

**A-10 Replacement Aircraft
(8: Procurement and Equipment)
Resolution 25-02**

WHEREAS, the Air Force with congressional approval, has begun the process of retiring 281 A-10 Thunderbolt II (Warthog) fighter aircraft over six fiscal years ending September 2028; and

WHEREAS, numerous A-10 equipped Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard units, especially the 442nd Fighter Wing at Whiteman AFB, MO, are at risk of not securing a clear, effective follow-on fighter; and

WHEREAS, the 442 Fighter Wing at Whiteman AFB, MO is currently scheduled to divest all 27 assigned A-10s along with associated operations and maintenance billets with funding, by 30 September 2028; and

WHEREAS, the Air Force is replacing the A-10 fleet with F-35, F-16 and F-15 aircraft and the 442nd flightline and ramp which could accommodate F-15E aircraft with minimal changes resulting in a cost-effective mission transition; and

WHEREAS, expanding the F-15E mission to the 442nd ensures a fighter force that is more cost effective to active duty enabling a surge capable federal force; and

WHEREAS, the 442nd has direct combat experience demonstrated when they deployed to a fight lasting more than six hours that required them to secure two landing zones that resulted in the rescue of two pararescue jumpers, a helicopter pilot, and the evacuation of 32 soldiers from the area; and

WHEREAS, the Mitchell Institute for Aerospace Studies report from January 2025, titled “Want Combat Airpower? Then Fix the Air Force Pilot Crisis” identified a persistent shortage of about 2,000 pilots for over two decades, with most in the fighter arena; and

WHEREAS, the Air Force Reserve announced in March 2025 the establishment of the Pilot Concierge Cell (PCC) to make it easier for active duty pilots to transfer to the Air Force Reserve; and

WHEREAS, directing the Air Force to transfer the F-15E aircraft to the 442nd will ensure current personnel can be continued in service and retain their combat experience and leadership;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Reserve Officers Association, d.b.a. Reserve Organization of America, urges Congress to designate the F-15E as a replacement aircraft in the Fiscal Year 2026 National Defense Authorization Act for the 442nd; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ROA urges Congress to ensure long-term follow-on missions for all similarly impacted Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard units.

Approved by ExCom 22 April 2025

Recommend favorably by the R&L Committee (Time Sensitive): 17 April 2025

Submitted (Time Sensitive): Department of Missouri: 31 March 2025