

# BUCKEYE FLYER



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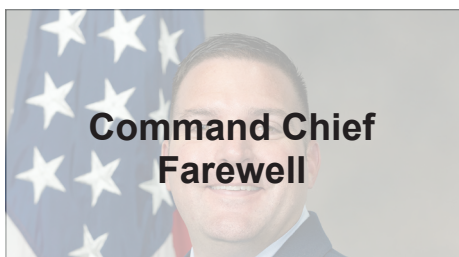
## 445 AW 2025 Annual Awards



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Photo by Tech. Sgt. Daniel Peterson

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## Historian's Corner

By Dr. Tara Simpson  
445th Airlift Wing Historian

In 1987, Alabama Senator, and former Vietnam prisoner of war, Jeremiah Denton proposed an amendment to the Foreign Service Assistance Act of 1961. The amendment provided the Secretary of Defense the power to delegate humanitarian airlift supply shipments provided by non-governmental and nonprofit organizations. The program utilized space available on U.S. military aircraft already scheduled for either national or international missions to airlift aid to those suffering due to natural disasters, political conflict or food scarcity.

In April 1997, the 445th Airlift Wing helped mark the 10th anniversary of the Denton Amendment. During that time the Matthew 25 Ministries of Milford, Ohio, requested help from the 89th Airlift Squadron to fly 23,000 pounds of medical supplies.

The cargo was significant as it included the two-millionth pound of aid the 445th helped airlift to Nicaragua. For five years, many Nicaraguans had suffered immensely due to ongoing civil war.

Members of the 445th recognized the magnitude of an otherwise routine airlift to the turbulent nation. By 1997, the unit had transported enough cargo to renovate/revive hospitals, schools, and orphanages across Nicaragua.

For nearly three decades the Denton Cargo Program has proven to be an invaluable opportunity for Air Force Reservists, including the wing. Airlifted humanitarian aid has included everything from food, school and medical supplies to furniture, farm equipment, and emergency vehicles. While helping those in need, the program also provided invaluable training opportunities for members to maintain qualifications by processing, loading and shipping a variety of cargo.

## Enduring wisdom: Applying Colin Powell's 13 Leadership Rules in 2026

By Maj. William Harris  
445th Logistics Readiness Squadron  
Commander

General Colin Powell, a towering figure in American military history, left behind a legacy of leadership that transcends time and technology. As we navigate the complexities of 2026, his principles remain a vital resource for military leaders at the wing level and below.

While the tools of our trade have evolved, the core of leadership – inspiring and guiding people – remains unchanged.

Powell's famous 13 Rules of Leadership, born from decades of experience, offer a practical and powerful guide for today's challenges.

### The Leader's Mindset: Optimism and Resilience

Powell's rules are a testament to the power of a leader's mindset. His first rule, *"It ain't as bad as you think. It will look better in the morning,"* coupled with his 13th, *"Perpetual optimism is a force multiplier,"* provides a powerful framework for leaders at the flight and squadron level.

In 2026, where the pace of operations is relentless and resources can be constrained, a leader's optimism is infectious. It is the flight commander's positive outlook that can sustain a team through the rigors of a deployment or the frustrations of a complex new system.



This is reinforced by the simple yet profound fourth rule, *"It can be done!"*

This mantra encourages leaders to tackle challenges head-on and inspire a can-do attitude in their teams, turning seemingly insurmountable obstacles into achievable goals.

### The Human Element: People First

In an increasingly technical and data-driven world, Powell's emphasis on the human element of leadership is more critical than ever. His advice in the ninth rule to *"Share credit"* is fundamental to building a cohesive and motivated team.

Leaders who recognize the contributions of their subordinates foster a

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## Buckeye Flyer 445th Airlift Wing

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## Command Chief says farewell

By Chief Master Sgt. Gordon M.R. Wager  
445th Airlift Wing Command Chief

Warriors! Acknowledging the fact that I can't make this article memorable, I will try to make it short.

My first Buckeye Flyer article three years ago talked about Warrior Ethos. This was before Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth took the oath and later changed the office to the Secretary of War.

I wrote about a Warrior Ethos because I see us all as Warriors, which we see more than ever with the current operational conflict in Iran.

I arrived at the 445th Airlift Wing with teammates in harm's way and I will leave with some teammates in danger and the legacy of the 445th Airlift Wing being felt around the world!

So, with that said, I wanted to leave you with something else that is timeless – standards! Strong standards protect values; discipline sustains progress; and care for one another breeds a culture for success!

Below are eight things I have learned about standards in these last three years:

1. The pursuit of perfection is not pride; it is respect for the craft you were given. It is discipline honoring your Wingman.
2. The price of imperfection is paid later, often by someone else through their time and energy correcting your mistakes. The quality of your work is your promise to yourself.
3. Without structure, the most capable of Airmen struggle to produce excellence. Consistency isn't built by memory alone; it is built with relentless intentional effort.
4. Standards start with the command leadership teams. Every culture reflects its leaders. The best leaders seek council, reflect before acting and chose patience over pride. I have said this many times, if you are a leader, you deserve what you tolerate!
5. Culture is not what an organization writes on the walls; it is what the organization demands from its people. Respect and accountability must coexist. One without the other will lead to failure.
6. Leaders must hire for potential, not for experience, trust or personalities. Team building is an act of discipline, and it demands structure. A leader with a growth mindset and strong standards will pull people upward.
7. Standards when executed professionally are not difficult. It is about being dependable. Don't seek approval but to be pushed out of your comfort zone.
8. The burden of standards is heavy! We can forgive

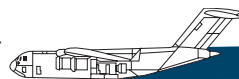


human errors and moments of imperfection. However, we cannot overlook negligence. Pressure is a privilege! When you are accountable to others, standards are not ego, it is responsibility to each other.

Time and time again this wing continues to answer the nation's call. Support to the conflicts, countless counter drug operations, the under 72-hour mobilization, immigration support, humanitarian responsibilities, the 2025 deployment, three major training events, multiple command level exercises, ongoing operational requirements and daily tasks! We also accomplished 30 percent of STEP II selections, hundreds of professional military graduates with seven distinguished graduates, Enlisted Developmental Education Board and careerfield developmental team selections, and many Career College of the Air Force graduates.

Thank you for the years of warmth and support to Beth and me. We leave here humbled, blessed and so incredibly proud of you! You have truly left a mark on us and the world.

## Fight's On! Chief Wager, Out!



## SPOTLIGHT

**Rank/Name:** Senior Airman Kwabena Anarfi Boateng

**Unit:** 445th Force Support Squadron

**Duty Title:** Force Management Technician

**Hometown:** Kumasi, Ghana

**Civilian Job:** Cardiovascular Intensive Care Unit Registered Nurse at Albert B. Chandler Hospital, University of Kentucky

**Education:** Bachelor of Science in Nursing and working to complete my master's in health informatics

**Hobbies:** I enjoy spending time with family and playing soccer and video games.

**Career Goal:** I am committed to a path of selfless leadership, with the clear goal of commissioning as an officer to expand my impact. My professional ambition is to serve as a leader who prioritizes the development and well-being of my team members, fostering an environ-



ment where every individual feels empowered to contribute their best. I intend to lead by example, demonstrating that the most profound leadership is rooted in the service of others.

**What do you like about working at the 445th?** Within the 445th, my supervisors and leadership have

created the optimal environment for me to thrive and grow as an Airman. They lead by example, fostering a command climate built on mutual respect and strong teamwork where every member feels valued.

This supportive atmosphere encourages open communication and the free exchange of ideas, which directly enhances our unit's effectiveness. It is through their mentorship and commitment to my development that I am not only able to contribute to our collective success but to also confidently pursuing my ambition to lead others in the future.

**Why did you join the Air Force?** My lifelong fascination with paper planes evolved into a deep admiration for aviation, sparking my desire to join the Air Force. I am driven by the profound need to be part of something far greater than myself and contribute to a mission of global significance.

Through service, I aim to transform a childhood dream into a lifetime of purpose, upholding the Air Force's legacy of integrity and excellence.

## Full MOPP, full focus: Ensuring wing can fly, fight, win

By Tech. Sgt. Jonathon Quiñones  
445th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Speed, scale, and seamless incorporation are not just goals for the Air Force Reserve; they are the foundation for mission accomplishment.

The Air Force Reserve functions as a strategic force advantage rather than merely a backup, delivering rapid, scalable combat capability by blending military expertise with specialized skills from the civilian sector. This "force advantage" was on full display as Airmen from the 445th Operations Support Squadron Aircrew Flight Equipment (AFE) conducted intensive Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear (CBRN) contamination line block training.

"As we continue to adopt the Air Force Occupational Competency Model (AFOCM), high operations tempo train-

ing like this give our Airmen real-world scenarios helping them become more adaptable to what the job may bring at a moment's notice," said Technical Sgt. Amy Stanfield, 445th Operations Support Squadron aircrew flight equipment non-commissioned officer in charge.

Operating in Mission Oriented Protective Posture (MOPP) level 4 is the highest state of protection while presenting a unique set of physical and psychological hurdles simultaneously. Donning the full ensemble of overgarments, masks, gloves, and boots create a sensory-deprived environment where even the simplest tasks require thoughtful effort.

"When you're wearing MOPP 4 and are trying to convey to someone who is also wearing protective equipment, it is very difficult to hear, especially if that person is unsettled physically or emotionally due to fear of being exposed to

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## News Briefs

### Promotions

**Senior Master Sergeant**  
Diego Cancino, OSS  
Chelsea Eldridge, MXG

**Master Sergeant**  
Kyle Altman, SFS

**Staff Sergeant**  
Thomas Cornelison, AMXS  
Alexandra Harris, MXS  
Cardae Lane, 87 APS  
Anela Madama, CES  
Niajai Manson, LRS  
Pooja Patel, AES  
Nathan Rosenbauer, MXS

**Senior Airman**  
Dayvon Coble, CES

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culture of excellence and mutual respect. This is complemented by the 10th principle to "Remain calm. Be kind."

In high-pressure situations, a leader's composure is a steady force. A calm demeanor, coupled with kindness, builds trust and ensures that the team can perform effectively under stress.

Furthermore, Powell's reminder in his eighth rule to "Check small things" reinforces the importance of attention to detail, a cornerstone of military precision and success that also signals to your team that you care about their work and their well-being.

**Decisive and Visionary Leadership**

Effective leadership requires a clear direction and the courage to act. Powell's 11th directive to "Have a vision. Be demanding" is crucial for leaders at all levels.

By articulating a compelling vision, a leader connects the daily tasks of their Airmen and Guardians to the broader mission, instilling a sense of purpose and motivating them to meet high standards.

This vision must be backed by de-

Yazan Hijazi, 87 APS  
Jiyi Liu, CES  
Jared Strong, AMXS  
Germain Williams, SFS

**Airman**  
Nicolas Williams, MXS

### Support Military Kids

April is the Month of the Military Child, and the 445th M&FR would like to show your children they are appreciated. They will be sending certificates of appreciation to military children throughout the month of April. To sign up your military child(ren) for a certificate, visit

<https://tockify.com/445aw/detail/2/1740805200000>. Nominations accepted until April 24.

### BAH Recertification

BAH recertification is a triannual requirement for all members receiving with dependent rate BAH. Members have from now until the Sept. 30 to recertify or face a BAH reduction.

Emails with documentation to recertify must be sent from af.mil email address to 445aw\_fm.bahrecert@us.af.mil. Don't wait until the last minute, check out the flyer in the March UTA Happenings for more information.

decisive action. Powell's sixth rule, "Don't let adverse facts stand in the way of a good decision," is not an encouragement of recklessness, but a reminder that leadership involves calculated risks and trusting one's judgment. This is further supported by the 12th rule, "Don't take counsel of your fears or naysayers."

In 2026, leaders will be inundated with information and opinions; the ability to filter out negativity and maintain focus on the mission is a key differentiator of effective leadership.

**Personal Accountability and Emotional Intelligence**

The final set of rules focuses on the leader's character and emotional discipline. The second admonition to "Get mad, then get over it" is a powerful lesson in emotional regulation.

Leaders are human and will experience frustration, but they cannot let that anger consume them or negatively impact their team.

This ties into another key rule (third): "Avoid having your ego so close to your position that when your position falls, your ego goes with it."

Military life is dynamic, and set-

backs are inevitable. A leader who can absorb a failure, learn from it and move forward without a bruised ego is resilient and effective.

Powell also cautions in his fifth rule, "Be careful what you choose. You may get it," a reminder of the responsibility that comes with authority and the need for thoughtful decision-making.

Finally, the seventh rule, "You can't make someone else's choices. You shouldn't let someone else make yours," speaks to the importance of empowering subordinates while retaining ultimate responsibility for one's own decisions.

As military leaders at the wing level and below guide their teams through the challenges of 2026, they stand on the shoulders of giants like Gen. Colin Powell. His timeless 13 rules provide a clear and actionable framework for effective leadership.

By embracing optimism, focusing on the human element, practicing personal accountability and leading with a clear and decisive vision, today's leaders can continue to uphold the highest standards of the service and inspire the next generation.



# 445th AW honors its 2025 annual awards winners

Citizen Airmen with the 445th Airlift Wing, families and local community leaders gathered at the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force March 14 to recognize the wing's 2025 annual award nominees and winners.

More than 30 Airmen and family members were honored at a medallion ceremony prior to the awards banquet.

Col. Douglas A. Perry Jr., 445th AW commander, presented each nominee in attendance a wing medallion.

The banquet began with nominees entering the room as part of the official party while the Chiefs Group formed a

saber arch.

The 445th Honor Guard posted the Colors and participated in a POW/MIA table demonstration.

Awards were presented for military, civilian, spouse and community partner categories, and the event concluded with the announcement of squadron of the year.

Perry also presented the Miami Valley Military Affairs Association with the 4th Air Force Public Service Award he accepted on their behalf while attending the 4th AF Raincross Awards earlier in the month.



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Daniel Peterson and Staff Sgt. Angela Jackson



### Airman



Senior Airman Nathan Ernst

### NCO



Tech. Sgt. Marsell Moody  
Field Grade Officer

### Senior NCO



Senior Master Sgt. Nicholas Garman  
Civilian Category I

### First Sergeant



Master Sgt. Jason Cordle  
Civilian Category II

### Honor Guard



Maj. Carol Read-Arce  
Honor Guard

### Civilian Category I



Amanda Dick  
Recruiter

### Key Support Liason



Carrie Ruby  
Key Support Liason

### Community Partner



Tech. Sgt. Devin Copeland  
Community Partner

### Squadron of the Year



Tech. Sgt. Casey Wenningham  
Squadron of the Year

### City of Fairborn



### City of Fairborn



### 445th Maintenance Squadron



\*Not pictured: Company Grade Officer, Capt. Seth Bowers



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chemical agents,” said Staff Sgt. Gabrielle Saidak, 445th Operations Support Squadron aircrew flight equipment lead instructor. “It is important to be clear and confident when communicating with them.”

This focus on the human element of CBRN defense transforms a high-stress technical requirement into a life-saving skill set. For many Airmen, the journey from the initial discomfort of chemical defense training to the mastery of aircrew protection is a powerful reminder of their evolution as Reserve Citizen Airmen. What begins as an unnerving requirement in entry-level training eventually becomes a specialized capability that ensures the wing can survive and

operate in any climate.

“I find CBRN very interesting,” said Senior Airman Shafick Celis-Muñoz, 445th Operations Support Squadron aircrew flight equipment apprentice. “After going through the tear gas experience in basic training I remember how it made me feel, now I can save a member’s life by utilizing my training and protecting them from toxic agents.”

Ultimately, the proficiency displayed during this contamination line training is a tangible breakdown of the “Force Advantage” in action. Whether facing a routine mission or a high-threat environment, the 445th stands ready to deliver combat-ready capability at speed and scale.



**Left:** Airmen with the 445th Operations Support Squadron aircrew flight equipment don gloves before going through an open-air kit (OAK) decontamination line at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Feb. 8, 2026.



**Right:** Tech. Sgt. Amy Stanfield, center, 445th OSS AFE noncommissioned officer in charge, inspects the filter of an M69 respirator mask during block training for chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear (CBRN) equipment familiarization at Wright-Patterson AFB, Feb. 8, 2026. (Photos by Tech. Sgt. Johnathan Quiñones)

*More content can be found at [www.dvidshub.net/unit/445-AW](http://www.dvidshub.net/unit/445-AW).*

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