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TRAINING AND DEPLOYING READY RESERVISTS IN APRIL 2012

442nd Fighter Wing [www.442fw.afrc.af.mil](http://www.442fw.afrc.af.mil) Whiteman AFB, Mo.

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Commentary by Brig. Gen. Eric S. Overturf  
442nd Fighter Wing commander

## Train and Deploy: Making sure you're a Ready Reservist

ary combat support downrange. We still have nine of our Citizen Airmen deployed outside the continental U.S., so please continue to keep them and their families in your thoughts and prayers until they are all home safe.

The **Train and Deploy** part of our mission statement is the easiest to understand and measure, because that's what the Air Force Reserve is all about: We train on drill weekends, and we deploy for current AEF tasking or for training exercises like Distant Thunder or RIMPAC that hone our combat skills for future deployment tasking. The **Ready Reservists** part of our mission is just as important, however, because we can't deploy someone who isn't ready. About 415 reservists from the wing deployed in support of contingency tasking in the last 12 months, so we know they were **Ready Reservists**. The readiness of the other 1,521 Airmen who did not deploy last year is just as important, because they constitute the majority of the strategic Reserve we would provide under a full mobilization. During the next six months we'll focus on the factors that qualify us as **Ready Reservists**, because all of us should be ready to deploy if we are needed to serve in our nation's defense. The Air Force Reserve's primary function is to provide a strategic pool of trained military professionals who can put on the uniform and defend our nation on short notice, and each of us is responsible to complete all the actions required to be a **Ready Reservist**.

At the most basic level, being a **Ready Reservist** simply means showing up on time and

prepared for the day's planned events and being equipped with a positive attitude to handle the unplanned events that always crop up. We have dedicated supervisors who build and execute training plans to ensure that we get all the training we need to be "ready." Ultimately, however, your supervisor is not responsible for your readiness -- you are! Being ready means keeping up with your own training qualifications and currencies based on your Air Force Specialty Code requirements. It means getting your annual physical and dental exams done on time, and getting the flu shot when flu season rolls around each year. It means staying in shape and taking the physical fitness test before it is overdue. It means completing the dreaded list of career-based training that seems to get longer every year (I know, I have to do them too, and I'm trying to get the list reduced!) It means being proactive and letting your supervisor know when you are due for an event instead of assuming that he or she will take care of everything for you.

As we prepare for the 442nd Fighter Wing Combined Unit Inspection (CUI) over the next six months, we will examine most of the processes we use to generate **Ready Reservists** and combat power. The key to success will be individual accountability, so please take a moment to assess your own situation, and make a commitment to do what it takes to be a Ready Reservist.

Thank you for making the 442nd FW the superior source of Reserve A-10 combat power!

Great things are happening in the 442nd Fighter Wing!

The 476th Fighter Group successfully completed their phase-two operational readiness inspection, along with their 23rd Wing partners at Moody AFB, Ga., and we are welcoming home 291 of America's finest Airmen from their service in Afghanistan supporting Operation Enduring Freedom. A hundred forty-two deployed reservists are returning home to Whiteman AFB, Mo., and 149 are returning home to Barksdale AFB, La. after a cold winter in Afghanistan supporting our forces on the ground, and I could not be more proud of them. I got glowing feedback from the expeditionary wing commander about the performance of our Airmen, a resounding confirmation that the 442nd Fighter Wing excels at the "deploy" part of our mission to **Train and Deploy Ready Reservists**. Thank you for your service and for proving again that the 442nd sets the standard for sending A-10 combat power or expedition-



## Phase inspection: Fit for flight

By Senior Airman Wesley Wright

The 442nd Maintenance Squadron has performed twice the number of normal phase inspections here to keep the 442nd Fighter Wing's A-10 Thunderbolt IIs in top fighting shape.

The Air Force requires that before 500 hours of flight time, each A-10 must be brought into a maintenance hangar to undergo a phase inspection. This could be phase I, where the plane is considered fully mission capable upon passing inspection, or phase II, where a pilot must take the jet on a check-flight after the inspection. To avoid having too many jets out of service at once, the inspection schedule is staggered so while one or two planes are receiving routine maintenance the rest are out fulfilling the mission.

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### TRAIN READY RESERVISTS



#### FSS Airman selected for CEP

By Senior Airman Wesley Wright

A 442nd Force Support Squadron Citizen Airman was recently selected to represent the Air Force Reserve at a weeklong seminar at the Culinary Institute of America in Napa Valley, Calif. Airman Martina Kellums entered the Air Force Reserve July 2011.

[Read more](#)

### INTEGRATE GSUs



#### Keeping them in the air

By 307th Bomb Wing Public Affairs

Richard Murchison and Nick Nolte, jet mechanics and Air Reserve Technicians assigned to the 917th Fighter Group, torque a high pressure turbine rotor on a TF34-100A engine at the 917th Propulsion Shop at Barksdale Air Force Base, La..

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### SUCCESSFUL INSPECTIONS



#### 476th participates with host in ORI

By 23rd Wing Public Affairs Office

The 476th Fighter Group completed a successful phase-two operational readiness inspection, March 30 at Moody Air Force Base, Ga. The 476th FG is a geographically separated unit of the 442nd Fighter Wing, Whiteman AFB, Mo.

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