

Training and Deploying Ready Reservists in August 2011

MOMENTUM

442nd Fighter Wing

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Whiteman AFB, Mo.

Special 16-page edition of the **MOMENTUM**





ORH: Operational readiness history
14 A look back to the last ORI in 1997 and how the wing stacks up today.

PHOTO BY TECH. SGT. KENT KAGARISE | HISTORY
 Master Sgt. John Bazzle was a top performer in the wing's last phase-one ORI in April 1997. He is scheduled to participate again in the August inspection 14 years later.

Contents ON THE COVER: The wing builds momentum this summer as it sends 35 civil engineers on an air expeditionary force deployment and prepares for an August operational readiness inspection.

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Tip of the Spear: August 2011

Tech. Sgt. Lynett Korchmaros is the group military personnel specialist and noncommissioned officer in charge of the commander's support staff for the 924th Fighter Group. She is also employed in the same role as a civilian for the squadron. She serves as a unit liaison to the military and civilian personnel offices. In this role, she is the resident subject-matter expert for all mandated administrative support programs such as task management; drug demand reduction program; government purchase and travel card programs, civilian time cards, AROWS-R, UTAPS, DCPDS, MilPDS, and AFRIMS. She also provides training for fighter group reservists in areas related to the programs. Korchmaros was selected as the NCO of the Quarter as a result of her superior knowledge, skills and abilities. She organized training for new officers to the unit and laid groundwork for a successful Reserve integration. She currently manages the unit's more than \$25,000 GPC annual supply and operations account with zero discrepancies on numerous purchases. Korchmaros' dedication and leadership has raised orderly room performance and rapport with outside agencies critical to the unit's success. She is an action-oriented Airman and her demeanor and work ethic set the standard for others, making her this month's Tip of the Spear for the 924th Fighter Group.



← If I weren't an A-10 fighter pilot, I'd definitely want to be a weapons loader. Have you seen these things??



Final step in ORI prep

By Col. Eric Overturf,
 442nd Fighter Wing commander

It's hard to believe that summer is almost over, but it must be true because my daughter is starting high school this month. It's been a busy summer for the 442nd Fighter Wing, and our outstanding Citizen Airmen are doing great things around the globe. The 442nd Civil Engineer Squadron is finishing up combat skills training at Fort Bliss, Texas, and will soon be on their way to Afghanistan for a joint expeditionary tasking deployment to help set up and maintain the infrastructure of coalition bases. Pilots, maintainers and support personnel from the 917th Fighter Group at Barksdale AFB, La., recently returned from their annual tour in Alaska where they honed their skills on the Pacific Alaska Range Complex. The 924th FG, Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz., amped up their hiring to grow by

30 percent this summer and started construction on their new headquarters building at the beginning of August. The 476th FG reached 100 percent manning for the first time and is setting the standard for total force integration support of the A-10 Thunderbolt II mission and air expeditionary force deployments at Moody AFB, Ga. All of these events mean that you are doing a great job supporting our 2011 mission priorities to support AEF deployments and successfully incorporate geographically separated units by helping our fighter groups grow and excel. Here at Whiteman, we're in the home stretch to win our operational readiness inspection. In July, we had a great operational readiness exercise, and we're down to fine tuning a few last items before the inspector general team arrives. We observed recent inspections at other wings so we know our procedures are up to speed

— now we just need to demonstrate them to the IG team. We'll have ORI Right Start briefings, Aug. 25, so all of us at Whiteman can huddle up and review our game plan one last time before the IG team arrives. Here are some of the key things to think about and take care of before then:

- 1. If you are scheduled to process and deploy during the ORI, be ready.** Our wing mission is to Train and Deploy Ready Reservists, and the "ready" part means having your mobility bag packed properly and your deployment folder up to speed with all the required training done. Listen to your unit deployment manager and ask if you have any questions about what you need. We can't afford to make mistakes on the little things that we have complete control over.
- 2. When inspectors provide "injects" to the scenario, they are evaluating a specific capability, and I need to know**

about it so I can communicate the proper response to the entire wing. If you get an inject card, take the appropriate immediate action and then ensure the event gets sent up the chain of command. For example, if an inspector tells you your computer has a virus, follow the procedures on the red/green/yellow network incident card that should be next to your computer, and then tell your supervisor or call the command post at X-3564.

- 3. Pay attention to the crisis action team directives (CATDs) so you have the latest updates on critical exercise information.** Be ready to answer inspector questions on things like the FPCON. If you don't know the answer, check with your unit deployment control center (UDCC) or ask your supervisor.
- 4. Safety is paramount.** Things like technical-order compliance, personal protec-

SEE COMMENTARY,

917TH FG PILOTS SET AVIATION RECORD

Story and photos by Tech. Sgt. Jeff Walston, 307th Bomb Wing Public Affairs

BARKSDALE AIR FORCE BASE, LA. -

Four Barksdale-based Air Force Reserve fighter pilots made aviation history by setting a new record for combined hours in the cockpit of the A-10 Thunderbolt II, July 15.

Col. James Macaulay, Lt. Col. David Deaton, Lt. Col. Marc Olson and Lt. Col. Brady Glick, all assigned to the 47th Fighter Squadron, which is part of the 917th Fighter Group, here, a geographically separated unit of the 442nd Fighter Wing, Whiteman AFB, Mo., participated in a four-ship flight during which the pilots surpassed the 20,000 combined hour mark – a feat never before accomplished by four pilots in the A-10.

This kind of feat does not happen overnight. I'm grateful that God has blessed me by allowing me to serve my country for this long," Deaton said. "I never imagined when I graduated from the Air Force Academy in 1978, that I would still be doing what I love 33 years later."

This event marked the second record-setting sortie for this group of pilots. The four colonels set the previous record of 17,742 combined hours in the A-10 during a four-ship flight in 2008. Together, all four pilots

have completed more than 10,000 sorties. Immediately following the flight, Macaulay was promoted to the rank of colonel in a ceremony presided over by **Col. Eric S. Overturf**, the commander of the 442nd FW.

"This milestone is really a testament to the professionalism of the maintainers and the durability of the 'Hawg,'" Macaulay said. "In 20,000 hours, none of us have punched out (ejected) or had a major mishap. For every hour we get in the seat of the jet, there's over 15 hours of maintenance and support that makes them fly."

In addition to the record breaking sortie, Macaulay also took the lead in A-10 flying hours with more than 5,200.

"It's been a distinct honor to fly with the 47th Fighter Squadron, and the best attack pilots in the world," Macaulay said.

Some Airmen assigned to the 47th Fighter Squadron are scheduled to deploy after the first of the year.

According to Overturf, the four-ship flight also set a record for being the "oldest on record." The total ages of the four pilots add up to a whopping 200 years and 2 months.

Lt. Cols David Deaton, James Macaulay, Brady Glick and Marc Olson, pose for the "hero shot" after participating in a four-ship flight at Barksdale AFB, La., July 15. During their flight, they surpassed the 20,000 combined hours mark – a feat never before accomplished by four pilots in the A-10.



"ATTACK!!"

Macaulay, the deputy commander for the 917th Fighter Group, takes the oath during a pinning ceremony at Barksdale AFB, La., July 15. Col. Eric Overturf, 442nd Fighter Wing commander, acts as the presiding official for the ceremony. Approximately 100 family members and friends were in attendance.



The 924th Fighter Group is Hiring.
For More Information Please call (520) 228-4927

A video featuring the 924th Fighter Group can be found at www.afrc.af.mil. In the video, Col. John Russell, group commander, talks about the positions the group will be hiring.

924th FG looks to hire more than two dozen ARTs

Graphic and story by Staff Sgt. Danielle Wolf

The 924th Fighter Group, located at Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz., a geographically separated unit of the 442nd Fighter Wing, at Whiteman AFB, Mo., is currently hiring.

A new unit to the Air Force, **Col. John Russell**, the group's commander, with the help of **Chief Master Sgt. Roy Close**, 924th Maintenance Group superintendent, began hiring in February. As of July, the 924th FG had approximately 35 reservists assigned.

The unit, which is authorized 271 positions, is responsible for operating and fixing A-10 aircraft for the formal training unit at Davis-Monthan. They do not directly support the combat-coded aircraft, Russell said.

Two 442nd FW A-10s, on a rotational basis, reside with the

924th FG. These jets are used by the test center and will be supported by the 924th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron.

"Part of our mission will be to pick up some of the everyday flight line maintenance for those jets so Barksdale and Whiteman won't have to routinely send crew chiefs to D-M to maintain them," Russell said. "Our primary mission though is to provide both qualified A-10 instructor pilots and qualified maintenance professionals to support the regular Air Force FTU mission."

The instructor pilots assigned to the 924th FG, Russell said, are highly experienced with several of them with recent combat experience.

"The 924th FG, alongside with the regular Air Force's 355th Fighter Wing (Davis-

Monthan AFB,) train A-10 pilots for the total force, whether through requalification or initial qualification courses," he said. "Some of our instructors have recently deployed the 476th FG and the 23rd FG from Moody. The student pilots we graduate leave here as mission ready wingmen as they move on to join the 442nd FW's combat-coded units, or any other Air National Guard or RegAF combat units"

The group has undergone its own set of challenges with hiring more than 30 qualified people and working alongside active duty as a classic associate unit. The biggest challenge for the group so far, Russell said, has been to navigate the process from an Air Force Reserve Command manning

document through the local civilian personnel office, the Air Force Manpower Agency and Air Force Personnel Center to advertise and hire ARTs.

"We need the ability to quickly move manning authorizations and turn them in to actual hireable positions," Russell said. "You've got an A-10 pilot and a weapons loader starting a unit here, and we don't have much experience with the personnel side of things."

"We're on the cusp of hiring several positions right now, but it has taken a long time to work through the many hurdles."

Russell said there is already a great mix of people who have inquired about the air reserve technician and traditional re-

Calls from Afghanistan

It all began with an 11-year-old girl who needed a pair of shoes...



How former commander Lt. Gen. John Bradley and his wife are trying to help the Afghan people through clothing, food and education.

By Staff Sgt. Danielle Wolf

The Lamia Foundation

For retired Lt. Gen. John Bradley, former commander of the Air Force Reserve Command and the 442nd Fighter Wing, Whiteman AFB, Mo., and his wife, Jan Bradley, a single deployment to Afghanistan was a life-changing event.

In December 2007, John Bradley was about to go on his fourth deployment to Afghanistan. He said he heard about a volunteer effort at Bagram Air Base (Afghanistan) that involved providing humanitarian aid to women and children who received medical care at a nearby base. This organization, called Operation Care, handed out humanitarian aid in their free time. Bradley said he wanted to get involved and help the organization.

So, in the months prior to his deployment, Bradley and his wife went through schools, churches and donation programs, including civilian thrift shops that sell gently used clothing.

“We brought it all home and began to fill my garage and my basement. We practically had a goodwill store going at my house,” he said with a laugh. “Over the course of a few months, we had collected 40,000 pounds of donations and Jan had boxed up all the items almost entirely by herself.”

As Bradley’s deployment approached, he worked with reservists at a nearby aerial-port squadron who generated 14 pallets using the donations. The pallets then boarded a C-17 Globemaster III and headed to Afghanistan.

“The Denton program, named for a senator from Alabama, allows any nonprofit organization to use space-available military aircraft for transporting supplies to people in need,” the general said. “That’s the great thing about it – anyone can do it.”

When Bradley arrived in Afghanistan a few months later, he spent a day working with Operation Care where he headed to a local village to pass out blankets, kites, jackets and other supplies to children.

That’s when Bradley said he first saw the little girl pushing past a group of boys – something he said is unusual to see in Afghan culture.

Boots for the winter

Petite, 9-year-old Lamia approached the general and asked for nothing more of him than a pair of warm boots for the winter – a pair just like his. Bradley didn’t have a pair of shoes for Lamia, but he promised he’d send her some when he returned to the U.S.

“When I got home I told Jan about her and showed her Lamia’s photos,” he said. “So we went out and bought four boxes of things for her – including four different sizes of boots because she didn’t know what size she wore – and some blankets and sheets.”

Bradley sent the boxes to Afghanistan and asked military members in the region for help delivering the items to the little girl. Lamia and her uncle returned to the base with the servicemembers, where they went in to a small shack that the office of special investigations worked out of. There, they fed her and her uncle and gave her the boxes to open. An interpreter read the letter to

SEE LAMIA, PAGE 8

“The kids love toys, but a kid will turn down a toy or a pair of shoes for a pencil and a piece of paper. What does that tell you about the burning desire of these children to learn?”

- Jan Bradley,
Wife of retired Lt. Gen. John Bradley

For more information, visit www.lamiafoundation.org or search Lamia Foundation on Facebook.



Building a partnership

Even domestic violence toward women, which is a prominent concern in the Middle East could be greatly reduced by educating children and women. “Educated girls eventually become mothers,” he said. “Women have a great influence on children’s education – particularly boys since they grow up to be men. Educated boys will know how to treat women right.”

Women, Jan Bradley added, will also attain more freedom to make their own choices because they will have more options with their education and careers.

Although the Bradleys work primarily with educating women and children, they said they have an even greater vision.

They said they are currently working on several projects with hopes of bettering living conditions in Afghanistan. They are now members of the U.S.-Afghan Women’s Council, which Jan Bradley said empowers women throughout the country. Additionally, they are working with a project to provide travel sewing machines and fabric to women and train them to sew in order to create a business selling items at the local bazaars.

“We are also working on a soybean project,” she said. “In the project, farmers are trained to plant soybeans, which are a sustainable agricultural product for them. This is a great thing because it will directly address the country’s problem with severe malnutrition.”

John and Jan Bradley have been working with universities and nonprofit organizations to gather donations to bring on future trips to the Middle East. In the past two-and-a-half years they have shipped 500,000 pounds of humanitarian aid donations to Afghanistan.

The greatest need, Jan Bradley said, is for school supplies.

“Kids there sit on the ground or in old shipping containers and go to schools in crumbling buildings,” she said. “Kids may have a pencil and two or three sheets of paper, but that’s it. The kids love toys, but a kid will turn down a toy or a pair of shoes for a pencil and a piece of paper. What does that tell you about the burning desire of these children to learn? A lot!”

Jan Bradley said her dream is to build partner-

ships with U.S. schools and get the kids involved in what’s going on around the world. Students completing secondary education in Afghanistan want to be like high school students in the U.S., she said.

“They want to know about America and American students,” she said. “The students in Afghanistan are kind, generous, patient and extremely hard working. You don’t get to hear these stories because you only hear about the suicide bombings. You don’t hear about the wonderful projects going on over there.”

The Bradleys have not forgotten their roots. Ultimately, the general said, making Afghanistan a better place for the people, will also make it a better place for the U.S. troops on the ground.

“A while ago, a Navy chaplain e-mailed Jan from his deployment,” Bradley said. “He told us how he was stationed at a remote location in Afghanistan with some Marines who hadn’t been able to take showers in five or six weeks, so he was asking if we could send some baby wipes to them.”

Sending a few boxes of baby wipes wasn’t enough for the Bradleys. Instead, they solicited donations and received 8,000 pounds of baby wipes.

“Fed Ex helped us out by sending them to Atlanta, and then when military air wasn’t available, DHL sent them overseas, at no cost to us, to Camp Leath-erneck,” John Bradley said proudly. “It makes us feel very good. We want to do anything we can to help our folks and make their lives a little better. I just can’t imagine going that long without a shower.”

“The work with the Afghan people is helping win hearts and mind, maintaining security, building a better government and will hopefully bring our troops home sooner.”

Jan Bradley said their ultimate goal is for the Afghan people to have self-respect and peace.

“The country has been through 31 years of war,” she said. “For some people, that’s all they know – oppression and illiteracy. The people of Afghanistan are no different than anyone else in the world. They want to live in peace, have a roof over their head, a good job, clean water, medical care and an opportunity for their children to be educated.”

For more information on the Lamia Foundation or to find out how to donate visit www.LamiaFoudation.org or search Lamia Foundation on Facebook.

LAMIA, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

Lamia. In it, the general wrote:

I was glad to meet you, Lamia, and I will be back soon to see you.

When Bradley returned to Afghanistan in 2008 to visit the deployed members of the 303rd Fighter Squadron and 442nd Maintenance Group, he worked with local military members and Afghani police to find Lamia.

“A policeman in the area told me he had seen her out occasionally looking for firewood in the town. I don’t know if it was true, but he also told me she hadn’t eaten in three days,” he said.

This time, Bradley and his wife had brought to Afghanistan 15 boxes of collected donations and a bicycle for Lamia.

“She was just thrilled with everything we gave her: A purse, clothing, even lotion – last time I was there, her face was very chapped – she was thrilled to see me too,” he said.

A few months after he returned from Afghanistan, Bradley and his wife took a short trip to New York City. He was about to retire from the Air Force Reserve and the two were discussing their plans after retirement.

“We really wanted to devote the rest of our lives to helping the people of Afghanistan,” Jan Bradley said.

She said she had grown to love the people she heard about each time her husband went on a deployment.

“I have an emotional attachment to these children in Afghanistan,” she said. “Once you see the extreme poverty they live in, your maternal instinct just takes over. They don’t know what they don’t have, so they smile and they’re happy.”

The Bradleys have collected hundreds of pictures of children they’ve met over the years.

“They are all over us when we’re there,” the general said. “They have the most beautiful faces you’ve ever seen. Their faces may be filthy and dirty, but they are beautiful.”

In 2008, the Bradleys decided to start a non-profit organization for Afghan children named

after the little girl that inspired them. They called it the Lamia Foundation.

Since General Bradley’s retirement in 2008, he and Jan Bradley have been back to Kabul, Afghanistan three times – most recently in May.

“Now, we try to go twice a year,” he said. “We work with the military people on their off time to hand out stuff there. We are just trying to win the hearts and minds of the Afghan people.”

Education, the Bradleys said, is the single most important thing they can do to make a difference in Afghanistan. They said they believe this so much in fact that the Lamia Foundation is currently in the process of building three schools southeast and east of Kabul. Two of the schools, they said, will be for female students only while the third will be for underprivileged students currently attending a nonreligious school in a mosque.

John and Jan Bradley said they realize the risks involved with building an Afghani school.

“Some schools have been attacked,” the general said, “but we believe the areas we’re building these schools in are relatively safe. We’re asking the villages to protect schools and have them locally maintained and secured. We believe the elders (believe in our cause enough) that they will protect them. The reality is, there is always a threat.”

But the education the children will receive, the Bradleys said, far exceeds the risks.

“If they can read, write and think for themselves, they will be less susceptible to extremism,” Jan Bradley said. “They will have more opportunities for growth and free will. They’ll be able to say, ‘I can be a carpenter, engineer or doctor! I can read and understand math.’ Women will know how to read labels on medicine and know how to better take care of their children.”

John Bradley said he knows it will take a while to change the culture in Afghanistan, but the difference it will make is immeasurable.



(Left) Bradley meets Lamia for the first time in 2007 while visiting the 442nd Fighter Wing in Afghanistan. (Photo by Master Sgt. Rick Sforza)



PHOTOS BY TECH. SGT. KENT KAGARISE, STORY BY STAFF SGT. DANIELLE WOLF

FAREWELL

Col. Eric Overturf, 442nd Fighter Wing commander, sees off the approximately 35 reservists who left for deployment, July 30.

Civil engineers head to Texas, prepare for deployment

WHITEMAN AIR FORCE BASE, Mo. — Approximately 35 reservists from the 442nd Civil Engineers Squadron boarded a C-130 Hercules, July 30 and headed to Fort Bliss, Texas, where they will attend three weeks of combat skills training prior to leaving for Afghanistan. The Citizen Airmen, who have been pre-

paring for the deployment for more than six months, will be operating in forward locations to maintain facilities outside the local bases. In preparation for the deployment, the 442nd Fighter Wing worked with the Airmen to ensure their families are cared for during their time overseas.

The reservists were able to spend additional time with their families at Missions End, the base club here, July 28, where the wing commander, **Col. Eric Overturf**, and the Whiteman Base Community Council president, **Jesse Kellock**, gave some parting words and reassurance to Reserve family members.



Washington retires with 39 years of memories

Story and photo by Tech. Sgt. Kent Kagarise

He was underneath the flatbed trailer of his racecar making adjustments when an olive-drab green vehicle pulled up. He found the solid, black wall tires of the vehicle to be strange, but was impressed with the shiny black boots – those of a soldier— of the man who stepped out. The soldier then kicked his leg that stuck out from underneath the trailer.

“Would you step out sir?” the soldier asked him. It was 1972, and **Larry Washington**, (now a master sergeant in the 442nd Fighter Wing) was a “draft dodger.”

Washington then lied and told the soldier he wasn’t in fact, Larry Washington. “It happened in slow motion like something from a movie,” Washington said. “Just then, my aunt stepped out onto the porch and yelled, ‘Larry, do you want to eat here or take a sack to the race track?’”

Washington said he locked eyes with the soldier and saw the man reach for his side-arm, anticipating an arrest.

“That won’t be necessary – you got me,” Washington told the soldier.

A few months later, after having spent time in a military confinement facility, Washington was in Vietnam serving in a U.S. Army field artillery unit.

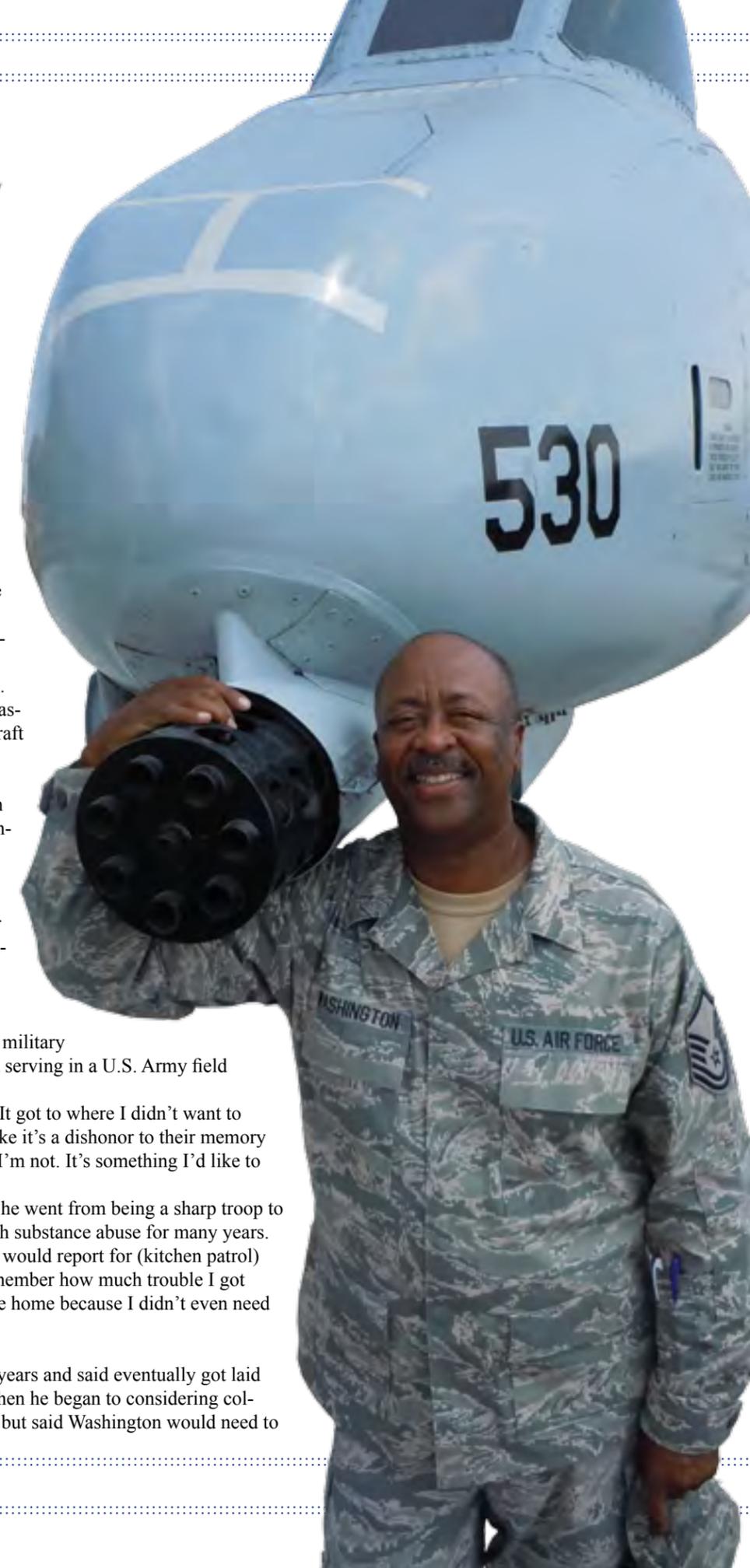
“I had really good friends that I lost over there. It got to where I didn’t want to get close to anybody,” Washington said. “I feel like it’s a dishonor to their memory for me to talk about it as if I’m a hero – because I’m not. It’s something I’d like to forget.”

After returning from Vietnam, Washington said he went from being a sharp troop to trying to “drink his pain away” and struggled with substance abuse for many years.

“I was so bad there for a while,” he said, “that I would report for (kitchen patrol) on Saturday mornings just because I couldn’t remember how much trouble I got into Friday night. Sometimes they would send me home because I didn’t even need to be there.”

BACK TO MILITARY LIFE

Washington stayed out of the military for eight years and said eventually got laid off from a steel company in Kansas City, Mo., when he began to considering college. A friend had offered to help pay his tuition, but said Washington would need to



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get some supplemental income.

“My friend suggested I go back into the military, and I told him, ‘Heck no!’” Washington said. “But this guy served in the Air Force and talked about how much he enjoyed it and recommended I talk to an Air Force recruiter.”

Eventually Washington caved.

In 1983, he became a photojournalist for the 442nd FW at Richards-Gebaur AFB, Kansas City, Mo. While serving in the Reserve and attending school to get his bachelor’s degree, he still continued to struggle with alcoholism.

“I was a functioning drunk,” Washington said.

In 2000, Washington said his sister passed away, and the day of the funeral, his wife left him and their son. It was at this time Washington said he began to think he needed to quit drinking – or he could lose his son.

“After the funeral, I poured myself a big ‘ole glass of whiskey, and before I could take a sip, my nephew, who had been sharing Jesus with me, asked if we could pray together,” Washington said. “I remember he kept saying over and over, ‘Lord take the taste of alcohol out of my uncle’s mouth.’ He prayed so long. I remember peeking out of one eye and there were beads of sweat dripping down his forehead.”

Washington said after the prayer he took a sip of whiskey and could not taste anything. He said he took a second sip and still – nothing.

“After that I poured some out, thinking I’d get the good stuff – but still nothing,” Washington said. “I quit smoking and drinking, and the same day, the blessings just started pouring in.”

Washington said his family grew closer once his eyes were spiritually, and literally, opened.

Although Washington said he and his wife were unable to reconcile, he said it was another life lesson he would like to impart to Airmen going through divorce or separation.

“Know that you’re not ruined,” he said.

“Try to mend the marriage, but if you can’t, try to get along with your ex if there are children involved. Know that life is worth living, and it’ll get better.”

Washington said when he began looking

“God created the man; will defined the man; and the military was blessed to have the man serve it.”

*Tiana Washington,
daughter of Master Sgt. Larry Washington*

to God, it changed everything – including his Air Force career.

“Stay focused and respect yourself by respecting others,” he said. “Be responsible, have integrity and listen to folks who’ve been through it. Be energized in all you do.”

Washington said he is an example of how God, and good decisions, can turn a person’s life and career around.

“After all that I went through, the greatest honor for me was having the privilege to be a first sergeant,” he said. “When I was asked to apply for the job, I was apprehensive because so many of my superiors around the wing knew my past.”

Washington said he was in disbelief when he got the phone call notifying him he had received the first sergeant’s position and made the caller repeat the news.

“I don’t fear anything because I have God, but I thought to myself, ‘Can I do this?’” he said. “It was the greatest honor to be a first sergeant, because it’s a ministry. To be able to shine for God by taking care of people and helping them succeed. It really is the best position any Airman can ever have.”

FAMILY AND RETIREMENT

Washington said that now he seeks God first, always, and he is thankful for how he has been blessed by God through the Air Force. Washington said he looks forward to spending more time with his family one more weekend a month.

“I love my children and have the greatest family in the world,” he said. “I tried to raise them right.”

Washington’s oldest child, Tiana Washington, said she is sure the Air Force molded her father into a very determined, hard-working man who was fearless in the eyes of a little girl.

“God created the man; will defined the man; and the military was blessed to have the man serve it,” she said.

Washington said as he looks back on the past four decades: “I experienced it all. I’ve been in different wings and military organizations over the years. I’ve been a victim of prejudice, but this wing has grown and always looks to grow. I see leaders with integrity, and the 442nd FW, in my opinion, is the greatest organization in the military.”

Washington said if you want to find him in the future you’ll have to try not to blink.

“The Army had to drag him into the military – and 39 years later, the Air Force had to drag him out,” said Col. Eric Overturf, 442nd FW commander. “He’s a valuable asset to this wing, and one we hope comes back to visit – often.”



Master Sgt. Larry Washington will have a retirement ceremony, 10 a.m., Sept. 10, at the Whiteman Community Center.



476th FG works through TFI, succeeds

Story by Staff Sgt. Danielle Wolf
Contributed to by Tech. Sgt. Kent Kagarise
Photo by Airman 1st Class Benjamin Wiseman, 23rd Wing Public Affairs

MOODY AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. – The 476th Fighter Group, a geographically separated unit of the 442nd Fighter Wing, Whiteman AFB, Mo., is a classic Reserve associate unit that works with the 23rd Wing here.

The group works side-by-side in a total force mission with active-duty Airmen to maintain and operate 52 A-10 Thunderbolt II aircraft assigned to the 23rd Wing.

The group, which began in 2008 under the command of Col. Gregory Eckfeld, now the 442nd FW’s vice commander, has deployed four times – three of which were before it was at its full operational capability.

“The mentality between the active duty and the Reserve here is no different,” said **Master Sgt. Scott Lopez**, 476th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron. “We both want to get the same mission accomplished. There’s no competition between us and active duty – they understand we’re here to help.”

The relationship has developed so well, in fact, that the active-duty leadership has integrated the Reserve into daily activities, said **Lt. Col. Doug Batson**, 476th Maintenance Squadron commander.

“The active duty invites us to things like changes of command, and we meet once a week for coffee with the (23rd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron commander) to discuss each other’s issues and exchange

dialogue,” he said.

When the 23rd Wing requests assistance from the 476th FG, the group was happy to help, Batson said.

“We asked what we could do to help them, and they said they needed Alaskan shelters, so we requested them and got approved,” Batson said. “They had a need, and we were able to meet it. The key to the Reserve forging a relationship with the active duty is communication, partnership and showing them the Reserve can be relied on.”

One thing Batson said, for which the Reserve can be relied on, is training.

“Our average reservist here has 17 years of military experience,” said **Senior Master Sgt. Jamie Cornelia**, Aircraft Maintenance Squadron superintendent. “We’re seeing more and more young, active-duty Airmen who are going to our (traditional reservists) and (air reserve technicians) for training. It’s a great recruiting tool and it shows what great experience comes from the Air Force Reserve.”

Working with active duty holds many benefits for traditional reservists as well, Lopez added.

“It’s a fast pace around here,” he said. “The pace mimics the benefits of deploying without having to deploy as much. It’s nonstop work, which gives all of us great training too.”

Within just a few short years though, the

476th FG reservists had volunteered to deploy alongside their active-duty counterparts.

“When we first started deploying with active duty, they were hesitant to work with us, but now they’re asking us for volunteers,” said **Master Sgt. Brian Shipman**, 476th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron crew chief.

The challenges of working together have subsided for many maintainers – but not all of them. For the full-time ARTs, Lopez said, it can be confusing for active duty to understand how they are civilians working during the week, but still wearing the Air Force uniform.

“For many of the active-duty Airmen, they might work 12 to 14-hour days,” Lopez said, “but we go home after an eight or nine-hour day (if overtime or credit time isn’t available.) At first, our TRs were confused because they didn’t know who was active duty and who was Reserve.”

Over time, Lopez said, the reservists learn who is who regardless of uniforms.

Despite the challenges, Cornelia said three components have contributed to the success of the 476th FG and TFI: personality, open-mindedness and leadership’s ambition.

“A lot of people were used to the old way of doing things, but you have to come in with an open mind regardless of your experience,” he said.



SAME PLAYERS, SAME GAME

"History doesn't repeat itself – at best, it sometimes rhymes."
- Mark Twain

By Tech. Sgt. Kent Kagarise

In July, 442nd Fighter Wing reservists trained for the August operational readiness inspection – an inspection some Citizen Airmen remember participating in the last time the wing underwent a phase-one inspection in April 1997.

Like the last inspection more than 14 years ago, reservists worked feverishly in July to ensure troops boarded a simulated plane with all the necessary items that would allow them to enter the combat theater with a sound mind, comfortable that their affairs were in order.

Lt. Col. Roxane Williams, 442nd FW process manager described her job as being a “den mother” and said she wanted to make sure everybody left with a smile on their face, and prepared for what is ahead at the WAA.

“I’ve been in this position before when I helped Airmen deploy to Iraq after 9/11,” Williams said. “It’s really personal for me because I know what it’s like to look into the faces of people I worked closely with and not know if I’ll ever see them again.”

Staff Sgt. Amanda Spieker, 442nd FW unit deployment manager for the ORE, spent her time muddling through “mountains of paperwork” and digging through people’s bags to guarantee everything was in accordance with Air Force instruction.

“The best thing Airmen can do is be personally prepared for deployment to make the whole process move along smoothly,” Spieker said. “It’s all about maintaining a positive mental attitude.”

Williams said she likes working in this capacity as a unit-deployment manager because she is able to help troops deploy to a location where they will execute the Air Force mission effectively.

“I’ll never be able to turn a wrench, so this is as operational as I’ll ever be, which is why I want this process to be as good of an experience as possible for Airmen going to war,” Williams said.

Senior Airman Zac Broughton, 442nd Logistical Readiness Squadron is experiencing his first phase-one inspection as a motor vehicle operator. Broughton started his day at noon and did not expect to be relieved until 10 p.m. as he transported reservists to their destination.

“Considering the hours I’m working and the extreme heat when I help load bags I have to stay mentally alert and simply be in the right place at the right time,” Broughton said. “Timeliness is my main concern.”

Chaplain (Capt.) Ben Hayden, 442nd FW, has never deployed but went to Red Flag 11-2, an aerial gun competition, and said as he went through the deployment line he considered it an opportunity to practice for a real deployment.

“I just try to have fun, lighten the moment and get to know people,” Hayden said. “It’s nice to get to know faces and for them to get to know mine.”

Hayden said that keeping everybody’s morale up around you is as important as maintaining your personal positive outlook.

“Considering how much time we are all spending in one place, I think we should all take advantage of the opportunity to get to know each other better during the OREs, and especially the ORI,

924TH FG, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

serve positions with the 924th FG.

He said they’ve had a huge amount of interest from people at the GSUs as well as nearby Air Force bases.

“The problem is,” he said, “we have a bunch of reservists already, but no ARTs to manage them yet. In fact, we almost have to hold off on gaining more TRs until we have full-time people here so we’re in a better position to effectively manage them.”

It’s important to have the key supervisors in position to take the burden off of senior leadership, said Col. Gregory Eckfeld, 442nd FW vice commander.

Eckfeld was the commander of the 476th FG, a GSU of the 442nd FW. He began the group in 2008, and by 2011, the group was more than 95-percent manned and had already supported active duty in four deployments.

“It’s better to have a subject-matter expert for each career field in place so he or she can hire good people,” he said. “The supervisor can then pick someone who fits the organization with a particular skill set and the personality they are looking for.”

Equally as important, Russell added, is hiring the right people.

“It’s important that we find people with experience,” Russell said. “Active duty’s biggest challenge is experience on the flightline. Part of the concept to having a classic associate unit here was that we would bring some experienced reservists to help active duty.”

Eckfeld has provided mentorship along the way, as a commander who has been in Russell’s boots.

“I told Colonel Russell to not get beat down or worn out while trying to start this unit,” Eckfeld said. “Leave each day having made progress – leave it exponentially better than it was when you got there that morning – just divide and conquer.”

Russell said the group is currently looking for ARTs with A-10 maintenance experience or ARTs with fighter aircraft experience.

Anyone interested in an aircraft maintenance position with the 924th FG may contact Close commercially at (520) 228-4927. Russell said Close can assist by providing a tracking number on www.usajobs.com for authorized positions the group is looking to hire. They are actively seeking A-10-qualified flight line maintainers who are interested in an air reserve technician positions.

COMMENTARY, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

...tive equipment and flightline driving can make or break us, so take care of yourself and your wingmen.

5. Finally, remember to project a positive attitude at all times. We are all happy to be on the verge of putting three straight years of inspections behind us, so let that upbeat energy shine through! Positive attitudes are infectious and will

raise the spirits of your co-workers as well as the grades from inspectors if they need a tie breaker.

We are ready for this inspection. Our A-10s are the best in fleet. The dedicated Citizen Airmen of the 442nd FW are the best I’ve ever worked with. We have a solid game plan and an all-star team to execute it. Be proud to show it. When an IG

team inspector approaches you during the inspection, stand up, smile and greet them with the confidence and pride that comes with being part of a championship team, and the humility that comes from knowing it’s not over until the report is signed.

I know we’re going to do great during the ORI. Thank you for all you do. It’s an honor to be your commander.

HISTORY, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

while we lean on each other.” Hayden said.

Hayden said he looks forward to being deployed and that he wants to be able to experience what others have experienced. He said he believes it would be the pinnacle of his career to be able to provide ministry in a deployed location.

In 2008, **Master Sgt. Robert Kjos**, 442nd Maintenance

Squadron crew chief deployed to Afghanistan and said the experience of going through the deployment line was good and allowed him to see what so many people do behind the scenes to get Airmen deployed.

“It’s important to see what they (Senior Master Sgt. Rodney and Tech. Sgt. Shannon Kennedy, deployment superintendents) do: Setting up chinks and getting equipment to us,” Kjos said. “When you

go through this process in the real world, you’re focused on yourself and can feel like cattle being herded around, but this helps us see what it takes to get people, planes and equipment in place,” he said. “If we’re missing any of those three we can’t get our job done and this is how it all gets put together to make it work.”

As the ORI approaches, the experiences

and lessons learned from the last ORI in 1997 to now may bring the 442nd FW one step closer to being trained and deployed ready reservists. In 1997 the wing received an ‘outstanding’ grade on the inspection. At the time, it was combined with a phase-two inspection. The wing’s most recent phase-two inspection was in July 2010.



Top: Tech. Sgt. Dewayne Magnuson, Tech. Sgt. Steve Smith (now a master sergeant), and Senior Airman Daniel Wirt (now technical sergeant) participate in the ORI in 1997.

Below: Master Sgt. Rodney Kennedy (now a senior master sergeant) participated in the ORI the wing received an ‘outstanding’ on more than 14 years ago.

1997 ORI

PHOTOS FROM MOHAWK ARCHIVES

(Left) Senior Airman Christine Liberty, now Master Sgt. Christine Davison, 442nd Maintenance Squadron avionics technician. (Right) Jim Boyle, 442nd Logistics Readiness Squadron civilian transportation specialist. (Far right) Staff Sgt. Kellie Askew, now a master sergeant, 442nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron crew chief.



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
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WING TO-DO LIST - 2011 PRIORITIES:

1. SUPPORT AEF DEPLOYMENTS 🇺🇸
2. WIN THE ORI 🇺🇸
3. INCORPORATE GSUs 🇺🇸
4. DEVELOP AND CARE FOR AIRMEN
AND THEIR FAMILIES 🇺🇸

To:

SUPPORT AEF DEPLOYMENTS | PHOTO BY TECH. SGT. KENT KAGARISE

Senior Airman Dominique Knowles (right) is a trained and deployed ready reservist who is helping accomplish the wing's priorities by deploying to Afghanistan as a 442nd civil engineer. In this photo, he is sitting in the navigator's seat on a C-130 preparing for takeoff to Fort Bliss, Texas for combat skills training.



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

TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE 442ND FIGHTER WING...

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