

445 OPERATIONS SUPPORT SQUADRON



MISSION

LINEAGE

445 Operations Support Flight constituted activated in the Reserve, 1 Aug 1992
Redesignated 445 Operations Support Flight, 1 Oct 1992
Inactivated, 1 May 1994
Activated in the Reserve, 1 Oct 1994
Redesignated 445 Operations Support Squadron, 1 Jan 2002

STATIONS

Norton AFB, CA, 1 Aug 1992
March AFB, CA, 1 Jul 1993-1 May 1994
Wright-Patterson AFB, OH, 1 Oct 1994

ASSIGNMENTS

445 Operations Group, 1 Aug 1992-1 May 1994
445 Operations Group, 1 Oct 1994

COMMANDERS

Lt Col Richard Webster

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Meritorious Unit Award

15 May 2003-31 Aug 2004

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award

1 Jan 2008-31 Dec 2009

EMBLEM



On a disc Gules, a pile reversed Or and a chief enhanced Azure, overall a terrestrial globe Celeste displaying portions of North and South America, Europe and Africa all encircled by two orbits in saltire Sable and supported in base by a hand erased Proper entrailed of the fifth, all within a narrow border Blue. Attached above the disc, a Yellow scroll edged with a narrow Blue border and inscribed "APUD AVRUM ABUNDO" in Blue letters. Attached below the disc, a Yellow scroll edged with a narrow Blue border and inscribed "445 OPS SUPPORT SQ" in Blue 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 background color scheme is derived from the coat of arms of the host wing. The terrestrial globe is a symbol of the global reach capability of the United States Air Force, and the orbits indicate flight as the means to perform the unit mission. The supporting hand embodies the image of the overall airlift mission. (Approved, 16 Jan 2003)

MOTTO

APUD AVRUM ABUNDO--My Cup Overflows

OPERATIONS

Airmen of the 445th Operations Support Squadron here take their job seriously because others' lives depend on them. After all, they are responsible for testing, maintaining and issuing emergency kits and safety gear, which plays a vital role in the safety of wing personnel as they perform their missions.

The duties of the 445 OSS are carried out in two different buildings. One building deals with the parachutes, flotation devices, and uniform items. The second building handles emergency kits, safety gear for pilots, and the testing of the parachutes. They also create uniform items such as insignias and nametags. Another room of interest is the flotation room. The flotation room deals with the emergency inflatable items commonly found on planes. In this room, the life rafts and escape slides are tested and maintained to ensure full functionality. "The escape slides are packed into these yellow cases," said Master Sgt. Gary Hanby, assistant NCO in charge of aircrew flight equipment. "The slides are tedious to pack into these cases.

It can take a while to pack them. It doesn't take long for these to inflate; it's almost instant." Another part of the squadron is dedicated to the checking and sanitizing of oxygen masks. "The oxygen masks for the pilot helmets are checked every 30 days," said Tech Sgt. Maurice Upshaw, aircrew flight equipment specialist. "They're also thoroughly sanitized. We want to make sure each mask is both functional and clean." In the Major LeRoy W. Homer Operations Building, the squadron tests all the items, ranging from the parachutes to the components in a pilot's helmet.

This particular room is of high importance. Any and all of the pilots' safety gear must be completely functional and sufficient enough for use. "We make sure there's nothing wrong with any of the gear we issue to the pilots," said Master Sgt. Edward Engel, assistant NCO in charge of aircrew flight equipment. "It's all part of the job. They come here for the gear and we make sure it's safe to use before it's issued."2011

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.