

BUCKEYE FLYER



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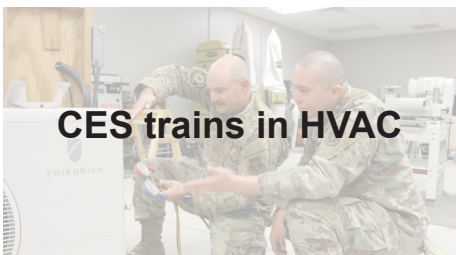
2025 Highlights



Page 6 & 7

Photo by Patrick O'Reilly

IN THIS ISSUE



CES trains in HVAC



Save the Date



Spotlight



Historian's Corner

By Dr. Tara Simpson
445th Airlift Wing Historian

Jan. 16, 1991, was significant in U.S. military history and for the 445th Airlift Wing. It was the expiration of the United Nations deadline for the withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwait.

It was a day of metamorphosis as Operation Desert Shield became Desert Storm.

The 445th Military Airlift Wing, then based at Norton Air Force Base, California, had actively supported all aspects of Operation Desert Storm, the U.S. military build-up in Saudi Arabia following the Aug. 2, 1990, Iraq invasion into and annexation of Kuwait.

As part of Military Airlift Command, the 445th MAW served a key role in the massive airlift. This service helped ensure the most spectacular buildup of military forces to that point in history.

The ingenuity of MAC's airbridge required a C-141 "Starlifter" or a C-5 "Galaxy" landing at Dhahran Air Base every seven minutes, around the clock. This enabled the movement of such massive numbers of people and equipment.

In January 1991 445th Military Airlift Squadrons – the 728th, 729th and 730th – were officially activated in support of Desert Storm. This came after five months of volunteer deployments from across the wing's Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, Aerial Port Squadron, Airlift Control Flight, Maintenance Squadron, Civil Engineer Squadron, and Security Police Flight units.

The 445th's willing participation during a time of grave uncertainty in the Persian Gulf, was nothing short of remarkable. The unit history best captured the overall spirit and courage of the members, "Enthusiasm to support this vital mission continues to be above and beyond what is normally expected of the Air Force Reservist."

24th CSAF Gen. Wilsbach's first letter to the force

Editor's Note: This letter has been shortened for space. To read the full letter, visit www.af.mil.

As I assume the responsibility of serving as your 24th Chief of Staff, I do so with humility, gratitude, and conviction in the strength of our Air Force. Every generation of Airmen has faced a moment that demanded focus, resolve, and unity of purpose. This is ours.

Fly. Fix. Fight. Our shared purpose is simple and enduring: to fly and fix so we are ready to fight. At our core, we fly and fix aircraft. It is the heart of who we are and what we do. Every Airman contributes to the generation of airpower to support the joint fight. From the flightline to the cockpit, every part of our Air Force delivers combat power. Together, we afford our Nation the ability to deter aggression and when necessary, to fight and win.

Readiness is fundamental. Readiness is our first responsibility. Aircraft availability, aircrew proficiency, and the ability to generate combat power at scale are not just metrics, they are measure of our credibility as a fighting force. We will restore and sustain full-spectrum readiness by balancing the demands of today's operations with the modernization required for tomorrow's fight. Our Airmen must fly, fix, and train with purpose, realism, and discipline to ensure we are ready any time our nation calls.

We will continue to modernize to win today and into the future. We must

guarantee that tomorrow's Airmen inherit an Air Force that can win. We will advocate relentlessly for programs like the F-47, Collaborative Combat Aircraft. We will update our existing fleets where viable. Just as important, we must shorten the time it takes to move from concept to combat power while empowering our innovators to move faster.

Our Warrior Culture will remain at an all-time high. Our warrior culture is built on standards technical excellence, accountability, and pride in our profession. Doing hard things together builds toughness and strengthens culture. Encourage your formations to lead boldly and take smart risks at all echelons. Pride in your craft and in the team beside you is the foundation of our strength.

Airmen and their families are our strength. Our Air Force is strong because of the Airmen who serve and the families who support them. We will continue to support family readiness, develop our leaders, and ensure every Airman knows they are the bedrock of our success.

Air superiority is not guaranteed. It must be earned every day. It depends on our readiness, our modernization, and our people. Every Airman has a role to play in ensuring the USAF remains the world's most capable, lethal, and respected fighting force. I'm excited to see the ingenuity and the capability of our Airmen. Fight's on!

Buckeye Flyer

445th Airlift Wing

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445 CES: Providing comfort through HVAC to maintain mission readiness

By Senior Airman Bernard Puller
445th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Before the engine of a C-17 roars to life, a different motor is driving the mission forward.

Throughout all hours of the day and hidden in plain sight, 445th Civil Engineer Squadron heating, ventilation and air conditioning Airmen move around like a well-oiled machine, replacing parts and sometimes entire units.

These Airmen safeguard some of America's most advanced technology, as well as provide a comforting breeze that allows Airmen a place to relax and reset.

Throughout the Air Force changes in temperature can mean the difference between readiness and being grounded – the art of climate control isn't background support; it is an essential key to the success of the mission.

HVAC Airmen maintain various air conditioning units especially in deployed environments. In some locations, temperatures outside can reach extreme levels during the summertime.

This can cause equipment and servers installed inside of some buildings to put out additional heat, requiring the consistent use of AC to maintain cooler temperatures inside to avoid interruptions in operations.

"There would be no NIPR and no SIPR without HVAC," said Tech. Sgt. Scott Trivett, a 445th CES HVAC craftsman. "HVAC will have a hand in every mission that happens out of their area of responsibility because of the heat. During certain parts of the year, temperatures can reach 120 degrees, so without AC, server racks get hot and comms go down."

Another responsibility is comfort cooling of all lodgings and offices.

An unconditioned space can heat up quickly, interrupting Airmen's sleep. Some jobs such as pilots are on strict rest schedules, so if the living areas are overheating, this will impact the Airmen's ability to work.

"For aircrew, there's two important requirements for our lodging," said Maj. Ryan Armstrong, 89th Airlift Squadron chief pilot. "One is brightness, if you can't control the sunlight in the room, that's obviously very straining for your body to sleep like that. Two is temperature; you and I can be completely different with what we want the temperature in the room to be for adequate sleep. Ideally, a pilot would have control of the thermostat to raise the temperature or lower it based on my needs."

"I would say those two things: light and room temperature are super important because we can't operate safely if we don't get good sleep," Armstrong continued. "If we don't get adequate rest, the aircraft commander could call a safety of flight issue, explaining we don't feel like we have adequate rest. We [also] don't feel like we can safely operate the airplane and need to go back into crew rest."

In order to maintain proficiency in skills, like HVAC, Airmen must go through extensive training.

Airmen working in HVAC attend 18 weeks of technical training. After tech school, Airmen are constantly training to



Staff Sgt. Zachary Hough, left, and Tech. Sgt. Scott Trivett; 445th Civil Engineering Squadron heating, ventilation and air conditioning technicians; train on responding to a service call with a practice air conditioning unit at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Nov. 1, 2025. (Photo by Senior Airman Bernard Puller)

stay knowledgeable on the constantly changing air conditioning technology.

During annual tours, the Airmen are on service calls giving them the chance to get hands-on experience and learn to troubleshoot new technologies in HVAC. This is important as dust becomes more of an issue with the advancement of technology, because dust can prevent circuit boards from working properly.

"We are still installing the same type of systems; however, the technology being used in AC systems has changed," Trivett said. "It used to be a couple of contactors that would open and close based on a call for cooling. Now, there is a big circuit board controlling a variable frequency drive where it used to be a small circuit board that just told the unit to turn on. With the additional electronics also comes the problem with dust."

Airmen respond to hundreds of service calls a week. Sometimes they are replacing a few parts of a system, other times they are swapping the entire unit.

When a service call comes in, Airmen respond within the hour. HVAC ensures the comfort of the Airmen but also ensures that servers don't overheat and shut down.

If servers shut down, operations will be disrupted, and the mission is unable to be completed. Proper cooling is crucial to the success of the mission especially in a deployed environment.

"As the Air Force relies more on technology, HVAC has become more and more important to the mission," Trivett concluded.



SPOTLIGHT

Rank/Name: Master Sgt. Danny Williams

Unit: 445th Aeromedical Staging Squadron

Duty Title: Critical Care Air Transport Team respiratory care practitioner

Hometown: Brookville, Indiana

Civilian Job: Firefighter/paramedic at Crosby Township, respiratory therapist Mercy Health Cincinnati, Cincinnati Reds grounds crew

Education: Associate's degree in respiratory care and paramedicine

Hobbies: Camping with my wife and kids, golf, going to Cincinnati



Reds games, coaching my three kids in sports, farming

Career Goal: Toward the end of my career, post CCATT, I'd like to retire as a first sergeant and mentor young Airman the way I was mentored by several of my previous shirts.

What do you like about working at the 445th? I found a new purpose and sense of pride being able to join the CCATT and gained a second family out of it.

Why did you join the Air Force? My grandfathers both served in the Army. One stormed Normandy and the other was in the Korean War. I wanted to follow the example they set.

Bringing your strengths: A foundation for resilience

By Master Sgt. Jason Cordle
445th Airlift Wing Resiliency Integrator

As Citizen Airmen, the demands upon us are significant and constant.

Whether we are launching a C-17 Globemaster III for a critical global mission, providing top-tier aeromedical evacuation, ensuring our aircraft are mission ready, or managing and servicing personnel, we are expected to be at our best.

The key to not just enduring but thriving in this high-stakes environment is resilience. One of the most potent tools for building this resilience is something each of us already has: our personal strengths.

The Air Force provides us with the framework of Comprehensive Airman Fitness and its four pillars: Mental, Physical, Social and Spiritual.

This model is our guide to maintaining balance and readiness. We often focus on our weaknesses, but what if we shifted our perspective?

A strengths-based approach isn't about ignoring areas for improvement; it's about identifying what we do best and using those talents to navigate challenges. This is a powerful shift that can bolster our resilience.

Think about how your distinctive strengths can be applied to the four pillars of CAF. A talent for curiosity or creativity can make you more adaptable and a better problem-

solver, directly enhancing your mental fitness.

Strengths like perseverance and self-regulation are exactly what's needed to maintain a consistent workout routine, which is a cornerstone of physical readiness.

Our social pillar is built on the connections we forge with our fellow Airmen. Strengths such as kindness, humor and teamwork are the building blocks of a supportive and cohesive wing.

Finally, the spiritual pillar is about our sense of purpose and the values that guide us. It's about what drives you. Strengths like gratitude and hope can fuel this pillar, helping you to find meaning in our shared mission.

To leverage your strengths, you must first know what they are. Reflect on what activities energize you and come naturally. Ask your wingmen, friends or supervisors for their perspective on your best qualities. You might be surprised by what they see in you.

For a more structured approach, the free VIA Character Strengths Survey can be found online and is an excellent tool for identifying your top strengths.

By consciously connecting our strengths to the four pillars of CAF, we can proactively build the resilience needed to meet any challenge. In doing so, we not only improve our own well-being but also enhance the collective readiness and effectiveness of the 445th Airlift Wing.



News Briefs

Promotions

Airman

Matias Suarez Frias, 87 APS

Airman 1st Class

Biran Adhikari, 87 APS
Cameron Andrade, MXS
Josiah Gierman, MXS
Caleb Richardson, MXS
Katherine Ross, LRS

Senior Airman

Parrish Brazel, 89 AS
Francisco Garcia Arellano, 87 APS

Staff Sergeant

Prosper Funwie, ASTS
Terra Henggeler, FSS
Ashli Morris, 87 APS
Michael Rodriguez, ASTS

Technical Sergeant

Joshua Burritt, MXS
Shaun Carson, AMXS
Daniel Harner, MXG

Master Sergeant

Jordan Garcia, 87 APS
Justin George, 87 APS
Katherine Redavide, 89 AS
Danetta Woods, LRS

Newcomers

2Lt Miranda Mosley, AES
SSgt Michelle McGee, ASTS
SSgt Logan Poston, AW
SrA Samuel Craig, FSS
SrA Garvenslee Pamphile, ASTS
SrA Mohamed Sharmake, AMXS
A1C Obed Akwa, ASTS
A1C Demetrius Boyd Cattle, SFS
A1C Adewale Fadaka CES
A1C Yazan Huazi, 87 APS

A1C Ethan Lamb, AW
A1C Trenton, Morrissey, AW
A1C Valerie Sipah, 87 APS
AB Hilda Appiah, LRS
AB Jillian Jones, MXS
AB Champayne McClain, APS
AB Cloe Martin, APS
AB Taylor Susil, SFS

New USAF Beard Policy

All Airmen currently on a long-term shaving profile must schedule an appointment with a military health care provider by Jan. 31 for an evaluation to extend their existing waiver.

Specifically, all Airmen who received a shaving waiver prior to March 1, 2025, are required to obtain an updated waiver before Jan. 31. See the January UTA Happenings email for more information.

Online PA Studio Appointment Scheduler

PA has transitioned to an online-only appointment scheduler, except for training weekend walk-ins. To set up an appointment, please visit <https://safpa.appianportalsgov.com/request>. When picking a Servicing Team, choose Wright-Patterson AFB as the location and 445th Airlift Wing Public Affairs for the unit then click the Studio Photography option.

Once a date and time has been chosen, please put one of the following in the Project Purpose:

- "Official photo": Head and shoulder photo in service dress with the gray background

- "Quarterly awards photo": Head and shoulder photo in OCPs or flight suit with the gray background
- "Annual awards photos": Full-length photo in short-sleeve blues with the white background, and a head and shoulder in service dress

If you aren't here during the week, please add a personal email as the alternate. Please answer "No" for flags required.

Digital Buckeye Flyer

The printing of the Flyer is delayed indefinitely due to contract issues. Until the issue is resolved, the Flyer will be digital only and can be found on our DVIDS at <https://www.dvidshub.net/unit/445-AW>.

USO Transition Program

This program is designed to support all active-duty service members, Reservists, National Guard members and military spouses at any stage of their career.

Transition specialists offer personalized support focused on employment, education, mentorship and financial readiness. More than 20 free certificate programs in high-demand fields such as IT, cybersecurity, data analytics, project management, HR and business are offered that can assist with college credits and promotion points.

See the January UTA Happenings email for more information.



Year in Review: 445th Airlift

Citizen Airmen with the 445th Airlift Wing began 2025 by welcoming a new resiliency integrator first sergeant.

Throughout the year, the wing participated in Exercises Green Flag, Nexus Forge, Turbo Distribution and Iniohos. They also participated in Exercise Live 25 with the U.S. Guard and a Chicago Veterans Affairs exercise.

In July, the 445th ASTS hosted Exercise Relentless Valor in coordination with the 944th ASTS from Luke Air Force Base, Arizona, a large-scale joint exercise that simulated medical operations post invasion in a contested space. More than 20 joint units and nearly 400 people participated. Additionally, 13 countries observed the exercise.

In September, the entire wing took a moment to pause during the wing's annual family day event. This day was set aside for Airmen and their families to

spend time with individual squadrons and have an opportunity to connect with others in the wing.

During the same month, the wing supported Honor Flight Dayton with Operation Honor, hosting around 160 veterans for their flight to Washington, D.C., and welcoming 3,000 people to one of its hangars to welcome the veterans home.

The wing ended the year with a successful in-place deployment, flying over 200 sorties and transporting more than 800 passengers and 7.7 million pounds of cargo.

In total for the year, the 445th Operations Group with support from the 445th Maintenance Group flew over 900 sorties during nearly 170 missions across the globe, including Greece, and the U.S. to support exercises, training, airshows and more. About 14.9 million pounds of cargo were transported and more than 4,000 passengers airlifted during the year.



(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 Tech. Sgt. Johnathan Quinones) (right) Members of the 445th Aeromedical Staging Squadron, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio and 944th ASTS, Luke AFB, Ariz. practice medical care on a simulated casualty during Exercise Relentless Valor at Wright State University's Calamityville, Fairborn, Ohio, June 6, 2025. (Photo by Patrick O'Reilly)



Wing reflects on 2025



(left) Senior Airman Marcus Simones, left, 445th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron aerospace maintenance technician, and Master Sgt. John McDermott, 445th MXS jet mechanic, use a tire jack on nose landing gear to replace tires on a C-17 Globemaster III at Yokota Air Base, Japan, April 14, 2025. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Johnathan Quinones) (right) A fire truck and three pallets of humanitarian goods are loaded onto a 445th Airlift Wing C-17 Globemaster III at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, May 8, 2025, for transport to Belize. (Courtesy photo)



(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. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Johnathan Quinones) (right) The 445th Airlift Wing held its 2024 annual awards banquet and medallion ceremony at the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force April 5, 2025. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Angela Jackson)



Save the Date Awards Banquet

The 445th Airlift Wing Annual Awards Banquet will be held Saturday, March 14, at the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force. The reception is slated to begin at 6 p.m. and the program at 7 p.m.

A medallion ceremony will be held at 5 p.m. to formally recognize all nominees. Family members and leadership are invited to attend. More details will be emailed to nominees.

The awards banquet will recognize those selected for Airman, NCO, senior NCO, company grade officer, first sergeant, field grade officer, recruiter, honor guard member, civilian (category I: GS-09 and below/category II: GS-11 and above), spouse, youth and squadron of the year.

Cost

The cost of the event is \$60 for adults; \$25 for children 6 to 10; and children 5 and under are free.

RSVP at: <https://forms.osi.apps.mil/r/1KfHF7Sndn> – Attendees must RSVP before making payment in the PA office when the reservation will be confirmed – an RSVP for the event will not constitute confirmation without payment. All reservations must be made by Feb. 20 at 6 p.m. Check out the QR code in the News Briefs for a direct link.

Payment method

Payment will be made via cash or check in the Public Affairs office in building 4010, room 171. Checks should be made out to 445TH PA FUND.

Nominations needed

Nominations are currently being accepted for all categories and are due no later than close of business Jan. 12. Nominations should be submitted on an Air Force Form 1206 to 445aw.ccc.res@us.af.mil. Please refer to the 445 AWOI 36-2802 guidance for more details. Contact Chief Master Sgt. Gordon Wager at gordon.wager.1@us.af.mil if you have questions.

All individual military nominees will need to take their photos and can do so during the December/January unit training assemblies as a walk in or by contacting the PA office at 445aw.pa2@us.af.mil to schedule an appointment during the week.

Wing DPH says farewell

By Vera Ensalaco

445th Airlift Wing Director of Psychological Health

Five years ago, I began my journey with the 445th Airlift Wing.

During this time, it has been my honor and privilege to serve as our Director of Psychological Health. Working alongside you and working with you to meet the needs of our units has been one of the most meaningful work experiences that I have had.

Having said this, I am retiring from government service after almost 15 years of federal service.

Thank you for your trust, collaboration, inspiration and the relationships that have been built. The military truly is a family.

Saying goodbye to this role feels very much like saying goodbye to that family – a community bound together by shared purpose, resilience and care for one another. While I may be retiring, the bonds we have built will remain, and I will always carry with me the connection to this extraordinary team.

Though I am leaving, I want to assure you that you are in good hands. Mrs. Ashley Edwards, 655th DPH will be covering until another DPH is hired and can be reached at (937) 713-1101 or ashley.edwards.22@us.af.mil.

Care for one another; care for yourselves. I will treasure this part of our journey together always. As I close this chapter, I am reminded of a saying that my Hungarian Jewish grandmother often said, "Never goodbye, only farewell. Until we meet again." (Le'olam lo lehitraot, rak peridah – ad sheipagesh shuv)

With respect, gratitude, enduring connection and hope for what lies ahead, Vera Ensalaco.



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