, AMXS

Staff Sergeant
Elizabeth Ngo, 87 APS

Senior Airman
Dabriea Benson, 87 APS
Landen Krall, AES
Shafick Celis Munoz, OSS
Bernard Puller, AW
Seth Rychnovsky, OSS

Newcomers

Maj Michael Triassi, AMDS
Capt Hasan Latif, CES
TSgt James Hase, LRS
SSgt Sean Cornett, 87 APS
SSgt Cardell Georges, FSS
SSgt Brannon Goodbar, MXS
SSgt Krista Moreno, MXG
SSgt Brittany Vincent, FSS
SrA Eric Blair, CES
SrA Micah Ferguson, AMXS
SrA Jon Mayfield, ASTS
SrA Bernard Puller, AW
SrA Reina Roa, AMXS
SrA Jolyan Vega Gonzalez, AMDS
A1C Jiyi Liu, CES
A1C Angelina Meszaros,

SFS
AB Chaza Ikua Joseph, FSS
AB Thomas Smith, FSS
AB Matias Suarez Frias, 87 APS

Childcare Survey

If you have children, Air Reserve Command is looking for your input for their Child Care Survey. Survey data will be sent to each wing for action to create local childcare solutions. Visit www.surveymonkey.com/r/CLW-GCCJ to complete the survey.



Buckeye Flyer

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Airman builds app to streamline cargo calculations

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

An Air Force Reserve member is taking coding skills from the classroom to the flight line, developing a mobile application that could help air transportation specialists cut hours of work down to minutes.

Staff Sgt. Daniel Schnaars, 87th Aerial Port Squadron joint inspection supervisor craftsman, is working on an app that automates calculations for cargo restraint, shoring, cube dimensions and hazardous material handling – tasks that traditionally require flipping through a 600-page manual.

“I first started working on it back in tech school in 2019,” said Schnaars, who teaches construction and engineering on the civilian side and has also taught computer science. “We were doing calculations for shoring and center of balance, and I couldn’t help but think in terms of writing little functions to do the math for us.”

The project began as a side experiment but gained momentum during annual tour training. Schnaars said he invested over 200 hours refining the platform.

“There are a couple of apps out there that handle one thing or another in our career field, but they don’t do them particularly well,” he explained. “I felt like I could build something more practical.”

So far, testing is limited to a small group of Android users from his unit, plus Airmen at bases in Charleston, California and Qatar. A Microsoft Teams channel has been set up for feedback and bug reports.

Schnaars said that unlike some military applications criticized for clunky design, this one focuses on usability.

“Mine’s not flashy, but it’s simple and easy to use,” he said. “That’s more important to me than having a 3D view that doesn’t really help.”

The app is designed to work fully offline; Schnaars said that is a critical feature for Airmen deployed downrange. The developer hopes to eventually publish it on the Google Play and Apple App stores, though he acknowledges navigating that process will be a new challenge.

“Ultimately, I like working on things that make our jobs easier,” he said. “Even if only a handful of us end up using it, that’s still a win.”



Wing announces 2nd Quarter award winners for CY 2025

445th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

The 445th Airlift Wing announced its 2nd Quarter award winners for Calendar Year 2025.

The categories included are Airman, NCO, Senior NCO, Company Grade Officer and Field Grade Officer.

Airman of the Quarter

Senior Airman Paul Watkins, 445th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron electrical and environmental system journeyman, is the Airman of the Quarter. Watkins identified and replaced a shorted soft lead fire harness after troubleshooting an illuminated engine fire loop. This allowed for more than 150 sorties to continue and over 380 flying hours to be completed in the second quarter.

Additionally, he oversaw a team of Airmen in the replacement of eight critical On Board Inert Gas Generation System items on a C-17 Globemaster III aircraft two hours ahead of schedule, returning the aircraft to fully mission capable status for a Reserve Command mission.

Watkins secured approval for depot-level maintenance to repair an aircraft window defog system, restoring a critical aircraft system and saving the Air Force \$32,000.

He dedicated 28 hours to the Wright-Patterson Air Force Base USO and 445th Rising 6 and is pursuing an Associate of Applied Science degree through Sinclair Community College to enrich his knowledge base and skillset for his Air Force career.

NCO of the Quarter

Tech. Sgt. Chrisey Hillgen, 445th Force Support Squadron Education & Training supervisor, is the NCO of the Quarter. Hillgen directed the allocation of more than \$545,000 for 78 Airmen to attend Acceleration Mission Readiness Training, liaising directly with Reserve Command to resolve 17 discrepancies while supporting two wings and 271 career fields.

Additionally, she spearheaded an overhaul of the wing's testing center, increasing capabilities by 83%. In doing so, she implemented advanced testing software, trained six test control officers, enabled five new tests and led 40 exams.

As a force multiplier, she led four critical programs, working more than 170 wing gains, 50 PME certificates and over 40 education taskers, dedicating six

hours to the Drug Demand Reduction Program.

She earned Distinguished Graduate at the Education & Training Technical School, leading five study groups, mentoring nine Airmen by helping them with resumes and supporting a new mom. Hillgen earned Dean's List for her bachelor's degree by maintaining a 3.85 GPA and finished her career development course in 30 days, accelerating her five-level upgrade training by 11 months.

SNCO of the Quarter

Master Sgt. Kody Novak, 87th Aerial Port Squadron air terminal operations NCO in charge, is the Senior NCO of the Quarter. Novak enabled a 100% increase in operational readiness when he spearheaded the efficient delivery of more than 65 tons of critical explosives to Poland for Operation Atlantic Resolve.

Additionally, he expedited the movement of more than 60 tons of rations for immediate shipment to Haiti, enhancing responsiveness to urgent humanitarian needs and strengthening U.S. foreign relations.

He conducted a joint inspection of 45,000 pounds of medical supplies and a mobile kitchen for Op-

eration African Lion to ensure compliance, providing critical sustainment support to the warfighter.

Novak was elected as the Top 3 Vice President, leading 41 SNCOs. He is also pursuing a Master's Degree through the Air Command and Staff College to equip himself with advanced strategic thinking skills to contribute to higher levels of leadership.

CGO of the Quarter

Capt. Tiffany Trivett, 445th Logistics Readiness Squadron Vehicle Management and Logistics Plans Flight commander, is the Company Grade Officer of the Quarter. Trivett led logistics operations for off-station flight repairs across 11 Air Force Special Operations Command units, coordinating 12 rapid-response plans and orchestrating the movement of 15 mission-critical parts valued at more than \$2 million to reduce aircraft downtime.

Additionally, she enabled a roughly two-day average delivery on mission impaired capability awaiting parts while supporting the combat logistic operation team, restoring 14 aircraft to fully mission capable

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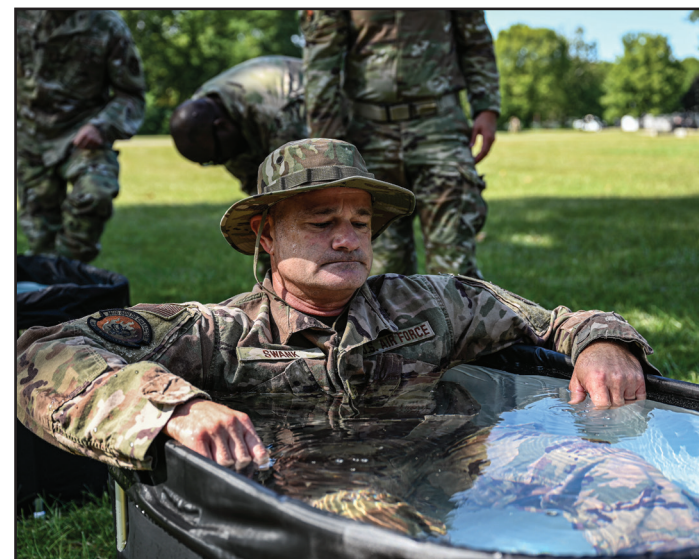


Command teams participate in 2nd annual Chief's Challenge



Left: Col. Matthew T. Muha, left, 445th Airlift Wing deputy commander; Chief Master Sgt. Gordon M.R., Wager, center, 445 AW command chief; and Col. Douglas A. Perry, right, 445th AW commander, perform a Nine Line medical evacuation request as part of the mission execution portion of the 2025 Command Chief's Challenge at Wright Patterson Air Force Base, Sept. 6, 2025.

Right: Lt. Col. Miranda Laubie, left, 445th Mission Support Group deputy commander; Col. Robert P. Wengerter, right, 445th MSG commander; and Master Sgt. Aaron Stokes, back center, 445th MSG Commander's Support Staff administrative supervisor, perform a litter carry as part of the mission execution portion of the 2025 Command Chief's Challenge at Wright Patterson Air Force Base, Sept. 6, 2025.



Left: Chief Master Sgt. Leo Swank, 445 Civil Engineering Squadron deputy fire chief, participates in cold water submersion during the 2025 Command Chief's Challenge at Wright Patterson Air Force Base, Sept. 6, 2025.

Right: Members of the 445th Security Forces Squadron command team perform flutter kicks with ammunition cans raised above their heads during the 2025 Command Chief's Challenge at Wright Patterson Air Force Base, Sept. 6, 2025. SFS ultimately won the second annual command chief's challenge. (Photos by Staff Sgt. Johnathan Quiñones)



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status and driving AFSOC mission readiness.

She provided critical expertise to expedite AFSOC headquarters fielding of defensive countermeasure technology for AC/MC-130 operations across three combatant commands to improve aircrew survivability in a contested environment.

Trivett served as a key committee member for a local Humane Society fundraiser where she directed volunteer activities and organized scheduling of events, ensuring event execution and raising more than \$100,000 for pet care. She also led squadron mentoring sessions on military entitlements and retirement planning to aid Airmen in making informed decisions regarding career progression and financial readiness.

FGO of the Quarter

Maj. Brianne Koessel, 445th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron readiness officer and flight nurse instructor, is the Field Grade Officer of the Quarter. Koessel commanded a squadron-wide readiness surge by leading two critical exercises and driving a landmark 96% readiness increase for 124 Airmen. This ef-

fort met the commander's No. 1 priority and certified the unit for its Air Force Force Generation deployment cycle.

Additionally, she directed a joint training exercise where she collaborated with 10 agencies and more than 100 members through mass casualty exercises, resulting in the evacuation of over 30 patients. This effort benchmarked critical interagency partnerships and enhanced DoD responses.

She rescued a formal AE course after a unit tragedy and prevented a stop loss, restoring morale and driving 38 students to a 86% check ride recommendation rate.

As a Buckeye Boys State trustee/medic who championed youth leadership, Koessel safeguarded the health and well being of more than 12,000 attendees and built community trust while fostering positive civil-military relations. She served as a healthcare lifeline to over 63,000 underserved community members, enhancing public health and showcasing the Air Force's dedication to its citizens.

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ness of the other. I also think the biggest thing we do for each other is make solid referrals."

King reflected on a time where an Airman and his spouse were referred to her by the UDM for pre-deployment assistance.

"During the last deployment cycle or reserve component period, an Airman had expressed concerns to his UDM a week or two prior to him being out the door that he was worried about his wife having support while he was gone," King said. "Come to find out, the Airman's spouse was six months pregnant and would deliver while he was away. She also spoke very little English. As it was a normal and healthy pregnancy,

the UDM was unable to take the Airman off the deployment with such short notice, and so the UDM brought him to my office.

"I was able to provide the Airman with resources, and brainstorm with him on ways and places that his wife could get involved in the community and resources for possible leads to churches that provided services in his wife's native language," King added.

Stories like this highlight just how important the integration is between the UDMs and M&FRC to ensure both Airmen and their families are ready and prepared for each and every deployment.



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