

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 21

WHEREAS, the state of Missouri has a long history of supporting the military in their mission to protect the American people; and

WHEREAS, Whiteman Air Force Base, home to the 442nd Fighter Wing, is dedicated to delivering dynamic air power for the United States and acting as both a powerful deterrent to enemies and as an assurance to American citizens and allies; and

WHEREAS, the 442nd Fighter Wing has a rich legacy of defending the United States and its allies through its involvement in World War II, the Cold War, Operation Desert Storm, Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the 442nd is to maintain and support the A-10 Thunderbolt II at the highest level of combat readiness; and

WHEREAS, the A-10 Thunderbolt II is the Air Force's only fighter plane designed for close-air support providing critical front-line support for American forces on the ground and conducting combat search and rescue missions; and

WHEREAS, the A-10 Thunderbolt II is vital to providing Missouri civilian and military jobs as the 442nd Fighter Wing is the largest tenant unit at Whiteman Air Force Base and has a payroll of around \$40 million dollars, a personnel force of 1,100 people, and an economic impact of millions of dollars in the local community:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the Missouri Senate, Ninety-seventh General Assembly, Second Regular Session, the House of Representatives concurring therein, hereby strongly urge the United States Air Force not to eliminate the A-10 Thunderbolt II aircraft fleet; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution for the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of the Air Force, and each member of Missouri's congressional delegation.