"The workhorse of the Air Force"

Buckeye Flyer

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First time's a charm for Aerial Porters

Field exercise hailed as a success

Story and photo by Staff Sgt. Charlie Miller
445th AW/Public Affairs

Staff Sgt. John Lawrence gives 10K all terrain fork lift operator Staff Sgt. Angela Wood the "stop" sign as he checks the load.

They wanted their first solo field training exercise (FTX) to be absolutely as close to a real-world mission as humanly possible. But no one at the 87th Aerial Port Squadron was surprised when 445th Wing Commander Rusty Moen denied their request for a flight to Ganci Air Base, Manas, Kyrgyzstan. So the aerial ports leadership did the next best thing; they created a Ganci-like air base right in their own backyard. Well, the 445th Civil Engineer Squadron's Prime Beef Home Station Training Site on the backside of Wright-Patterson to be more specific.

"We're trying to make the exercise as realistic as possible," said Capt. J. T. Moore, training officer for the 87th APS. "Many of the 36 participants have never been in a field environment before, much less a forward deployed environment. We' re trying to simulate that out here."

"We at the 87th APS want to increase our expeditionary skills so we are not put in a predicament we couldn't handle," said Capt. James Klein, air freight officer for the 87th APS.

"Many members of this unit were part of the 40th Mobile Aerial Port Squadron which was stationed at Rickenbacher Air National Guard Base, Columbus. The 40th merged with the 87th at Wright-Patterson in 1993," said Klein.

"In the past, the Air Force had two types of aerial ports; mobile and non-mobile," said Klein. "Now the Air Force no longer differentiates between mobile or not, but we still have all the requirements to operate in fixed and non-fixed (austere) environments. We wanted to tap into the expertise of those more senior members to teach in field conditions to younger members."

An overriding thought when the 87th leaders selected the participants for the FTX was skill level. They selected the new or newer members of the squadron; troops in upgrade training, troops with somewhat limited training. Put them with long-time 87th members serving as cadre for the FTX and you have a win-win situation.

Airman First Class Shannon Graff was one of the "players." She's been with the 87th APS all of three months. Upon arrival at the main entrance of the training site, the players were told to exit the bus and walk the almost half mile into the main complex.

"We wanted to put them in a mind set that this was a serious exercise," said Senior Master Sgt. Steve Knorr, a cadre supervisor. The players were then split into four teams, each with its own leadership. They were to operate a mobile aerial port under austere conditions with little support. Teamwork, planning and organizational skills were essential.

"We put the team chiefs in control and let them come to us and ask questions," Moore said.

"The less the cadre interferes, the more the players are going to learn," Knorr said.

"No matter how much you think you know, you get refreshed with training like this," said player Staff Sgt. Steve Bright who has been with the 87th APS for two years. "You can tell our squadron takes training in the field as seriously as they take training on the flight line. We really came together out here. There was a positive attitude and a solid effort."

"The ultimate long term goal is to evolve this first exercise into an elaborate detail orientated exercise to simulate what you face in a real world situation," said Klein. "An aerial port may arrive in a deployed environment and have only a few hours before cargo planes start landing."

Day one of the FTX had the cadre conducting numerous blocks of instruction. From self -aid and buddy care to driving the huge 10-ton all-terrain forklift, the cadre gave the players a full plate of classes taught in the field. Chemical warfare training, perimeter defense training and pre and post attack base recovery blocks of instructions were covered. Several attack scenarios were played out with the participants learning how to handle hostile forces trying to infiltrate the base camp.

"This FTX is valuable training for the participants and a valuable tool for assessing our cadre," Knorr said. "We want to give our senior staff an idea of how we are training people out here."

Broken Elevators Habakkuk 3:19

by Capt (Chaplain) Bill Dickens
445th AW/ Senior Protestant Chaplain

While on a recent deployment to Istres, France, there was a sign posted that read "Elevator is out of order." What!?! I had to walk up and down the stairs to the third floor, multiple times everyday. When I got to the top, as I took my oxygen treatment, I was reminded of the churches, chapels, monasteries, and abbeys in the little French towns. Most of them were situated on steep hills with only little paths leading to and from the church. The paths were traveled by priests, monks, nuns and parishioners multiple times daily, often bare-footed and probably without complaint. Habakkuk 3:19 says,

"The Lord God is my strength; He will make my feet like deer's feet, and He will make me walk on my high hills."

Walking the three flights of stairs daily was no big deal compared to the load that some people carry. Many people (maybe some of you) experience difficult family problems at home, illnesses in the family, trying job situations, and anguishing personal issues. Know that the Lord can be your strength. In fact, He tells us that He desires to carry those burdens. Let Him be your strength today.

A time to remember

by Col. Rusty Moen
445th AW/Commander

As our nation approaches the one-year anniversary of the horrific events of September 11. I want to thank each of you in this wing for your unselfish service to our Air Force and nation. From the mobilization of our security force squadron now deployed to various locations around the world, to the large number of C-141 missions you have generated, your performance has been outstanding. We will continue to be called upon in the months ahead as the war on terrorism and AEF commitments continue. The requests for volunteers to fill slots in the AEF will grow, and I thank each of you who have stepped up to these taskings.

We recently completed the Initial Response phase of our Operation Readiness Inspection. I am pleased with the wing's overall effort, satisfactory grade, and particularly the positive attitude I saw in everyone I met. We have shown that we are combat ready, and the excellent grade in "generation" is a tribute to the skills of our maintenance and aircrew personnel. Our deployed personnel to the exercise at Savannah performed well in tough conditions. It's a team effort as I note that our medical squadron gave over 270 physicals on Saturday of the UTA and ensured that our aircrew members were able to meet their mobility processing time that afternoon.

As Fall approaches we along with March Air Reserve Base will be involved in the Deep Freeze mission as we support US scientific efforts in Antarctica. At the same time we will be deploying for 90+ days to Ramsteim, Germany to operate the European Strategic Inter -theatre mission. Over the horizon I see our next Unit Compliance Inspection coming along with our turn as lead wing in the AEF cycle four, and the wing is already involved in mapping out our scheduled conversion to C-5 aircraft. Busy times continue for those who wear the blue uniform.

As I think of the victims of September 11th, and of our service men and women who have lost their lives in service to their country during this war on terrorism, I remember a short talk I gave at my neighborhood candlelight vigil gathering the following evening, where I told them that the most important thing they as civilians, and a community, could do is keep their resolve to see this war through to it's eventual conclusion, no matter how long it takes. I believe we are doing that.

A number of people ask for a copy of the quote I read at last commander's call from Gen Fogleman. It is probably an appropriate end to this column:

"The Air Force is not a social action agency. It is not an employment agency. — The Air Force exists to fight and win wars — that's our core expertise. It's what allows us to be called professionals. We're entrusted with the security of our nation. The tools of our trade are lethal, and we engage in operations that involve risk to human life and untold national treasures. Because of what we do our standards *must* be higher than those of society at large. The American public expects it of us and properly so. In the end, we earn the respect and trust of the American people because of the integrity we demonstrate.

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Staff Sgt. Raquel Matthews.....Audio-Visual Specialist
SrA Robert Sperling..... Public Affairs Trainee

above: **Technical Sgt. Charles Rice and Senior Airman Fabian Keen, 445th Mission Support Squadron, move mortuary affairs equipment from their truck into the mock morgue during the set-up stage of the exercise.**

left: **Four members of the 445th Mission support Squadron hustle for cover during a simulated ground attack.**

Services members take to the field

Photos and story by Senior Airman Robert Sperling
445th AW/ Public Affairs

Fifteen reservists from the 445th Services Section will be spending two days (Aug. 1 and 2) at a bare bones tent city, located on Wright-Patterson AFB, while they practice for an upcoming operational readiness inspection.

The members in this exercise are from the lodging, food service, and mortuary affairs functions of the wing's Services section. They will be drilled in both real and hypothetical situations.

The environment and scenario that they will be facing is at a hypothetical Air Base located at a forward undeveloped location where local warring factions have declared war against coalition troops.

The mission at this "forward" location will be to bed-down a force of up to 2500 personnel while overcoming attacks of various types. This mission required them to create separate quarters for visiting members, provide three meals a day as well as provide security and command and control duties for all.

To proctor this exercise the 445th Airlift Wing asked Senior Master Sgt. Steve Simpson from March Air Reserve Base, Calif., to grade and instruct our members on their performance as well as their inadequacies. He said, "At 4th Air Force we (the instructors) normally perform Readiness Assistance Visits or RAV's at the wing level. But since the introduction of the Expeditionary Operational Readiness Inspections concept and the fact that individual personnel are deploying instead of large units we needed to change our ways to better serve the individuals."

Throughout the two days members are subjected to simulated chemical weapons attacks, perimeter skirmishes and the real effects of southwestern Ohio's summer heat and humidity.

Day one involved the members assembling their camp and establishing evacuation routes, shelters, and command and control procedures. Throughout the day the instructors simulated chemical weapons attacks requiring the group to remain at full alert for a half hour, while the heat index peaked at over 100 degrees. Once all clear sounded, food service went to work preparing the evening meal. After the meal the clean-up procedures began, evening perimeter security checklists were finalized and the weary troops finally had a moment to relax.

Day two started at the dark and early hour of 3:00 a.m. The members woke from their cots and began preparing breakfast. After the meal and during clean up the alarm sounded sending everyone into a heightened state of alert, much like those following the events of Sept. 11.

Shortly after the alert, a simulated chemical weapon was detonated in the base and all personnel scrambled for cover and into their full protective gear once more. During the insuing attack one food service member was wounded (simulated) and contaminated giving the team a chance to practice the appropriate medical procedures in a biologically contaminated environment.

The exercise wrapped up on the evening of Aug. 2 with the group policing the area and disassembling their tents and equipment. These types of exercises occur regularly in the 445th Airlift Wing, enabling the wing to be ready and able whenever the call should come in.

Capt. John Marang, 445th Airlift Wing Performance Planner said, "This exercise was a great success. What normally happens when Services takes to the field for a wing Operational Readiness Inspection or the wing's annual bivouac training they (Services) actually perform their wartime mission. During these (the wing) training sessions Services personnel are not able to stop and learn from any mistakes. In this particular scenario we (the instructors) were able to pause the game in order to correct or redirect any mistakes."

ASTS hosts national medical certification courses

Photo and story by Senior Airman Robert Sperling
445th AW/ Public Affairs

August 9 thru 11, members of the 445th Aeromedical Staging Squadron (ASTS) hosted the Defense Medical Readiness Training Institute's (DMRTI) multi-service certification course.

Members of the Army, Navy, and Air Force attended the three-day course that covered three significant medical training classes, Advanced Burn Life Support (ABLS), Trauma Nursing Core Course (TNCC), and Pre-Hospital Trauma Life Support (PHTLS). The courses ranged in length from the eight-hour ABLS course to the 16-hour TNCC and PHTLS courses. These courses were offered to senior Medical Technicians, Nurses, Doctors, and Paramedics.

"As a member of the national DMRTI faculty and a regular instructor it is wonderful to bring such an opportunity to Wright-Patterson," said Air Force Reserve Capt. Scott Williams, DMRTI Instructor and 445th ASTS member.

The Advanced Trauma Life Support course focused on the advanced care of burned and injured soldiers and other patients. The other two courses, TNCC and PHTLS, focused more on the events and procedures surrounding pre-hospital treatment through emergency room trauma assessment and treatment. The trauma nurses course was for nurses, auditing senior med-techs, paramedics and dealt with emergency room rapid trauma assessment and treatment. The pre-hospital course involved events preceding movement to a medical facility such as pre-hospital response techniques, vehicle extraction and on-site trauma management. These courses will provide attendees with hands-on scenarios dealing with vehicle extractions, spinal immobilizations and many other valuable experiences often seen in real life. Pending completion of these courses attendees receive national certification.

Major Denise Hopkins, U.S. Army- DMRTI Instructor, demonstrates proper spinal alignment as Lt. Col Karen Schlindwein places a head restraint device, and Capt. Kathleen Steirwalt looks on. Both Lt. Col Schlindwein and Capt. Steirwalt are members of the 445th Aeromedical Staging Squadron at Wright-Patterson.

The Defense Medical Readiness Training Institute is headquartered at Ft. Sam Houston in San Antonio, Texas. Instructors, like U.S. Army Major Denise Hopkins the DMRTI instructor and program director, from the institute travel all over the country teaching many different courses to military and civilian medical personnel. The courses are part of the DMRTI's exportable classroom environment. The exportable classroom environment improves the coordination between civilian and military organizations as well as reducing duplication of training efforts and costs associated with such efforts. The institute is a tri-service organization encompassing Army, Navy and Air Force medical instructors.

Wing reservists help treat wounded 82nd Airborne soldier

by Senior Airman Robert Sperling
445th AW/ Public Affairs

Reservists from the 445th Aeromedical Staging Squadron (ASTS) along with active duty personnel were called to receive the 82nd Airborne Paratrooper wounded by a sniper's bullet in Afghanistan August 8.

A C-17 aircraft transported the wounded soldier to Ramstein Air Base, Germany where a reserve and active duty medical team unloaded the soldier off the aircraft and further transported him by ambulance to the Aeromedical Staging Facility (ASF) at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, Germany for medical treatment.

Seven ASTS members were in Germany as part of their annual two-week training deployment. During their deployment, they're augmenting the active duty medical personnel at Landstuhl Medical Center.

The mission of the ASTS is to provide 24-hour operation of a 250 bed Aeromedical Staging Facility, and to provide supportive and emergency medical care for patients transitioning from evacuation status to a hospital. The ASTS personnel coordinate and communicate with medical and aeromedical evacuation elements to facilitate patient care and movement. Medical personnel also provide and coordinate the transportation of patients requiring specialized care and ensure that patients are medically and administratively prepared for flight.

AES awarded Outstanding C-141 Evacuation Unit plus individual awards

by Senior Airman Robert Sperling
445th AW/ Public Affairs

The 445th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron (AES) and personnel was recently recognized by the Air Force Reserve Command (AFRC) for their outstanding work and dedication to duty.

The 445th AES was activated concurrently with its parent wing, the 445th Airlift Wing, on Oct. 1,1994. The unit is composed of 49 officers and 89 enlisted personnel; all highly skilled medical and health service specialists. The 445th AES's primary aircraft is the C-141 Starlifter, but they are ready and capable of utilizing most of the Air Force's aircraft for their mission. Aircraft that the AES can use are the C-130 Hercules, C-9 Nightingale (the only aircraft in the inventory solely dedicated to aeromedical evacuation), C-5 Galaxy, C-17 Globemaster III, and the KC-10 and 135 should the situation warrant their use. In addition the unit is also capable of supporting Civil Reserve Air Fleet aeromedical evacuation using the Boeing 767-200 and the 767-300 aircraft.

Throughout the squadron's eight-year existence they quickly earned themselves a hard charging, can-do reputation within the Aeromedical Evacuation community, frequently providing extra efforts required to meet the active and reserve Air Force requirements. Because of this attitude the unit has been recognized with several awards including the Outstanding AES with C-9, C-141 or C-17 aircraft missions award in 1996, 1998, 1999, and now in 2002.

Individual awards were also presented by AFRC to members of the 445th AES. Lt. Col. Allen Gilbar, Director of Aeromedical Operations, was selected for the Outstanding Air Reserve Technician (ART) Officer/ Non-Commissioned Officer of the Quarter. AFRC also selected Maj. Catherine Seibert, Master Sgt. Teresa Kennedy and Senior Airman Sandi Golden from the 445th AES for the Outstanding Reserve Officer/ Non-Commissioned Officer/ Airman Assigned to an Aeromedical Evacuation Unit category.

"All the AES members have worked hard to earn these awards, and it gives me great pleasure to see them getting the recognition they so aptly deserve. The AES mission is a very difficult one and it is truly an honor to have one of the best (Aeromedical Evacuation) squadrons in the Air Force in our wing," said Col. Hanferd J. Moen, Jr., Commander 445th Airlift Wing.

Since the squadrons inception, it has taken part in many different wartime and peacetime operations including Operation Desert Shield and Storm, Operation Just Cause in Panama, Operation Restore Hope in Somalia, Operations Joint Endeavor/Guard/Forge in Bosnia, Operation Enduring Freedom, and disaster relief efforts all over the world. The 445th AES's robust mission included over 150 operational and training missions, encompassing over 650 flying hours during the last year. Their missions have taken them throughout the continental United States, the Pacific and European theaters, South America and the Caribbean. Most recently crews from the 445th AES have transported Operation Enduring Freedom casualties from Ramstein Air Base, Germany back home to Andrews Air Force Base, Md.

The 445th Airlift Wing consists of three attached groups and 16 squadrons- including the 445th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron. There are approximately 2,000 reservists in the wing altogether. The 445th's mission is to train personnel and provide resources to meet worldwide taskings. The unit flies the C-141C Starlifter, a long-range troop and cargo transport.

Wing Profiles

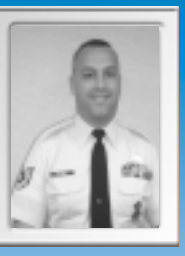
Staff Sgt. Steve Bright
87th Aerial Port Squadron

Civilian Job: Production Associate, Honda
Hobbies: Spending time with son, playing golf, watching Notre Dame Football.

Staff Sgt. Ron Riegle
445th Maintenance Squadron

Civilian Job: IT Supervisor for UPS
Hobbies: Spending time with family and remodeling his house.

Technical Sgt. Jon Selmer
445th Security Force Squadron



Civilian Job: Springfield Police Officer
Hobbies: Participating in Sports, Cycling and working on his house.

Reserve, Guard transitional health care benefits improve

by Tech. Sgt. Tim Dougherty
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — A recent change to health care benefits will be a big help for Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard people who were mobilized in support of the war on terrorism.

Under the revised transitional health care benefit plan, Reserve and Guard people who were ordered to active duty for more than 30 days in support of a contingency and have more than six years total active federal service are eligible for 120 days of health care following their period of active service.

Guard and Reserve members with less than six years service will get 60 days of continued medical care. Under a worldwide demonstration project, family members are also covered under this plan. This program is retroactive to Jan. 1.

Eligibility for these benefits will be determined by information in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System.

"I think the No. 1 thing a member can do upon demobilization is to ensure their information in DEERS is correct," said Col. Kathleen Woody, director of medical readiness and programs in the office of the assistant secretary of defense for reserve affairs. "That's paramount because all of your benefits are contingent on the information in DEERS."

The Defense Manpower Data Center is sending a letter to people who are eligible for this benefit, but only if the information in DEERS reflects their having served in support of a contingency operation such as operations Noble Eagle or Enduring Freedom.

"Our Reserve and Guard members and their families have sacrificed a great deal by responding to the call to duty in support of the war on terrorism," Woody said. "We have an obligation to ensure that each individual is aware of this transitional health care benefit."

Members and families who were enrolled in TRICARE Prime while on active duty will automatically be disenrolled upon release from active duty. The Reserve component member or family must actively re-enroll if they wish to continue TRICARE Prime during the transitional health care period.

An enrollment form is available on the TRICARE Web site or at a local TRICARE service center. No enrollment is necessary for TRICARE Standard or Extra.

Reserve first sergeant training moves to Maxwell AFB

by Air Education and Training Command News Service

MAXWELL AIR FORCE BASE, ALABAMA—Air Force reservists looking to add diamonds to their shoulders will now come through the First Sergeant Academy here.

The transfer of Air Force Reserve Command first sergeant training from Robins Air Force Base, Ga., means the academy here will train all Air Force first sergeants — active duty, Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard.

"It's a great thing for our first sergeants," said Chief Master Sgt. Cheryl Adams, AFRC command chief master sergeant, at a ceremony June 17 welcoming the first class of reservists to the training at Maxwell. "With more of our reservists taking leadership roles, we all nee to train together. It's a total force effort."

One of the main benefits for all first sergeants training at the same location is the exposure of all components to each other, she said.

"We're not just putting on a diamond," said Adams. "We're making a change."

The idea of consolidating first sergeant training at one location was born about four years ago, said Col. Aaron Rogers, commander of the Ira C. Eaker College of Professional Development. The college is part of Air University and oversees nine technical training courses, including the first sergeant career field.

"That idea had some things to work through," he said. "What we have here are that idea's results."

Program manager for the two-week Reserve course is Chief Master Sgt. Martin Rutkowski, a full-time reservist.

"You couldn't ask for a better first instructor," Rogers said. "With a background as a security forces member, an education supervisor, a military training instructor, a recruiter and a (professional military education) instructor, he brings all his talents with him."

Rutkowski will serve as the primary instructor, with traditional reservists providing instruction on a rotational basis. He believes their primary job will be motivating students.

"We will be setting the tone for future classes by keeping each other motivated," the chief said.

Training all "first shirts" at the same site will also help the air and space expeditionary force, said Chief Master Sgt. Sandra Williams, commandant of the First Sergeant Academy.

"We are a total force when we deploy," she said. "We all wear the same uniform. We are a team, so now we'll train as a team."

The Reserve component of the course is 10 academic days and has slots for 20 students. Six courses a year are planned.

Welcome and Congratulations!

Promotions

Congratulations to the following personnel, recently promoted to the rank indicated (Corrected from August 2002):

Senior Master Sergeant
Douglas Norton, 445 MSS

Chief Master Sergeant
Robert Gunter Jr., 445 CES

Reenlistments

Congratulations to the following 445th AW members who recently re-enlisted in the Reserve.

SrA Brittney Lawson, 445 AMDS
SSgt. Todd Walsh, 445 AGS
SSgt. Roger Brewer, 87 APS
SSgt. James Marshall, 87 APS
SSgt. Deanna Ritchie, 356 AS
TSgt. Jesse Howard, 356 AS
TSgt. Jimmy Childers, 445 AGS
TSgt. Leslie Powell, 445 AGS
TSgt. David Flowers, 445 CES
MSgt. Steven Hunt, 445 CES
MSgt. Robert Hamsik, 445 CLSS
MSgt. Walter Spinner, 445 CLSS
MSgt. Hector Rodriguez, 356 AS
SMSgt. Lottie Wood, 356 AS

Newcomers

Welcome to the following reservists, recently assigned to the 445th AW:

A1C Jared Barnes, 87 APS
A1C Amanda Crooker, 445 AGS
A1C Mitchell Thomas, 445 CLSS
SrA Kimberly Kincaid, 87 APS
SrA Alyssa Longhauser, 445 ASTS
SrA Ashby Redmond, 445 ASTS
SSgt. James Opalewski, Jr., 445 AGS
SSgt. Fred Lockery, 445 MXS
TSgt David Weintrant, 445 CES
2nd Lt. James Lawrence, 445 ASTS
Capt. Joan Salido, 445 AMDS

Awards

Congratulations to the following 445th AW members who recently earned awards.

Meritorious Service Medal
Lt.Col. William Rush III 445 AW

Air Force Commendation Medal
TSgt. Charles Dotson 445 AGS
SSgt Scott Ponchillia 445 CLSS

Air Force Achievement Medal
Capt. Anne Yelderman 445 LSS
SMSgt. Tami Hennis 445 LSS
MSgt. Robert Boggs 445 LSS
MSgt. Margaret Brady 445 LSS
MSgt. John Gram 445 LSS
MSgt. Julie Maxfield 445 MSS
MSgt. Michael Reynolds 445 AW
MSgt. Michael Trejo 445 AW
TSgt.Steven Beyer 445 LSS
SrA Henry Daigle 445 SFS
SrA Lindsay Fletcher 445 LSS

Flu Vaccine

by 445th AW/ Aerospace Medicine Squadron

It's that time again. The time of the year everyone looks forward to. Yes – It's flu season and you know what that means. It happens every year so why put it off ?

So what is this thing they call influenza? "The flu" is a respiratory infection caused by the influenza virus. Some of the symptoms may include high fevers, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, muscle aces and fatigue. Influenza is transmitted person to person via contagious droplets that are formed when someone sneezes or coughs.

The vaccine has a 60% to 70% success rate in preventing infection among individuals with normal immune systems. The vaccine should not be given to individuals who are allergic to eggs or those who have a documented reaction to the flu vaccine in their medical records. The most common side effect of the vaccine is soreness at the injection site. A few individuals develop fever or muscle aches within a few hours after the shot. These symptoms only last 1-2 days.

The flu virus can lead to more serious infections such as pneumonia. Complications from the flu have resulted in about 40,000 deaths in the U.S. The deaths are usually in the elderly population and in people with chronic health problems. Getting the flu shot can prevent illness from types A and B influenza. The flu shot does not protect against type C influenza. Influenza C infections cause a mild respiratory illness and are not thought to cause epidemics.

The virus in the flu vaccine has been inactivated. That means that it is dead and you cannot catch the flu from the shot. Receiving the vaccine introduces part of the flu virus to your immune system. Your body then reacts by making protective antibodies against the virus. It becomes effective 2-4 weeks after you receive the vaccine.

Since influenza is a virus, taking antibiotics will not help. The best way to prevent getting the flu is to take the flu vaccine early. So come on over to the Immunization Clinic. Our goal is to provide you with the required immunizations to keep you healthy, safe and ready for deployment at a moments notice. We are always happy to serve you.

Wing gathers food for those less fortunate

by Senior Aiman Robert Sperling
445th AW/ Public Affairs

Completed during August's Gray UTA, the Red Cross food drive gave the 445th an opportunity to show a little unit *espirit de corp.* Each unit was asked to gather cans and submit them to the Chaplains office as part of an internal wing competition with the winner being announced at the Quarterly Wing Commander's Call in November.

Senior Airman Terry Reisinger, Staff Sgt. John Parsons, and 1st Lieutenant Andre Saunders of the 445th Chaplains office deliver canned goods to the Red Cross donations center on Wright-Patterson Air Force Base.

SECAF creates new medal, awards

by Air Force News Service

The Air Force's top civilian leader recently authorized the creation of a new medal and two new awards to recognize outstanding achievement or service in wartime operations.

The Air Force Campaign Medal will recognize significant direct contributions to wartime operations, according to Secretary of the Air Force Dr. James G. Roche.

"The awarding of campaign medals to specially recognize people and units who fight our wars is a long-standing military tradition," Roche said.

"Historically, the Department of Defense's criteria for such awards have centered on geography to define the area of combat operations," he said. "In light of the expeditionary aerospace force environment and the transformation in the way the Air Force carries out its missions today, such criteria doesn't allow us to appropriately recognize our people who contribute directly and significantly to the success of wartime campaigns from outside the area of combat operations."

Therefore, in accordance with DOD policy, Roche authorized the creation of a medal to be given to Air Force people who are not eligible for a DOD campaign medal but directly supported combat operations from a location outside the geographic area of operations.

The secretary said he also wants to ensure units are properly recognized for their actions in support of wartime efforts and has established two new Air Force unit awards.

The first award, the Gallant Unit Citation, will recognize units for their significant combat heroism below that currently required for the Presidential Unit Citation. The second, the Meritorious Unit Award, will honor units for their outstanding achievement in direct support of combat operations.

The specific design and criteria for the new medal and awards are currently being reviewed, and a final decision on what they will look like and who is authorized to wear them will be reached in the next few months, Roche said.

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Security Force families support each other

by Staff Sgt. Charlie Miller
445 AW/Public Affairs

Burgers and dogs are dished out to awaiting hungry mouths *Photo by Staff Sgt. Charlie Miller*

On Sunday, Aug. 11th a group of fatherless children and their mothers gathered at Bass Lake for fun, food and fellowship. Actually, the kids have dads and the women have husbands, it's just that the dads/ husbands are 445th security forces members and are all currently deployed.

The gathering was a chance for all deployed member families to get together, offer support to one another and to have a little fun during the various SFS deployments. The whole thing was a cooperative effort, according to Lenore Myers, whose husband Tech. Sgt. Greg Myers is currently deployed overseas.

"We ladies got talking about a family picnic to get together and support each other. It was a joint effort, everyone kind of pitched in," Myers said. "We wanted to be able to be there for each other, to help when problems arise."

"We are all in the same situation, being at home with our children, and this picnic is just a fun day for us and a fun day for the kids," said Lori Kelley. Her husband, Tech. Sgt. Thomas Kelley is also deployed overseas.

"This is a great thing for the families, to get together and share thoughts and needs," said Tech. Sgt. Shannen Michael of the 445th SFS. Her husband Tech. Sgt. Kip Michael, also with the 445th SFS, was deployed for seven months following Sept. 11th.

The ladies agreed that during long separations it's essential to be in contact with each other and to have the kids be in contact with other kids.

"It's very important to keep the lines of communication open," said Tammy Spires whose husband Staff Sgt. Jeffery Spires has been deployed to MacDill Air Force Base, Fla., for nine months. "This is important for the kids so they know that they are not the only ones going through this. This way they see that there are other kids going through the same thing they are."

While long-time Security Forces member Senior Master Sgt. John Leist performed "Grill Sergeant" duties the kids and adults feasted on burgers and hot dogs then played numerous games near the shore of Bass Lake. Leist said that while the numerous deployments that have faced the SFS have been tough, events like this make the squadron much closer, almost like a big family.

"This is lots of fun," said 14-year-old Zack Bratka. His father, Major Dan Bratka, is the commander of the SFS and currently deployed overseas. While Zack and his 11-year-old brother Nate were the only "big kids" at the picnic they said it was still fun. "It's fun to talk to other kids and the food is good," Zack said.