

Training and Deploying Ready Reservists in October 2011

# MOHAWK

442nd Fighter Wing

[www.442fw.afrc.af.mil](http://www.442fw.afrc.af.mil)

Whiteman AFB, Mo.





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 The latest up-to-date 442 FW news  
**Comingsoon...**  
 Chief AF Reserve visits 476th FG  
 917th deployment slideshow

**Deployment**  
**3** First set of reservists head to Afghanistan, more to follow in 2012

**On the cover**  
 Photo by Staff Sgt. Danielle Wolf. Above photo by Airman 1st Class Cody Ramirez  
 Approximately 20 reservists from the 442nd Fighter Wing deployed to Afghanistan in September. Another 20 reservists supported the mission by going to Michigan to help the Air National Guard launch A-10s for the deployment.

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**Senior Airman Jacob Skelton**  
 442nd Maintenance Group

**Tip of the Spear: October 2011**

Senior Airman Jacob Skelton is a self-starter who, while working in the unit deployment control center during the operational readiness inspection, took care of tasks needing to be accomplished before being asked. His military bearing and respect for authority shines above his peers. During preparation for his career development course testing, he was studying most of the time unless he was performing a required tasking. Above that, immediately after passing his CDC test, he began working towards his professional military education through the Airman Leadership School correspondence course.

Skelton was a vital member in making sure the UDCC ran flawlessly during the phase-one ORI. His attention to detail and "can-do-it" attitude was the key to the missions success. Skelton had an incredibly positive attitude toward senior leaders that flowed to the other Airmen assigned to the UDCC. He did not hesitate to step up to the high demand of personnel processing through the UDCC. Skelton selflessly volunteered to process at the last minute when a new unit task code was added to the ORI tasking. With absolutely no practice, he processed with the maintenance group with zero discrepancies.

**Commander, 442nd FW**  
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 Contents of the Mohawk are not necessarily the official views of the U.S. government, the Department of Defense, or the Department of the Air Force.  
 All photos are Air Force photos unless otherwise indicated.  
 The editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the 442nd Fighter Wing public affairs office, 931 Arnold Avenue, Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., 65305-5070.  
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 This publication is printed on recycled paper.

MORTGAGE

PETS

FAMILY

SCHOOL

JOB

It was great to spend time with our deploying Airmen, those supporting them and all the families at the annual 442nd Family Day, Sept. 10. But there will be a new rule for next year: no pets allowed!



## Staying focused downrange while life continues at home

By Col. Eric S. Overturf, 442nd Fighter Wing commander

The 442nd Fighter Wing is shifting into high gear to tackle our top 2011 priority to **Support AEF Deployments**. Currently, the wing has about 80 people deployed from across the 442nd to include the wing here at Whiteman, the 476th Fighter Group at Moody AFB, Ga.; the 917th FG at Barksdale AFB, La.; and the 924th FG at Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz.

We've already deployed the first contingent of reservists and A-10 aircraft from Whiteman and Barksdale to support our tasking in Operation Enduring Freedom, and there will be hundreds more on the way to join them in the next few months. Thanks for showing the world how we are successfully executing our wing mission to **Train and Deploy Ready Reservists!**

Supporting our mission means doing everything we can to make this deployment a success. For the deployers, it means working with supervisors and unit deployment managers to complete all pre-deployment training on time. It also means keeping families and civilian employers in the loop to help them prepare for the deployment and make sure personal affairs are in order.

For those of us staying at home, it means supporting the deployers and their families, which fits in perfectly with our 2011 priority to **Develop and Care for Airmen and their Families**.

I've deployed many times, and knowing my family was in good hands allowed me to focus on the mission downrange. If you are worried about what's going on back home you won't be as safe or effective in theater, so we will do everything we can to inform your families and take care of them.

For starters, we are working diligently to get orders completed as soon as possible to allow access to benefits you are entitled to, like Tricare medical, tax-free pay, and even free

childcare for those who live close enough to access base facilities.

One of the best ways to prepare for a deployment is to take part in a Yellow Ribbon event for those who are deploying 90 days or more.

Yellow Ribbon is a federally funded program that brings deploying reservists and their families together with support agencies to provide a wealth of well presented information on services available to reserve members and families. Most events are held in travel destinations like Orlando, Fla.; Virginia Beach, Va.; or St. Louis, Mo. and airline tickets, lodging and meals are provided for the member and family.

**Maj. Lee Saugstad** is the wing point-of-contact for Yellow Ribbon, and he will notify eligible deployers about pre- and post-deployment opportunities to attend events.

Your Airman and Family Readiness representative can also provide a wealth of information to support family members of deployed reservists.

**Tech. Sgt. Nicole Adams** is the wing A&FR representative here at Whiteman. The host base A&FR centers at all 442nd FW bases can also provide support for deployed reservists. Talk to them to find out about services like Deployment Passes for free access to military welfare and recreation facilities, free oil changes at the base auto hobby shop and free items from to send deployed Airmen.

I wish I was deploying too, but they don't need a wing commander downrange just yet. In the meantime, I want you to know I appreciate your patriotism and willingness to support air expeditionary force deployments. The world is a better place because of people like you who are willing to step up and make a difference when called on to serve in our nation's defense.

Here are some things you may be eligible for if you are deploying:

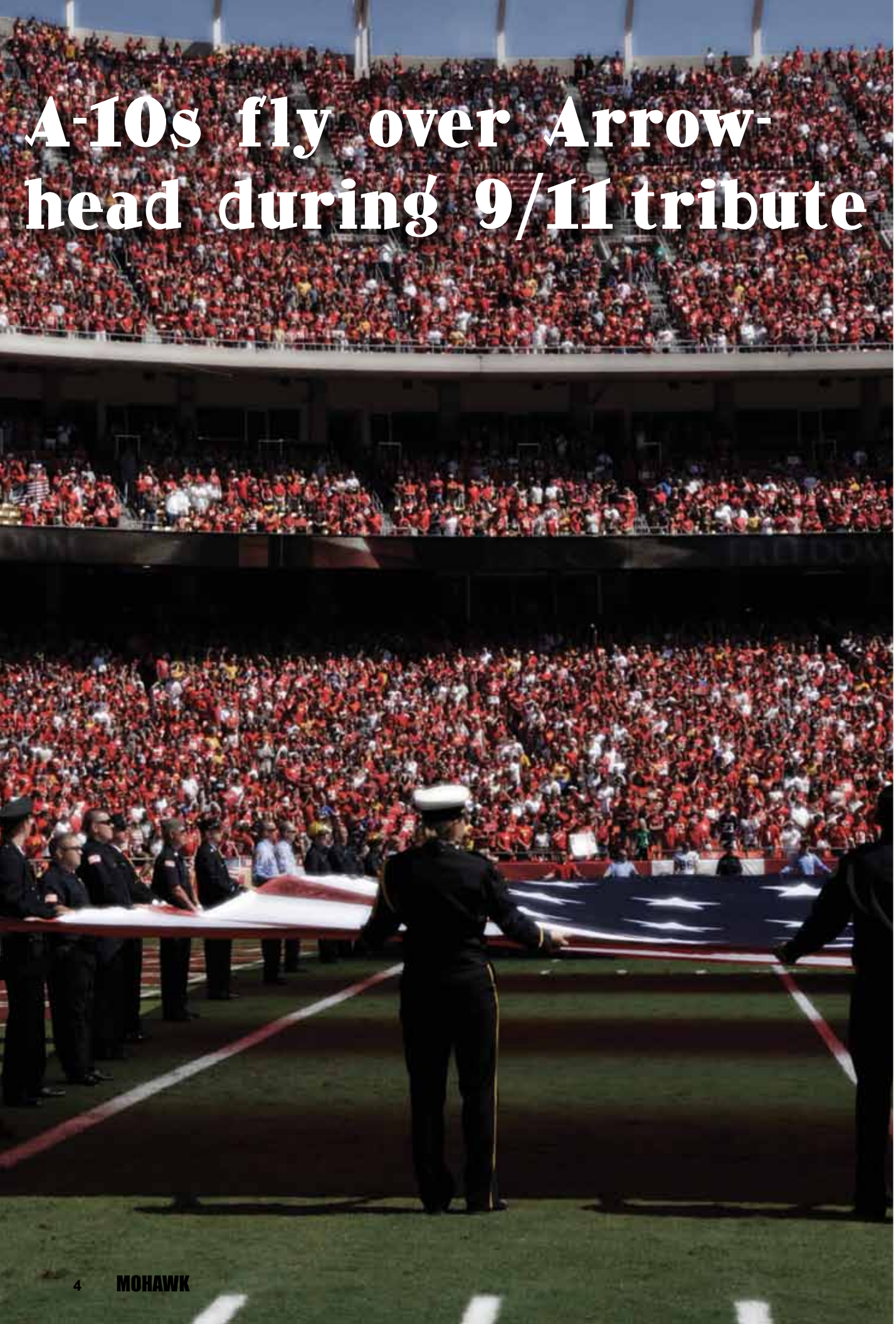
- **Family Deployment Pass:** Discounted opportunities on base to play golf, take a class, participate in a sport, travel, bowl, or many other things your family can do while you're away or that you can do together when you return. This free pass also can be used for hourly childcare on base or with a family child care provider.

- **Single Airmen Deployment Pass:** Rewards and discounts on trips, recreation and classes that the deploying Airmen and a friend can use when returning from a deployment. Many of the same opportunities as the family pass are available.

\*Both passes are free and can be obtained through the Airman and Family Readiness Center at (660) 687-7132.

- Opportunity to participate in fun outings and events with the Key Spouse Program. For more information, contact Tech. Sgt. Nicole Adams at (660) 909-3820.

# A-10s fly over Arrowhead during 9/11 tribute





(Page 4 photo by Senior Airman Wesley Wright, page 5 photos by Airman 1st Class Cody Ramirez, 509th Bomb Wing Public Affairs)

**KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Four A-10 Thunderbolt II aircraft from the 442nd Fighter Wing flew over Arrowhead Stadium, home of the Kansas City Chiefs, Sept. 11, 2011 during a 9/11 pre-game tribute. During the tribute, David Cook, former American Idol from Blue Springs, Mo., sung the national anthem while local police officers and firefighters held the American flag. Military members and emergency responders were honored for their bravery and patriotism during the ceremony.**



# the Alphabet of

## Commissioning: From

### e To O

Congratulations to Senior Airman Nicole Thompson, 442nd Maintenance Squadron, for being selected for commission by the Deserving Airman Board, July 26.

By Senior Airman Wesley Wright

There is a multitude of options available for Air Force Reserve enlisted members to transition from the enlisted ranks to the officer corps, one of which being the Deserving Airman Program.

When there is an officer vacancy, the wing commander can appoint a Deserving Airman Commissioning Board. The board is comprised of group and unit commanders, a company- and a field-grade officer, and a chief master sergeant. The force support squadron also has a non-voting member present.

**Master Sgt. Nicole Willeford**, 442nd Force Support Squadron, has sat in this capacity on boards in the past. As a non-voting member of the board, Sergeant Willeford does not have an official say in the board's decision, but she is instrumental in setting up the board, approving and reviewing applicants' records and forms. Willeford said she thinks it can benefit many officers to be enlisted first.

"It gives them a better understanding of our job and mission," she said.

Willeford said she has seen three enlisted Airmen get commissioned through the program in the last year.

One of the officers in the 442nd Fighter Wing commissioned by a Deserving Airman Board was **Capt. James Patrick Chevalier**, 442nd Maintenance Group Executive Officer.

Chevalier enlisted in the Air Force Reserve 11 years ago, and said he wanted to be a leader and had his mind set on this opportunity to provide a balance of leadership along with technical know-how. After the board voted to approve his application, Chevalier was commissioned. He attended officer training school, subsequently serving in the 442nd Equal Opportunity and Treatment Office, 442nd Military Personnel Flight and finally in the 442nd Maintenance Group.

Chevalier had some good advice for anyone seeking a commission.

"Talk to people who have

done it," he said. "Maximize your involvement and get your hands into everything you can."

He said self-motivation and development are important characteristics for Airmen hoping to move up the ranks. Valuable goals for each Airman, and specifically officers, he said, include core values, willingness to continually learn and having goals and a vision are vital to reaching that goal.

**Lt. Col. Roxane Williams**, 442nd FW performance manager, who has served on Deserving Airman boards, agreed it is important to have a vision. She said that the board reviews records, such as letters of recommendation and school transcripts, submitted by the applicant.

"Beyond grades, what you have done with your schooling and how you have learned from your life experiences helps us make our decision."

Williams acknowledged that everyone makes mistakes, but she said, owning up to them is a valuable quality every leader should possess. She said offi-

cers need to be malleable, agile and resourceful.

"It all comes down to making it happen," she said.

**Senior Airman Mike Addis**, 442nd Communications Flight, stood before a Deserving Airman board this past spring. Addis said the reason he wants to transition from the enlisted ranks to the officer ranks is he likes being in a leadership role and using his experience to help others as he did as an element leader in basic military training. He also said that he saw more opportunities for his advancement in the officer ranks in the Reserve versus the enlisted ranks.

There are many options available for reservists to transition from the enlisted ranks to the officer ranks; Deserving Airman Commissioning is an option for qualified Airmen seeking to become the officers of the future. For Airmen who have the push to self-develop, and are malleable, agile and resourceful as Chevalier and Williams said, talk to your supervisor and see what it'll take to "make it happen."

Also pictured, Airman 1st Class Sean McCrea, now a master sergeant.



**Maj. Joe Walter**  
From E-7 to O-4

**Former job title:** Weapons flightline expediter  
**Current job title:** 442nd Force Support Squadron commander  
**Number of years enlisted:** 17  
**Total years military service:** 30  
**How he received his commissioning:** Deserving Airman Board  
**What he says about it today:** "It was hard to adjust at first because I was a senior enlisted member with a lot of responsibilities, but when I got commissioned I had to learn a different role as a lower-ranking officer. In some ways, I had to earn respect all over again."



**Lt. Col. Anne Yelderman**  
From E-4 to O-5

**Former job title:** Public affairs specialist  
**Current job title:** 442nd Mission Support Group deputy commander  
**Number of years enlisted:** 5  
**Total years military service:** 25  
**How she received her commissioning:** Deserving Airman Board  
**What she says about it today:** "Transition brings growth. Sometimes you gain a new perspective; sometimes your greatest strength becomes a weakness. Other times, you just have to slug your way through. I've grown the most from my failures. And, I always re-learn that I'm at my best when it's not about me."



**Maj. Dan Diercks**  
From E-5 to O-4

**Former job title:** Security forces  
**Current job title:** 442nd Security Forces Squadron commander  
**Number of years enlisted:** 13  
**Total years military service:** 24  
**How he received his commissioning:** Deserving Airman Board  
**What he says about it today:** "I'm extremely proud of my time as an enlisted member. We always had great (noncommissioned officers) in security forces, but few have commissioned. I wanted to make a greater impact on the direction of the squadron to make it better for the members who are part of it. It has given me a totally different perspective to be an officer and command the squadron."





# GOING THE EXTRA MILE

## 3 reservists represent Team Whiteman at AF Marathon

By Staff Sgt. Danielle Wolf

Eleven service members assigned to Whiteman completed the 16th annual Air Force Marathon Sept. 15.

The 26.2-mile marathon took place in Dayton, Ohio and had more than 13,000 participants.

Unlike previous years, this year's Team Whiteman group was a true representation of the installation and of total-force integration.

The team included three reservists from the 442nd Fighter Wing, a national guardsman from the 131st Bomb Wing, a national guardsman from the 1/135th Attack Battalion, Army National Guard, and six other active-duty Airmen from throughout the 509th Bomb

Wing.

"This is the most diverse group we've ever had – truly a joint force," said **Tech. Sgt. Joseph Laxson**, 509th Bomb Wing Airman Leadership School instructor and team coach for the event.

Potential runners competed for slots to represent Whiteman by sending Laxson scores from previous runs. While not everyone who applied had competed in a marathon before, he said all runners had completed some sort of timed distance run.

The 11 runners trained together on the Whiteman running track two days a week with speed work and long-dis-



Pictured above: (Top row, left to right:) Kevin Hostettler, James White, Carl Garrison, John Straka, Michelle Elliott, Bentley Brooks, Travis Moore, Joseph Laxson, Amy Elmore, Crystal Breshears, Kevin Balandron

tance runs to ensure everyone was properly trained to prevent injury and successfully complete the run.

"It really helped motivate everyone to train together," Laxson said. "Out of our group, we saw a few people rise up to become leaders and help others through encouragement and physical training."

One of those leaders, he said, was **Tech. Sgt. John Straka**, 442nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron weapons expeditor.

Straka has been a distance runner since 1998. He has completed six marathons, including the Boston marathon earlier this year and has another marathon scheduled

for October.

Straka said the most important thing a runner can do is take small steps – figuratively speaking – and build on the skills he or she already has.

"Don't try to just pick up and run a half-marathon – that can be overwhelming," he said. "But if you know you can run five miles, then add another, and then another until you work your way up to 13 miles. Running is 80 percent psychological training and 20 percent physical training."

The next Air Force Marathon is scheduled for fall 2012, with registration beginning Jan. 1, 2012. For more information, visit [www.usafmarathon.com](http://www.usafmarathon.com).



PhotobyAirman1stClassCodyRamirez

## Team Whiteman runs to remember

By Staff Sgt. Danielle Wolf, with contribution by Airman 1st Class Cody Ramirez

Six reservists from the 442nd Fighter Wing participated in a run Sept. 15 to honor military members who have been prisoners of war or determined missing in action. More than 400 active-duty, reserve and National Guard Airmen participated in the run over a 24-hour period.

Runners from the 442nd FW began their half-hour period of run time at 8 p.m. **Staff Sgt. Kim Stone**, **Tech. Sgt. Don Demarco** (both pictured left) **Senior Airman Brandon Reznak**, **Staff Sgt. Samantha Lane** and **Master Sgt. Michael Price**, all of the 442nd Maintenance Group, traded off carrying a torch, POW/MIA flag and a scroll with the names of servicemembers who are currently POWs or MIA.

Stone said she ran for her grandfather, who was a POW for 18 months during World War II.

"It was a way to honor my grandpa and all that he did. It was the least I could do for him," she said.





Photo by Senior Airman Wesley Wright

Family Day, Sept. 10, was a great chance to spend some time with families and other Airmen. The food was delicious, too!



**"Train and Deploy Ready Reservists"**

2011 Priorities:

1. Support AEF deployments
2. Incorporate GSUs
- ~~3. Win the OR~~
4. Prepare for UCI & HSI
5. Develop and care for Airmen & families



Photo by Airman 1st Class Cody Ramirez

At Exercise Tiger, Sept. 16, Senior Master Sgt. Rodney Kennedy and Tech. Sgt. Shannon Kennedy, 442nd Logistics Readiness Squadron, were honored for their work with helping Airmen deploy -- Airmen at Whiteman and the three geographically separated units in the wing. The next day, they represented the 442nd FW on the field during the University of Missouri football game and military appreciation day.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Daniel...

Reservists from the 97th Fighter Group, Barksdale AFB, La, and the 442nd Maintenance Group, Whiteman AFB, Mo, both of the 442nd Fighter Wing, deployed to Afghanistan in September in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

NAME: @ 442FW LOCATION: WAFB, BAFB, DTMAFB, MAFB

BIO: WWW.442FWAFRC.AF.MIL

## PAPER TWEET

UPDATE

DM @ \_\_\_\_\_ RT @ \_\_\_\_\_

REPLY @ Facebook.com # \_\_\_\_\_

We have about 80 people deployed right now and hundreds more scheduled to head to the AOR in January! Way to go 442!

7:30  AM  PM MONTH: Oct DAY: 15 CHARACTER COUNT: 116

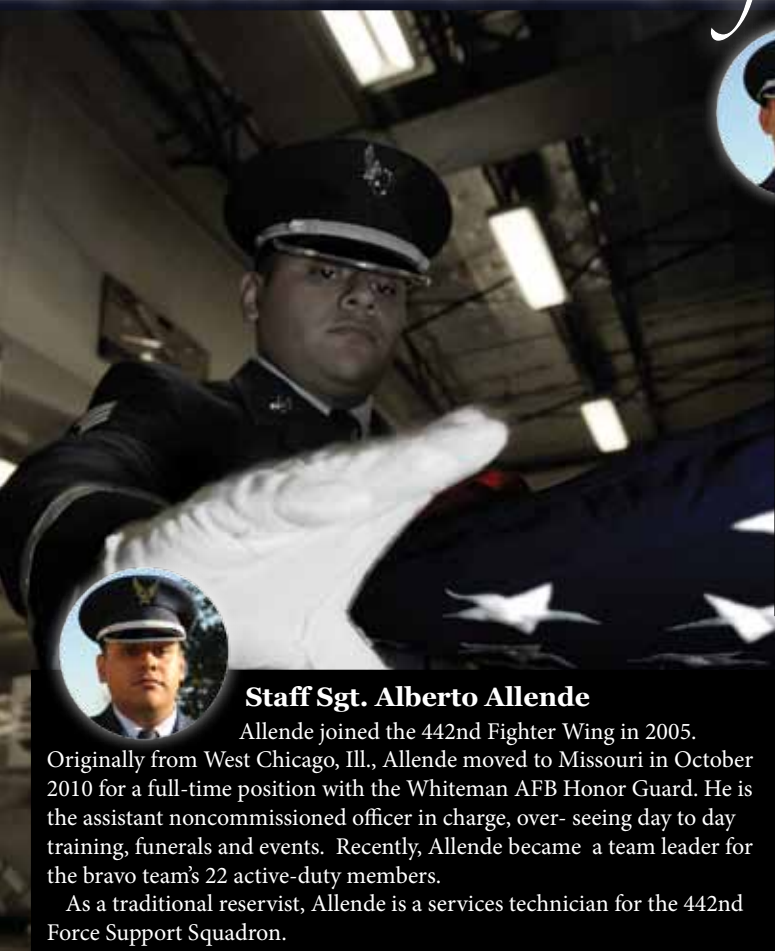
JUST THOUGHT  YOU  EVERYONE SHOULD KNOW.



# Honor with Dignity

Photos and illustrations by Staff Sgt. Danielle Wolf

Two reservists from the 442nd Fighter Wing currently serve as members of the Whiteman Air Force Base Honor Guard, honoring servicemembers and rendering courtesies for military events.



### Senior Airman Travis Lewis

Lewis, originally from Warrensburg, Mo., joined the Whiteman AFB Honor Guard Oct. 1, 2010. Lewis has provided military honors for more than 100 ceremonies including retirements, promotions, changes of command, funerals and professional athletic events.

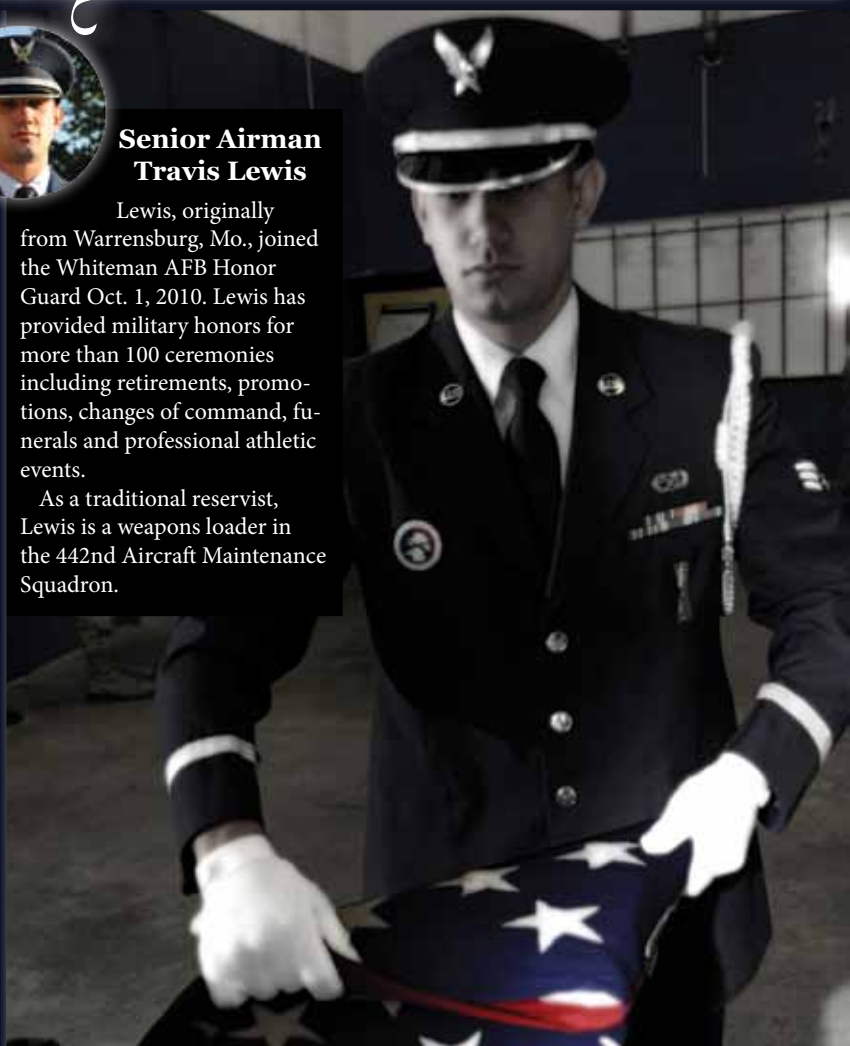
As a traditional reservist, Lewis is a weapons loader in the 442nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron.



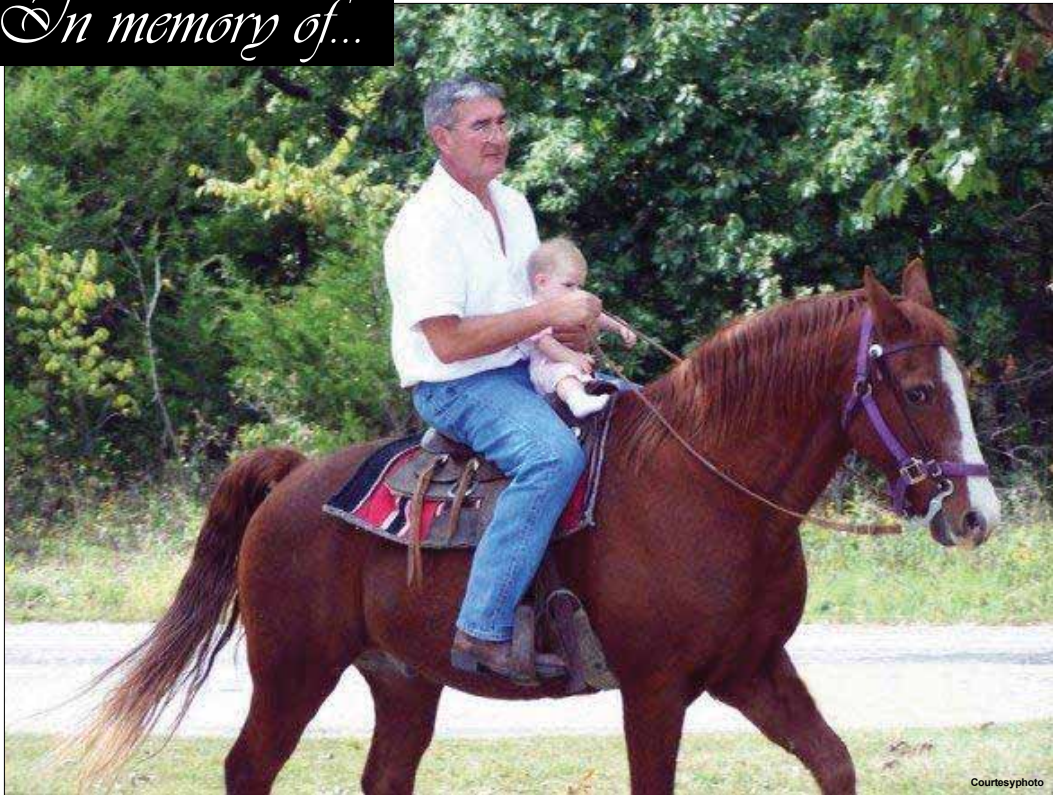
### Staff Sgt. Alberto Allende

Allende joined the 442nd Fighter Wing in 2005. Originally from West Chicago, Ill., Allende moved to Missouri in October 2010 for a full-time position with the Whiteman AFB Honor Guard. He is the assistant noncommissioned officer in charge, overseeing day to day training, funerals and events. Recently, Allende became a team leader for the bravo team's 22 active-duty members.

As a traditional reservist, Allende is a services technician for the 442nd Force Support Squadron.



*In memory of...*



*Master Sgt. Bruce Postner*  
*March 9, 1954-Sept. 18, 2011*

Master Sgt. Bruce Nelson Costner, 57, of Warsaw, Mo. and formerly of Norborne, Mo. died at 10:35 a.m. on Sunday, Sept. 18, 2011 at his home, from injuries sustained in a farming accident.

Costner was born on March 9, 1954 in Norborne to Bernice Milo and Naomi Lucille (Hardwick) Costner. Survivors include his fiancé, Tamre Walter of Marshall, Mo.; one son and daughter in-law, Beau and Danielle Costner of Utica, Mo.; two daughters and two sons in-law, Cassi and Brad Ralston of Gardner, Kan. and Amy and Kevin Stucker of Harrisonville, Mo.; nine grandchildren, Caden, Milo, Harrison, Madison, Mackenzie, Jordan, Andrew, Alexis and Katelyn; one brother and sister in-law, John Wayne and Cindia Costner of Carrollton, Mo.; one sister and brother-in-law, Brenda Sue and Roger Win-

frey of Clifton, Colo.; and several nieces and a nephew also survive. Costner was a 1972 graduate of the Norborne High School.

Costner enlisted in the Air Force Reserve on March 7, 1989 and had more than 22 years of service. He was promoted to the rank of master sergeant, March 1, 2002.

He deployed twice to Kuwait for Operation Southern Watch in 1998 and 1999, Iraq for Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003 and Afghanistan for Operation Enduring Freedom in 2008.

The medals he earned include: Air Force Meritorious Service Medal (posthumously), Air Force Commendation Medal, Meritorious Unit Award, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with Valor, Air Reserve Forces Meritorious Service Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Afghanistan

Campaign Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal Global, War on Terrorism Service Medal, Armed Forces Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal, NATO Medal.

Costner was an air reserve technician at Whiteman AFB, Mo. and lived in Warsaw, Mo.

He was a member of the Shawnee Masonic Lodge #653 A.F. and A.M., a lifetime member of the V.F.W. Post #14000 and American Legion Post #0217 all of Warsaw.

The family suggests memorial contributions be made to the Wright Flight program of Missouri.

Funeral services were Sept. 24, 2011 at the Thurman Funeral Home in Norborne with a ride in honoring Costner performed by the Combat Veterans Association.

Full military honors were provided for by the Whiteman Air Force Base Honor Guard.

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442nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs  
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# To:

### Support AEF Deployments

Photo by Staff Sgt. Danielle Wolf

Senior Master Sgt. Dennis Lyons shows reservists an article about the 442nd FW winning the ORI in the Whiteman Warrior while he waits in the wing assembly area in September. Lyons accompanied the deploying reservists to assist the Michigan Air National Guard in launching A-10s from Selfridge ANGB, Mich.



The 442nd Fighter Wing is an Air Force Reserve unit at Whiteman AFB, Mo.

To find out more about the 442nd Fighter Wing...

Visit [www.442fw.afrc.af.mil](http://www.442fw.afrc.af.mil)

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Contact a 442nd FW recruiter at (660) 687-4016/1868

