

445 FORCE SUPPORT SQUADRON



MISSION

LINEAGE

445 Food Service Squadron constituted, 24 Jun 1952
Activated in the Reserve, 8 Jul 1952
Inactivated, 25 Sep 1958
Redesignated 445 Services Squadron, 10 Oct 1984
Redesignated 445 Services Flight, 4 Sep 2002
Activated in the Reserve, 1 Oct 2002
Redesignated 445 Force Support Squadron, 15 Oct 2010

STATIONS

Buffalo, NY, 8 Jul 1952
Niagara Falls Muni Aprt, 15 Jun 1955
Dobbins AFB, GA, 16 Nov 1957-25 Sep 1958
Wright-Patterson AFB, OH, 1 Oct 2002

ASSIGNMENTS

445 Air Base Group, 8 Jul 1952-25 Sep 1958
445 Mission Support Group, 1 Oct 2002

COMMANDERS

Maj Brian Guthrie
Maj Leland K. Shea

HONORS

Service Streamers

None

Campaign Streamers

None

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

None

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award

1 Jan 2007-31 Dec 2008

EMBLEM



On a disc Azure, issuant from base a spearhead Gris (Steel), edged Sable, charged with a flame Gules, and edged of the third, overall a lightning bolt terminating in an arrowhead bendwise sinister Or, and edged of the third, surmounted by two flames descending in size bendwise sinister of the fourth, and edged of the third, all within a narrow border Black. Attached above the disc, a White scroll edged with a narrow Black border and inscribed "TIP OF THE SPEAR" in Black letters. Attached below the disc, a White scroll edged with a narrow Black border and inscribed "445TH FORCE SUPPORT SQ" in Black letters. SIGNIFICANCE: Ultramarine blue and Air Force yellow are the Air Force colors. Blue alludes to the sky, the primary theater of Air Force operations. Yellow refers to the sun and the excellence required of Air Force personnel. The tip of the spear represents the Squadron and the service the organization provides. The flame alludes to a torch, an historic symbol of the Olympic Games. It has long symbolized excellence and captures the attributes of strength, vigilance, spirit and camaraderie that are at the center of the Services Mission. The torch is the universal symbol for the Services programs that contribute to readiness and productivity by promoting fitness, esprit de corps and quality of life. The lightning bolt conveys the Communications Flight. The Communications Flight (SCO)

provides a client services center, server administration and network information assurance services as well as enabling knowledge operations through records management and publishing. The arrow at the end of the lightning bolt suggests the Manpower and Personnel Flight delta. The Manpower and Personnel Flight (FSM) provides the installation with Manpower and Organization services and Personnel support for both military and civilians.

6 Apr 2015.

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

The 445th Airlift Wing Mission Support and Services Flights are about to merge in an effort to mirror changes already made throughout the U.S. Air Force, including the 88th Air Base Wing.

The flights are scheduled to form the new 445th Force Support Squadron in August. According to Air Force Reserve Command, the new force support structure will “streamline processes” and “cut costs associated with maintaining separate organizations.” “Our plan is to stand up in August, to have the ceremony in August,” Master Sgt. Chris Williams, MSF and SVF first sergeant. “The services commander will relinquish command and the services colors will be encased. Then mission support flight colors will be encased. Lt. Col. Kenneth Herstine (445th MSF commander) will relinquish command of the MSF, and then will assume command of the new Force Support Squadron.” If that all sounds confusing, the transition should be seamless to the flights’ current customers, said Chief Master Sgt. Homer Carter, who is expected to become the new squadron’s superintendent, and Capt. Gregory Handley, the current Military Personnel Flight commander.

The flights here are expected to retain their names and many of their functions, and be located in the same place they are now, Bldg. 4014. Because there is an active duty FSS here, the 445th FSS structure will be streamlined into two flights – the manpower & personnel flight and the sustainment services flight – with the 88th FSS maintaining responsibility for many of the force support functions on the base. The changes will be most apparent to Airmen in the new force support squadron, especially for officers. Personnel and services officers are being converted to force support officers and have been completing career field education and training plans to support the transition. Here, Airmen in the new squadron will notice that they have all been re-aligned under Lieutenant Colonel Herstine’s command, while Maj. Brian Guthrie, the current 445th Services Flight commander, will be absorbed into the squadron as the Sustainment Services Flight commander, Chief Carter said. Currently, enlisted Airmen affected by the creation of the Air Force’s new force support structure are not expected to see any changes in their Air Force Specialty Codes. The 88th Air Base Wing stood up its force support squadron in September 2009. It was one of the last bases in the continental United States to convert.

2012; Over the past two years, the 445th Mission Support Flight has undergone significant restructuring. In addition to changing the name to the Force Support Squadron, this unit, which was formerly comprised of the wing training office, the airman and family readiness center and military personnel functions, now enjoys the added capabilities of the services and the communications flights. According to Col. Kenneth Herstine, former 445th FSS commander,

these moves are a structural change implemented throughout the Air Force to streamline processes and improve efficiency. Colonel Herstine said that unit personnel will remain largely un-impacted by all the changes. "It's more of a structuring change than anything," he said. "Geographically, the services squadron and the communications squadron here will not be moving anywhere. We will still be offering all the services we always have, plus a few more, just a little better and all orchestrated under one commander. The biggest changes will occur in the communications function."

Maj. Charles Destefani is the director of communications for the FSS. He assures that it is "business as usual" at the 445th. The communications squadron will still offer customer service for laptop computers, personal wireless devices such as Blackberries and iPads, maintain telephone and voice-over IP equipment, perform records management and wing equipment management duties and oversee Information Assurance and Computer Security programs. Land Mobile Radios and VHF/UHF frequency base stations will be maintained 88th Communications Group, an active duty Air Force unit here. The biggest change in communications service at the 445th will occur around October 2012 when Wright Patterson Air Force Base is tentatively scheduled to switch over to the Air Force Network system, a global Active Directory domain.

For instance, a member of the 445th visiting another installation cannot currently use their Common Access Card to log into the computer network. AFNET will allow users to log on anywhere. "Right now, our members' user identity exists solely on servers right here," said Major Destefani. "Once the switchover occurs, our members will be able to log on anywhere in the world on the AFNET and function as if they were at home station." Another change in progress is the migration from a local 445th Help Desk to a central Enterprise Service Desk located at Lackland AFB, Texas. After the migration, 445th users will call DSN 945-2900 for assistance. The personnel at the ESD will be able to remotely fix the issue. For issues that cannot be fixed remotely, the ESD will create a help desk ticket and send it to the 445th Communications Focal Point where a local Client Service Technicians will be dispatched. "It will be just like at home if your cable goes out," said Major Destefani. "You call an 800 number and they log on and reset the device."

USAF Unit Histories
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Sources

Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.
The Institute of Heraldry. U.S. Army. Fort Belvoir, VA.
Air Force News. Air Force Public Affairs Agency.
445th Airlift Wing Historian. Wright Patterson AFB, OH. 20 Oct 2018.