

BUCKEYE FLYER



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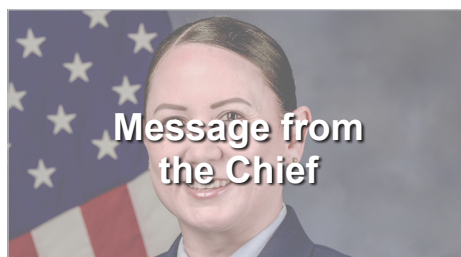
Civil Air Patrol Encampment



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Photo by Tech. Sgt. Daniel Peterson

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Get to know your command chief: Roots, resilience, ready wing

By Staff Sgt. Angela Jackson
445th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

There is a specific, quietly intimidating experience that comes with encountering someone who wears the rank of command chief master sergeant. The stripes. The chevrons. The title that precedes every introduction.

What can be easy to lose in all of that is the person underneath. Recently in a sit-down interview, Chief Master Sgt. Jennifer Greer, the new 445th Airlift Wing command chief, made it clear she is uninterested in letting it happen.

"I forget that I'm wearing this," Greer laughed, pointing to her uniform. "And then when I see people, I'm just like, 'Hey!'"

It is a small but revealing detail. For Airmen getting to know their new command chief, this might be the most important thing to know: the rank is real; the experience is deep; and the person behind all that just wants to say hello.

A late bloomer's road to the Air Force

Greer grew up in San Diego. Her father was a Navy veteran who served in the Philippines, where her parents met and her sister was born. The military was always part of her life, but it was never certain she would follow that path.

"I always call myself a late bloomer," Greer said. "High school wasn't steady, and college in San Jose, California, did not work out as I had hoped, so when I was 21, I came back home to

San Diego."

Greer questioned what to do next. What she found was a row of military recruiters. She talked to several branches before meeting an Air Force recruiter who explained her options – that conversation changed her life.

"The Air Force set me up with a really good foundation," Greer said. "When I talk to people like me who don't have a direct path, I tell them to join the Air Force. It gave me so many opportunities to grow and meet all kinds of people. It really set me up for success."

Her background is in civil engineering, where she worked as an engineering assistant. This career took her from land surveying and Auto Computer-Aided Design and Drafting to Geographic Information Systems mapping, project management and working directly in airfield operations.

Her first base was McChord Air Force Base (now Joint Base Lewis-McChord), Washington, followed by a year at Osan Air Base in South Korea. She was hesitant about the assignment at first but ended up valuing the experience.

"Korea gave my career field the chance to actually experience contingency operations with Explosive Ordnance Disposal," she said. I don't think I appreciated it at the time, but I did when I went to other bases and didn't get that same opportunity."

Greer has deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan and traveled widely across the Middle East and Africa for project



management work. One of her most recent deployments happened almost by chance.

"It was a place I had missed visiting before, required no pre-deployment training, no weapons, and was a shorter rotation that fit my career," Greer said. "Sometimes the opportunity comes when you least expect it. It was meant to be."

After nine years of active-duty Greer transitioned to an Army civilian role, then became an Air Force Reservist. This journey gave her a perspective that few senior enlisted leaders have.

She finished her degree later in her career and appreciates that timing, knowing she was ready for it when it

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Buckeye Flyer

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445th Airlift Wing

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finally happened. She often returns to this idea: some things only become valuable in hindsight.

"Looking back, I'm glad I did because I appreciated it more," Greer said. "Everyone's path is different, but I always encourage people to use their education benefits while they can. If you have the chance, take a class or two and make the most of it!"

Family, Coco Jones, and two unruly Schnauzers

Greer and her husband, Shawn, met in the dorms at McChord AFB, a memory she shares fondly.

"He was also an Airman, working in communications as a 'cable dog,' until his career field started shrinking and the only jobs left were office-based," Greer said. "Since he had always worked outside, that did not suit him."

Together, they decided he would leave the Air Force, and the telecommunications contractor he worked with on base quickly hired him. More than 20 years later, he is still with that company.

"I always like to tell younger Airmen that you're interviewing every day," Greer said to a group of newcomers, sharing her husband's story as an example. "It's a small Air Force and whether you're working with civilians, contractors, supervisors or peers, it is a community wherever you go. You want to make sure the interactions you have are lasting and positive."

This is a lesson she has instilled in her 22-year-old son, Darrion, who is currently pursuing an engineering degree. He is using her transferred GI Bill benefits – a fact Greer mentions with unmistakable pride. Darrion is also watching her career closely enough that a future as a military officer has come up.

Off duty, Greer runs. She will tell you she does not always start with enthusiasm, but she is always grateful when she finishes.

She and her husband are dedicated Netflix viewers. She also makes intentional plans with her girlfriends, following a principle she learned: meaningful friendships require seeing each other at least every 21 days. The dates go on the calendar, and the time is protected.

She is also very much a dog mom. Two Schnauzers, Sir Charles Barkey (goes by Barkley) and Smokey which she describes with affection as "not the most behaved," complete the household and join the family on hikes and outings. Her current musical obsession is Coco Jones, played on a vintage iPod she still uses, much to the amusement of younger Airmen who see her on the running trail.

When asked about hidden talents, Greer laughed.

"Once, when my son was much younger, he looked up at me while he was drawing and asked me what my talent was," Greer said. "My response was, 'Being a wonderful mom.'"

A vision for the wing: Initiative, communication and professional development

Chief Greer arrived here knowing very little about Ohio and Wright-Patterson AFB. What she found was a wing with deep traditions and a welcoming culture.

"There's such a powerful history here," Greer said. "Even just walking around the club today, I realized how much I

miss places like this. When you're at a joint installation, it just doesn't feel the same. I noticed the wood carvings in the ceiling, found a hidden dog in the details, and left already feeling at home."

While traditions and past achievements provide a foundation, Greer emphasized continued progress is necessary for sustained wing success.

On readiness, her standard begins where the checklist ends. She expects every Airman to know their medical status and their training requirements. That is the floor.

What distinguishes someone in her eyes is initiative – the willingness to step forward without being asked, to pivot when circumstances demand creativity and to stay self-aware enough to recognize when a path needs to change.

"Why aren't you doing it now?" Greer said. "If you have ideas or want to innovate, you can be the one to start it. You have all the power to do it within your own control. Don't be scared. Just go for it."

On communication, she is focused on the gap between senior leaders and the youngest Airmen in the wing – a gap she has watched information fall through during her career. Her goal is consistency: a standing development session for every Unit Training Assembly.

"I want to set up a regular meeting at the same time and day during each UTA," Greer said. "My goal is to make sure everyone knows that when this day and time comes around, you can always count on an in-person developmental session regardless of how well the message travels down the chain."

One of her early, high-priority initiatives is establishing a Senior Noncommissioned Officer and NCO Induction Ceremony, which was one of the first things she moved to make real.

"This was an idea that Colonel Perry touched on during my interview process," Greer said, speaking about Col. Douglas A. Perry Jr., the 445th Airlift Wing commander. "The team is being built and details are being finalized for a fall rollout."

Although new to our wing, she already demonstrates genuine care for every Airman she meets and a sincere commitment to supporting them.

The person underneath the command chief position is approachable and actively engaging with this wing. Greer listens as much as she speaks. She will walk up to an Airman she's never met, introduce herself, and ask what they do – and she will be genuinely interested in hearing the response.

"People always tell me I'm high energy," Greer laughed. "I think I'm more of a shy extrovert if that's a thing. But I do notice myself getting excited and loving it here and maybe that is what everyone is seeing."

Before the interview ended, there was one final order of business – a rapid-fire round with strict instructions to answer fast and not over think it. Greer obliged.

See the top of Page 7 for the rapid-fire questions and answers with Chief Greer.



SPOTLIGHT

Rank/Name: Staff Sgt. Caleb Kraus

Unit: 445th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

Duty Title: C-17 crew chief/aircraft maintenance technician

Hometown: Ann Arbor, Michigan

Civilian Job: I work as an Air Reserve Technician doing the same thing for the squadron as my traditional Reserve job

Education: High School Diploma, working toward a Bachelor of Science in Aeronautics from Embry Riddle Aeronautical University online.

Hobbies: I'm pretty active and enjoy getting out and doing things rather than staying home. I like playing basketball, golf and pickleball with friends, and I spend a good amount of time lifting and training jiu-jitsu. I also love traveling, both for work and on my own, especially when it involves checking out new places or attending sporting events at different venues. For vacations, I usually head to Michigan, Chicago or Florida

since I have a lot of family and friends in those areas.

Career Goal: I currently serve as a secondary flying crew chief and am working toward becoming a primary one as well as a Dedicated Crew Chief. Looking ahead, I plan to complete my degree and pursue a commission as an officer, whether in maintenance or another career field.

What do you like about working at the 445th? The people I work with in my squadron on a daily basis really make the job. There is always something to smile and laugh about. There is so much experience both in my squadron and in the unit to feed off. The people come from all different career fields, branches and walks of life. Anytime you have a question about anything work related there's always someone who has experience or education in the field.



Anytime you need help outside of work or need someone to hang out with there is always someone down to clown.

Why did you join the Air Force? I really got the push from my mom to join right after high school during COVID. She recognized the opportunities and benefits the Reserve offered while also seeing I needed direction at that point in my life. I'm incredibly grateful for her push, as it's led to experiences I truly value – skills I've developed, places I've traveled, people I've met, and opportunities I've been given.

445th Airman continues family legacy of service

By Senior Airman Ethan Lamb
445th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Some people choose the military. For others, the military chooses them. That was the case for Tech. Sgt. Anne Smith, 445th Logistics Readiness Squadron unit training manager.

A multi-generational family history of serving in the Air Force paved the way for Smith to continue her family legacy long before she was born.

"I have four master sergeants in my family," Smith stated. "I knew I was going to join the Air Force. I never had a doubt and I kind of made it my whole personality growing up."

Smith's family carries a proud legacy of service, with Master Sgts. Thomas Brady (grandfather), Gregory Scott (uncle), Henry Brady (father), and Margaret Brady (mother) collectively dedicating over 60 years to the Air Force.

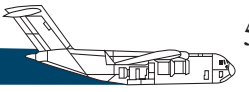
Growing up in this environment forged Smith's own deep connection to the military – shaped by fond memories of dressing up as a soldier for Halloween, playing hide-and-seek in base warehouses and staying with her aunt during her parents' Air Force Reserve annual tours.

After weighing advice from her family members and meeting with recruiters, Smith enlisted in the Air Force Reserves the day after her 18th birthday. She participated in the Development and Training Flight program for seven months and then headed off to Basic Military Training in January of 2014.

"I enlisted as a medical technician with the aerospace medicine squadron while I was in high school and had aspirations of becoming a flight nurse," Smith said.

Over the next seven years, she continued to master her

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News Briefs

Newcomers

TSgt Justin Needs, OSS
SSgt Brian Tarbox, 87th APS
SrA Jacob Mohler, SFS
SrA Waytt Schweizer, AMXS
A1C Erika Cruz Martinez, ASTS
A1C Vincent Banoeyelle, 87th APS
AMN Adja Fall, AMDS
AB Jiel Abrasia, 87th APS
AB Caleb Rusk, ASTS

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

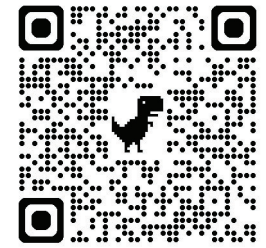
to recertify must be sent from af.mil email address to 445aw_fm.bahrecert@us.af.mil. Don't wait until the last minute.

Stork's Nest

Stork's Nest Family Link is an initiative focused on supporting 445th Airlift Wing Airmen with diaper-aged children across the wing.

The program connects Airmen in need with voluntary, wing-based support through a structured quarterly cycle. To register to receive items, please scan the QR code.

First Sergeants will validate the requests to remain anonymous and discreet.



Yellow Ribbon Event

The next Yellow Ribbon event for those slated to deploy or recently returned from deployment will be Aug. 21-23 in New Orleans.

Those wishing to attend will need to register themselves and their guests by July 31.

For more information, please see the email sent out June 25 about the event.

87th APS honors air transportation Airmen with memorial 5K

By Capt. Mary Begy
445th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

The 87th Aerial Port Squadron held their annual memorial 5K event June 6 to honor fallen air transportation Airmen, joining aerial port squadrons across the Air Force.

This year's event included family members of Senior Airman Aeron Olson, a 2T2 air transportation specialist who recently died following a battle with cancer.

"I heard about the Port Dawg Memorial Runs from my son's unit in Alaska, which sent a memorial to my daughter, who was Aeron's caretaker," said Beth Olson, Aeron's mother. "We have attended three memorial runs: Scott AFB, Grissom AFB and Wright-Patterson AFB."

The 2T2, or "Port Dawg," community is known for its close-knit culture across active-duty, Guard and Reserve components. The memorial runs are held to honor and remember Airmen who have died while strengthening bonds among those who serve.

"The events meant more than I think I will ever be able to describe," Olson said. "Of the three runs we have attended as a family, we have been welcomed and felt the closeness the Port Dawgs have with each other, and how we, as family, were embraced as forever family of the Port Dawgs."



The 87th Aerial Port Squadron begins their annual memorial 5K to honor fallen Airmen at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, June 6, 2026. (Photo by Capt. Mary Begy)

Despite steady rain at the start of the run, participants continued, underscoring the purpose of the event.

"A little rain would never keep us from honoring our own," said Maj. Michael Harrison, 445th APS commander. "This event is about coming together as a community and reflecting on who we are as Port Dawgs."

Following the run, Airmen gathered for food, games and camaraderie, while reflecting on the memorial's purpose.

"I will be forever grateful for the way we were welcomed and supported as we mourned our family's

loss," Olson said. "I also felt honored to join in honoring the others who were lost and to celebrate the camaraderie of the Port Dawgs."



445th AW supports CAP Encampment, STEM Academy



Left: Cadets with the Ohio Civil Air Patrol Encampment and CAP National STEM Academy walk aboard a 445th Airlift Wing C-17 Globemaster III aircraft as part of a 445th Airlift Wing tour at Wright Patterson Air Force Base, June 10, 2026. During Encampment, cadets develop leadership skills and explore career opportunities in aviation, space and technology.

Right: Maj. Trevor Tomlin, right, 89th Airlift Squadron pilot, welcomes cadets with the Ohio Civil Air Patrol Encampment and CAP National STEM Academy as part of a 445th Airlift Wing tour at Wright Patterson Air Force Base, June 10, 2026. (Photos by Staff Sgt. Angela Jackson)



Left: Master Sgt. Shawn McKellop, left, 445th Airlift Wing Inspector General Inspections exercise coordinator and former Air Force Basic Military Training Instructor, conducts open ranks on cadets with the Ohio Civil Air Patrol Encampment and CAP National STEM Academy as part of a 445th Airlift Wing tour at Wright Patterson Air Force Base, June 10, 2026. Open ranks is a formal drill inspection that evaluates customs, courtesies and adherence to uniform and personal appearance standards.

Right: Cadets with the Ohio Civil Air Patrol Encampment and CAP National STEM Academy are shown how the C-17 Globemaster III aircraft ramp works during a 445th Airlift Wing tour at Wright Patterson Air Force Base, June 10, 2026. (Photos by Staff Sgt. Jackson)



Rapid-fire questions with Chief Greer

Questions

Coffee or Tea?
Dogs or Cats?
Audio or Physical Books?
Early Bird or Night Owl?
Two-Mile Run or Hammer?
Movie or TV Series?
Time travel to the Past or Future?
Country or City?
Drive or Fly?
OCPs or Blues?
Camping or Resort?
Sweet or Savory?
Window or aisle Seat?
Texting or calling?
Beach or Mountains?
Go-karts or Jet Skis?
Go out or stay in?
Pineapple on Pizza?

Her answer

Coffee
Dogs
Physical Books
Early Bird. I snooze only once – I can never fall back asleep.
Two-Mile Run
TV
Past
City
Drive
I love OCPs, but the mess dress pants are so comfortable now!
Resort
Savory
Window
Texting
I love the heat, but I really love the mountains!
Jet Skis
Go Out
Yes!

Staying vigilant during 101 Critical Days of Summer

By Master Sgt. Joshua Knouff
445th Airlift Wing NCOIC of Occupational Safety

Summer is a time for relaxation, travel, and outdoor activities, but it also marks one of the most critical periods for mishaps in the Air Force – the 101 Critical Days of Summer.

This period, typically spanning Memorial Day to Labor Day, sees an increase in off-duty accidents, vehicle mishaps and water-related incidents. As members of the 445th Airlift Wing, it is crucial we remain proactive in safety practices to protect ourselves and our fellow Airmen.

One of the leading causes of incidents during this period is motor vehicle accidents. Whether commuting or enjoying a road trip, always wear your seat belt, obey speed limits and avoid distractions such as mobile devices. Driving under the influence remains a significant risk; plan for a designated driver or use ride-share services if consuming alcohol.

Water safety is another key concern. With boating, swimming and other recreational water activities, it is essential to wear personal flotation devices and ensure supervision is present. Never swim alone and avoid alcohol while participating in water sports.

Heat-related illnesses also peak during summer months. Prolonged exposure to high temperatures can result in heat exhaustion or heat stroke. Stay hydrated, take breaks in shaded or air-conditioned areas, and wear lightweight, breathable clothing during outdoor activities.



Home and recreational safety cannot be overlooked. From grilling to yard work, take precautions such as keeping fire extinguishers nearby, using tools properly and maintaining awareness of surroundings to prevent injuries.

The 101 Critical Days of Summer is a reminder that off-duty safety is just as important as mission readiness. By planning, staying alert and exercising personal responsibility, we can enjoy a fun, safe summer while minimizing preventable accidents. Safety is not just a priority – it is a habit.

Let's commit to protecting ourselves and our teammates. Enjoy the season but remain vigilant. Every safe choice you make contributes to a stronger, mission-ready 445th AW.



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craft and chase after her career goals. After the birth of her second child in 2021, Smith came to a crossroad in her military career and faced a tough decision.

“Do I want to continue or call it quits?” Smith recalled. “There were feelings on if I was willing to give up my goal of master sergeant when I was thinking of getting out. I remember looking in the mirror at BMT when I was just a slick sleeve and thinking, ‘Master Sergeant Brady, Master Sergeant Brady!’ I just kept reminding myself that’s been the goal all along.”

A strong first sergeant and parents who listened helped her navigate this challenging time. Absorbing their suggestions and reflecting on her career, Smith pushed through but decided a change inside of the Air Force would be a good thing.

“Did I think I would end up in LRS? No,” Smith stated. “Being in logistics now feels very full circle, and it’s probably why I have such an extra heart for this place.”

Logistics. The same unit her grandfather, father and mother all served in during their military careers. Some would say it’s a coincidence; others might call it a golden string theory. Both could be correct.

Families who serve together, whether it is for one enlistment or over multiple generations, tend to create something they are not aware of at the time. A bond starts to form that grows stronger with each generation.

“Combining your duty to your family and your duty to your nation creates a very personal bond,” said Dr. Tara Simpson, 445th Airlift Wing Historian. “You become more invested in the mission because it’s personal.”

Simpson also said the newly created bonds become permeable over time. Members stay with units longer as they unite more of their family with their nation.

For Smith, those bonds come from having her grandpa, uncle, father and mother all serving ahead of her along with many other relatives currently serving. These bonds have continually pushed her toward her goal of master sergeant from her beginning in BMT to today.



Tech. Sgt. Anne Smith, 445th Logistics Readiness Squadron unit training manager. (Photo by Senior Airman Ethan Lamb)

“To have generations of family who weren’t drafted but chose to serve is special,” Smith noted. “It’s not easy. It’s not glamorous. There are sacrifices made.”

With her own children now looking up to her, she yearns for them to understand the gravity of serving your country and the sacrifices one makes.

“I want them to know that when I wasn’t home, I was working really hard to support the pleasantries and freedoms that we have,” Smith said while brushing a tear from her cheek. “I want them to be strong, face their adversities, and also have the same sense of pride about me that I had about my parents when they served.”

There’s no doubt everyone around her can see the dedication and passion she has to the mission but also to her family and her pursuit of her goals.

“What I love is that I followed my family’s footsteps,” Smith reflected. “Like Frank Sinatra said, ‘I did it my way.’”



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