



## 476th FG sets example for total-force integration



PHOTO BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS BENJAMIN WISEMAN, 23RD WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

## Cover story

# 8

476th FG works with Reg AF to accomplish mission

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COVER PHOTO: PHOTO BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS BENJAMIN WISEMAN, PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY STAFF SGT. DANIELLE WOLF.

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**TECH. SGT. DEWAYNE MAGNUSON**  
442ND MAINTENANCE GROUP

442ND FIGHTER WING

## Tip of the Spear: May 2011

Tech. Sgt. Dewayne Magnuson has been assigned to the 442nd Maintenance Group Quality Assurance office as an inspector since August 2008.

During this period, Sergeant Magnuson has demonstrated outstanding initiative, exceptional job knowledge and superior craftsmanship while performing his duties as an aircraft maintenance inspector. As a team player who adheres to strict compliance with technical data, safety requirements and appearance standards, Sergeant Magnuson continually sets the standard for fellow reservists to follow. He is aggressively devoted to meeting the requirements of the Air Force Reserve Command maintenance standardization evaluation program.

Sergeant Magnuson is responsible for the operation of the aircraft weight and balance program, the functional check flight program, and works with the equipment specialists and engineers in the special-projects office to obtain specialized repair procedures leading to rapid aircraft repairs and higher mission-capable rates. His can-do attitude and professionalism is a model for other personnel. His calm and deliberate manner under extremely stressful conditions has earned him the respect of his peers and his supervision.

# Wing mission in line with Air Force Reserve

By Col. Eric Overturf,  
442nd Fighter Wing commander

In April we had the honor of hosting Lt. Gen. Charles Stenner during his visit to the 442nd Fighter Wing.

General Stenner currently serves as the Air Force Reserve Command commander and he is chief of the AF Reserve, but he has strong ties to Whiteman as a former 442nd FW commander who worked with many of you in the '90s.

During his short stay, General Stenner had the opportunity to speak to some of you and answer your questions at a town-hall meeting. Unfortunately the general's itinerary didn't allow him to visit the wing on a main unit training assembly, but still, nearly 150 reservists – mostly maintainers – worked the alternate UTA that weekend. General Stenner's memory of his time with this wing was alive and well at the town hall meeting, especially as several familiar faces stood up to ask him some challenging questions.

General Stenner discussed the importance of the mission here at Whiteman and told us he understands and empathizes with the high ops tempo each of you faces. From inspections to deployments, reservists play an important role in each of the service's core functions and provide an assured, predictable and sustainable source of combat power for today's mission.

General Stenner also talked about how the Air Force Reserve has evolved into a fully engaged operational partner in the three-component Air Force, and he highlighted his priorities for the AF Reserve:

1. MAINTAIN A STRATEGIC RESERVE WHILE PROVIDING AN OPERATIONAL, COMBAT-READY FORCE
2. PRESERVE THE VIABILITY OF THE RESERVE TRIAD
3. BROADEN TOTAL-FORCE INTEGRATION OPPORTUNITIES
4. CHAMPION EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES MODERNIZATION

General Stenner commented that our mission to Train and Deploy Ready Reservists and our 2011 wing priorities are aligned with his overarching priorities, and he reminded us that the AF Reserve is unique in its experience and equally as unique in its challenges.

Sixty-eight percent of today's Air Force Reserve is made up of traditional reservists, who are highly trained and maintain a high level of expertise in their positions. However, General Stenner said that a high level of training comes with challenges like high ops tempo, mobilizations, and at times, a lack of time



Col. Eric Overturf is the commander of the 442nd Fighter Wing, Whiteman AFB, Mo.

for individual career training. These challenges are a result of several factors including increased training requirements and a constrained fiscal budget. The general said one of the greatest challenges facing reserve leaders today is trying to give reservists the flexibility they need to serve in a way that balances their commitments to family, military and civilian employers, while still ensuring training requirements are met.

Managing this "triad of service" is definitely something that 442nd FW Citizen Airmen are familiar with. I realize you are often required to complete a myriad of training events from computer-based training to job-qualification training – in addition to inspection preparation – all in one weekend a month and two weeks a year. I also realize the last three years of inspection preparation has taken a toll, not only on you, but also on your families and civilian employers. Thanks for your sacrifice, and please let your loved ones and employers know we are grateful for the critical role they play in our nation's defense by supporting your military service. We're

just a few months away from putting this operational readiness inspection preparation phase behind us!

General Stenner said the Air Force is currently working on ways to help reduce our ops tempo by restructuring deployments and mobilizations to make life easier and more predictable for you, your family and your employer.

For you – the reservist – his focus is force readiness – ensuring that you are prepared to do your job with the adequate training to keep yourself, your fellow Airmen and our resources safe.



SEE COMMANDER, PAGE 11

# Reservist fights major battle for life

By Senior Airman Tracy Brown

A veteran shares the fight of her life, and for her life, with family, friends and fellow Airmen.

Maj. Jennifer Burgett, 442nd Fighter Wing equal opportunity officer, recognizes the importance of knowledge, support and a healthy amount of resiliency to ensure mission success. In her more than 30 years of military experience, she has overcome many obstacles, but none can compare to her current fight – a fight she is willing to share with her fellow Airmen.

Major Burgett was diagnosed with breast cancer in January 2011. At 50 years old, with two children and a husband of 20 years, she said she knew she had to put up a fight.

“I am a strong Christian, and I believe God gave me the physical strength, as well as the attitude, to get through this,” Major Burgett said. “I think he would have hit me a little harder if this was it for me.”

Major Burgett communicates the day-to-day struggles of treatment, updates on testing as well as displaying her humorous point of view of her battle with cancer on her Web site, [caringbridge.org](http://caringbridge.org).

“Before I was diagnosed with cancer, I thought it was a disease that kills you immediately,” Major Burgett said. “My sister died from lung cancer in 2009, and I didn’t have any good examples of a cancer survivor.”

Major Burgett said she found inspiration in a co-worker who faced her battle with optimism and strength.

“My co-worker was diagnosed with cancer, and I remember thinking that was it; surely she would become very ill, lose all

“ I have to admit that I tried to sit on the pity pot a couple of times, but someone had greased the seat and I slid off. I am not the only one that has gotten cancer. I am not the youngest. I am not the oldest. I am not the only one that has gotten cancer in my breast. I am not the only one that has to have surgery, chemo and radiation. I am not alone.

- Maj. Jennifer Burgett  
442nd Equal Opportunity Office



COURTESY PHOTO, ILLUSTRATION  
BY STAFF SGT. DANIELLE WOLF

**SURVIVOR**

**Maj. Jennifer Burgett, 442nd Equal Opportunity Office, was diagnosed with breast cancer in January. After months of treatment, she returned to duty in March, cancer-free.**

her hair and not be able to work,” Major Burgett said. “I thought something like that could never happen to me, and if it did, I would be devastated.”

The same co-worker came in day after day and faced every day with courage and optimism and ultimately became the good example of a cancer survivor Major Burgett needed.

Major Burgett wrote in a Web post about receiving the news of her disease:

*I have to admit that I tried to sit on the pity pot a couple of times, but someone had greased the seat and I slid off. I am not the only one that has gotten cancer. I am not the youngest. I am not the oldest. I am not the only one that has gotten cancer in my breast. I am not the only one that has to have surgery, chemo and radiation. I am not alone.*

“I feel communication is incredibly important through a time like this,” Major Burgett said. “I want to educate people on the indicators, what to expect in treatment and how to cope with the disease.”

Major Burgett also said the Web site is a way to keep her family and friends informed of her treatment and how she is feeling.

“There is always a little hesitation and confusion when a person is going through something like this, and sometimes friends and family want to call but don’t want to be a bother or don’t know if



## KERI'S WAR

PHOTO BY MASTER SGT. JEREMY T. LOCK,  
FEATURED IN AIRMAN MAGAZINE, MARCH-APRIL 2011

Master Sgt. Keri Whitehead, 1st Combat Camera Squadron at Joint Base Charleston, S.C., is featured in a series of articles and photo stories as she battles her fight against cancer. Major Burgett said she identified with Sergeant Whitehead and admires her strength.

it is a good time,” Major Burgett said.

Through the Web site, friends and family can check on Major Burgett in their time – without constraints.

Major Burgett first wrote about her journey from diagnosis through surgery and now, chemotherapy. She expresses the importance of knowing about the disease and facing it head on and without fear.

“My first response when I got the news of my diagnosis was, ‘I’m not afraid to die,’” Major Burgett said. “But things are still interesting, and I’m not ready to quit yet.”

Major Burgett said one of the more surprising pieces of information she has recently found is there is a mutated gene that has been linked to breast cancer and ovarian cancer.

“Most people don’t know that women and men can be tested for that gene,” Major Burgett said. “Get tested, if you have the gene, get your children tested.”

Major Burgett reported for duty on the March unit training assembly with no detectable cancer. By the April UTA, she was trying to sign up for a physical training test.

“I’ve told them I’m ready to get out there and test,” she said. “If

they’ll let **Sergeant Whitehead** do it, then I can too! Sign me up!”

In March, through *Airman Magazine*, Major Burgett learned of another Airman who was facing a similar situation. Master Sgt. Keri Whitehead, noncommissioned officer in charge of the 1st Combat Camera Squadron at Joint Base Charleston, S.C. was featured in an article called, “Keri’s War.” In the article, Sergeant Whitehead allowed a fellow combat photographer to document her fight from diagnosis through reconstructive surgery.

For both Major Burgett and Sergeant Whitehead, the decision to divulge sensitive information about their medical diagnoses was an easy one.

Sergeant Whitehead said it was an easy decision for her as she wanted to get the word out and help people become aware of breast cancer.

Through the documentary, Sergeant Whitehead said she hopes her daughter can see “Keri’s War” and view her mother an an example – to use her fight with cancer as an inspiration to overcome any challenges she meets in her own life.

For Sergeant Whitehead’s full story, visit [www.airmanonline.af.mil](http://www.airmanonline.af.mil) or [www.keriswar.org](http://www.keriswar.org).

# 442ND PHOTO ALBUM

PHOTO BY SENIOR AIRMAN  
KENNY HOLSTON, 509TH  
BOMB WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

## PHASE

(Right) Members of the 442nd Maintenance Squadron perform a phase inspection on an A-10 Thunderbolt II in March. Phase inspections are performed on the fleet of A-10s every 500th flying hour. The inspection takes about two weeks which allows the 442nd maintainers to completely break down the aircraft.

PHOTO BY STAFF  
SGT. DANIELLE WOLF

## WEAPONS

(Below) 442nd FW maintainers work in the 5-bay, April 2 during the unit-training assembly.



PHOTO BY STAFF  
SGT. DANIELLE WOLF

## M240

(Right, far right) Senior Airman Daniel Kunstman, 442nd Security Forces Squadron, qualifies on the M-240 machine gun. SFS Airmen are required to requalify on the weapon annually.



**STATIC** | PHOTO BY SENIOR AIRMAN KENNY HOLSTON

Airmen pass a static display of an A-10 during a 509th Bomb Wing 5K run. The 442nd Repair and Reclamation Shop is currently working to disassemble the aircraft and move it in front of the 303rd Fighter Squadron building. This is a large task for the shop, and excellent training, said Master Sgt. Tyler Bane, 442nd R&R shop supervisor. The project is scheduled for completion later this year.



**COMMAND VISIT** | PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. DANIELLE WOLF

General Stenner attends breakfast with senior enlisted members of the wing, April 18, during his visit. Also pictured, Senior Master Sgt. Cesar Ortiz, 442nd Force Support Squadron. (Right) Colonel Overturf talks to 442nd FW group commanders and their spouses during a dinner, April 17, at Oscar-1 missile silo, Whiteman AFB, Mo.



**ROA** | COURTESY PHOTO  
(Left) Col. Eric Overturf, 442nd Fighter Wing commander, and his wife, Karla, attend the Missouri Reserve Officer Association convention, April 9. Colonel Overturf was the keynote speaker; Two wing members were elected to state-wide ROA positions at the event.



# Moody focuses on total-force integration

By Airman 1st Class Brigitte N. Brantley-Sisk  
23rd Wing Public Affairs

**PRE-FLIGHT** | PHOTO BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS BENJAMIN  
WISSEMAN, 23RD WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Capt. Adam Ratican, 76th Fighter Squadron A-10C Thunderbolt II pilot, conducts a pre-flight check before takeoff. The 476th Fighter Group has approximately 240 members.



## GSU works side-by-side with active duty

MOODY AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. – About 80 Reservists at Moody Air Force Base, Ga., now work alongside active-duty members from the 23rd Wing on a daily basis.

The 476th Fighter Group, located here, is a geographically separated unit of the 442nd Fighter Wing, Whiteman AFB, Mo. The group was activated in 2009 as Moody's first step in total-force integration and now has approximately 240 members, a number which is growing monthly.

"Moody has become a sort of success story for how TFI works," said Col. Gregory Eckfeld, 476th FG commander. "We were sent here to support the 23rd WG's mission and through a mutual relationship, we're accomplishing that. We've got a lot of experience to share with the active-duty members."

The way they are able to share their experience is different from the way active-duty members usually accomplish this. Pilots and maintainers are fully integrated with the 23rd Fighter Group.

"On the AD side, when a maintainer reaches the rank of technical sergeant, they are pulled off the flight line to do more administrative duties," said Chief Master Sgt. Stacy Walker, 476th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron superintendent. "We're different because we still have master sergeants and higher out there working on the planes. Because of this, we are able to train the younger Airmen who are out there."

Although things are running well now, it's not always a smooth process.

"It's a real eye opener for active-duty members to see how we operate," Chief Walker said. "What makes it challenging is that we spend time educating them on our processes and requirements, and then two years later, they move and we have to do it again. It's a learning process."

What may be surprising to most people is that even though the full-timers wear their uniform during the week, they are in a civilian status.

"People get confused about this pretty often," said Staff Sgt. Tamara Strange, 476th Aerospace Medicine Flight. "But the leadership and other people at the 23rd Medical Group have been patient and understanding."

"Although we operate separately and won't become integrated, we still interact with them," she added. "They're very cooperative when we take over their entire building on the weekends."

The three full-time members of the 476th AMDF do administrative duties on weekdays, but on weekend drill days, they provide medical support for reservists. Their medical staff grows to more than 30 people during the weekend.

Although they are fully manned for the medicine flight, the 476th FG is still looking for reservists who will fill other positions, including maintenance.

"We expect to be fully mission capable and manned later this year," Colonel Eckfeld said. "The way we man our positions is different. While the Air Force Personnel Center usually provides active-duty offices with the manning needed, reserve units have to actively recruit members to come to their base."

According to the colonel, the benefits of being a reservist are a personal preference.

"Some people love coming back to the town they grew up in," he said. "They get the double benefit of serving their country while being near family and having a second career."

# Orchestra of hope

**This Memorial Day:  
Remember those who fought**

**ARLINGTON** | COURTESY PHOTO

**Arlington National Cemetery in Washington D.C. serves as the resting place for more than 300,000 people. The cemetery averages 28 funerals a day for veterans and their families. It is located on 200 acres of land and is the burial location for many former presidents, Medal of Honor Recipients and political figures.**

## **Commentary by Capt. Patrick Chevalier, 442nd Maintenance Group**

It's that time of year when we anticipate a long weekend known for family get-togethers, shopping, the Indianapolis 500, and maybe the first opportunity to relax under the long-awaited summer sun.

As we approach Memorial Day, it's important that we maintain some focus on a significant part of our national tradition. Memorial Day offers an occasion to bring back to our collective consciousness the loved ones we have lost – in particular, those who dedicated their lives to ensure our island of liberty remains secure.

Memorial Day was born out of remembrance and reconciliation of the Civil War. Known at the time as Decoration Day, communities in the north and south honored hundreds of thousands of fallen loved ones by closing business, flying flags at half-staff, and decorating graves with flowers. Several communities claim to be the birthplace of this tradition, which certainly speaks to the common need for families and communities to commemorate their lost loved ones.

The practice of honoring the fallen in this way grew in the years following the Civil War. After the First World War, the holiday was expanded to honor those who died in all American wars.

In 1971, Congress declared Memorial Day a national holiday.

This Memorial Day, we will reflect on those who have lent their lives to honorable and faithful service in the defense of this country. In the Civil War and both world wars, hundreds of thousands of souls were lost. In Korea and Vietnam, tens of thousands perished. During the most recent conflicts, the numbers are mercifully far fewer. To date, more than 5,700 U.S. servicemembers have lost their lives in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The human cost during conflict in our nation's history is incredible. WWII's casualties in any given month still outnumber the total deaths since the beginning of the conflict in both Iraq and Afghanistan.

That says a great deal about the strength and resolve of the Greatest Generation. But, with respect to those who have lost loved ones to the current conflicts, that comparison offers no comfort.

The fact is, one loss reverberates through a family and community the same way now as it has in any previous conflict. The value of an individual life has not changed. Neither has the great character of the individuals that willingly put themselves in harm's way in service of our nation. For every "boot on the ground" there is a story of individual sacrifice, an example steadfast courage, service, honor, enthusiasm and faith. And, behind each servicemember deployed there is a family sharing the burden of our nation's defense.

It is estimated that around 1.5 million citizens have served in Iraq and Afghanistan. This represents only one half of 1 percent of the U.S. population. Many of those people have served multiple tours; they and their families have endured deployment tempos never before experienced.

The fact is, a much smaller percent of the population has been directly affected by our current conflicts than in any war of the last century. Combine that with absorbing a small daily dose of media coverage for more than nine years; it's easy for the majority of our population to



COURTESY PHOTO | **FREEDOM**  
**Flags hang at Arlington National Cemetery in Washington D.C. on Memorial Day in 2010. Among those buried at Arlington, include Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr., associate justice of the U.S. Supreme Court.**

become desensitized to the sacrifices that are made each day.

As citizen warriors, we are perhaps more resistant to the temptation to be at ease with many of our nation’s treasures in harm’s way. Therefore, it’s incumbent upon us to be the reminders within our communities that the sacrifices servicemembers and their families make are very real. We must never let society forget that we are forever indebted to the servicemembers and their loved ones that carry the burden of grief.

I once stumbled upon excerpts of a speech delivered by Oliver Wendell Holmes in some 20 years after the end of the Civil War that summarizes the intent of Memorial Day. Mr. Homes is remembered as an associate justice for the U.S. Supreme Court and for his valor in the Civil War. He served as a lieutenant for the 20th Regiment of the Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry, saw a great deal of fighting, was wounded three times, and watched many of his dear friends die in battle.

*Year after year loved ones wandering under the apple trees and through the clover and deep grass are surprised with sudden tears as they see black veiled figures stealing through the morning to a soldier’s grave. Year after year the comrades of the dead follow with public honor, procession and commemorative flags and funeral march — honor and grief from us who stand almost alone, and have seen the best and noblest of our generation pass away.*

*But grief is not the end of all. I seem to hear the funeral march become a song of joy. I see beyond the forest the moving banners of a hidden column. Our dead brothers still live for us, and bid us think of life, not death — of life to which in their youth they lent the passion and joy of the spring. As I listen, the great chorus of life and joy begins again, and amid the awful orchestra of seen and unseen powers and destinies of good and evil our trumpets sound once more a note of daring hope, and will.*

The words spoken in 1884 were those of a man whose heart was heavy with the sadness but his spirit resiliently held on to hope.

As we remember the fallen today, these words still encourage us not to dwell on the sorrow of headstones with far too few days between birth and death. We are compelled to remember their passion and imagine that just beyond the horizon is that hidden column of moving banners.

Generations of servicemembers bound together in their afterlife by their acts of enthusiasm and faith here on earth. I think they are probably marching together to petition the living, and that during this time of year, we remember their acts of courage and love and it’s our job to go forward to embrace the life that their sacrifices have secured.

As you make plans for your Memorial Day weekend, consider attending a local ceremony. Stand at the side of those whose hearts are heavy. Offer your words of support and gratitude.

.....  
**COMMANDER, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3**

Secondly, for your families, he said force support is his focus. Resiliency, reintegration and the Presidential Study Directive-9, which researched what the government can do to support military families (including National Guard and Reserve families) are all avenues the AF Reserve is using to make life easier for your families.

Finally, the Air Force Reserve recently stood up a Force Generation Center to coordinate effective and efficient use of resources to get you in theater quickly and get you out equally as quickly during deployments – all while effectively supporting the mission. General Stenner also discussed some legislative successes, including paid inactive duty for training travel, the Post-9/11 G.I. Bill, the Yellow Ribbon Programs for deploying military members and their families, and the seasoning training program, which enables new reservists to quickly gain knowledge and experience in their career fields.

General Stenner also discussed force development, and emphasized the importance of job-skills training, professional-military education, civilian education and career-broadening assignments

for our future senior leaders in the enlisted and officer force.

As I listened to General Stenner’s town-hall meeting and his breakfast with our senior-enlisted leaders, I was proud to hear you discussing issues with the general. It was obvious to me how much you care about finding ways to make this a better place to work and serve our nation.

Thanks especially to those of you who stood up to ask challenging and thought-provoking questions at the town-hall meeting; General Stenner truly loves the Air Force Reserve and cares about the Airmen who have laid the foundation for this mission, and he wants our inputs on how to make things better. We can’t solve any of the problems we don’t know about, so please keep your ideas coming.

One way you can tell me about those ideas, is by completing the 442nd FW climate-assessment survey e-mailed to each of you, April 4. I will personally read each comment.

I am proud to be the commander of the best wing in the Air Force Reserve – and I had no problem conveying that to General Stenner during his visit. Thank you for all you do.

PHOTO BY STAFF  
SGT. DANIELLE WOLF

**OSCAR 1**

Chief Master Sgt. Allan Sturges, 442nd FW command chief, turns the key used to launch missiles from the silo at the control site, Oscar-1, located at Whiteman AFB, Mo. The chief attended a dinner hosted at O-1, April 17, during Lt. Gen. Charles Stenner's visit. General Stenner is the chief and commander of the Air Force Reserve

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THE 442ND FIGHTER WING IS AN AIR FORCE RESERVE UNIT AT WHITEMAN AFB, Mo.

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